

**Your Blue & Gold Banquet/Event
Planning Guide**
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Seneca District, Buckeye Council

NO – It is NOT too early!!! CD

The Blue & Gold banquet is the highlight of the winter months for most Cub Packs. If yours isn't, it probably needs help. Here are some simple guidelines to help you plan a successful Blue & Gold.

2 to 3 months before the Blue & Gold Banquet/Event.

You need to make your final decision on your date & time with the Pack Committee. Ask some of the parents to help with the arrangements (this is your Blue & Gold Committee). This will make the job much easier. You will have a lot of ideas to share with each other.

Dates - Dates for the event are usually set by the Pack Committee at the beginning of the calendar year. You may use the date that corresponds with your monthly Pack meeting. Some groups like to choose a Friday night, Saturday night or a Sunday afternoon.

Locations - Use your regular Pack meeting place. Some groups are allowed to use the Charter Organization facilities to hold their Blue & Gold dinner/event. Check with your Charter Organization to see if this could be a possibility for your Pack. Check with local Churches. Some local churches will allow you to use their Fellowship Hall to have your dinner/event. Don't be afraid to check with the church you attend or maybe that of another member of Pack Committee. Other churches will allow you to use their Fellowship Hall if you use their Youth Group to help with the dinner. Some youth group raise money by preparing and serving dinners. This will help them earn money towards their mission trips. Check with your school - some areas will allow you to use the school.

Budgeting for the Dinner/Event - Check with your Pack Committee to see what type of money has been set aside for the Blue & Gold Dinner/event. You may see if the Committee will set money aside from the Popcorn sales to pay for professional entertainment. You may decide to charge each family a small fee to cover the cost of the meal or entertainment.

Planning Your Menu

Cover Dish dinners/desserts - This is a fun way for families to show off their best dishes. It is fun to share you favorite dish with a friends. The down fall to this is - most parents work. If your dinner is on a week night it is hard to get home from work and prepare something for the dinner. This is why we see a lot more hot deli in the grocery stores now.

Have a spaghetti dinner - Your committee could prepare a simple spaghetti dinner for the Pack. Ask for volunteers to help with the dinner. There is always a Mother or Grandmother that would enjoy helping with something like this. Don't be afraid to **ask**.

Check with a local restaurant - Local restaurants may have catering for family style meals. Often you can get a good deal on chicken or pizza if you mention you are from a Scout group. Check with a local church youth group - Several area youth groups are always raising money for Mission trips. Contact your local churches to see if they do any dinners as fund raisers. Check with other parents from the Pack they may know of some groups looking for fund raisers. Often these are full dinners that cost under \$5 per person.

Entertainment - Entertainment is the lynch pin of the Blue & Gold event. If you are skipping this, you are missing out on making the dinner something that everyone looks forward to. You may consider some or all of these options:

Skit night - Each Den Prepares a skit or song to present as part of the program. Great suggestions for skits can be found at Roundtable Meetings or at www.macscouter.com . It doesn't matter if the boys get it perfect. It is the pride they have performing for their parents and friends.

Poll your Parents - See if there are any parents with hidden talents. Again don't be afraid to ask if anyone would like to entertain at your dinner. You may find a Mariachi band member, a juggler, magician or storyteller.

Book outside entertainment - if your pack is big enough to add a small amount to the dinner cost, or if you budget some funds from the popcorn sale, you may consider hiring a professional entertainer. There are a lot of people out there to choose from. If your local school has a program, check with them to see who they have used. Check with local Colleges - They may have students that will perform for a fee, or maybe for free.

4 - 6 Weeks before the Banquet/Event

Send out flyers reservation flyers. You need to include the date, time, cost and location on your sign up sheet. Always include a date when you need your RSVP turned back in by. It works best to collect the money ahead of time. You will always have a few people call at the minute wanting to attend. Always include a person's name on the flyer that the family members may contact if they have a question. Make your den leaders responsible for collecting the flyers and money to turn into you.

Select a Theme for the Blue & Gold Dinner/Event

Your imagination does not even limit you here. There is a wealth of information on the internet for decorations, themes, and often with instructions and pictures. Simply search for "cub blue gold" and see what you like. There are also several other resources such as:

Cub Scout Program Helps - Each year the Program helps will give you a theme idea. You may want to use this idea or use it as a building block for something similar. I have used old ideas from the old Program helps.

