

# **Blue & Gold Celebration**

Heart of America Council

The Boys Scouts of America was founded in 1920 and the Cub Scout program followed in 1930. Cub Scouting's anniversary is honored each February with the Blue and Gold celebration deriving its name from the Cub Scout colors. This celebration (**usually in the form of a banquet or Birthday party**) is a special time for the boys and families of Cub Scouting. Blue and Gold banquets offer family involvement and show the principles of Scouting at its best.

## **Steps to Planning a Blue and Gold Banquet**

### **1. Select date, time, place:**

- a. The banquet often takes the place of February Pack meeting, although it is not necessarily held on the regular meeting night.
- b. In selecting the place, consider the following:
  1. Adequate space for seating and displays.
  2. Availability of parking space, restrooms, coat racks.
  3. Program needs, such as microphones, stage, etc.
  4. Convenience for food preparation and/or serving.
  5. Reserving the meeting place well in advance.

### **2. Dinner**

- a. Select meal plan - catered, pot luck, etc.
- b. Determine serving needs - kitchen and utensils.
- c. Select menu and estimate cost.
- d. Assign serving and cleanup jobs.

### **3. Program**

- a. Entertainment
- b. Props for skits and ceremonies.
- c. Recognition for boys and Leaders.
- d. Make assignments for various parts of the program:
  1. Invocation
  2. Welcome and introduction of guests
  3. Ceremonies
  4. Recognitions
  5. Entertainment

### **4. Decorations**

- a. Room decorations
- b. Table decorations
- c. Displays

### **5. Publicity**

- a. Inform all Pack families of date, time, place, and cost.
- b. Invitations - consider inviting guests such as the head of the sponsoring institution, school principal, institutional representative, Scoutmaster, and district commissioner.

## Sample by Date Calendar

This is based on the Blue and Gold being held the last week of February. Adjust accordingly:

### August

At the annual Pack planning meeting decide date, time, and place for Blue and Gold banquet if possible. If a school location is desired, be sure all requisitions for building are started. Recruit Blue and Gold chairman.

### September or October

#### Recruit committee sub-chairmen:

Physical arrangements	Invitation
Program	Dinner

### November

Location selected and reservations made.

Subcommittees to begin duties as stated.

### December

#### January

**1st week:** Blue and Gold committee to meet with Den Leaders to give directions for decoration, program, invitation information, etc. Dinner committee decision made. Entertainment secured or assignments made. Physical arrangements committee visits location of banquet to check out needs.

**2nd week:** Dens to begin work on decorations

**Last week:** Invitations for Blue and Gold Banquet to families. Special guest invitations mailed.

#### February

**1st week:** Reconfirm location, time, and place.

Reconfirm entertainment. Buy supplies, plates, coffee, etc.

**2nd week:** Program agenda ready for printing.

Deadline for R.S.V.P, Let dinner committee know of reservations to make final food orders.

**3rd week:** Make seating chart. Give to setup committee.

#### Banquet Day:

Early PM - setup.

Scheduled time - This is it, have FUN!!!

Late PM - clean up.

**Be sure to write "Thank You" notes for entertainment, donations, etc.**

#### Dinner Committee:

1. Decides serving method: catered, potluck, etc.
2. If catered:
  - a. Contact caterer - agree on menu and cost.
  - b. Take reservations and estimate cost.
  - c. Check with caterer on time of delivery, finding out if he provides plates, silverware. And are drinks and dessert provided.
  - d. Plan two serving lines, if more than 150 people attend.
  - e. Collect money prior to banquet.
3. If potluck:
  - a. Decides if Dens will plan their own menus - or if each Den family will bring food to contribute to an overall menu.
  - b. If Dens plan their own menus, each Den Leader should act as coordinator.
4. If committee prepared:
  - a. Selects menu.
  - b. Recruit committee to prepare food.

- c. Takes reservations and estimates attendance.
  - d. A few days before banquet, purchase food and deliver it to members of the committee who will be preparing it. It is easiest to purchase food from the Pack funds then replace it when money is collected from everyone.
5. Decides if the Pack will provide such things as salt, pepper, sugar, napkins, drinks, etc. If so, make arrangements to buy or have things donated. Inform the Dens of your plans.
  6. Each family can bring their own plates and silverware.
  7. Plan to have cake or cupcakes. This is Scouting's Birthday!!!

