



# AMERICAN ELM DISTRICT



Volume 7, Issue 6  
Aug., 2007

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RT Newsletter

Webelos activity badges Citizen and Communicator

## Theme: Cub Scout Express

### PRE OPENING ACTIVITIES Train Puzzle

#### Across:

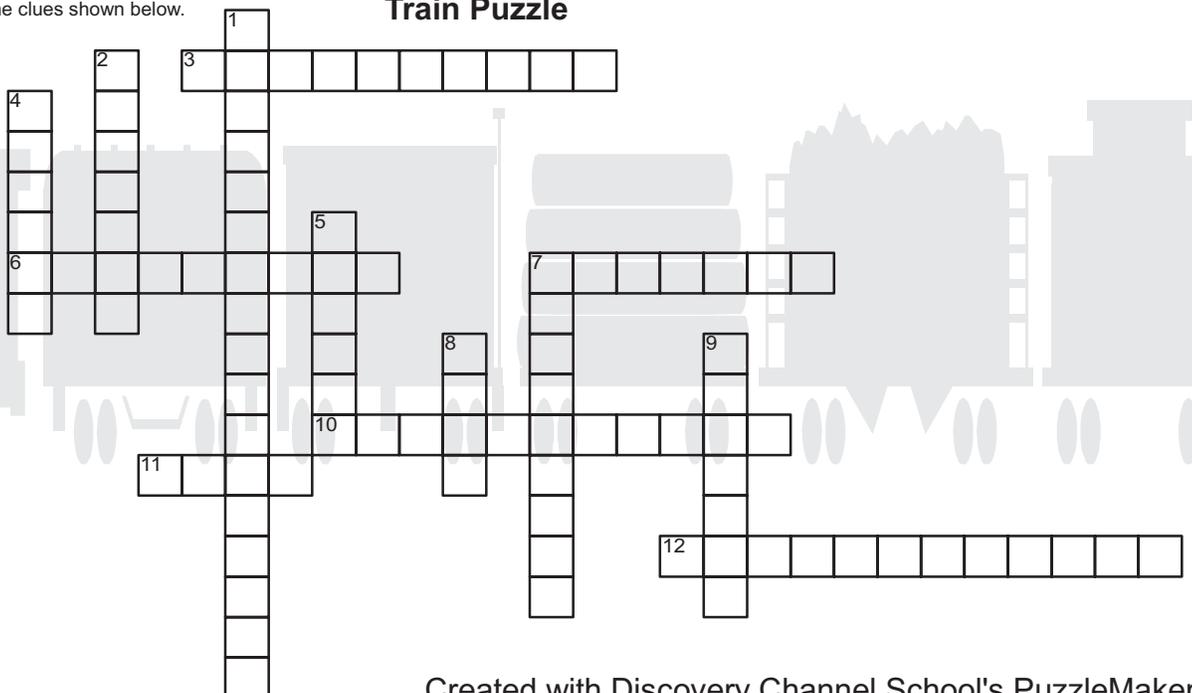
- 3. Wooden fence used to block train tracks at crossings.
- 6. Conductor yells this to tell people the train is leaving.
- 7. The car at the end of the freight train used by the crews to eat and sleep in.
- 10. Old style of train in the early days.
- 11. One of the things trains use for fuel.
- 12. Where people went to catch a train similar to modern bus stations..

#### Down:

- 1. Where roads and train tracks cross over each other.
- 2. Danger -- used by trains to warn that they were approaching.
- 4. Underground train.
- 5. Early form of transportation.
- 7. Used by cities as transportation - ran on tracks in the street and powered by electric cables hung in the air.
- 8. Also used as fuel for trains.
- 9. Used by the conductor to tell the train engineer everything was okay to leave the station.

Complete the puzzle using the clues shown below.

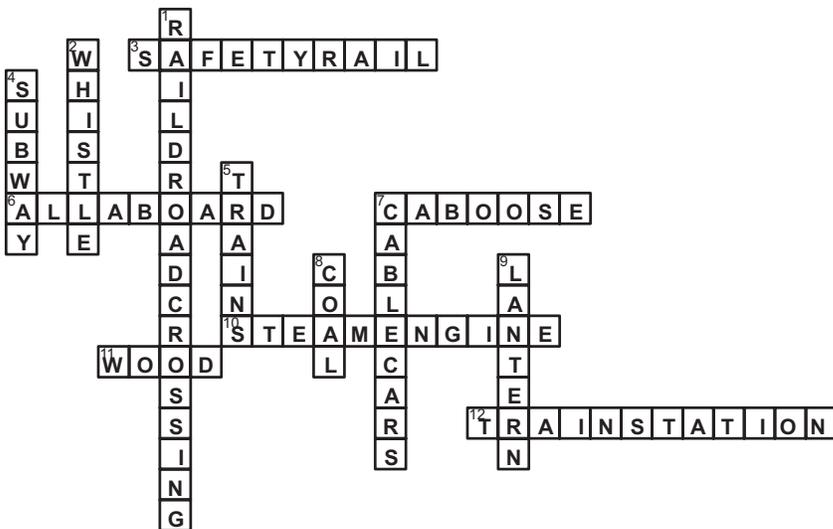
### Train Puzzle



Created with Discovery Channel School's PuzzleMaker.

