Campfire Skits & Songs

Why are we here?

- How to hold a successful campfire
- Alternatives to campfires
- Increase the quality of your campfire program
- Increase cheers and songs in your unit
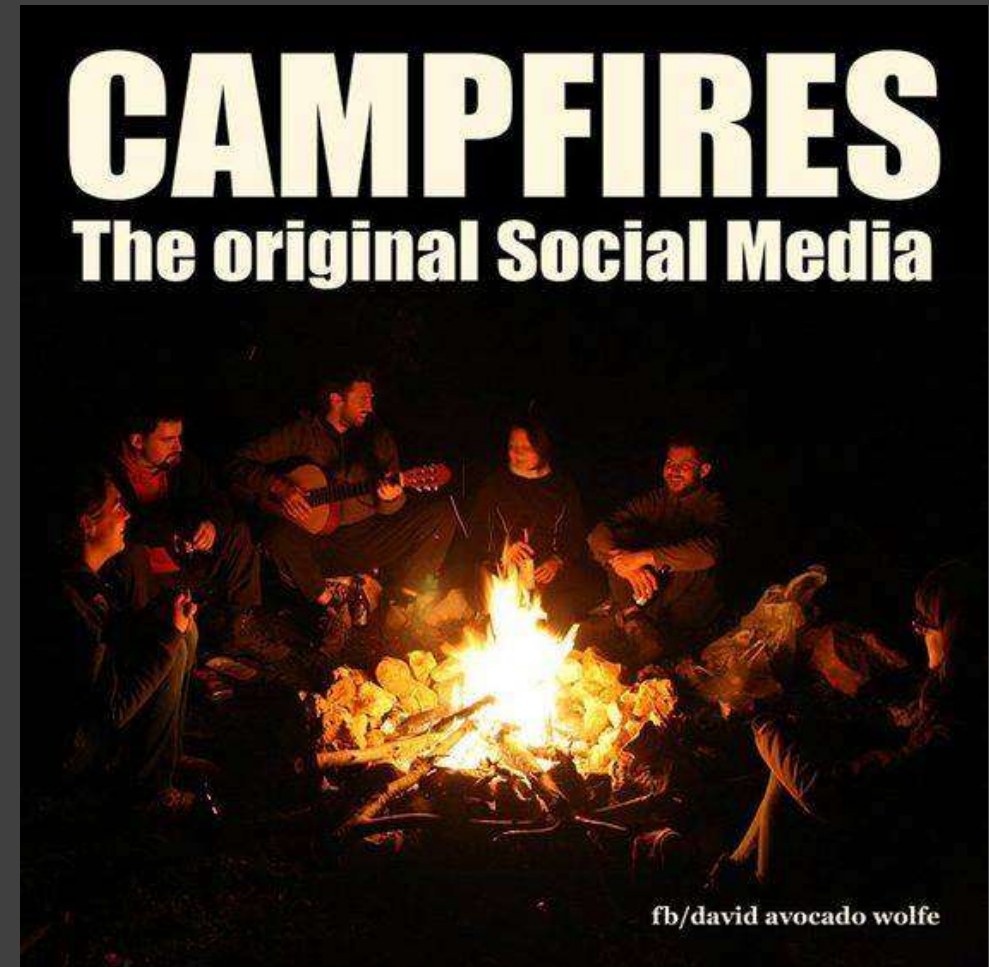- Intensify Scouting memories

Campfires

Why Do We Have Campfires?

- Warmth!
- Food!
- Fun!
- Entertainment!
- Fellowship!
- Action!
- Adventure!
- Training!
- Inspiration!

CAMPFIRES
The original Social Media

fb/david avocado wolfe

When Do We Have Campfires?

- Den/patrol meetings
- Campouts
- Council camps
- Anytime you want to have fun!

