

The Newspaper Game

Materials needed

A generous supply of newspaper and several rolls of masking tape.

Directions

Divide the group of new Cubs and their parents into Den-sized groups. It is OK to combine grade levels to get a group of 6-8 (not counting adults) but try to keep same grade boys together. Existing leaders will be needed to observe this activity and should not participate otherwise.

Explain to the group that this game requires the participation of every person in the group, adult and boy. The first thing the group should do is to pick a model, or two. This needs to be one of the new boys. Then the group needs to decide on a costume that they can make from their stack of newspaper (throw out suggestions such as Superman, Darth Vader, pirate, Indian, astronaut, football player, etc.). Further explain that they will have **5 minutes** to complete the costume and then they will need to select one adult member of the group to be the spokesperson who will describe the costume to the independent panel of judges. The judges should be 3 or 4 current leaders, commissioners, or other district personnel. Let the group know that sometimes the explanation will influence the judges as much as the costume and that the winners will be recognized. If there are no questions yell GO!

While the groups are making their costumes, current leaders and judges should mingle and pay close attention to the action. More on this later.

After about 4 minutes, announce that there are 3 minutes left (this is Cub Scout time). That there are 2 minutes left after a couple of more minutes, etc. 1 or 2 minutes later let the groups know that they need to put on the finishing touches and prepare for the judges. Only the model(s) and the one adult spokesperson should be standing. Start with the 1st-graders and go group by group letting them explain their costumes to the judges. Applaud each group enthusiastically after their explanation. After all the groups have finished let the judges converse with each other for a few minutes, only to come to the decision that all of the costumes are so good that they cannot decide on a single one, so, **EVERYONE WINS!** (In Cub Scouts everyone is a winner). Get a big round of applause, or other cheer, for everyone and then let the boys disassemble the costumes (**models should have the option of wearing the costume home before anyone tears it off of them** - this will avoid anyone's feelings getting hurt). Then make sure the groups clean up their area.

Your observers will be looking for behavior consistent with what we look for in a prospective leader. Such as good delegation, smiling faces, getting others involved, creativity (all qualities of a good Den Leader). Such as a really unique story behind the costume (potential Cubmaster or Assistant Cubmaster). Also be watching for people who distance themselves from the action or that assume a negative body posture (these are to be avoided). Find out the names of the prospective leaders and plant a seed (You looked like you were really having a good time with the boys during the game...that's what Cub Scouts is all about).

Thank them all for coming. At the Parents Orientation the following week, recruit your leaders.