**September: Cub Scout Express or Race to Scouting if using the CD by National**

**ANSWERS TO TRAIN PUZZLE**



**Tigers** – Ach 4D, 4F, 5G

**Elect.** 3, 4, 35, 48

**Wolf** - Ach 1, 1B, 6, 9D

**Elect.** 2B, 5G, 11C, 12D, 16

**Bear** – Ach 3F, 8E, 12B, 15B, 19A, 19C, 19D, 24A

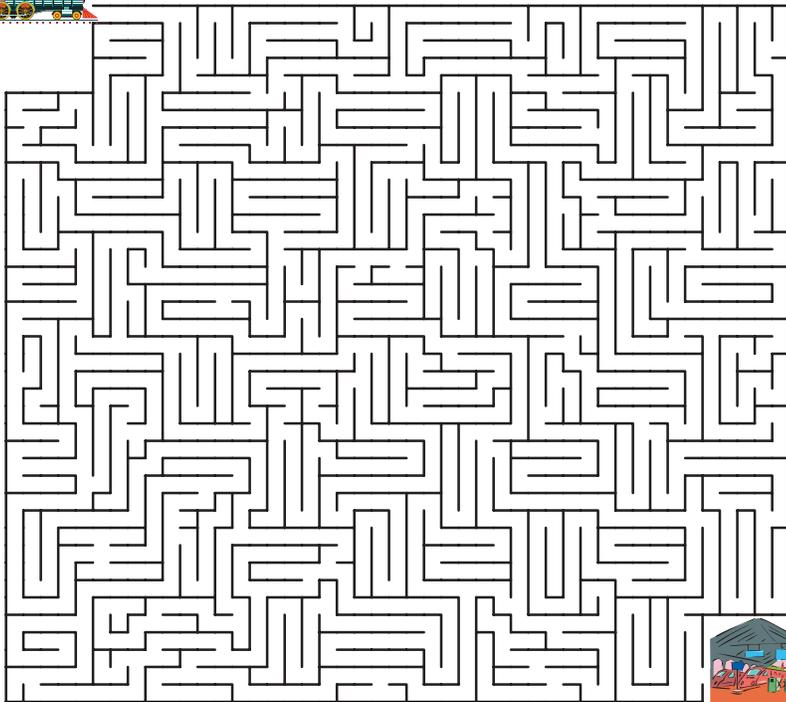
**Elect.** 11

I hope that everyone had a great summer and are ready for some fun in Scouting this year. I know that I have been busy here in Ohio.

We lost our almost 14 year old Sheltie “Lassie early July, between the age and the bad dog food it was too much for her. I decided we needed another dog while my husband was at Boy Scout camp. Guess it was too quiet around here. Ella is a Poochon (Part Bichon Frise /Poodle hybrid) at about 9 weeks she fell off my Daughter’s bed while I was at our Day Camp teaching Artist to Webelos scouts. She weighed 2 pounds and had legs about 4 inches long so the vets decided to weekly splint her leg and then recheck each week how is it doing. First week it was bright purple and now its hot pink. About the same time as the accident we got a call from my son in Michigan that he had gotten a dog but it didn’t fit the apartment. That stumped me till he told me that they allow 20 pounds only. Mason is 53 pounds and growing. So between the baby puppy in the tri-level and the large moose in the garage while we heal the leg I have my hands full and this issue did not get done till today. Sorry about the delay and I hope that you will bear with me as I juggle things for the next month.

**Train Maze**

Help the train find the station at the end of the maze.

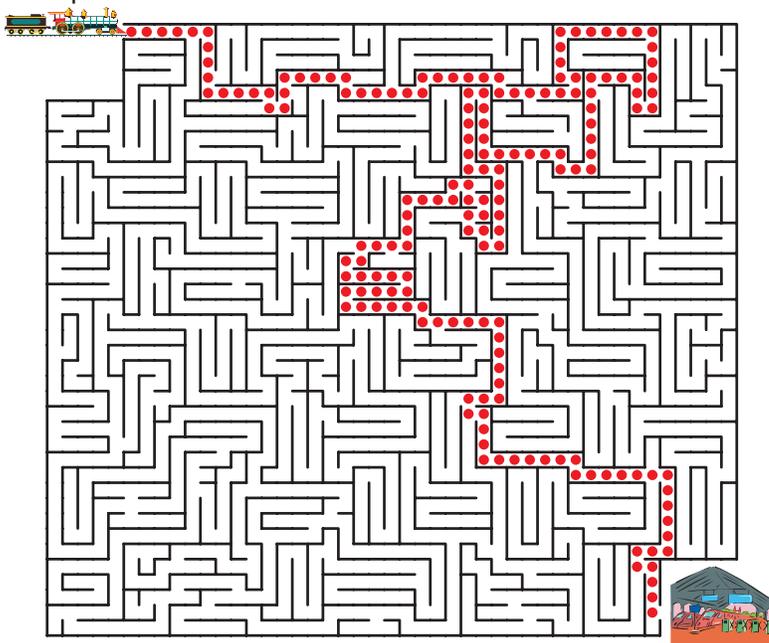


Created with Discovery Channel School's PuzzleMaker.

I want to include two article to I will condense to hit the topic that is important to all of us in Scouting. If you have gotten my friends issue of Baloo’s Bugle the last 2 month you will now that Bill Smith has covered training and how it will change for the better. As a Trainer and pst Roundtable Commissioner these are the 2 areas that a Scout Leader needs to attend and learn as much as possible to be able to do their positions and have FUN.

## ANSWERS TO TRAIN MAZE

Help the train find the station at the end of the maze.



Created with Discovery Channel School's PuzzleMaker.

### Hight lites on Training

#### From the National Meeting

*Bill Smith, the Roundtable Guy*

At the end on May, I attended the National Meeting of the BSA in Atlanta. I saw a lot, met a lot of special people and learned a lot there.

One session, however stood out above all the rest for me, and for the readers of this column.

William "Rick" Cronk is the president of the BSA. He is an ex Assistant Cubmaster and he is concerned with the quality of the Cub Scout program. Here is his proposal:

#### **Cub Scout Leader Training Challenge**

#### **"Because Every Cub Scout Deserves a Trained Leader"**

**Trained leaders provide an active, quality program at the den and pack levels and keep Tiger Cubs and their partners, Cub Scouts, and Webelos Scouts coming back for more fun week after week and month after month. When Cub Scouts participate regularly, the many purposes of Cub Scouting are achieved. Trained leaders increase boy retention and leader tenure.**

**Rick Cronk, Boy Scouts of America**

**national president and sponsor of Cronk's Club, will recognize Scouters at all levels for their efforts in increasing the number of trained leaders who are delivering a dynamic program. A special neckerchief will be awarded to those who meet the challenge.**

#### **Requirements:**

#### **COUNCILS**

#### **Council Key 3 and Council Training Chair:**

- Accept the challenge and commit to join Club.
- Publicize the Cronk's Club challenge to all district and unit Scouters by **September 1, 2007** (introduce at council annual program kickoff, on council Web site, and in council newsletter)
- Promote the recruiting of pack trainers (mentors) in all council Cub Scout packs and promote the Pack Trainer Award requirements.
- Attend a minimum of one leader-specific training.
- Provide adequate training opportunities in the council's training calendar to assure that all direct-contact Cub Scout leaders (Tiger Cub den leaders, Cub Scout den leaders and assistants, Webelos den leaders and assistants, Cubmasters, and assistants) are able to attend instructor-led training
- Submit e-mail addresses to [cronksechallenge@netbsa.org](mailto:cronksechallenge@netbsa.org) of all council and district training chairs to assure that all chairs receive the latest training information and resources.