Planning a Campfire

- Two P's
  - Planning
    - Location
    - Fire restrictions
    - Who will lead / Master of Ceremonies
    - Fire marshall
    - Plan a program / Don't wing it!
  - Presentation
    - Get songs, skits, etc from participants
    - Organize them into a program
    - BSA's Campfire Program Planner can help
      - https://tinyurl.com/bsacampfire
    - Variety

CAMPFIRE PROGRAM

Place	Campers notified	Area set up by
Date	Campfire planning meeting	
Time	MC	Campfire built by
Camp director's approval:	Song leader	Fire put out by
	Cheermaster	Cleanup by

Spot	Title of Stunt, Song, or Story	By_____	Time
1	Opening—and fire lighting		
2	Greeting—introduction	MC	
3	Sing— Yell—		
4			
5			
6			
7			
8			
9			
10			
11			
12			
13			
14			
15			
16			
17			
18			
19			
20			
21			
22	Closing		

Campfire Program – Follow the Flame

Build Excitement   ->   High Point   ->   Transition to Closing

Parts of a Great Campfire

- Four S's

    - Showmanship

    - Songs

    - Stunts (skits, cheers, etc)

    - Stories (ghost, funny, adventure, etc)

How to Gauge Appropriateness

Follow the Scout Law…

Friendly, Courteous, Kind

Pre-screen all parts of the campfire!

How to Gauge Appropriateness

Politics / Religion
Race / Nationalities
Underwear
Alcohol / Drugs / Tobacco
Gender impersonation
Inside Jokes
Wasting Food / Water

Share Your Ground Rules

- Safety first!
- Set behavior expectations
- Support for others / Courteousness
- Show where the stage is
- Remind scouts to speak loudly and towards the audience
- What goes in the fire stays in the fire
  - Who feeds the fire?
  - What can go in the fire?

Opening Ideas

- Procession
  - Silence
  - Singing a song
- Some other way to get everyone's attention
  - Dramatic entrance of MC
  - Scout sign
  - Fire lighting

Lighting the Fire!

- Torch walked in ceremoniously
- Battery + long wires connected to…
  - steel wool
  - a spring wedged with match heads
- Candle on a board
  - use a string to pull the lit candle under the tinder
- Flaming arrow
  - Rides on fishing line directly to the kindling.
  - See https://www.programresources.org/campfires/
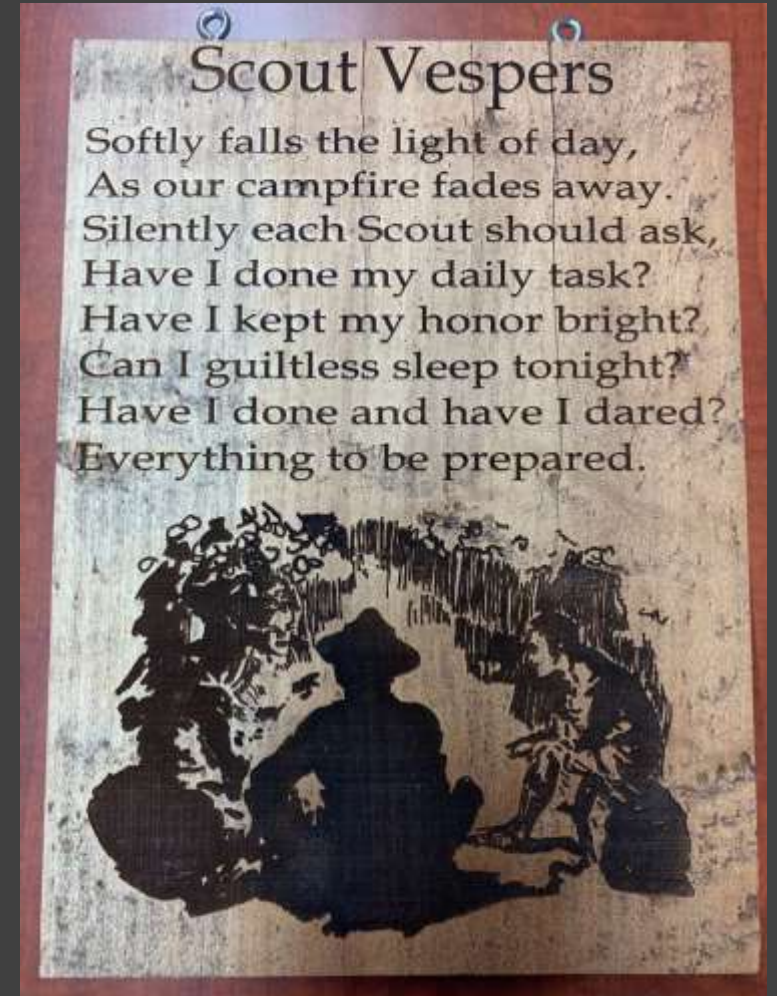- Always have a backup plan!

