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OF THE CORNHUSKER COUNCIL**

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**IMPROVEMENT AND MAINTENANCE OF
ROUNDTABLE**

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OPENING AND HISTORY

IMPROVEMENT AND MAINTENANCE OF ROUNDTABLE ATTENDANCE

The dissertation thesis covers different aspects of how to improve and then maintain good attendance at District Roundtables.

HISTORY AND BACKGROUND

Roundtable in the Prairie Winds District of the Cornhusker Council consists of Cub Scouts, Scouts BSA, Order of the Arrow, Commissioners and their respective leaders, committee members, merit badge counselors and chartered organization representatives. All of the assistants, parents and youth scouters are welcomed to attend.

The district consists of sixteen pack units and fourteen troop units. The units are spread across approximately a three-hour drive from one end of the district to the other end. The district has had several turnovers of district executives, district, and roundtable commissioners, in the past few years. These and several other factors have led to deterioration in attendance for the district roundtables. The Covid 19 epidemic ended all in person roundtables for April and May. The district does not schedule Roundtable in June and July.

The roundtable event serves as an integral part of the scouting program. There are a variety of philosophies on the frequency of the meeting as well as the duration of the meeting. This particular district decided long ago that June and July would have no roundtable meetings due to the busy summer scouting experience with camps. The duration was decided to be approximately ninety minutes, with time for questions and thought sharing after the meeting. The distance traveled for many unit leaders during the work week worked best starting at 7 PM. This would allow for the majority, if not all adults to leave work, attend the meeting and return home by 10:00 PM during the week. If a meeting did conclude early, the conversations could continue voluntarily, but most could return home earlier. Thursday evening was decided as the least active school activity night for adults. Many of the units were already holding their unit meetings on Monday and Tuesday with family/church night being on Wednesday night. The days of Friday through Sunday Roundtable were also disregarded as family and school activities interfered, along with the potential for weekend camping, merit badge universities leader trainings and other activities for scouting.

ROUNDTABLE DURATION

The following considerations for the length of the Roundtable would include:

1. Material to be delivered.
2. Distance to travel for speakers.
3. Number of participants (average).
4. Opinions of attendees – (Survey).
5. Roundtable staff.
6. District size.
7. Quantity and types of units.
8. Activities of the units, districts and council.
9. Consistency of start and finish time. “Never end later and hopefully end earlier.”

As a new roundtable commissioner, I needed to determine where the units stood concerning the attendance of Roundtable. A survey was conducted among all unit leaders. The survey was sent out in the mail during the summer months with a stamped self-addressed letter for return. Roundtable planning was then formulated with the needs of the local units as well as the district and council. The survey was tabulated with thirteen of the sixteen Cub Scout units and twelve of the fourteen Scouts BSA units sending back surveys.

SURVEYS

A survey is a way of communicating back to the roundtable commissioner and/or committee the success or failure of roundtable. A survey may be formal or informal. The formal survey will be presented to all participants in person and completed at the presentation. All surveys will contain the signature of the person being surveyed. The informal survey may contain a drop box that people can put their anonymous opinion at any time during a meeting. Their name is optional and can be addressed at the convenience of the roundtable commissioner. An informal one on one conversation setting by phone or email can also be used. These types of surveys will be very time consuming and may put individuals in an awkward situation for both the surveyor and person to be surveyed, unless the survey is somewhat generic in nature. Email surveys may be difficult to get a response from the responder. Paper surveys give the person surveyed time to reflect on each question without being put on the spot for a hasty response. All surveys should have a deadline to return the response and any needed responses back should also be timely.

The best type of paper surveys will follow certain guidelines to be successful. The survey should be confidential to get the most responsible answers. Only if the respondent wishes to share their answers are they made public. The survey should not include a lot of in-depth questions that will need long drawn out comments. The survey should have one sentence questions with one sentence answers. Give the respondent space to answer and make a certain point to the question. If a survey has answers that are numbered for importance, use four numbers – 1 2 3 4 (worst to best) answer and do not allow for a middle of the road or not applicable answer, and no opinion answers. The questions could include delivery of the program (Big Rock session, Breakout session, Announcements, Special activities, Preparation and Transition of the program, and other comments. This type of survey will allow for better compilation of results without having a large range of varied comments that may not have any definitive results. The end of the year survey should leave space for comments so that the assessment may be implemented for the next year.

ROUNDTABLE MUSTS AND MUST NOTS:

1. The Big Rock and Breakouts. Number one on the list of musts. The main theme and side topics must serve an important service to all participants in attendance every time.
2. Keeps it moving! No dead time, quick transitions from Opening, to Big Rock, Breakout, Skits, Music, Drawings, Announcements, and to the Closing.
3. Any question-and-answer sessions are kept to a minimum or moved to the end of the session after closing ceremonies. Interrupt with “We are having a good discussion on this topic and to get to our other topics we will move this to a better time after closing.”
4. Announcements from the district and council are put on paper for distribution with minimal explanation and conversation.
5. Do not ramble on with personal stories, unit situations or district and council situations that may not be of value to all of the scouting units.
6. Do not publicly comment on individual leaders or units unless it is to praise an accomplishment. The units or individuals may have relatives or friends present at the Roundtable.
7. Skits, songs, drawings, Cub Scout/Boy Scout minutes; and other activities are kept short and serve a purpose.

BIG ROCK AND BREAKOUT:

The Big Rock topic is information relevant to all Scout leaders across BSA programs. It is important to include a Big Rock topic as part of each month's opening activity. Big Rocks are designed to provide or remind leaders from each unit the basic information which will assist them in provide a quality program. The Roundtable can provide leaders of Cub Scout programs a variety of ideas to give their units the spark needed to keep the youth interested. Sharing ideas from the National office and other District Roundtable Commissioners within a Council may give uniformity across the council as well as assure that major topics are covered throughout the year.

The Big Rock and Breakout sessions will provide the main theme as well as the resources to implement the idea within the units so that leaders do not have to find the information themselves. An official policy of BSA can put the boundaries for a safe deliverance of the themes from unit leader to their youth. The breakout sessions allow the participants time to share ideas on the main theme as well as a question and answer time slot of individual leaders of the unit. This time does not have to be shared with Scouts BSA or other leadership roles with no interest in the subject manner.

There are four essential techniques used in the presentation of the main theme or breakouts.