#### **Council Registrar:**

- Review training attendance reports from all Cub Scouting training courses within the last two years to make certain that reports are posted and accurate by **August 1, 2007**.
- Make certain all training attendance reports are entered into ScoutNet within seven working days.

#### **DISTRICTS**

#### **District Training Chair:**

- Personally commit to "Cronk's Challenge" by declaring an "open season" on all untrained and newly recruited direct-contact leaders.
- Increase the percentage of trained direct-

contact leaders in the district by 10 percent, or achieve the national standard of 60 percent trained direct-contact leaders

- At monthly Cub Scout leader roundtables, provide publicity on the Cronk's Club challenge and progress reports on direct-contact leaders trained.

- **By September 1, 2007**, complete a Unit Inventory of Training for all Cub Scout packs in the district using registered pack trainers and/or unit commissioners

### **This time there were these differences.**

First, there are the leaders.

Rick Cronk is a former Cub Scout leader and his son is a CS leader.

I am convinced that he really means to make this thing go.

Sam Thompson is for real. I have met a lot of Cub Scout Directors over the years and I rate Sam right up there with the best.

Second, they know mostly what's wrong. A lot of the training issues that were aired on email lists lately were also discussed in Atlanta. For example, we should be teaching DLs to run den meetings and Cubmasters to run pack meetings. And that meetings should be fun.

The first thing they emphasized is to move Cub Scout Leader Specific Training ahead of New Leader Essentials. They reported that Essentials is a downer and contains "nice to know" stuff while Specifics has what leaders need to do their jobs.

Moreover, Essentials often turns people off and they never return for more training. Also all training must be improved. Sam is building teams of people who understand adult education.

For years, and many versions of our leader training, we have operated with a form of cookie-cutter training that tried to give all things to all people. That doesn't work. Our leaders are a diverse lot, each coming with a unique set of skills, life experiences, resources, and needs. The single working parent and the suburban professional are

different. They both have valuable skills and urgent needs as potential leaders, but they are not the same skills and the same needs. One rigid training session is not going to help both.

A Director of Field Service related to me that his council found that trained first year leaders didn't understand their Scouting jobs until they attended a **Pow Wow**. Pow Wows and Universities of Scouting have the range and flexibility to better serve the needs of our leaders.

**DO YOU ATTEND YOURS OR BETTER YET DO YOU HAVE SKILLS THAT YOU CAN TEACH TO OTHERS!!!!**

Some Councils have reported their success with mandatory training for all leaders. They will not reregister untrained leaders and they reject charter renewals if key leaders are not trained. They have made mandatory training a cornerstone of the best retention and strong membership growth. It can happen and it does work.

### **TRAINING TIP #2**

We need to send our leaders back to their packs and dens knowing how to make their meetings boy friendly. We must teach our leaders to do their primary jobs: leading with enthusiasm and flair. One of the keys to building stronger training teams is the Trainer Development Conference. This is typically a Council run event. All district training team members, pack/troop trainers, Roundtable staff, and commissioner trainers should attend. Two vital concepts in the present conference are:

- How adults learn. Adults learn differently than children do. Adults come to training sessions with fixed agendas and goals. They also come with diverse skills and experience. If we fail to recognize these characteristics when we train our leaders, then our training fails. If our training fails, so too the unit programs will fail. Training must be interactive so that the training staff learn and then meets the needs of the leaders being trained.

- How to put the "PIZZAZZ" into whatever you do! If our training is dull, then their packs and den programs will be dull too. Selling fun and pizzazz to those cool, urbane adults requires a bit of skill. Some folks balk at first and need a bit of convincing that fun is essential and that they are capable of surviving a few games and stunts.

The Trainer Development Conference incorporates numerous contemporary training techniques and emphasizes the importance of experiential learning, or "learning by doing." The training sessions not only demonstrate good training methods, but give participants an opportunity to interact and practice what they have learned.

#### Volunteer Poem

### **We Are Only Leaders**

We are not experts. We are your next door neighbors.

We are not perfect, we're just parents like you. We don't have any more spare time or energy than you do: we work full time and juggle our families and our schedules and try to keep it together as best we can.

The only difference between us is that we believe in what Scouting has to offer. So much so that we contribute our time, our smiles and our talents to help our sons and your sons grow in Scouting.

We complete authorization forms, budgets, and registrations, and fill our homes with boxes of paperwork that you will never see. We are required to take hours of training and attend meetings every month so that we can meet our greatest challenge: providing a variety of programs which meet the needs and interest of all your boys.

We try to involve parents who want us to understand they don't have the time to drive to outing, help at meeting, or worst yet help their sons progress through the ranks.

We rejoice at the generosity of others.

Sometimes we find ourselves going in too many different directions. We run out of steam. Memory lapses, communication lines break down, time slips by, but that does not mean we don't care. So many evenings we spend on the phone, seeking advice and support from other leaders when disappointment or problems occur. "How do we keep the boy's attention?" "What are your ideas for a ceremony?" "How do we explain this cancellation to the boys?"

Our dining room tables are covered with pre-cut and sorted craft supplies for each and every boy in the den, a couple of whom won't show up and can't think to call and let us know.

Sometimes we feel unappreciated.

Yet these same boys can fill us with pride at their determination and accomplishments. Their smiles light a room, and when they say, Thank you! It makes it all worth it.

We help these boys build relationships, some struggle more than others. Consideration, fairness, and kindness to all are demanded by the Cub Scout Promise and Law. Sometimes, we, too, must learn these lessons over and over again with the boys. But we're willing to keep learning.

Please be patient if we appear distracted or frustrated or overwhelmed at times. Forgive us if we are not the kind of Cub Scout Leader you would be if you had the time. Instead, provide us the encouragement. Or offer your help. Keep us in your thoughts and prayers.

We are, after all, the mentors, role models, leaders and VOLUNTEERS who have taken an oath to give these boys the most precious gifts we have to offer:  
THE GIFT OF OUR ATTENTION AND OUR TIME.

