Cub Scout Roundtable Planning Sheet – 60 minute Format

**Topic:** Blue and Gold Banquet

**Scout Law**: Helpful, Cheerful, Thrifty

**Adventures:**

Tiger – Tiger Theater

Wolf – Howling at the Moon

Bear – Roaring Laughter

Webelos/Arrow of Light – Maestro!

**Take Away:** The Blue and Gold Banquet is a celebration of the birthday of Scouting. The anniversary of that date is February 8, so these banquets are usually held in February. Planning the annual Blue and Gold Banquet is an important task for the Cub Scout pack, and if the pack is large, it may be a big task. Working together and including everyone in the pack will make the event fun for everyone. Many hands make light work. It’s a good idea to include Tiger, Wolf, Bear, and Webelos parents in the planning and preparations. This develops a plan of succession for future years by giving parents of younger Scouts an opportunity to learn. This event is also an ideal time to conduct the Arrow of Light Ceremony, crossing those Scouts over to a Boy Scout troop.

**Pack Meeting Themes that work with this topic:**

January – Helpful – Jobs, Jobs, Jobs

February – Cheerful – Abracadabra!

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Time Allotted | Activity | Assigned To | Content Ideas | Notes for Media Team |
| 45 min | General Session Option  (Note that there are no breakout sessions, as the topic pertains to all attendees and is best discussed as a group.) | Cub RT Staff | Set the meeting room up as a mock Blue and Gold Banquet to demonstrate table arrangement, decorations, etc.  Introduce the Blue and Gold Banquet topic by asking the following questions:   1. What is a Blue & Gold Banquet? 2. Why do we celebrate it? 3. How can we make it successful? 4. What are some important aspects of the dinner? 5. Length of the event is important. Try to keep the entire event (banquet and Arrow of Light Ceremony) to less than two hours. Consider families with young children. 6. Will the banquet be held on a week night or a weekend? 7. Will it be potluck? Catered? 8. Discuss types of table decorations (if desired), invitations, etc. the pack may wish to create. 9. If the Arrow of Light Ceremony is part of the event, who is planning that? Have the Boy Scouts and their leader(s) been invited? 10. Prior to the Arrow of Light Ceremony, will Tigers, Wolves, Bears, and Webelos be presented with their badge of rank? 11. Plan to recognize the graduating Webelos leaders. 12. Do you want to recognize the other den leaders? Anyone else? 13. Are there any special guests to be invited? 14. Will the Friends of Scouting appeal be conducted at the banquet or at the ceremony following? 15. How will the banquet be financed? 16. Who needs to help to make it successful? 17. Share resources (Oriental Trading, Pinterest, various Cub Scout pack websites) 18. Share best practices   Share the sample Blue and Gold Banquet Planning Sheet located in the resource section (or one the staff may have on file)  Share best practices among the group. |  |
| 10 min | Q & A | Cub Scout RT Staff | Opportunity to answer any additional Blue & Gold Banquet questions. |  |
| 5 min | Closing | Cub Scout RTC | Akela, Make Me an Eagle. See resource information. |  |

Resource Information

**General Session**

Blue and Gold Banquets

Most Cub Scouts celebrate Scouting Anniversary Week in February with a "birthday party" called the blue and gold banquet. In nearly all packs, the blue and gold banquet is the highlight of the year. It brings families together for an time of fun and cheer. It's often the pack meeting for February.

The purpose of the blue and gold banquet is to celebrate the birthday of the founding of Scouting, February 8, 1910. It is also a time to thank pack leaders and other adults who have helped the pack, and inspire the leaders, Scouts, and parents. Packs often like to invite former members and other Scouting or community leaders to take part in their blue and gold banquet.

The banquet can be like a regular pack meeting, with awards, or it can be something different and a little more special. By awarding the badges of rank to the Cub Scouts in the pack and including the Arrow of Light Ceremony, the event will draw a large crowd of parents who will be pleased to see their children receive awards. You could have a video or slide show of what the pack did over the past year. You might consider having your annual Friends of Scouting appeal at this event, since the crowd will be large.

