

Blue And Gold Banquet

The Blue and Gold Banquet is probably the most exciting event of the whole year because it is a birthday party for Cub Scouting in which all pack families can take part. The banquet is held in February, the anniversary month of the Boy Scouts of America. The Boy Scouts were organized in February of 1910 and the Cub Scouts were organized 20 years later in 1930.

This year Cub Scouts are celebrating their 78th birthday. February twenty-second (22nd) is the birthday of Lord Baden Powell, the founder of Scouting.

The pack's big celebration gets its name from the Cub Scout colors, blue and gold.

Some packs have a dinner. This can be a potluck affair, with each family bringing food, or many packs prefer buying the food and having it prepared by a mothers' committee, and still other packs prefer having the dinner catered. The plan for dinner is not important, it is the Cub Scouting that takes place during the preparation and dinner that really counts. Dens should sit together so that den spirit and family relationships are strengthened. Guests may be invited and are seated either at the head table or with the dens.

The dinner program should include entertainment from within the pack but outside entertainment is okay. It is very important that advancement is recognized during the program, and don't forget your adult leaders.

Important Things to Remember

1. Be sure that pack leaders, boys and parents know that the Blue and Gold banquet is Cub Scouting's birthday celebration.
2. Begin planning at least 2 months ahead of time and no later than January 1. Some packs begin to plan earlier.
3. KISMIF - (*to borrow an oldie but goodie*) "Keep It Simple, Make It Fun."
4. Involve leaders and parents. Sharing responsibilities make it easier and fun for everyone.
5. Let the boy's help plan and make the decorations, but keep the cutting and pasting to a minimum. Do let them make each item.

Banquet Planning

To be successful, the banquet must be well planned in advance. A banquet chairman is selected by the pack committee. That person recruits helpers to carry out the responsibilities listed on the following pages. This general outline will help make your planning a little easier. Try to involve as many people as possible, and avoid giving Den Leaders too many additional responsibilities - they will be working with their dens. The following are steps to planning a Blue and Gold banquet. The banquet often takes the place of the February pack meeting, although it is not necessarily held on the regular meeting night.

The following committees and arrangements for them to consider are helpful in planning a successful Blue and Gold Banquet:

1. Physical Arrangements Committee
 - a. Secures adequate room for banquet and exhibits.
 - 1) Fellowship halls in churches
 - 2) School Cafeterias
 - 3) Banquet Rooms in Hotels or Restaurants
 - b. Develop seating plan
 - 1) Head-table? Who will sit there?
 - 2) Lay-out plan for seating
 - a.) Square
 - b.) U-shape

- c.) Parallel tables
 - d.) Fan-shaped facing stage
 - c. Check restroom facilities and cloakroom
 - d. Inquire about kitchen availability
 - e. Check on rental fees, if any
 - f. Secure permission to use special items
 - 1.) Speaker's rostrum
 - 2.) P.A. system
 - g. Check on need to work with custodian on setting up
- 2. Dinner committee
 - a. Suggest meal plan (based on pack funds)
 - 1.) Catered dinner
 - a.) Plates, cups, napkins, silver
 - b.) Drinks
 - c.) Time of food delivery
 - d.) Pre-paid
 - 2.) Potluck
 - a.) Determine serving needs
 - 1.) Kitchen utensils
 - 2.) Large containers for cold drinks
 - 3.) Number of coffee pots
 - 4.) Serving dishes needed
 - b.) Promote attendance
 - 1.) Dens report on families
 - 2.) Invitations to honored guests
 - c.) Plan and set up serving line
 - d.) Clean-up -- trash bags
 - e.) Thank-you notes afterwards
- 3. Program Committee
 - a. Decides placement of room displays
 - b. Recruits one person for each item on program
 - c. Works with advancement chairman for what is needed on advancement
 - d. Suggests the format of the program

(This outline can be altered to suit your particular pack needs and assets: the size of your pack and treasury and most of all, creative people willing to work together to bring forth a beautifully planned and fun dinner.)

The Food

The word "banquet" suggests a lovely meal so plan carefully. Keep the meal cost as low as possible so that all families can participate.

Potluck Plan

- Decide if dens will plan their own menu or if each family will bring food for an overall pack menu.
- Let each family know much and what type of food to bring.
- Decide what the Pack will furnish (Meat, rolls, drinks, etc.)
- Determine serving arrangement.