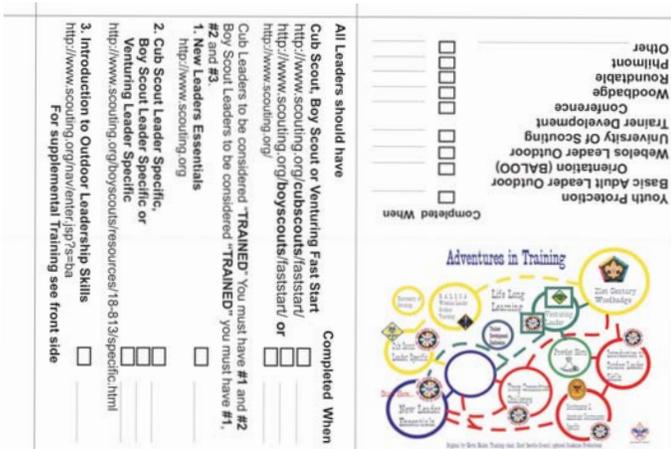
**Recognize your Leaders who commit time, talent and energy to your Packs. Remind the scouts that without those who help the Pack would fold and they would not have the Fun that they enjoy.**

I check to see where my audience is in terms of how much scouting they have had, how long they have been in the program. I have learned that you might not be able to take a scheduled training at some point in your job position – maybe you were a "helper" who took the initiative to take over the job when the leader had to quit and the training was not available at that moment. Talk to your District Training Chair to see when they will be training again, that way they remember you if a new date comes up.

After I do a Training session, I thank those who took time out from their busy life to come and learn

skills that will make them a better leader. I give them ways to contact me if they later have questions that they did not remember earlier. New leaders need to list seasoned scouts who can help them find resources, give advice on matters, and are willing to lend a hand at a meeting. Don't abuse the seasoned leaders since they have jobs to cover also but given the advanced heads up they can usually give you some sound advice that will help YOU come to a decision.

Here is a graphic of the Training card that I put together and you can print off 3 cards to a sheet at <http://www.cubroundtable.com/training.htm>



You will find a lot of information at my site on Pack planning, leader helps, Webelos activity pin outlines to help the Webelos scout earn the achievement pins. If you don't see something on the site write to me and ask me and maybe I can help you and others find out about it.

### Opening Ceremony

#### All Aboard

Make large letters and have each boy hold one while speaking his part. All shout "All Aboard" at the end.

- A** is for **achievements** that I learn to do
- L** is for **loops** that are attached to all my badges I earn
- L** is for **loving** the adventures we have in our den
- A** is for **all leaders** who are the Best!
- B** is for **building** our skills that will last a lifetime
- O** is for **oceans**, seas, and rivers
- A** is for **always** doing our BEST!
- R** is for **recognition** for all our hard work.

### Skits

#### By Grand Canyon Council

#### Boss, The Train

##### Characters:

- 2 boys "tracking animals"
- The rest of the den acts as a train

##### Props:

- 2 flashlights
- 1 spotlight or large flashlight

##### Opening Scene:

The two boys are walking across the stage, shining flashlights down.

**Cub 1:** Look! Bear tracks!

**Cub 2:** (sarcastically) There ain't no bears around here. Them's raccoon tracks!

**Cub 1:** Those are BEAR TRACKS!

**Cub 2:** They can't be!

**Cub 1:** I know what bear tracks look like, and those are BEAR TRACKS!

**Cub 2:** RACCOON TRACKS!

**Cub 1:** BEAR TRACKS!!

**Cub 2:** RACCOON TRACKS!!!

(Boys shove each other and start wrestling. As they are rolling around on the ground, the other boys enter from one side - each behind the other - with the front boy carrying the spotlight and the rest making train noises. The last boy makes a train whistle noise.)

(They stop wrestling and get up.)

**Cubs 1 & 2:** TRAIN TRACKS!!!

(They start running away from the train and the train "chases" them offstage.)



### Audience Participation: Transportation

- This can be done as a skit with the boys wearing cardboard sandwich board pictures or cutouts of the different means of transportation.
  - The boys walk across the stage area as their vehicle is called out.
  - Wearing appropriate hats an engineer's cap for the train a captain's hat or sailor hat for the boat and so on will add to the fun.
  - At the end of all the lines which begins "Come and get a ticket..." the audience responds with the sound for that vehicle.
  - You can add to the rhythm if everyone snaps their fingers or claps in time with the words.
- Verse 1** Come on and get a ticket for the train (whooo-whooo)

I said come on a get a ticket for the train. (whooo-whooo)  
 It'll take you cross the country and back again.  
 Come on an get a ticket for the train. (whooo-whooo)

**Verse 2** Come on and get a ticket for the bus. (beep-beep)

I said come on and get a ticket for the bus. (beep-beep)

Don't take your car; come ride with us  
 Come on and get a ticket for the bus. (beep-beep)

**Verse 3** Come on and get a ticket for the boat. (toot-toot)

I said come on and get a ticket for the boat, (toot-toot)  
 The S.S. Cubby is the fastest thing afloat

Come on and get a ticket for the boat. (toot-toot)

**Verse 4** Come on and get a ticket for the plane. (zooooom)

I said come on and get a ticket for the plane. (zooooom)  
 In just a few hours we'll land in Spain.

Come on and get a ticket for the plane. (zooooom)

**Verse 5** Come on and get a ticket for a bike. (jing-jing)

I said come on and get a ticket for a bike. (jing-jing)  
 You can ride with us; don't take a hike

Come on and get a ticket for a bike. (jing-jing)

**Verse 6** Thank you all for traveling with us. (Boys say "Den \_\_")

I said thank you all for traveling with us. (Den \_\_)  
 It's been fun on our boat, plane, train, bike, and bus

We say thank you all for traveling with us. (Den \_\_)

by Rose Jackson

**Troubles with the Car**

By Narragansett Council

- Read this story to the audience, pausing at the blanks to allow each person in turn to call out one of the items to fill in.
- Write one item on separate papers and pass them out at the gathering period before pack meeting starts. (Not all will be used)

- |                       |                    |
|-----------------------|--------------------|
| A loose tooth         | A can of dog food  |
| A chick plucker       | 3 boiled eggs      |
| A purple crayon       | A driver's license |
| An orange ghost       | A bald eagle       |
| A can of tar          | A tail light       |
| A juicy watermelon    | A windy day        |
| An ice cream stick    | 16 paper plates    |
| A tall pine tree      | A cell phone       |
| A limping dinosaur    | A dog's footprint  |
| A green tomato        | Three petunias     |
| A can of worms        | 2 snowballs        |
| 7 pounds of feathers  | 4 hot rocks        |
| Some soapy dishwasher |                    |