1. The Roundtable Fair is a many-level setup with the participants able to move from station to station and preview ideas of interest. Each participant has the opportunity to move or stay at a presentation as long as they wish. Each presenter can focus on their particular topic.
2. The Open Forum Roundtable main focus is based on a question and answer format where participants share ideas during a planned topic or theme. This will provide interaction between participants that are new to the topic and participants experienced in the topic. This can exist after the close of the Roundtable where many of the participants may leave for the evening and those with an interest stay for clarification.
3. The directed discussion format is a combination of an open forum and a presentation. The topic or main theme is presented as a whole outline and then a set time is set for discussion of the topic.
4. An "expert in the field" format will have a presenter that may be from the scouting organization or an outside professional that has the theme or topic as their main focus or profession. (A Police Officer talking about law enforcement).

COMMUNICATION:

Effective communications should include the following:

1. **Where:** Where is the future meeting held? An attempt to rotate roundtables to move them closer to units that were at different ends of the district was tried for a couple years in the past, but proved to be less desirable. Two sites were selected and put on a rotating schedule every other month. The same units came to both meetings and the same units missed both meetings with relatively the same attendance. Units struggled to remember which site the roundtable was held at, especially if they missed one or two meetings. All roundtables should be announced by word and in print every month. Any changes of time and place should be made several months in advance.
2. **What:** The time and location with start and finish times, current month theme (Big Rock) and should include breakout sessions. Many districts have set an annual agenda with topics included for the entire year. If an annual agenda is set, then the roundtable staff should make every opportunity to stay on track and not change the schedule too much. Any changes should be made several months in advance. Speakers for the Big Rock (if you are bringing in experts) should be contacted by the roundtable staff on a weekly basis and maybe more the week prior to the meeting. There should be a backup plan if speakers suddenly become unavailable. The speaker may need materials for the presentation such as projector and screen, slide show, power point, internet access, handouts, and other presentation equipment.
1. **3. How:** Communicating with all the units in the District. The presentation may have been the best Roundtable session ever and if barely anyone was there, it still could have been a failure. A District Roundtable Commissioner must use all the media forms they possibly can to get the message of Roundtable to all the units.
2. The following priorities should be followed.
 - A. Using other staff members (unit commissioners, and district members) to contact units. Any meeting a commissioner attends is a good time to remind the unit about the roundtable meeting.
 - B. District and Council websites (Facebook) that publish a calendar.
 - C. A Calendar of events for the year when Roundtables will occur.
 - D. A paper handout at a Roundtable that will list important future dates throughout the season.

- E. A direct call to the unit leader, charter organization representative or committee chairman (Key 3).
3. Methods of communication include:
 - A. Paper mail through the post office for announcements is one manner of how to communicate. However the roundtable staff may not know if the mail was received (in time or at all) if there is no response to the notification. Cost of mailing will be determined by the number of recipients (leaders, committee members, charter organization representatives, etc.).
 - B. Email is another form of communication to all units. There may be no response to the email and there may be unit leaders that do not use e-mail as in the district. A district website for announcements could also be included in the internet process. This would again be difficult for non-internet users and privacy issues may exist in the usage.
 - C. Direct phone calls to the units offer a more personal approach to communication. The draw backs would be in time management for a single caller getting the unit at a convenient time or their answering machine.
 4. All of these forms of communication may/will be eased with the use of unit commissioners or district members to perform the task.
 5. The pandemic opened another form of communication for roundtables. Virtual meetings are being conducted in all avenues of the business world and personal communication. Scouting has been a hands-on in-person experience and until recently not an onscreen experience. Virtual experience became a necessity when person to person meetings were deemed unsafe to the general health of the participants. Now a virtual meeting can be presented from anywhere in the world directly to the convenience of the participant's home environment. In our council certain districts have gone completely virtual to a partial virtual combined with in person attendance. This section will deal with in person roundtables.
 3. **Who:** The people that need to be communicated with primarily are the unit leaders. This communication should not stop with the unit leaders. All assistant leaders, committee members, and chartered organization representatives, unit commissioners, assistant district commissioners, district committee members, and scout parents should be encouraged to

attend. The unit leaders should encourage their unit to be represented at each roundtable meeting. A suggestion is made at many of the roundtable meetings to rotate attendance within each unit. This will lessen the responsibility for one person and expose more members to the roundtable experience.

4. **Why:** All people attending a roundtable meeting should be able to receive the information that they need or can take back to their units that will be of benefit.
 - A. The Information and discussion on current trends and issues that is relative to their unit, district and council. Learn and gather information on training courses, camping opportunities, merit badge opportunities and advancements, and other pertinent information to run an efficient year round scouting program.
 - B. Participants can learn about updates of results for popcorn sales, Friends of Scouting, leadership awards, tenure, success stories and accomplishments of adult leaders and their youth that they may be able to implement into their unit.
6. Roundtable has that primary focus – an open discussion that allows different opinions to be heard and leaders that keep the debate or discussion within the parameters of Scouts BSA decorum whatever the main theme or breakout session. A good Roundtable mentor will begin with a presentation that will lead to a discussion by the attendees. There should be Subject Matter Experts available from the district or council to clear up any misunderstandings. If discussions cannot be cleared up, the meeting should be moved forward with the question in hand dealt with at a later time after the meeting or cleared up soon as possible on a more personal basis. The roundtable should be enjoyable for those that attend. The attendees should be looking forward to this meeting and the next one. The use of skits, songs, drawings, games, scouting minutes, and activities should be implemented as often as possible without distracting from the main theme, breakouts and duration of the meeting.
7. Every Adult Scouter already has multiple commitments on their time, from family, job, their own scouting unit, education and hobbies and needed free time to pursue their personal interests. This time commitment makes it imperative to make a roundtable meeting as efficient as possible for all adults in scouting.

5. **When:** Announcements should first be made at each roundtable about future dates. The communication should be continued 1-2 weeks before the next meeting with a follow-up the same week as the meeting. This gives each unit time to notify their respective groups – committee members, leaders and assistant’s adequate time to plan for their attendance or make changes due to conflicts they may have in their schedules.

HOMEWORK:

This is not a classroom in that the attendees should not have to continuously take notes throughout the meeting. The attendees should not be expected to memorize all the material presented at the Roundtable. When the Scouters have something to take home with them they will have better retention and can refer back to the presentation at their own schedule. It is better for all important announcements and information be placed on paper. The resources of emails and URL links will allow the attendee to use the information at their convenience. The information can be presented in the following manner:

- A. The flyers may be put in a folder that would represent each unit as a mailbox for them to gather at the beginning of each Roundtable.
- B. These handouts could be given directly to each attendee at the beginning of the Big Rock topic or breakout session.