Roundtable Meeting - In January the Roundtable will focus on the February theme, which you may want to consider for the banquet. Feb. American ABC's March When I Grow Up April Jurassic Park

Traditional Blue & Gold - Many groups like to use the traditional Blue & Gold theme.

Decorate your tables with Blue & Gold table clothes, placemats, napkins and balloons. This is great, and underscores the theme of a celebration of Scouting.

Use your imagination - Have fun with your ideas. You can use any type of theme you would like. Examples: Happy Birthday Cub Scouts, Fiesta, Celebrate Ohio Anniversary March 1st, Celebrate your Pack Founding Date (Milestone Marks), Red/White/Blue

Plan Decorations

Use decorations that go along with your theme. The decorations could be made by the committee or ask the dens to help make the centerpieces for the dinner. Demonstrate the centerpiece project at your Pack Committee meeting and have each den make their own centerpieces for the banquet theme. This can be especially helpful if you are short-handed. Purchase placemats or allow each den to make their own placemats for their families. Be sure the Scout makes enough for his entire family so no one is left out. If you want to go with purchasing, there are special Blue & Gold placemats at most Council stores. Use Blue & Gold Balloons tied in the center of each table or on the backs of chairs.

Story of the Blue and Gold

Great Salt Lake Council

Preparation:

- Put a large pot on a table with an inner pot containing dry ice.
- A blue and gold Wolf Cub Scout neckerchief is concealed in the area between the large pot and the inner pot.
- Have two clean jars concealed elsewhere close by. One has blue colored water and the other yellow-colored water.

Cubmaster: Many, many years ago, an elder gave two trusted young men a challenge. He told the first young man to climb the mountain and ask the great eagle to fly high into the sky. His mission was to bring back part of the beauty of the sun. (The first Cub Scout leaves.) He told the second young man to go into the forest and tell the sparrow to fly into the sky and bring back part of the sky. (The second Cub Scout leaves.)

Then both boys return—one carrying a bottle of yellow colored water and the second carrying a bottle of blue colored water. (They hold them up for all to see.)

(To the first boy:) Pour some of the beauty of the sun into our mixing pot. (The boy carefully pours the yellow liquid over the dry ice.)

(To the second boy:) Pour some of the beauty of the sky into our mixing pot. (The second boy carefully pours his blue water into the pot.)

(To the pack:) From this day forward, blue will stand for truth and loyalty. Yellow will stand for warm sunshine, happiness, and good cheer. (Reaches into the pot, removes the blue and gold Wolf neckerchief and opens it for all to see.) And that is why the Cub Scouts use the colors blue and gold.

Red, White & Blue Over Blue & Gold

Catalina Council

adapted from Scouting Magazine

Staging: Flag in stand on table, under which "voice" is concealed. Or have flag posted near screen concealing "voice." Cub Scout in uniform walks by flag and stops when flag starts to "speak."

Flag: Hey, Cub Scout!

Cub: Who's that?

Flag: Me, your flag.

Cub: What's the matter?

Flag: Well, I'm taken lots of places, but, why am I here?

Cub: But, we take you everywhere with us. we carry you proudly even in our hearts. The Scout program has taught me to respect the flag and to love my country.

Flag: But, what is all the festivity? Why would you bring me here?

Cub: This is our Blue & Gold Banquet. All the Cub Scouts get together once a year with their families to recognize another anniversary of scouting. In doing this, it gives us all a renewed sense of certainty and confidence in the future of our country.

Flag: Scouting! Yes, there is hope after all, but why am I here?

Cub: But, don't you know? Why, you are the guest of honor! Without you and what you represent we couldn't have Scouting at all!

Flag: Thank you, Scout!

Cub: (Salutes) Any Time! (Walks offstage)

Resources: Best Choice for ideas

Baloo's Bugle is a monthly collection of program helps for Cub Scout leaders. Each month a new edition is published with ideas for the following month's Cub Scouting theme near the beginning of each month. Each new issue is announced on the [U.S. Scouting Service Project Blog](http://www.usascouting.org).