### **Types of Banquets**

- 1. Potluck #1:** Each Den's families are asked to provide one main dish and one extra dish (**salad, vegetable, or dessert**). All food is placed on one table and served buffet style. The Pack provides the beverages and breads. No charge is made for the meal.
- 2. Potluck #2:** Each Den's families are asked to provide either a vegetable, salad, or desert. The Pack provides the meat, beverages and breads. All food is placed on one table and served buffet style. A charge is made to cover the expenses.
- 3. Family Style Potluck:** As in #1, except food is only on the table(s) assigned to that Den and is passed family style. The Den may provide breads and beverages or the Pack may provide them. No charge is made for the meal.
- 4. Cook Your Own:** The Pack decides on the menu, purchases the food, and distributes it to the Dens for cooking and preparing. A charge is made for the cost of the food.
- 5. Box supper #1:** Each family is asked to bring one box supper for each family member. All boxes are collected at the door and auctioned off for a Pack fund raising project. The family members may eat together, sharing the boxes they purchased.
- 6. Box supper #2:** Each female member of a family brings a box supper for three people. These are auctioned off as in #5, but the person who buys the meal must eat with the person who prepared it, plus one child.
- 7. Box supper #3:** Use either of the two box supper methods, except no charge is made for the meals and no auction held.
- 8. Sponsor dinner:** The sponsoring organization provides all food, beverages, and condiments. No charge is made for the meal.
- 9. Catered meal:** The Pack arranges with a local caterer to provide all or a portion of the meal. Costs determine the prices of tickets.
- 10. Cafeteria #1:** Sometimes the banquet is held in a school cafeteria and the school provides the meal, charging each person going through the line.
- 11. Cafeteria #2:** The Pack purchases the food which is prepared by the cafeteria staff, if not donated. Pack members can substitute for or assist the cafeteria staff to cut costs.
- 12. Restaurant:** A local restaurant is selected as the banquet site and a menu is chosen. Charges are based on the cost of the meal, plus tax and tip.
- 13. Dessert specials:**
  - a. Dessert provided by sponsor.
  - b. Parent-son bake cake.
  - c. Build a sundae; ice cream in commercial containers, toppings - syrups, nuts and whipped cream.
- 14. Birthday party:** No food, but instead have cake and ice cream to celebrate Scouting's Birthday.

### **Invitations**

A Blue & Gold Invitation is just about everyone's first notice that something special is coming in Cub Scouting. Put your best face forward.

#### **What should an invitation look like?**

It can take almost any shape but it should reflect the ideals of Cub Scouting and the type of celebration you are planning.

### **What information is needed?**

1. **Who's** doing the inviting ... the Pack number.
2. **What** they're invited to ... a banquet, celebration, birthday party, ice cream social, etc.
3. **When** the celebration is to take place, the date.
4. **What time** the celebration starts , the time.
5. **Where** the celebration is being held, the name and address of the facility.
6. **R.S.V.P.** ... **the** name and phone number of the Den Leader.

### **Who makes the invitations?**

The Cub Scouts. Keep it simple, make it fun.

### **Who do they invite?**

Every Cub Scout family	Clergy
Tiger Cub Group	Unit Commissioner
Scouting coordinator or sponsor	Guest speaker
District Executives	Entertainer
District Commissioners	Past Cubmasters
Scoutmasters of area Boy Scout Troops	The "owner" of the banquet facility

### **When should the invitations be delivered?**

Three weeks before your celebration.

### **The Typical Program:**

Agenda for the evening  
List of Pack Leaders  
List of Den Leaders  
List of Den Chiefs  
Scouting coordinator  
Sponsoring organization  
Principal of school  
Pastor of church  
Poems  
Prayers

There must be pre-planning. Entertainment is one of the most important parts, whether this be Pack participation or outside entertainment. Plans should be considered at least two months ahead of time.

Outside entertainment may cost very little and sometimes nothing. Some ask to be included in the meal or whatever is being served, so be sure there is extra food. Be sure and check for special arrangements that may be needed.

### **Entertainment ideas:**

#### **A. Pack developed entertainment**

1. Each Den prepares a skit, song, stunt, or puppet show.
2. Parent and child talent show.
3. Cubmaster and Den Leader or committee persons prepare a skit using adults.
4. Scout demonstrations.

#### **B. Outside entertainment**

1. Animal demonstrations
  - a. County park associations
  - b. Police canine departments.
  - c. Dog obedience schools
2. Bicycle clubs
3. Clowns
4. Dance demonstrations
  - a. Dance schools in your area

- b. Square dancers
    - c. Indian dancers (**local Scout Troops**)
  - 5. Karate demonstrations
  - 6. Magic acts
    - a. Magicians
    - b. Instructors from local high schools
- Blue and Gold Entertainment**
- 7. Music
    - a. Cub Scouts from the Pack
    - b. Musicians
    - c. School and church choirs
    - d. Singing groups, adults and children
  - 8. Sports (**Pro and amateurs**)
    - a. Chiefs
    - b. Royals
    - c. High school departments
    - d. Gymnastic schools
  - 9. Miscellaneous ideas
    - a. Short play (**Local theater group**)
    - b. Entertaining films (**no home movies or slides**)
    - c. Cartoon artist
    - d. Police and fire department

#### **Invocations**

Our God and God of our fathers, we gather as loyal members of our Cub Scout Pack and we pray for Thy blessing. Give us the vision to see our duty and the courage to perform it. Teach us to walk together in the spirit of brotherhood so that we are true to Thee who is the Father of all. Guide us so that we shall be faithful sons of the righteous God who is from everlasting to everlasting. *Amen.*

Dear God, help us remember that every Cub Scout and Boy Scout has promised to do his best to do his duty to You. Teach us to be worthy, of the uniform we wear, and help us to do our best for You. *Amen.*

#### **Typical banquet agenda:**

Opening ceremony  
 Invocation  
 Dinner  
 Songs  
 Welcome & introductions  
 Greeting from head of chartered organization  
 Induction ceremony (**if any**)  
 Entertainment  
 Webelos demonstration  
 Advancement awards ceremony  
 Recognition of Leaders  
 Graduation ceremony (**if any**)  
 Announcements and thanks  
 Closing ceremony