The Roundtable meeting is usually attended by adults. The need for homework is not the emphasis; rather the information presented could and would be available for future use. It is convenient and useful for each person in attendance to take material home with them. Everyone in attendance will not be able to put the information to work immediately when they get home. The information and discussion from the Roundtable should not be intended to be memorized either. Therefore, it is wise for all relative and important information be given out in paper form. The physical takeaway will provide the leader with the opportunity to get more information at their convenience. The paper trail will also help the representative at the roundtable the opportunity to share with their respective leaders.

AWARDS AND EXTRAS

AWARDS

The Roundtable is an excellent place to give recognition. If an individual from a unit or the unit is receiving a local, district, council or national award. The Roundtable is a place to also offer congratulations on years of service to scouting, attendance at Roundtables, first time attending a roundtable, birthdays and anniversaries to make it more personal. A certificate, plaque, patch, ribbon for a unit pole, gas gift cards, Boy Scout popcorn, or a craft made by/for scouting are just some of the ingenious ways to make something special. Create an attendance board that gets a star and display at every meeting. At the end of the year have an attendance award or certificate.

EXTRAS-REFRESHMENTS

The “Cracker Barrel” is there any meeting that does not improve in attendance when there is food available? The district roundtable does not usually carry a budget or have dues to cover the costs of bringing refreshments. Units could be put on a rotation to bring food, but there would be limitations due to attendance issues and personal budgets. The district members could formulate several options. The most common is a volunteer potluck of quick, easy, finger foods that require very little preparation, setup, and clean up. Maybe something is left over from unit meetings, family gatherings or scouting events. The remnants from a cooking contest (Dutch oven) are all options. The pandemic is changing the cracker barrel to prepackaged items that are carried out individually after the meeting. This is the Roundtable version of “Leave No Trace”.

SURPRISES

A monthly giveaway is something that all attendees may look forward to.

1. An award for attendance could be given that could be put on a pole at their unit or at the Roundtable meeting.
2. A drawing out of the scout hat that has the number of every unit could be given a prize. A number that is drawn with no one there to collect should be redrawn.
3. Activities either on paper or in action that people compete in are good opening activities or a transition activity between the Big Rock and Breakout sessions.
4. A prize for recruiting a new person or unit to a Roundtable meeting could build attendance.

5. The December Roundtable could be an opportunity to have a gift exchange and bring a couple extra gifts for people that did not bring a gift.

BELLS AND WHISTLES

The Bells and Whistles part of the evening should be short in nature and hopefully fit a part of the main theme or breakout session. Skits, Scouter's minute, Attendance drawings/activities, and songs are the most common presentations that can start off, transition, or finish off a good Roundtable night. Each activity does not need to appear at every Roundtable. Rotate the activity to keep the people in attendance interested. When the actual learning sessions are long in nature, the activity may be skipped or abbreviated to keep the night on schedule. The activity may also revitalize those in attendance for the next breakout.

There are many resources with Scouting minutes, activities, skits and songs available to scout leaders from the Scouting catalogs and offices that could be used at a Roundtable or a unit meeting. The appendix will list several ideas that were presented during Roundtable. Involving the leaders that are in attendance in an activity, skit or song will only enhance the presentation. Suggesting these activities as something that could be presented at unit meetings will give them more emphasis to be remembered.

ASSESSMENT

The effectiveness of the District Roundtable needs to be evaluated on a regular basis. The quality and usefulness of a meeting needs feedback to assess what changes, if any need to be made. The following people should be asked for their opinions of the event.

1. The Roundtable Commissioner must first self-evaluate the program as they prepare for future programs. List both the high and low points of each Roundtable. This can be listed in the comments of recording Roundtable attendance.
2. When there is a Roundtable committee or Roundtable assistants, their input should also be evaluated after the meeting.
3. If and when a guest speaker has made a presentation, get their perception of the evening.

4. Comments from those that attended the meeting. The comments can be made verbally or be made through a comment box available every meeting. A monthly survey at the Roundtable may be conducted at the finish of a session.
5. Comments from the scouting personnel from the District and Council level that were in attendance.

The final information for the Commissioner and staff members of the Roundtable should then use the personal record keeping and attendance history, along with comments from Commissioner Roundtable stored in [My.scouting.org](https://my.scouting.org) as a reference.

These records will show:

1. The active units.
2. The non-active active units.
3. What position do the participants hold in their respective units? (Leader, Committee, Assistant, Cub Scouts, Scouts BSA)
4. How consistent are units on returning for each Roundtable?
5. Reasons that units attend.
6. Number of guests or new units and why did they attend?

This feedback should be evaluated every month and treated with great respect and total confidentiality. The person will not be contacted about their response unless THEY wish to further the discussion. The positives and negatives will help in determining future Roundtables for the next month and even years down the road. The feedback should not rely on just one of the assessments presented. Comments may be altered depending on the person questioned and their ability to respond. Written surveys can be documented and reviewed easier than a verbal comment.

THE ROUNDTABLE CALENDAR PLANNING

The planning should start with looking at the National and Council events planned for the year. The dates for camping sessions for National, Council, and surrounding Districts should receive priority and reduce conflicts. The events for Cub Scouts, Scouts BSA, Order of the Arrow and other organizations within the Scouting program should be recorded. The Roundtable committee should look at national holidays and recognition of celebrated historical events throughout the year. An example of Mother's Day and Father's Day would not be a good time to

plan an event for the district. A National or Council activity may become your main theme or breakout session for a Roundtable.

Another consideration for the Roundtable Committee is the recognized activities of college and high school sports. Are the high school state tournaments, college or professional games home or away going to conflict with the activity you are planning? This extra planning may keep those attending, not to miss and to keep the speakers more readily available.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

During the Roundtable session, there will be a time slot for announcements. The District or Council may have been planning an activity a year in advance with several months of intense preparation. This planning should not be carried into a Roundtable event. The Roundtable itself should not be used for the planning of the council event. Flyers and brochures and a brief statement may be made at one or two Roundtables and leave the rest to outside time for the rest of the operation. There should not be a detailed description of the entire project for the council, district, or even a particular unit. All of the announcements should be cleared with the Roundtable Commissioners in advance of the meeting. The use of the Council and District web page and emails or letters of a description should be the primary means of announcing the activity. Make sure announcements reach the group specifically involved in the activity. The announcements do not need to be made to every person in attendance. The people in attendance may have left straight from work and driven hours to get to the meeting and have hours to drive again to go home. Do not take up their time with information that does not pertain to their needs. A role of the Roundtable administrators may be to set up guidelines for all speakers including those from the Council. The following guidelines may be used for the announcement part of the Roundtable.