- |                           |                    |
|---------------------------|--------------------|
| A used airmail stamp      | A cake of soap     |
| A short pencil            | A butterfly net    |
| A cat's meow              | 4 sour pickles     |
| A complaining lion        | 3 raisins          |
| A red bedspread           | A plaid kite       |
| A pink steam engine       | Some dominos       |
| 6 plump skeletons         | A used firecracker |
| A beautiful earring       | A swarm of bees    |
| 2 cups of spaghetti sauce |                    |

**All Aboard - Here goes:**

One fine day, two little old ladies decided to drive out of town for a picnic. Miss Bingly loaded a basket with \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_, and other tasty things. Then they drove off with their lunch in an old car that belonged to Miss Arbuckle. The cap on the radiator was decorated with \_\_\_\_\_, and the holes in the roof had been patched with \_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_. As they drove along, Miss Bingley pointed to the side of the road. "Oh, look at that bush with the \_\_\_\_\_, and the \_\_\_\_\_ growing on it. Let's stop here." They carried the basket to some shade cast by \_\_\_\_\_ and spread out \_\_\_\_\_ to sit upon. Nearby \_\_\_\_\_ sang gaily in a tree and some low bushes had \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ growing upon them.

The two friends were having a wonderful time. "There's nothing as delicious as \_\_\_\_\_ with mustard and relish," said Miss Arbuckle, as she brushed the crumbs off her lap with \_\_\_\_\_. "Yes," sighed Miss Bingley. "However, it is getting late and maybe we best start for home." But their car refused to go. The motor made a noise like \_\_\_\_\_ and then stopped. "Oh, dear," said Miss Arbuckle, looking under the hood. "I think I see \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ caught in the gears." "Impossible," said Miss Bingley. "Are you sure the tank isn't empty? Are you sure you put in enough \_\_\_\_\_ before we left home?" "Of course, I did," said Miss Arbuckle. "It must be the wheels. We'll jack them up with \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ and then replace them with \_\_\_\_\_." She covered her dress with \_\_\_\_\_ and took \_\_\_\_\_ to loosen the bolts. Just then a farmer drove up and asked if he could help the ladies. "looks like \_\_\_\_\_ in the engine," he said, tightening a bolt with \_\_\_\_\_. Then he stepped back and the car started. "I just connected the \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_, which had rattled loose." The two old ladies gave him the rest of their \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ to show their appreciation and they drove happily home again.

## Adult Leader Induction Ceremony

By Narragansett Council

This ceremony should be conducted by the Committee Chair or the Chartered Organization Representative, since they are responsible for providing the adult leadership for the Pack.

Props: Large candle at the center of the table, several smaller candles, with paper skirt

(cardboard or foil cupcake cups with a hole for a candle), to catch any dripping wax.

**Committee Chair:** Every year in Cub Scouts the program is a little bit different. Some things stay the same, some things are similar, and some things are completely different.

When the Webelos Scouts graduate to Boy Scouts and leave the Pack, often their parents also go on to be Troop leaders and leave the Pack. Every year brings a new leadership role to be filled. This allows continuity of some of the Pack leadership and a constant influx of new ideas and fresh vigor.

Tonight we welcome the newest adult leaders to our Pack. These people have agreed to help their sons by helping all the Cub Scouts in the Pack.

They recognize that their sons benefit when the Pack provides all the Cub Scouts a fresh and vigorous program.

Will the following people please step forward? (*Calls out names of new leaders, with job titles - Den leader, Committee member, etc. Hands badge of office and small candle to them as they step forward.*)

(*Light the center candle; room lights are dimmed.*)

This candle represents the Scouting spirit, always burning in our hearts.

Please step forward and light your candle from it, letting the Scouting spirit grow. (*They do.*)

Your candle represents your commitment to Scouting, and lighting it represents your effort to spread the Scouting spirit. Do you promise to Do Your Best, to fulfill the duties of your office, and to keep the Scouting Spirit alive in your heart?

(*They replay "I do" or "I will".*)

Pack (*number*), I present to you the newest members of our leadership team. Congratulations!

## Fun Ways to Say Thank You

**Lantern:** "Thank you for lighting our way."

**Railroad track:** "Thank you for keeping us on the right track."

**Small train:** "Thank you for being on board." (For someone who just completed the Cub Scout Leader Training. For seeing that everyone was trained.)

**Train ticket:** "You're just the ticket!"

## Train Engineer Advancement

Many people don't realize it, but a train engineer has a lot of responsibility. His job takes a lot of preparation and mental alertness. Some may not realize that a Cub Scout resembles that engineer and how they are training for the responsibility in adult life.

Tigers learn the mechanics of the program as they get the feel of the track. They have prepared themselves by learning the Cub Scout sign, salute and handshake. We'd like to honor them tonight and welcome them to our Pack. Would Tiger Cubs and their parents please come forward?

(*Cubmaster presents parents the Tiger pins to pin on their sons and shakes hand and salutes each Tiger. Tigers return salute.*)

The Bobcats are learning how to take the turns of the track and to use the whistle as they are introduced into their new programs. Would new Bobcats and their parents please come forward? (*Cubmaster repeats the same procedure as with the Tiger Cubs.*)

**Note:** If other ranks exist, they could be presented as "**(Ranks)** are learning more about the conditions of the track. Their movements have become skilled..."

## Immediate Recognition

By Santa Clara County Council

As a Cub Scout completes achievements for Wolf or Bear, the den leader should make sure that a simple recognition ceremony is held in the den meeting. Use the Cub Scout Immediate Recognition Kit, which contains enough materials for a den of Cub Scouts for 2 years. This is a motivation device used to encourage each boy to complete the rank for his age.

Use a brief ceremony related to the monthly theme or the one below:

**Den Leader:** Let me tell you the story behind these wonderful beads. The custom of awarding beads started in the ancient tribe of the Webelos. They were given to braves who did their best to help the tribe and others.

**Den Chief:** Many moons ago, when the animal world was ruled by wolves and bears, the braves of the Webelos tribe feared these strong beasts.

**Den Leader:** But some braves named [names of boys being recognized], still untried, decided that the best way to live without fear was to learn to understand the creatures of the forest.