Fuels in Fires

Ceremonies

- Ashes

- Flag retirement

Closing Ideas

- Scoutmaster Minute
- Scout Vespers
- Taps
  - On a trumpet or sung
- Circle
  - Right over left
  - Right hand Scout sign, left hand holds neighbor's right arm
- Scout Oath
- Scout Benediction
  - "May the Great Scoutmaster of all good Scouts be with us until we meet again."
- Roses, Thorns, and Buds

Scout Vespers

Softly falls the light of day,
As our campfire fades away.
Silently each Scout should ask,
Have I done my daily task?
Have I kept my honor bright?
Can I guiltless sleep tonight?
Have I done and have I dared?
Everything to be prepared.

More Fun After the Campfire!

- Cracker Barrel / S'mores

- Quiet time around the fire

- Don't forget to put out the fire!
  - Assign a person

Tragic Mistakes of the Scouter

- Not practicing

- Not speaking loudly enough

- Not facing the audience

- Next skit/song/story not ready when the audience is

Ideas to Liven Up Campfires

- Look for ways to have long breaks in your program

    - Recurring Themes

    - Short jokes

    - Guy in dinosaur costume

    - Second MC

    - Walk-ons

Ideas to Liven Up Campfires

- For Cub programs:

  - Don't forget to involve parents!

  - Scouts are more likely to feel brave if they see adults/leaders/parents showing that it is ok!

What if We Cannot Have a Campfire?

- Rain – Under Shelter
- Fire Restriction – Lanterns / Water bottles
- Inside / Short Duration – Fake Fire

Skits & Stories

How To Be Awesome

- Have fun!
- Enthusiasm
- Speak loudly & clearly
- Variation
- Simple costumes
- Consider lighting
- Length
- Rehearse, rehearse, rehearse!
- Be prepared

Not Just for Campfires

- Skits are great for skills training:
  - Good/bad campsite choices
  - Outdoor Code

- Scouts Own / Interfaith Services

Same Story – Different Tellings

One got huge applause…

- Read with passion
- Actors
- Simple costumes

One was boring…

- Read seriously
- No actors

Where Can I Find Skit Ideas?

- Television
  - Monty Python – [Dead Parrot](#)
  - The Sketch Show – [California Dreaming](#)
  - Commercials – Berlitz ad "[On the Fritz](#)"
- Web archives
  - http://www.scoutorama.com/skit/
  - http://www.boyscouttrail.com/skits.asp
  - www.boyscouttrail.com/boy-scouts/boy-scout-skits.asp

Songs

Why Do We Sing Songs?

- Boost cheer
- Fill lulls
- Habit
- Teamwork
- Team building
- Build confidence
- Fun!
- Creating memories!

When Should We Include Songs?

- Meetings
- Campfires
- Patriotic events
- Hikes
- Team building
- Parades
- Scouts Own / Interfaith Services
- Holidays / Caroling
- Lulls in program / Focus
- Any Day That Ends in Y

Types of Songs

- Patriotic
- Silly
- Traditional Scouting
- Solemn
- Holiday
- Repeat after Me
- Do as I Do's (Action)
- Campfire

How to Prepare Groups for Singing

- Make it a habit / Practice

- Explain the type of song / Make space / Position

- Utilize Repeat After Me / Do as I Do Songs

- Teach short verses

- Provide copies of longer songs / Cue cards

- Open to a page of a shared songbook

What About Instruments?

- Encourages interest in music

- Increase participation in program

- Add diversity to music

- Consider instrument vs. size

- Guitars & Ukuleles

- Trumpets & Bugles

But…

- I don't like to sing!

- I can't remember the words!

- Stage fright

Homework

- Find a song that you can sing with others

- Find one new skit for your next campfire

- Prepare them with others

- Have fun!

Erik: erikd@microsoft.com

Patrick: pmontemerlo@gmail.com

Feedback is a gift!

1. Go to https://seaptc.org and click "Class Evaluation"

2. The evaluation code for this session is 4151.

3. Show us the confirmation page to receive your parting gifts...

A Tale of Two Meadows