A good banquet needs lots of planning. Most packs begin to plan at least two months ahead of time.

Sample of a Blue and Gold Planning Sheet

**Blue & Gold Banquet Planning Sheet**

Simple guidelines to help you plan a successful Blue & Gold banquet. Timeline information is a suggestion and may be changed to fit your event.

**2 to 3 months before the Blue & Gold Banquet**

* **Last Year** – review evaluations of last year’s banquet if available. If not, ask several parents and leaders to share a rose and thorn from the event. This will enable you to avoid past mistakes.
* **Date and Time** - Confirm the date and time with the Pack Committee. Was the date set by the Pack Committee at the annual planning meeting? You may use the date that corresponds with your monthly Pack meeting or choose Friday night, Saturday night or a Sunday afternoon.
* **Location** - Use your regular Pack meeting place, if possible. Make certain the date is on the calendar of the site you will use for the banquet (school gym, place of worship fellowship hall, community center, etc.). This reservation may need to be placed many months in advance of the event. Check with those who manage the location.
* **Budgeting for the Dinner/Event - C**heck with your Pack Committee to see what type of money

has been set aside for the Blue & Gold. You may see if the Committee will set money aside from the Pack fundraisers to pay for expense or you may decide to charge each family a small fee to cover the cost of the meal or entertainment.

* **Decide on menu -** What has worked well in the past? What hasn’t?

Some ideas might be

* Covered dish dinner/Potluck
* Desserts only event
* Spaghetti dinner
* Catering (great opportunity for the local chapter of the Order of the Arrow to provide a meal as a fundraiser for their chapter)
* **Program–**
* Badge of rank for Tigers, Wolves, Bears, and Webelos. Other awards and/or recognitions
* Arrow of Light Ceremony and crossover into Boy Scouts

**4 - 6 Weeks before the Banquet**

* Send out event flyers. Include the date, time, cost, location and contact information. (Always include a date by which you need the RSVPs from the families.)
* Select a theme if you wish. The internet has many great ideas on themes including invitations, decorations, activities, etc. A traditional Blue and Gold will be a birthday party for Cub Scouting.
* Plan decorations. Be certain to involve all the dens in the pack. Decorations may be simple or elaborate, but remember the Scout Law Point Thrifty.
* Invite the Scoutmaster or assistant and some Boy Scouts from the local troop to participate in the Arrow of Light/crossover ceremony. Invite them to be guests of the pack for the dinner itself.
* Special awards. Ask the Pack Committee if they are planning on any special awards to be presented at the banquet. If so, are those part of the banquet budget?
* Program for the banquet/award ceremony/Arrow of Light Ceremony. Work with the Cubmaster to establish a program for the banquet so nothing will be forgotten.
* Plan for set up and clean up at the event

**1-2 Weeks before the Banquet**

* Reconfirm location, food, and any speaker, special guests, etc. you have previously booked.
* Reconfirm that the Scoutmaster or Assistant and some of the Boy Scouts from a local troop will participate in the Arrow of Light/Crossover ceremony. Remind them to join the pack for the dinner itself, preceding the ceremony.
* Send reminder notices via social media and email.
* Reconfirm plans for set up of the banquet site and clean up afterward

**The Day Of**

* Arrive in plenty of time and with plenty of people to complete set up
* Have Fun!

**1 Week AFTER the Banquet/Event**

* Evaluate the event and make notes of challenges and successes for next year’s planning.

**Closing**

Akela, Make Me an Eagle

by Harlan G. Metcalf, Adapted by Merl Whitebook

When other folks have left the fight

Give me the courage of the eagle

Who knows that if he will, he can.

Teach me to see in every face

The good, the kind, and not the base.

Make me sincere in word and deed,

Blot out from me all shame and greed,

Help me to guard my troubled soul

By constant, active, self-control.

Clean up my thoughts, my speech, my play,

And keep me pure from day to day.

0, Akela, make of me an Eagle!

[Source http://www.macscouter.com/TrulyScouting/ThingsScouting.asp#Akela Eagle]