Each month's issue features monthly theme stuff, training tips, Tiger activities, Pack and Den activities, traditions, Pack administration helps, fun foods, games, Webelos materials, and lots of stuff to make a Pack meeting really sparkle like gathering activities, opening ceremonies, skits, stunts, cheers, songs, audience participation activities, advancement ceremonies, closings and Cubmaster minutes.

www.usascouts.org/bbugle.asp

FOCUS

Cub Scout Roundtable Leaders' Guide

Let's tour the United States by the letters: Austin, Baton Rouge and Cambridge to Xenia, York, and Zion. This month, Cub Scouts will explore scenic and historic landmarks in this wonderful country. **What a great theme for your Blue and Gold Banquet!!** A den or pack may choose a city or state, and the boys can learn all about it. Or you might decide on a theme such as national parks, zoos or museums. The boys can use their choice in their decorations, skits, and songs for the banquet.

CORE VALUES

Cub Scout Roundtable Leaders' Guide

Some of the purposes of Cub Scouting developed through this month's theme are:

- Fun and Adventure**, Boys will enjoy the trip through history and across the nation as they discover what America has to offer.
- Preparation for Boy Scouts**, Boys will learn to honor America as all boys should.
- Family Understanding**, Families will be strengthened as family members share the experiences of places they have been.

The core value highlighted this month is:

- Citizenship**, Through learning about people and places in America the boys will come to understand what being a citizen entails and develop pride in America. **Can you think of others???** Hint – look in your **Cub Scout Program Helps**. It lists different ones!! All the items on both lists are applicable!! You could probably list all twelve if you thought about it!!

GATHERING ACTIVITIES

PATRIOTIC SONG PUZZLE

Great Salt Lake Council

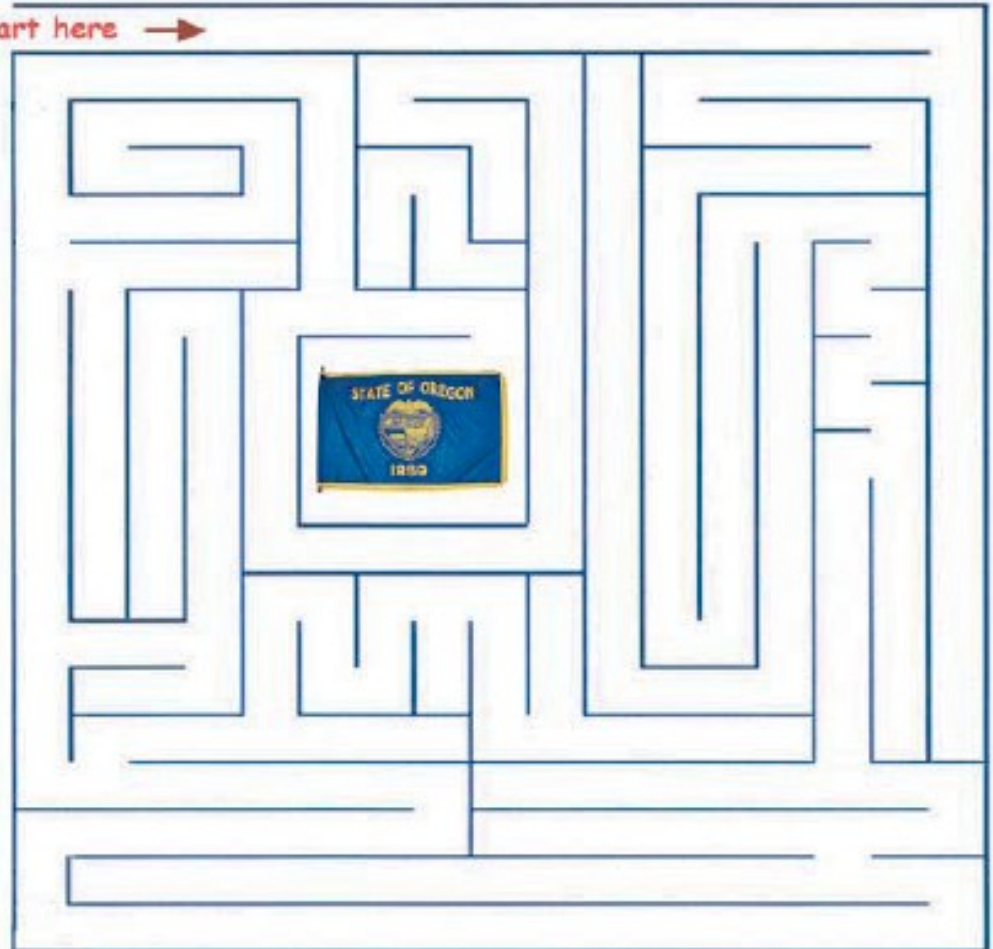
Write the words to a patriotic song on strips of paper. Let the boys put them in the right order. Examples of songs include: The Star-Spangled Banner and America.