**Den Chief:** So they went, disguised as animals, to live with the wolves and bears. The animals accepted them and all their brothers and called them cubs, just as if the braves were their own. This was according to the Law of the Pack.

**Den Leader:** For their bravery and friendliness to the beasts, they were given a leather thong with colored beads on it. It signified that the Cub Scout knew the ways of the tribe and did his best at everything without worrying if someone else did better. This is the law that the tribe borrowed from the animals and had the cubs learn.

(Ask the den to form a living circle and repeat the Law of the Pack.)

**Den Chief:** For doing your best in completing three achievements toward your [Wolf/Bear] badge, I award you. [name], this thong and this bead. May you always obey the Law of the Pack.

### Skit

#### Union Bobcat

By Narragansett Council

This skit would be ideal to involve the parents of a Wolf Den.

**Characters:** 13 in total.

**Narrator** - adult; **Engineer** - adult male (wearing an engineer hat and denim jacket); **Fireman** - adult female (wearing a denim jacket);

**Cubmaster** - adult (carrying a card with "Wolf Station" printed on it. **Nine Cub Scouts in uniform.**

**Props:** The Engineer and Fireman move a cardboard steam locomotive during the skit. This can be made from a packing box. Paint it and write "Union Bobcat" on the side. Each of the nine boys carries a large card with the following achievements printed, one on each card, and holds it up at the appropriate time:

**Achievements 1-4** "Four curves"

**Achievement 9** "More Coal"

**Achievement 5** "Cow"

**Achievement 10** "Mountain Pass"

**Achievement 6** "Small Hill"

**Achievement 11** "Valley"

**Achievement 7** "Narrow Bridge"

**Achievement 12** "Plain"

**Achievement 8** "Flood"

The nine boys are lined up on the stage, with their cards in numerical order. As the Narrator reads the story, the Engineer and Fireman perform the action where indicated with underlines.

**Narrator:** Ladies and Gentleman, this is the story of the train, the Union Bobcat. In this story, the Engineer represents the Cub Scout's father and the Fireman, the Cub Scout's mother.

Once there was a little engine, the Union Bobcat.

He was just an ordinary engine that needed an engineer and a fireman to keep him on the right track, polished and fired up ready to go. He started out one beautiful day on a new run. He'd never been on this one before, but he had heard the other engines brag about their experiences on it. In his heart he wished to do as well as the bigger engines.

The sun was shining when the little engine **puffed** slowly out of his roundhouse. The first few miles were smooth. He **chugged around** "Four Curves" with the Engineer using only a light touch on his throttle. Suddenly, right in the middle of the track, he saw a "Cow" standing, slowly chewing her cud. The little engine **braced himself** as did the Engineer and Fireman. He **slowed almost to a halt and lifted the cow gently**, well almost gently, from the tracks. On down the line he went, over a "Small Hill," coming to a "Narrow Bridge." Careful, he mustn't slip.

Oh! Oh! Beyond the bridge in the lowlands, the tracks were "Flooded." Now any engine likes to see where it is going. Was the water too deep? The little engine **shuddered**.

"I'm not a very good swimmer," he said to himself.

He **stopped**. The Engineer **got out and walked ahead** down the tracks. He **came back, patted the little engine** and said to the Fireman, "The water isn't as deep as it looks." He **eased the engine right through** the flood.

The little engine **gave a sigh of relief, took a deep puff and stood still**. He was tired from swimming.

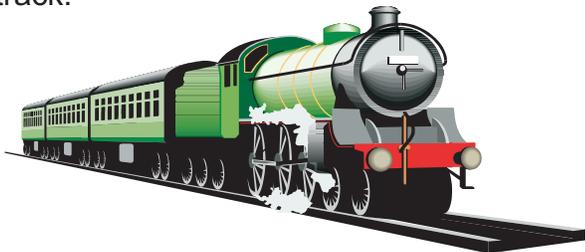
The Engineer **got out, checked once more all over, scratched his head**. Could it be the little engine was suffering from hypocoalemia?

If so, he just needed "More Coal." "Pour on the coal," he said to the Fireman.

"There's a steep pass ahead and we'll have to get a good head of steam up." So the Fireman **shoveled and shoveled** and the Engineer **coaxed and coaxed** and at last the little engine was on his way.

Then the "Mountain Pass" loomed ahead. Could the little engine make it? He **took a few puffs**. The Fireman **shoveled** "More coal." The Engineer **kept a steady hand, and pulled the throttle. Faster and faster steamed** the little engine on up the

mountain. **Slower and slower, higher and higher he went.** “You can make it!” shouted the Engineer. “You can make it!” shouted the Fireman. “I can (**puff, puff, puff**) make it,” **breathed the engine; up, up and over went the Union Bobcat!** He made it! The rest of the going was easy. The little engine **coasted through** the “Valley” and over the “Plain” to the end of his line, the Wolf Station. “I’d never have made it,” he beamed with pride at his Engineer and Fireman, “if it hadn’t been for you!” “Rest up,” said the Engineer. “There are more suns ahead and more stations to reach - the Bear, the Webelos, and the Arrow of Light. But you’ll be older and more experienced. Just keep up a good head of steam and a determination to keep on the right track!”



### Blue & Gold Shining Light

The following awards ceremony is very simple but can be very effective. Try it at your Family Campout by having a campfire meeting to give recognition for the advancements and awards earned by the boys during the past month.

**Personnel:** Cubmaster and two den leaders.

**Equipment:** Two flashlights, one with blue cellophane over the end and the other one with gold cellophane over the end. Plastic or tissue paper could be used also. A third flashlight with a red lens is also required.

**Arrangement:** Cubmaster in middle and a den leader on either side. The one on the Cubmaster’s right has the blue flashlight and the one on his left has the gold one.

**Cubmaster:** Here we have the blue light of Cub Scouting on my right (**turn on the blue flashlight**) and the gold light of Cub Scouting on my left (**Turn on the gold flashlight**). These two lights symbolize the light of Cub Scouting which can shine brightly in the lives of our boys but only with the help of parents to make them shine.

There have been some Cub Scouts in our Pack this month who have had those Cub Scouting lights shining in their lives and they’ve worked hard to earn some Achievements and Electives.