1. All announcements should be available for the people in attendance in paper form.
2. Announcements should take less than one or two minutes.
3. Announcements should be made available to the Roundtable staff several days in advance of the actual day of a Roundtable meeting.
4. Announcements should be made that pertain to all of the participants; if the message is for a small select group, that message should be delivered to them in a breakout session or at the conclusion of the meeting.

- A. Messages that are specific to Cub Scouts should be kept for a separate Cub Scout session. This should be the same for committees, Scouts BSA, Chartered Organization Representatives, Venturing and any other internal organizations.
 - B. People that are not a part of the topic will not be interested and may interfere with the discussion. Even if there is not interference there is still wasted time for someone.
6. If the message is long, give an opening statement and complete the announcement at a breakout or when the meeting is over. The Roundtable commissioner may intervene during the announcement to finish the conversation at the conclusion of the meeting.
7. The combined time for all announcements should take no longer than ten minutes. Many announcement makers will attempt to monopolize time for their own agenda and it is the job of the Roundtable commissioners to control the time slot. Develop a form for all potential announcement makers to read and understand prior to their presentation.
 - A. The commissioner may interrupt the announcement (politely).
 - B. The commissioner may agree this announcement is very important and will be continued at the conclusion of the meeting.
 - C. The commissioner can report that the announcement presenter will be available in a designated area for more questions or details from any interested personal.
8. The announcements do not start the Roundtable meeting. The sign in and fellowship (Maybe an activity) should be in the beginning of every Roundtable. The official start of the Roundtable should start on time with the Opening Ceremony. After the Opening Ceremony there could be two optimal options to have announcements. The first option is to have the brief announcements after introducing all the new guests and then introduce the announcement maker. The second option occurs after the Big Rock session (main theme), Roundtables may have a cracker barrel or transition to their respective Breakout session and the announcements are made to the respective groups just prior to the Breakout. Either time slot may work, but it is important to have communication between presenters, announcements, and the Roundtable staff prior to the meeting.

Before the Big Rock Presentation:

Advantages of announcements before the Big Rock

- A. There are only a couple short announcements.
- B. All attendees must listen to the announcements.
- C. A larger group of people are in attendance for a presentation, or an award given.
- D. The Main Theme or Breakout sessions are very long; therefore, it is good to get the announcements out of the way early, before people are anxious to leave.

Disadvantages of announcements before the Big Rock

- A. People came for the Presentations and long announcements may disrespect the main speaker or the people that rushed their schedule to get there on time and didn't need that announcement.
- B. The Big Rock and Breakouts may be rushed on their time if announcements take too long.
- C. It is not as important as Big Rock or breakout session, but is getting first attention.

After the Breakout session:

Advantages of announcements before the Breakout session

- A. The Breakout sessions will finish on time or have a time deadline.
- B. The people in attendance have the choice of leaving without interrupting a session.
- C. Those in attendance may be able to further question the Main Theme speaker or Breakout speaker.
- D. Breakout presenters are able to finish their session and miss the announcements.

Disadvantages:

- A. Breakout session must give special attention to everyone staying after the session is over.
- B. The announcements may be skipped altogether by those in attendance, since they may feel they have received what they came for.
- C. The Breakout session may feel rushed to finish or leave unanswered to fit announcements in.

SUMMATION

A Roundtable program is designed for the distribution of pertinent information at the precise time to the unit leaders so that they can maintain and improve their individual program for their youth in a timely manner. Creating, maintaining, and improving the Roundtable programs depend on several categories. Some of the categories cannot be controlled such as the traveling distance within the district and the size and types of Units that make up the district. A few of the categories can be maintained or are manageable with the volunteer staff, along with Big Rock and Breakout sessions kept to a minimum. The Roundtable programs will reflect the existing assets available that will enhance the program. In order for the programs to maintain and improve throughout the year for all the units in attendance, the Roundtable needs to deliver the training, support and information necessary to operate the Cub Scout and BSA Scout programs at peak efficiency. The Roundtable must fully utilize the scouting adults that will work closely with the youth, units, and the district. The adult leaders which include assistants, committee members, and chartered organization representatives should feel they are an integral part of the Scouting adventure.

The Roundtable experience must develop a mission using the District Key Three members, committees, assistant and head Roundtable Commissioners, and leaders of the units. The Roundtable Commissioner must develop and attempt to understand the needs of the district categories which would include the individual units along with the District and Council. The Roundtable can, with the help from the Council and District Commissioners and Executives; establish the different needs for the right Roundtable staff and managing the other Roundtable categories. This will allow the Roundtable format to progressively grow and improve at a sustainable rate.

The Roundtable is providing attention and feedback to and from those in attendance and those that might miss a Roundtable session. The Roundtable commissioner will also gain important meaning as to how to continuously improve the Roundtable mission. The Roundtable Commissioner can give as many as possible adult leaders what they need to run their program in a timely and efficient manner. These adult scouters are people that have a passion and may have a mastery of a topic that will give all attendees a chance to bring success to their own units. This will give Roundtable renewed purpose and interest to a growing group of both veteran and new adult scouters.

When the Roundtable sessions have reached the attendance goals of the Commissioner and district members; there should be no letup in attempting to improve the next session. Complacency can reverse the cycle of success. The attendance percentages and survey results will serve as the best indicators of success.

The following evaluations were based on attendance and surveys through the past 10 months concerning Roundtable in the Prairie Winds District of the Cornhusker Council.

ATTENDANCE

Attendance at Roundtable had been fairly consistent at 23% in 2018, 24% in 2019, moved up to 32.6% in 2020 and from August of 2020 through May of 2021 the average is at 50%. The process of improvement and maintenance in Roundtable attendance is not an “easy fix” and the process will be continuous each year and throughout the year. The consensus of the leaders from the surveys stated the delivery of relevant content and general pace of the Roundtable showed variety, preparedness and enthusiasm of the Roundtable Commissioner. These particular items were important to the attendance improvement.

APPENDIX

The appendix contains a select sampling of skits, songs, attendance activities, Scouter's minutes, survey questions and answers, which are currently being used during the Roundtable experience.

APPENDIX A

SKITS

BACK TO NATURE: Materials: Eight large decorated shopping bags – half of them labeled "Dirty Bugs" and the other half "Tidy bugs". Each Cub Scout carries a bag with his lines written on it near the top. If desired each boy may also put bug decoration on a smaller paper sack and wear over his head.

Cub Scout #1: My name is Litter Bug Lou. And oh, what litterbugs do!

Cub Scout #2: We clutter the country with papers and trash. At making a mess, we're really a smash.