Now where did I put that Oregon flag?

You can help... draw a path through the maze to help me remember.

Start here →



OPENING CEREMONIES

Learning our A B C's

Sam Houston Area Council

Setting – 6 Cub Scouts, Cubmaster (CM), poster board with A-B-C-D-E-F on the front and the appropriate verse on the back in LARGE print.

Scene – Scouts walk across stage and as they approach the center or the Cubmaster, each holds up his letter and shouts his message.

Cub # 1: A Aims and Methods

Cub # 2: B Boys!

Cub # 3: C Character Connections and Citizenship

Cub # 4: D Developing Skills

Cub # 5: E Expeditions and Electives

Cub # 6: F Fitness

CM This is only the beginning of the remarkable things Cub Scouts discover as part of our program. Let's take some time at our pack meeting this evening to see if we can find some other ABC's. But for now, I ask you to stand and please join me in the Pledge of Allegiance.

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATIONS

The Transcontinental Train

Sam Houston Area Council

Divide the audience into 6 groups. Assign each group one of the words listed below. When their item is mentioned in the story, the assigned group should shout the designated saying.

Have a practice session before starting the story.

TRAIN "Toot Toot"

CONDUCTOR "All Aboard!"

NEW YORK DOCTOR "The Big Apple!"

STEEL WORKER "Forged in Steel!"

ST. LOUIS BUSINESSMAN "Gateway to the West!"

KANSAS FARMER "Breadbasket to the World!"

Just before the transcontinental TRAIN pulled out of Grand Central Station in New York City, the CONDUCTOR held the door for one more passenger, a NEW YORK DOCTOR who hurried aboard. The TRAIN moved slowly between the tall buildings, out of New York State, through New Jersey and on to Pennsylvania. The CONDUCTOR checked the ticket of the NEW YORK DOCTOR as the TRAIN pulled into the Pittsburgh Station. A Pennsylvania STEEL WORKER boarded the TRAIN and sat across the aisle from the NEW YORK DOCTOR. Climbing through the Allegheny Mountains, the TRAIN continued past rivers and forests across the Midwest to St Louis, Missouri. The CONDUCTOR greeted a ST. LOUIS BUSINESSMAN who boarded the TRAIN at Union Station. The ST. LOUIS BUSINESSMAN smiled at the STEEL WORKER, and sat behind the NEW YORK DOCTOR. The TRAIN picked up speed as it passed the Gateway Arch. The CONDUCTOR paused to look out the window with the STEEL WORKER as the TRAIN traversed a long bridge over the Mississippi River. It made its way to Kansas City where a KANSAS FARMER boarded the TRAIN. The KANSAS FARMER greeted the STEEL WORKER and shook hands with the NEW YORK DOCTOR and then sat beside the ST. LOUIS BUSINESSMAN. Continuing west, the TRAIN moved up steep mountain passes and through the snow-covered Rocky Mountains of Colorado and Utah. The CONDUCTOR checked his watch as the TRAIN sped out of the mountains and into the desert of the Great Basin in Nevada. The passengers watched the vast landscape as the TRAIN sped by. The ST. LOUIS BUSINESSMAN and the NEW YORK DOCTOR admired the large trees, as the TRAIN wound

through the Sierra Nevada Mountains and the Redwood forests. The transcontinental TRAIN pulled into its final destination of San Francisco, California. It had made its way from east to west, from coast to coast. After this long journey it was time for the CONDUCTOR to say "Goodbye" to the tired travelers: the NEW YORK DOCTOR, the Pennsylvania STEEL WORKER, the ST. LOUIS BUSINESSMAN, and the KANSAS FARMER. The TRAIN had made a very successful trip.

Awards from the Heart

Oregon Trail Council

Everyone needs a pat on the back to feel appreciated! These awards are quick and easy. Remember to award den chiefs, pack leaders, and parents, too. Be sure to mention specifically what the person is being recognized for.

Monu-MINT-al Award

Attach a mint to a note or certificate stating that the person has made a monu-mint-al contribution to Scouting.

We Are Not STRETCHING It – We Appreciate You!