Food Committee Plan

- Decide what the pack will furnish (*all or part of the food, paper products, etc.*)
- Purchase food and other dinner items.
- Recruit enough helpers to prepare meal.
- Accept reservations and estimate attendance. Be sure there is enough food.

- Set the cost of the dinner per family.
- Determine serving arrangement. Plan for two serving lines if more than 50 people will attend.
- Arrange for kitchen utensils, serving dishes, large containers for hot and cold drinks, if needed.

Catered Plan

- Get estimate and decide on caterer.
- Agree on menu and cost in writing.
- Find out if caterer provides plates, utensils, drinks, dessert.
- Check time of delivery. Be sure someone is there.
- Accept reservations and estimate attendance. The caterer will need to know how many to expect.
- Collect money from families in advance.

Restaurant Plan

- Decide on restaurant or cafeteria. Agree on menu and cost in writing.
- Reserve a private meeting room where program can be conducted.
- Accept reservations and estimate attendance. Let restaurant know how many to prepare for.
- Collect money prior to banquet. *(If meal is to be at a cafeteria, you may wish to have pack families go through line and pay for their own meals then.)*
- Plan to have birthday cakes or cupcakes. This is a birthday party.

Blue And Gold Checklist

DAY/DATE _____

TIME _____

LOCATION _____

THEME _____

TYPE OF DINNER _____

BANQUET CHAIRMAN _____

ASSISTANTS & PHONE #'S _____

DISPLAYS _____

CLEANUP _____

DECORATIONS _____

FOOD CHAIRMAN _____

ASSISTANTS & PHONE #'S _____

HOW MANY FOR DINNER ADULTS _____ CHILDREN _____

PROGRAM CHAIRMAN _____

ASSISTANTS & PHONE #'S _____

CEREMONIES _____

INVOCATION (WHO) _____

GUEST SPEAKER _____

LEADER RECOGNITION _____

AWARDS _____

FLAG CEREMONY (DEN) _____

CLOSING (DEN) _____

SKITS (DEN) _____

SONGS _____

COMMITTEE SKIT _____

PHYSICAL ARRANGEMENT _____

ASSISTANT & PHONE #'S _____

HOW MANY TABLES _____

TABLES SET-UP _____

HEAD TABLE _____

SOUND SYSTEM _____

NOTES: _____

Invitations

Two types of invitations are usually sent: one to honored guests and one to each family in the pack. The boys usually take the family's invitation home from den meeting. One den might be asked to invite the guests or an adult might do this. The invitation and its contents should reflect the high ideals of Cub Scouting and also the theme of the year's Blue and Gold Banquet.

Honored guests might include the following:

- District Executive and family
- Pack Commissioner
- Church minister and wife (*if banquet being held there*)
- Guest speaker
- Guest entertainer
- Boy Scout Scoutmaster or other troop leader
- PTA president and spouse
- Chartered Organization Representative and spouse
- Former Cubmaster and spouse
- School principal

The Decorations

This is the busiest part of Blue and Gold for den leaders and boys. Keep decorations simple enough for boys to handle. Let them help plan, using a theme for a guideline. Here is a list of items usually made for decorations to help carry out the theme. Doing a nice job on a few is better than trying to make all those listed.

- Centerpiece
- Nut cups
- Placemats
- Place cards
- Napkin rings
- Mother's corsage

(For ideas for invitations and decorations see the Blue & Gold Dinner section of this Pow Wow book.)

Sample Program

Gathering period:

Have someone to greet the families and guests as they come in, give them name tags and direct them to their tables. Have an activity for early arrivers.

Opening Ceremony:

Flag ceremony or opening to fit theme.

Invocation:

This is given by a pack leader or church minister and should be non-denominational.

Dinner:**Welcome and Introductions:**

Recognize pack leaders and special guests.

Songs:

Use song sheets or have songs printed in souvenir program so everyone will be able to join in.

Skits, Stunts, Entertainment:**Advancement Awards Ceremony:****Recognition of Leaders:****Announcements and Thanks:****Closing Ceremony:**

At this point in the program, the tone should be more serious. Close with something inspirational or patriotic.