Cub Scout #3: The roadsides and parks are scenes of our folly. We really enjoy it and think it quite jolly.

Cub Scout #4: We leave behind garbage, bottles, and paper, as little memories of our daily labor.

Cub Scout #5: I'm tidy bug Ted of the Tidy Bug clan. We work to keep things spic and span.

Cub Scout #6: We pick up the litter wherever we are and always carry litterbags in our car.

Cub Scout #7: We'll wipe out Lou and all of his band and make America a beautiful land.

Cub Scout #8: Free of litter, trash, and clutter. Won't you help us, dear Father and Mother?

SUPERHEROES HALL OF FAME: Setting: Several Cub Scouts pretend to be superheroes in a hall of fame. Two volunteers (one preferably an adult) will be visitors there. Let the Scouts pick out superheroes to impersonate, but one of them must be Aqua man. Backstage just before walking out, Aqua man takes a gulp of water and holds it in his mouth. The Cub Scouts line up in front of the audience with Aqua man at the end.

ACTION: Call a planted "volunteer" out of the audience and tell him you will be touring the Superhero Hall of Fame. As you go down the line, tap or hit each Cub Scout to start the hero in action. Each boy will impersonate the character: Superman acts as if he were flying, the Flash as if he were running fast,

and so forth down the line. At the end of the line, Aqua man gets tapped, and sprays into the water towards the volunteer.

I

RACKS:

Leader: Today we are going to be talking about some really good topics from our scout book....

Scout: (In a hurry) Hey, scout leader, what are we doing today? I am so ready to go, what are we doing?

Leader: UMMM I want you to go outside and look for tracks, and then you come back and tell me what you found. Back to what I was talking about (as scout runs off in hidden area and puts neckerchief around head and covers the nose) Oh yes I want you to open your books to page 2. Scout comes back walking like he stinks and leader picks up the scent.

Leader: What did you DO?

Scout: I found some tracks.

Leader: What were they?

Scout: Skunk tracks.

Leader: Well go back outside and go look outside for something else. (Scout leaves and puts neckerchief over one eye and another one on his arm and grabs a walking stick to use as a crutch.)

Leader: Ok, back to the book. Scout comes back out limping and bent over groaning.

Leader: Now what happened?

Scout: I found more tracks. Leader: what kind this time? Scout: Train tracks.

Leader: Maybe I should get some training before I lead this group.

DOING GOOD TURNS: Leader: Please come over here Cub Scout #1 (name), you know you should always do good turns. Cub #1: I tried, honest. Leader: Cub Scout #2 would you come over here. You should always do good turns. Cub Scout #2: I tried several times, I really did. (Continue with several scouts) until the last one. Leader: Cub Scout #5, come over here please. This scout is smiling and pretends to be successful. Leader: You should always do good turns. Scout #5: Scout comes out pretending to be flipping a pancake in a frying pan. Oh, I got the pancakes turned Ok, but you should see the mess in the kitchen from the other guys.

THE INVISIBLE BENCH: Two Cub Scouts are building an invisible bench using invisible tools. They pretend to hammer and saw, lift pieces, and carry the completed bench to a spot onstage. Make sure they make the bench seem heavy.

Cub #1: Boy am I glad we are done building this invisible bench.

Cub #2: Yes, let's go show it to our leader. # 1 and #2 leave.

Cub #3 and Cub #4 now enter and move over to sit on the invisible bench.

Scout #1 and #2 come back with their leader.

Scout #1: Go ahead and try it.

The leader goes over and sits with Scout #3 and #4.

They comment on how soft and comfortable the bench is.

Cub Scout #1: What are you guys doing?

Leader: We are trying out your new bench.

Cub Scout #2: But we moved it over here.

All seated: (pretending to fall) AAAAAAHHH.

MEASUREMENT PROBLEM:

Materials: Tall pole.

Two Webelos scouts enter the stage enter the stage, carrying the long pole, they prop it up, then stand it up and try to measure it with their shoes, but can't reach the top of it.

Webelos #1: I'm guessing about 2 meters.

Webelos #2: that can't be right, looks taller. They try a different way of measuring with their hands. A smaller Cub Scout walks in and asks, "What are you doing?"

Webelos scout #1: We are trying to measure the exact height of this pole. Cub Scout: Why don't you lay it on the ground and measure its length.

Webelos Scout #2 (to the cub scout): You weren't listening, we want to know how Tall the pole is – not how Long it is.

THE SOUND PROPS:

Materials: Noise makers such as drumsticks, drum, bell, whistle, musical instruments, etc. carried by each Cub Scout.

Cub #1 walks on stage): I've just got to find the sound! I've just got to!

Cub Scout #2 enters the stage playing his noise maker.

Cub Scout #1: "No, that is not the sound."

Continue with Scout #3, #4 and so forth. Suddenly, there is a triangle sound from off the stage or a scout walks out and rings the triangle wearing a cook's hat. Cub Scout #1: That is it. That is the sound.

ALL Cub Scouts: What is that sound?

Cub Scout #1: Why it is the sound that is calling us to dinner. What better sound can there be? All scouts run off the stage towards the cook.

GOING THE DISTANCE:

Cub Scout #1: (stopping): I am thirsty. All pretend to take a drink and continue walking.

Cub Scout #2: I am hot. All wipe their faces and continue walking.

Cub Scout #3: I'm hungry. All pretend to be eating.

Cub Scout #4: My shoe string is undone. All pretend to tie their shoes and then keep walking. Last Cub Scout: This sure is a long walk. How far have we traveled?

Cub Scout #1: Across the stage.

DIRTY SOCKS:

Materials: A 5 gallon pail, a coffee can filled ½ full of water, a very dirty sock and a clean sock, a stirring stick and a clear cup.

Cub Scout #1 sets down the 5 gallon empty pail and a hidden clean sock, with a coffee can fill with clean water inside.

Cub Scout #2 throws dirty sock into pail, but not into coffee can.

Cub Scout #3 stirs inside the pail. But around the outside of coffee can where sock is.

Cub Scout #4 walks in with cup, wipes his brow, dips into coffee can and drinks water.

Cub Scout #4: "This camp coffee is getting worse."

Cub Scout #5: Enters and does the same thing. "This camp tea is getting worse."

Cub Scout #6: Enters and does the same thing. "This camp cocoa is getting worse."

Cub Scout #2 reenters the scene, walks to the can, reaches into the can and pulls out the clean sock. "I knew this would get my sock clean!"