Mount rubber bands on foam board or mat board.

You Are Tops

Award a toy top

You Rose to the Occasion!

Award a plastic rose.

What a Catch!

Award a certificate with a fish picture or plastic fish.

You Have Been the Link to Success

Award links of a chain.

There are many lists like this on the internet -

Professor Beaver's site has lighthearted, fun award ideas

http://www.usscouts.org/profbvr/fun_awards/index.html

Try some searches - "101 ways to recognize," scout leader Recognition

ADVANCEMENT CEREMONIES

Presidents

Catalina Council

Personnel: 5 adult readers and Cubmaster (CM).

Equipment: Picture of the president or a sign with the name of the President can be held up by one person.

Rdr 1: George Washington, the Father of our country, and first president, used to say, "Martha, where are my teeth? I must have a good smile this day.

Rdr 2: Thomas Jefferson, our third president always felt he learned his lesson, because he never again wrote another Constitution, having said, "I've written it once. I'll not write it again."

Rdr 3: Andrew Jackson fought in the Louisiana Territory and fought his way to the White House. He'd often say, "Where's my horse? I can't get anywhere without my horse!"

Rdr 4: Abraham Lincoln is said to have walked 20 miles to school, but no one ever said if he was late.

Rdr 5: Ronald Reagan got to the White House by being unique - an actor - and one of the only left-handed cowboys, except for Little Joe Cartwright.

CM: Each had a goal. And tonight, we honor boys who have achieved their goal, too. But to receive the goal you must name a President before coming forward to get your award. (Parents may help when needed.)

SONGS

The Travel Song

Sam Houston Area Council

Tune - BINGO

If you like rodeos and horses

Then you should visit here;

T-E-X-A-S, T-E-X-A-S, T-E-X-A-S

And shout a loud yee-haw!

If you like syrup from maple trees

Then you should visit here;

M-A-I-N-E, M-A-I-N-E, M-A-I-N-E

Just watch out for the cold.

If you like farms that grow potatoes

Then you should visit here;

I-D-A-H-O, I-D-A-H-O, I-D-A-H-O

At all three meals, what fun!

If you like seeing whales and glaciers

Then you should visit here;

A-L-AS-K-A, A-L-AS-K-A, A-L-AS-K-A

And pack an extra jacket.

For fun and adventure all around

You should visit someplace here

The Great-U-S-of-A, The Great-U-S-of-A, The Great-U-S-of-A

And share your Scouting spirit.

You're a Grand Old Flag

by George M. Cohan

Sam Houston Area Council

You're a grand old flag,
You're a high flying flag
And forever in peace may you wave.
You're the emblem of
The land I love.
The home of the free and the brave.
Ev'ry heart beats true
'neath the Red, White and Blue,
Where there's never a boast or brag.
Should auld acquaintance be forgot,
Keep your eye on the grand old flag.

CLOSING CEREMONIES

CLOSING CEREMONIES

American ABC'S Closing

Sam Houston Area Council

Sing the "Star-Spangled Banner"

Supplies – Make a map of the United States with the following listed cities highlighted

Introduction: "A tour of the USA by the letters."

The ceremony –

- Have everyone stand and sing the "Star-Spangled Banner"
- After the song, have Scouts read off a name from the list and point it out on the map.

Do this alphabetically.

Assign boys multiple parts, if needed

Cub # 1: Anchorage, Alaska

Cub # 2: Boston, Massachusetts

Cub # 3: Cherokee, Kansas

Cub # 4: Dover, Delaware

Cub # 5: Everglades, Florida

Cub # 6: Freedom, California

Cub # 7: Gallup, New Mexico

Cub # 8: Hartford, Connecticut

Cub # 9: Independence, Missouri

Cub # 10: Jefferson, Iowa

Cub # 11: Knoxville, Tennessee

Cub # 12: Lincoln, Nebraska

Cub # 13: Montgomery, Alabama

Cub # 14: Neptune, New Jersey

Cub # 15: Oshkosh, Wisconsin

Cub # 16: Providence, Rhode Island

Cub # 17: Quartzite, Arizona

Cub # 18: Revere, Minnesota

Cub # 19: Sleepy Hollow, Wyoming

Cub # 20: Tornado, West Virginia

Cub # 21: Ulysses, Pennsylvania
Cub # 22: Vermillion, South Dakota
Cub # 23: Washington, DC
Cub # 24: Xenia, Ohio
Cub # 25: Yakima, Washington
Cub # 26: Zapata, Texas
CM From A to Z, Scouts do exciting things all over
our great land.