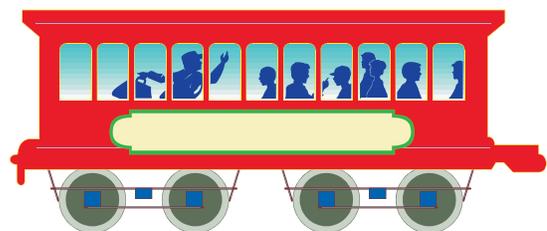
**(Cubmaster needs to say appropriate words for awards being given.)** Would the following boys

and their parents come forward and stand in the Cub Scouting’s Blue and Gold limelight together as we recognize them for the fine work they have done. **(Call forth appropriate boys and parents and make presentation, telling about the award received.) (After all presentations have been made, leaders turn off the blue and gold flashlights and Cubmaster turns on the red light.)**

**Cubmaster:** We all know that red means stop so let’s all stop for a minute every once in awhile and ask ourselves if we are really doing the best we can whether as a Cub Scout, a parent, a leader or a family member. Parents ask yourself if you’ve really helped your boy so that Cub Scouting can be a shining light to him. Let’s all do our best to keep those Blue and Gold lights shining.

**(Turns off the red light and leaders turn on the blue and gold ones).** Then we can all see our son step up and receive some of the Blue and Gold limelight for his accomplishments.

**Note:** The last part of the ceremony could be worked in as the closing ceremony for the Pack meeting by putting announcements, and audience participation, etc. before the awards and move right from awards into the closing which could indeed be the last part of the above ceremony. It leaves the audience with a challenge and a thought for the day.



### COMMUNICATOR TIE SLIDES

By Heart of America

Old Style Telephone

**Materials:** 1 1/2" x 3 1/4" x 1/2" piece of wood

1/4" x 3/8" x 11/2" piece of wood

2 Plastic push pins

2 Round brass upholstery tacks

7/8" finishing nail

1 "U" shaped electrical connector

3' Colored telephone wire

Brown stain or paint

Glue

Drill

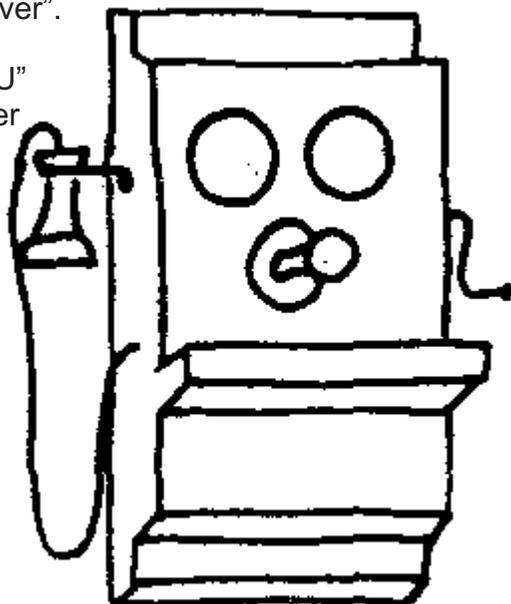
Saw

3/8" off the top and 1/4" off the  
of larger piece of wood to about 1/2"

1. Rabbet bottom thickness.
2. Glue smaller piece of wood across larger piece about 1" from bottom.
3. Stain or paint brown.
4. Put large staple in back 1" from top.
5. Push one push pin into center 3/4' above smaller piece of wood Push two upholstery tacks side by side into wood about 3/8" above push pin. Put finishing nail into right side 1 1/4" down from top just far enough to secure and bend down at a 90 degree angle and back out at a 90 degree angle for crank.
6. Drill hole in left side 1" down from top large enough for end of "U" connector and insert. Drill small hole in left side 1 1/2" up from bottom.
7. Insert telephone wire in hole in top of plastic part of push pin with hot nail and insert other end of telephone wire and glue.

8. Hang up "receiver".

(You may want to "pinch" ends of "U" connector together a little to keep receiver from falling out.)



### CITIZEN TIE SLIDES

By Heart of America

Safety Pin Indian Headdress Tie Slide

**Materials:** Two 6" 18 gage wire or 2 large paper clips straightened

19 Rondell beads

14 Pony beads

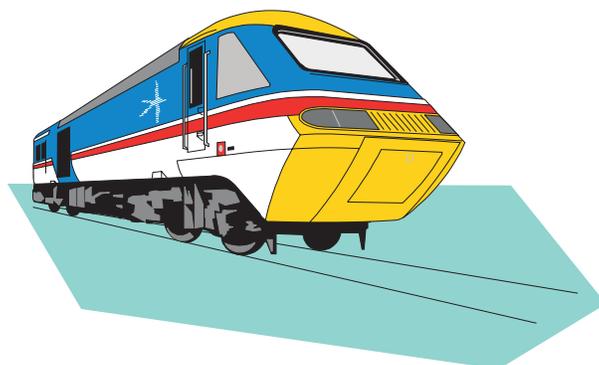
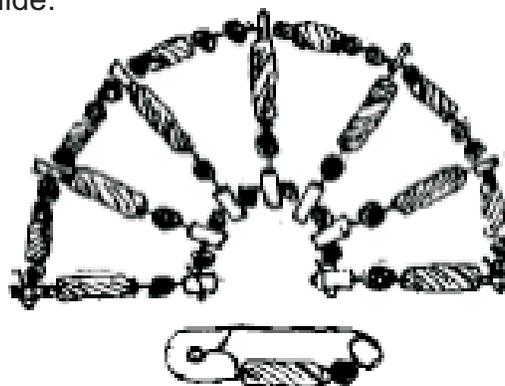
17 Spaghetti beads

15 size 2 (1 1/2") safety pins

16 4 mm. faceted beads

Paper clip

1. With safety pins thread on (1) rondell and (1) spaghetti bead.
2. Make a bend in one end of the wire, then thread through the head of a safety pin, then a pony bead, alternate safety pins and pony beads ending with a safety pin..
3. Bend wire to hold pins and beads in place.
4. Make a bend in the second wire. Thread 2 rondell beads, (1) spaghetti bead and 1- 4 mm. bead, then the end of the safety pin, alternating 4 mm. bead and end of safety pin to the end ending with 4 mm. bead, spaghetti, 2 rondels.
5. Make a bend in the wire to hold the beads in place.
6. Bend the headdress into shape.
7. Bend a paper clip into a circle around the back of the headdress to form the loop for the slide.