DIRECTIONS: May be used to introduce new scout or scout leader. 4 people are needed. Person 1 (can't speak) and hand points to person 2 which direction for person 4 to move. Person 2 (can't speak) and holds up paper sign (with arrow) to

person 3 which direction for 4 to move. Person 3 tells person 4 which direction to move. Person 3 cannot see person 4 and person 4 is blindfolded. Move person 4 from back of room to the front of the room. Level of difficulty depends on obstacles in the way.

ACT OF KINDNESS: Three to five central players and the rest are seated on a bus. Bus driver: "All aboard".

Little old lady struggles to get on the bus carrying a big basket of laundry.

Driver: "You will have to put your basket in the rear of the bus."

Lady: "I do not dare. This laundry does not belong to me."

Driver: "Look lady either put the basket in the back or get off the bus, I have a schedule."

The lady was almost in tears when a young man arose from his seat. "You sit here ma'am. I will take your basket to the back and sit with it. The lady was afraid to give it to him but another person said, "It's OK, look at his scout uniform, and I will vouch for him".

The boy gave up his seat and carried the bag back so the lady sat down for the trip. At the end of the trip the scout carried the basket off the bus and helped the lady off the bus. Then he returned to the bus and away the bus went.

Two guys commented: "Did you know that kid?" "I didn't know the kid, but I knew the uniform and you can trust it every time."

PHYSICAL FITNESS: May use props, but not necessary.

Scout 1 is lifting barbell above his head and says, to keep your body strong and healthy is more valuable than being wealthy.

Scout 2 is jumping rope and says, when you are fit, you feel so good. You try to do the things you should.

Scout 3 is curling dumbbells and says it helps when you lend a helping hand to needy folks across the land.

Scout 4 is eating from a bowl and says, eating the right food is always wise, and everyone needs some exercise.

Scout 5 enters and touches toes saying, stand on your toes, one, two, and three, touch your toes and don't bend your knees.

Scout 6 enters running in place saying, run a while, then slow your pace. Practice will help you win. Scout 7 enters, stands at attention and gives the cub

salute. The scout says, Cub scouting turns young children into young adults. This is where it all begins.

THE STORE:

1st Scout says I am opening a store and 2nd scout listens.

I need a revolving door and uses two adults to stand and act like a revolving door with bell ringing sound. I need shelves and use two adults to stand with arms out straight. I need a cash register and use one adult to work imaginary cash register (click, click, click, ca'ching) over and over. I need shopping carts and use two people with arms out front and walking around saying wobble, wobble. The 2nd scout asks, what kind of store are you having? 1st scout says, I think a candy store, since I already have so many suckers.

TOILET SEAT: Three volunteers. The three volunteers will leave the room. The MC will tell the crowd that a chair in the middle of the stage is a make-believe toilet. The MC then brings the three volunteers back and gives the instructions. Instructions: Show each volunteer a card with the following themes: A race car driver, a seated ballerina, a racehorse jockey. Then each volunteer acts out their theme. Crowd votes on best and then tells them about the chair.

APPENDIX B

ATTENDANCE ACTIVITIES

Attendance activities for Roundtable are intended to promote and reward Scouters that are making personal sacrifices from their personal lives with their presence at a Roundtable session. The activities may be used as an incentive for young scouts to attend den, pack, and troop meetings as well.

Drawings—a unit number is randomly drawn out of a hat for the prize or the young scout may have their name in the drawing. The larger the number of those in attendance may increase the number of prizes. They must be present to win.

Contests-- the first to complete a certain activity or if there are time restraints, the first to reach a certain number of requirements. These are a sample of activities:

1. Identify professional sport nicknames: Baseball, Football, Basketball
2. Word search with a scouting vocabulary or theme of the month
3. Crossword puzzles with a scouting vocabulary or theme of the month
4. Sudoku
5. Word scramble with a scouting vocabulary or theme of the month
6. Brain teasers

Skits—the first to arrive are asked to volunteer to put on a skit and then rewarded for their participation.

Activities—Physical action or participation in activities that only one or a few can participate in at a time. (Jenga, horseshoes, corn hole, tic tack toe)

Scout master, Cub master Minutes – A brief comment for those that serve, which will motivate and thank all volunteer leaders.

End of the year graduation certificates for perfect attendance, or a certain percentage (honor roll, honorable mention).

Awards -- Give the unit leaders attendance beads for a unit totem pole or necklace/bracelet.

A board with all units listed and they receive a star for each time they attend.

Practice on skills from previous sessions. (Knot tying)

APPENDIX C

CUBMASTER/SCOUTMASTER MINUTES AND PRAYERS

Hi, God. Thank you for being with me throughout this day. I know my family loves me and will be home later, so for now, it's just you and me. Touch my hands with good ideas that will keep me busy. When I'm bored bring me awesome sparks of imagination. Remind me that TV and video games are fun for a while, but art projects and music let my own creativity soar. Touch my legs with energy. When I'm lazy, bring me outside games and sports that keep me active. Remind me that many people can't run or jump, and that fresh air contains life. Touch my eyes with vision. When I see a mess, even if it isn't mine, bring me the patience to clean it up. Remind me that books and puzzles also can provide great workouts. Thank you for listening and being there for me.

We will find many heroes within the community this month. Some of them will be Cub Scouts or even older scouts. We will search the neighborhood to find someone who would like to visit your den and share the things that helped them determine their destiny. We will also consider which of our young friends might be leaders of tomorrow – those who show leadership qualities that might land them in positions like president of a company or even president of the United States. We will highlight some of the heroes that we find in our neighborhoods.

1. The police officers or the firefighters who risk their lives every time they suit up.
2. Postal carriers who are trained to watch out for emergencies that might come their way while delivering the mail.
3. A neighbor who helps someone in need on the street could be a hero.
4. We will highlight men and women who serve important roles in Cub Scouting – committee members, charter organizations, den leaders and perhaps the Cub master; in older scouting such as Head and assistant Scoutmasters and committee members.
5. And then there is the special person who is just about everyone's life – their mother and/or father.

Heroes could be any one of many people in your area that you see in silent acts of heroism. Many people in your area that you see in silent acts of heroism are there every day. Many people just go about their business each day but can respond at a moment's notice to help someone in distress. We often read in BOYS' LIFE magazine about young men who were there and prepared when a call for help arose, and what they did to save a life. Search out those heroes in the coming months and maybe sometime you might be one of those heroes.

We hope to be helpful every day, while we work, and while we play. Then at night we'll safely rest knowing that we've done our best. Amen. We come together, each of us charged with being helpful and taking care of one another. God give us what we need to help and serve each other to the best of our abilities. Amen.