Flag Closing

Sam Houston Area Council

Setting – color guard, Cubmaster (or 5 Cub Scouts, each reading one verse of the poem)

Scene – Cubmaster (or 5 Cub Scouts) reads the poem below as color guard slowly retires the flag.

Cub # 1: We watch the flag as it passes by A flash of color against the sky; Its fifty stars are a dazzling white As those few that shown by the dawn's first light.

Cub # 2: The brave, bright red that will never fade By the blood of men's sacrifice was made. The white, for our nation's purity Can be kept from stain by you and me.

Cub # 3: The blue, the vastness of God's own sky, His promise that freedom shall never die. The mighty cities, the farmlands fair, The many churches for praise and prayer.

Cub # 4: The chance to do and the chance to be In a land our forefathers fought to free. The hope that the world is looking for Our good will for peace but our strength for war.

Cub # 5: All these are the flag of our dear land A symbol we cherish and understand. As we bare our heads and our hearts beat high As our flag, "Old Glory" is passing by.

Ideals

Baltimore Area Council

Set Up: Eight Cubs each with a placard with his phrase on front and his part in LARGE print n the back.

Cub # 1: DO YOUR BEST in everything you do on life's way.

Cub # 2: ALWAYS BE FRIENDLY to brighten other people's day.

Cub # 3: GIVE AWAY YOUR SMILES for 'tis rewarding indeed.

Cub # 4: BE PREPARED to help others in their daily need.

Cub # 5: BE HONEST AND SINCERE towards others you meet.

Cub # 6: BE LOYAL AND TRUE a most commendable feat.

Cub # 7: COUNT YOUR BLESSINGS, being thankful each day for life's opportunities that come your way.

Cub # 8: Good night to each and every one of you. May these thoughts stay with you your whole life through.

Cubmaster's Minutes

Do Your Best

Sam Houston Area Council

Every Cub Scout should accomplish something worthwhile each day. Each day's accomplishments should be a little better than the day before. Stand by a window with your room dark and look out into the night, and ask yourself this simple question: Have I done my best today? Then each day, vow to do better than the day before. If all of us do that, and keep our promises, we will have the best Cub Scout pack in the country. Before we close, I want to ask you a question. Answer it silently to yourselves. "Have you done your best today?"

Remembering our X Y Zs

Sam Houston Area Council

At the start of our pack meeting this evening, we looked at the ABC's of Cub Scouting. You might say ABC's stands for All Boys Can and then you fill in the blank of what comes next. All Boys Can Succeed. All Boys Can Play. All Boys Can Achieve. These are wonderful aspirations for our Cub Scouts. There are other words, not so impressive, that we could have used to fill in those blanks. But that's not Scouting! In Cub Scouts, we participate in character connections and we discover fitness and citizenship qualities, and have a welcoming spirit that engages all the young men. As we end tonight, we've traveled through our alphabet following a most unique path, as one would expect from Cub Scouts. At the end of our path, we've found XYZ. Let us remember the XYZ's of Cub Scouting, too – X-ceptional Young men with a Zest for adventure.

Games

Eskimo Relay

Catalina Council

Object: The team which is able to take the longest time to get the ice cube to the end of the line.

Material:

2 teams of 5 or 6 players,
3 adult judges and
2 to 4 ice cubes

How to Play:

- Place each team in line with the players standing behind each other about 3 feet apart.
- Give the 1st player in each line a large ice cube.
- At the signal, the 1st player turns and places the ice cube on the neck of the next player, who must stoop over.
- The 2nd player tries to balance the ice cube as long as he can.
- As soon as it slips he must either catch it or pick it up, then turn immediately and place it on the neck of the next person.
- This continues until the ice cube has gone all the way to the end of the line.
- The judges are on hand to ensure that no one dawdles.
- The use of hands is strictly forbidden except to move the ice cube from one person to the next.

Potato Wheel-barrow Race

Baltimore Area Council

- Organize a wheel-barrow race with a team of two children--one on the floor walking on hands and the other holding up his/her feet
- Put a potato on the back of each 'wheel barrow'.
- Listen to the shrieks of glee!
- If the spud falls off, the team must return to the starting line.