**B-A-L-L-O-O-N**

*San Gabriel Valley, Long Beach & Verdugo Hills Councils*

You can have fun, meaningful ceremonies that don't take a lot of time. My youngest will never forget his Wolf ceremony (and he's 17 now.) He was called forward with a few of his peers who had also finished and handed a balloon and a small plastic sword (you could give them a safety pin), accompanied by a few meaningful words about the badge. The boys were told to pop the balloons and voila - out popped a Wolf Badge!

That is the ceremony he remembers most - not the more verbose, more serious ceremonies that accompanied some of his other badge presentations.

**Set Up –**

**** Get helium balloons for the number of advancing boys.

**** Before blowing them up, insert the cloth badge of rank into them then blow them up.

**** Decorate them to be sports balls: White for soccer, baseball or volleyball; orange for basketball; yellow for tennis. Use your imagination. Use the same type of ball for the same rank to help avoid confusion - especially if you have many boys who are advancing.

Write some meaningful words for each rank. Keep the number of words low. The ideas that were originally with this ceremony referenced the old Achievements. Maybe you want short poems. Maybe simple thoughts. Don’t feel limited. Maybe your Cubs would want to write their own lines. They need not rhyme. ***Send any you write to Judy and I so we can start adapting ideas to the Adventure Program. CD***