Thank you, Lord, for all you have given us. Teach us to notice people who need our help. Help us to do our best in helping children, who are alone, and our parents and teachers when they need a hand. Amen.

Amidst the cold winds of winter, may the warmth that we fill through the spirit of Scouting enlighten our lives and the lives of the children and young adults with whom we work. Amen.

A compass is an important tool for Scouts because it gives them a stable reference point – magnetic North – that they can use to set a course and follow it. As long as your compass is accurate and you don't damage it, it will serve you faithfully; you only need to trust in it. Our faith or spirituality is something like that. We have a point of reference that does not change: God. And we have a compass, so to speak, in our relationship with God. It's something we have learned and continue to learn about, just as we learn to use a compass properly. This is the season of lights. It is a time when the days are shorter, so the nights are longer, yet somehow things are brighter. Stores and home are bright with holiday lights. Thousands of homes have a single light to show the way for the Christ child, others have candles burning to commemorate the miracle of Hanukkah, and some light candles to honor the heritage of Kwanzaa. Even the stars in the winter sky seem brighter at this time of year. But the most important glow is from the spirit of this season that we live with year-around and find in the Scout Oath and the Scout Law. Before we leave to get on with our holiday celebrations, let's stand and repeat the Oath and Law together. (Merry Christmas)

Lord, help us to have fun and be good sports whether we win or lose in the great race. Help us remember as Cub Scouts to always do our best. Thank you for our families who guide us on our path. Amen.

Winning isn't everything. It sure is nice to be a winner at a sport, a game of chance, or even a great race! It feels good inside to be the best at something on

that given day. But, unfortunately only one of us can win at any given event on that given day. Maybe you didn't sleep well the night before, maybe you had a cold last week and are just recovering, or maybe you're just not that good at that particular event. If you were the winner, then enjoy the fact that you won – graciously and quietly. If you didn't, here is something to think about: Did you do your best? Did you try hard? Did you prepare, and did you support your team? If you can answer yes to all of these, then you are a winner in your own way for simply doing the best that you can. Learn what you can from any mistakes, and take pride that you did your best!

Dear Heavenly Father, look down on us this evening as we gather together in the spirit of Scouting. Bless these families assembled here and guide them as they go forward in our Savior's path. Amen.

Dear Father, as we come together tonight, we ask you to bless our time together and our meeting so that we may all do our best to do our duty to you, our country, our communities, our families, and ourselves. We ask that our Scouts always remember the lessons they learned: To be Trustworthy, Loyal, and Helpful to every one they meet: To be Friendly, Courteous, and Kind to friend and stranger alike: To be Obedient and Cheerful in doing their duty. To be Thrifty so as not to squander the gifts they have received: To be brave and clean, facing the challenges of everyday life with a clean mind and a clean spirit. To be reverent, always remembering your presence in their lives. We thank you, Oh Lord. Amen. Do your best in everything you do on life's way. Always be friendly to brighten someone's day. Give away smiles, for it's rewarding indeed. Be prepared to help others for goodness – not for greed. Be honest and sincere toward others you meet. Be loyal and true – a most commendable feat. Count your blessings and be thankful for the opportunities that come to you. Good night to each and every one, may these thoughts stay with you your whole life through.

We hope to build up our Cub Scouts, just as we show them how to build things in our world. May we maintain the same positive attitude we want our Cub Scouts to have. May they always be reminded of the wonder and beauty of the creation around them as they do their best to create their projects. Amen. This month's theme of Cubstruction is about building things. Anything worth building takes some thoughtful planning so that we know what materials we need, what rules we have to follow, and when we need to get it done. While you are building something useful, you are also building your skills. So if something was tough for you to build this time, it won't be as hard the next time. You're not

only building cool stuff, but your building your own personal toolbox of skills that you may carry with you for the rest of your life.

Oh, Mighty Father, thank you for all the music you have put into our hearts. Please help us to use it throughout our lives to make others and ourselves cheerful. Amen.

Cub Scouts and families, our theme this month has been Animal Friends, and we talked a lot about the need to always be kind to animals. That is given. But there is also a great need to always be kind to their people, as stated in the Scout Law. I noticed many kindnesses displayed by our Cub Scouts and families tonight. Thank you. That makes our world a much better place. Thank you God, for your many blessings on our health and families. Thank you for our health so we can participate in activities. Thank you for our families who support us every day. We give our thanks to you for all these things. Amen. Cub Scouts, we have all watched you at the meeting. You have shown sportsmanship, you have shown friendship to your fellow Scouts, you have demonstrated obedience to the rules and requests provided by your leaders. You are truly living the Scout Law. Please join with me and repeat the Scout Law as we say good night.

Great Spirit, we give you thanks for the everyday people who do heroic things, the firefighters and first responders who answer the call for help, the police officers who work at keeping our cities safe, the military personal who keep our country safe, and the Scouts and Scout leaders who unselfishly give service to others. May we recognize all these everyday heroes and give them our thanks. Amen.

Our flag stands for our freedom and equality. It is the banner of a people who are willing to lay down their lives in defense of right, justice, and freedom. It is the emblem by which we proclaim to the world that this is “the land of the free and the home of the brave.” Our flag is an emblem of true patriotism – the patriotism of deeds; the patriotism of courage, of loyalty, of devotion to freedom, justice, and humanity; the patriotism of men and women who have lived and died, not for themselves but for their country. When we look at our flag – its stars and stripes, its vivid red, white, and blue – and read its story and hear its message, when we contemplate what our flag means and what it stands for, and we consider the sacrifices made and the lives given so that our flag could still be flying over us today, we are quietly reminded to cherish, to protect, and to defend it.

Almighty, please watch over us as we enjoy the outdoors that you have created. Watch over us as we shoot arrows and air rifles, and take part in other fun sports. Help us to remember to care for the earth and its creatures as we enjoy our time in the outdoors. Most of all, keep our families happy and safe as we enjoy the warm weather of our time together. Amen.

A scout is Courteous. What does that really mean when it comes to outdoor activities? Well, we would normally think of being respectful of each other and treating each other with kindness when we talk and do activities. Leaving the outdoors how we found it is also courteous to the people and to the animals that we share the planet with. It's not as much fun on that hike when you see litter on the side of the trail. It's not safe for the animals either, considering they could be injured by swallowing plastic or getting something caught around their neck. So when you're sharing this great planet we call earth with others, try to be courteous and leave it as good or better than you found it.

"SMILE" A smile costs nothing – but creates much. It happens in a flash but the memory lasts forever. It cannot be bought, borrowed, or stolen, but it is something that isn't any good until it is given to someone else. So if you meet someone who is too weary to smile, give that person one of yours. No one needs a smile quite as much as the person who has none left to give.