**WEBELOS CITIZEN**

By Heart of America Council

**Good Turn Ideas**

- While earning the Craftsman badge, make some wooden toys and give them to a children’s home or abuse shelter.
- Use your Craftsman and Handyman skills to repair or refurbish toys and give to a hospital children’s ward or institution for special needs children.
- Give a holiday party for children in a hospital. Plan games, songs, small gifts and treats.
- Collect good used books and magazines for the library of a children’s home, abuse shelter, retirement home, or hospital.
- Buy a pack of U.S. commemorative stamps. Pass out several to each Webelos and challenge them to discover the story behind the stamp.
- Plan and carry out a citizenship project or litter campaign, complete with posters, etc.
- Visit a city council meeting, police station, etc.
- Discuss the various organizations in your community, which help people. How are they financed and run? Do they use volunteer help? Visit one of these organizations.
- Discuss ways boys can be good citizens. Let them make lists of things they will try to do regularly.
- Observe voting process.
- Invite a “new” citizen to talk to boys and tell what becoming an American means to them.

**Scavenger Hunt**

Arrange a tour of a local government building. Make up a scavenger hunt based on the example below. Contact the public relations department if you need help, or visit the building yourself to make up the game. Upon arrival at the building, divide the Cubs into teams. Set a time limit and place to meet to compare answers.

1. What is the town mayor’s name?
2. Draw a fast picture of the state flag.
3. What is the name of the room where the city council meets?
4. What are the office hours of the Water Department?
5. Name an office of the third floor.
6. What is the phone number of the building?
7. Find out what job one person does in the building.

**Citizenship Rating Sheet**

Ask the boys to rate themselves on their citizenship using the chart shown below. Rating themselves might have the effect of improving their citizenship traits, or at least their efforts to become better citizens. Tell the boys that no one will know how they rate themselves, unless they want to tell. Urge them to be honest with themselves in making their rating each week. I will try to rate myself fairly on each of the following traits of good citizenship. I will try to improve myself so that on future ratings I can honestly give myself a higher score.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Rating scale: 5=very good 4=good 3=fair 2=poor 0=very poor

Traits	Date	Date	Date
1. I am honest, even in little things.			
2. I am courteous, loyal and kind to my parents, teacher, and Webelos leader			
3. I try to show good sportsmanship.			
4. My parents and friends can trust me to do what I say I will do.			
5. I work and play cheerfully with others.			
6. I always keep my promise.			
7. I take good care of my own things and things that do not belong to me, such as school books, school property, etc.			
8. I do my best to keep the Cub Scout Promise all the time			
9. I always help to clean up after den meetings and when I’m needed in my school classroom			
10. I never make fun of people (except maybe kidding around with my friends.)			
Total			

**WEBELOS COMMUNICATOR**

By Heart of America Council

**Secret Sounds**

Use prerecorded sounds or have den chief produce sounds from behind a screen or another room.

Webelos listen as each sound is produced and then write down what they think the sound is. Example:

Sandpaper rubbing against something; a deck of cards being flipped into the air, a golf ball or Ping Pong ball, bouncing on a bare floor; bursting of a paper bag; etc.

**Win, Lose or Draw**

Divide into two teams. The equipment needed for this activity includes a one-minute timer, drawing marker, a pad of newsprint on an easel and a box with object cards. One member of a team chooses an object card and tries to draw it on the newsprint. His team tries to guess what he is drawing within one minute. If the team guesses the object, they receive three points. If the team is unsuccessful, the drawing is passed to the other team to guess within 30 seconds. An accurate guess is worth two points. If they too, are not successful, guessing is opened up to both teams together for another 30 seconds, and an accurate guess is worth only 1 point. Play continues when the second team chooses an object card and draws it. The winner is the team with the most points after a designated period of time.

Charades are not allowed for hints.

ideas For Object Cards: Blue and Gold, U.S. Flag, Cub Scout, Neckerchief Slide, Award, Cub master, Table Decorations, Parents, Den, Summer Activity Award, Bobcat, Campfire, Pack Flag, Council Patch, Bear, Pinewood Derby, Wolf, Tiger, Arrow of Light, Skit, Applause, Webelos Activity Badge, Uniform, Webelos.

Till next month have FUN!!!

**WEB SITES**

These sites are current as of 8-17-07

**Model trains for Kids**

[Http://www.ehobbies.com/trains-trains-for-kids.html](http://www.ehobbies.com/trains-trains-for-kids.html)

**Hats and Whistles**

[Http://www.ehobbies.com/trains-trains-for-kids-engineer-hats---whistles.html](http://www.ehobbies.com/trains-trains-for-kids-engineer-hats---whistles.html)

The Choochoos4u Kids Corner is the place to be for kids who love trains

[Http://woodenrailwayadventures.com/KidsCorner.htm](http://woodenrailwayadventures.com/KidsCorner.htm)

**Christmas Train rides**

[Http://travelwithkids.about.com/od/christmasholidays/a/Christmas\\_train.htm](http://travelwithkids.about.com/od/christmasholidays/a/Christmas_train.htm)

**Kits to make**

[Http://www.a2ztoys.com/Creativity\\_For\\_Kids/Arts\\_\\_\\_Crafts/](http://www.a2ztoys.com/Creativity_For_Kids/Arts___Crafts/)

Kids trains and fun at Train Wreck Central 2 - In Memory of Ben with color pages, train stories, ... be a stressful place for a kid.

[Http://www.trainwreckcentral2.com/kidsfun.html](http://www.trainwreckcentral2.com/kidsfun.html)

**National Toy Train Museum - Just for Kids**

[Http://www.nttmuseum.org/kids/kidsmain.htm](http://www.nttmuseum.org/kids/kidsmain.htm)

**Have You Been Looking For A Toy Train Set?**

[Http://www.littlefeettoys.com/page/838903](http://www.littlefeettoys.com/page/838903)

**Crafts for kids**

[Http://mailjust4me.com/crafts/index.htm](http://mailjust4me.com/crafts/index.htm)

**DLTK's Transportation Activities for Kids**

[Http://www.dltk-kids.com/crafts/transportation/](http://www.dltk-kids.com/crafts/transportation/)

**FamilyFun:**

[http://familyfun.go.com/arts-and-crafts/buildmodel/specialfeature/craftgroups\\_planes\\_sf/](http://familyfun.go.com/arts-and-crafts/buildmodel/specialfeature/craftgroups_planes_sf/)