"Toothpaste" Use a tube of toothpaste and push an amount into a dish. Smear the toothpaste in the dish. Ask someone to put the toothpaste in the dish back into the tube. After failures or no one wants to attempt, make the following comment: Putting toothpaste back into a tube is like taking back something you have said to someone else. It is very difficult – there is something always left behind. Remember that when you speak to an individual or to any number of people, the statement may be difficult to take back. Think first.

Volunteers like you are priceless! Always caring, always sharing, you represent our country at its best! Whether taking action in your own community or involved in a national effort, your contribution of time, talent, and compassion makes a valuable difference. Volunteers like you are people who reach out to others and, in so doing, become extraordinary! You bring joy and sunshine, and set an example, wherever you go. Thanks for all you do. You're truly a treasure!

The miracle is this – the more we share, the more we have.

Leonard Nimoy – American actor, director and writer

I have found that among its other benefits, giving liberates the soul of the giver. Maya Angelou American writer

It is only in the giving of oneself to others that we truly live. Dr. Ethel Andrus
Founder of AARP

This is the miracle that happens every time to those who really give, the more they possess. Rainer Rilke German Poet

One of the things I keep learning is that the secret of being happy is doing things for other people. Dick Gregory American comedian and civil rights activist

To give without any reward, or any notice, has a special quality of its own. Anne Lindbergh American pilot and writer

Don't judge each day by the harvest you reap, but by the seeds you plant. Robert Louis Stevenson – British writer

GRACE AT MEALS

A SCOUT IS REVERENT

Grace

“For food, for raiment, for opportunity; for friendship and fellowship we thank Thee Lord. Amen.

Scout Benediction

“May the Great Master of all Scouts be with us till we meet again. “

Philmont Grace

“For food, for health, for treatment, for health, for life, for opportunity, for friendship, and for fellowship; we thank Thee oh Lord.

Grace suitable for any meal

1. “For health and strength and daily food, we give Thee thanks, O Lord.”
2. “For this and all Thy mercies, Lord, make us duly grateful.”
3. “For food and health and friendship, we give Thee thanks, O Lord.”
4. “We thank Thee, our Heavenly Father, for this food. Bless us as we partake of it that it may strengthen us for Thy service.
5. “Be present at our table, Lord. Be here and everywhere adored, these mercies bless and grant that we may ever love and serve but Thee.”

Morning graces

1. Gracious Giver of all good. Thee we thank for rest and food. Grant that all we do or say, in Thy service be this day.”
2. “Our Father, we thank Thee for this day and for Thy loving care. Help us to be mindful of Thee in these happy sunlit hours.
3. “Heavenly Father, we thank Thee for Thy care through the night and for this new day. Guide us by Thy Spirit, and at the close of the day may we not be ashamed before Thee.

Noon graces

1. “Father, for this noonday meal, we would speak the praise we feel. Health and strength we have from Thee. Help us O Lord.
2. “Heavenly Father, help us to see the beautiful things in earth and sky which are tokens of Thy love. Walk with us in the days we spend together here. May the food we eat and all Thy blessings help us to better serve Thee.
3. “Our Father in Heaven, as the day leads on, let us not forget our obligation to honor and serve Thee. We thank Thee for these gifts of Thy bounty. Bless them to our use and our lives to Thy service.”

Evening Graces

1. Tireless guardian on our way, Thou hast kept us well this day. While we thank Thee, we request care continued, pardon, and rest.”
2. “Heavenly Father, we thank Thee for this day and for Thy presence in it. Forgive us if we have not made it a better day and help us to be tomorrow what we have failed to be today.”
3. “Our Father, God, we thank Thee for this evening meal. As Thou has been mindful of us, so help us to be mindful of Thee, that we may know and do Thy will.”

FOR THE CARE OF CHILDREN

Almighty God, you have blessed us with the joy and care of children. As we bring them up, give us calm strength and patient wisdom that we may teach them to love whatever is just and true and good, following the example of our Lord. God our Father, your son grew in wisdom and stature and in favor with God and men. Bless, guide, and govern the children and young people of your Church by your Holy Spirit that they may grow in grace and in the knowledge of your Word. Grant that they may serve you well and usefully, developing their talents

not for their own sakes but for the glory of God and the welfare of their neighbor. Protect and defend them from all danger and harm, giving your holy angels charge over them; through our Lord. Amen.

FOR RESPONSIBLE CITIZENSHIP

Lord, keep this nation under your care. Bless the leaders of your land that we may be a people at peace among ourselves and a blessing to the other nations of the earth. Help us provide trustworthy leaders, contribute to wise decisions for the general welfare, and thus serve you faithfully in our generation to the honor of your holy name; through our Lord. Amen.

APPENDIX D

SONGS

There are multiple occasions for songs: At the Den meetings, pack meetings, on a hike, as part of ceremonies, and especially at campfires. The songs may be presented at Roundtables to compliment a Big Rock Topic or Breakout, or to finish on a “good note” for the closing. Adults can have as much fun as the scouters. Scouters will have more fun when the adults join in or lead.

I’m Going To Hire A Boy Scout To Decorate Our Home – Akela Calls 1995 Songbook

Came home late Sunday afternoon...Finally got our all my gear as she opened the door...She said, “You’re not gonna do this anymore.”

Chorus: She said, I’m gonna hire a Boy Scout to decorate our home...So you’ll feel more at ease here, and you won’t need to roam...We’ll take down the family pictures, hang back packs on the wall...And we’ll lash a latrine eat in our bathroom down the hall.

Just bring those tin foil dinners and I’ll cook ‘em right here...And we’ll drink apple bug juice and good old Dad’s Root Beer...and just for you I’ll keep in stock those aluminum cans...so you can go recycling for your environmental plan...

We’ll rip out all the carpet, put pine needles on the floor...and we’ll put up a gateway for when you come through the door...And when you want your supper, you can flick your Bic... and instead of gourmet cooking we’ll have hot dogs on a stick.

Chorus

Instead of nightly TV, we’ll have a campfire show ... And you’ll get a chance to sing for me those stupid songs you know ... and I’ll do a funny cheer for you each time you tell a joke ... Hey, as long as you don’t repeat old skits I’ll laugh until I croak. Instead of family planning, we’ll have a PLC ... And maybe plan our calendar through 2023 ... If my trading post is open you can rob your piggy bank ... and when you make Silver Beaver, well you’ll have me to thank. (Modulation) She said, I’m gonna hire a Boy Scout to decorate our home ... So you’ll feel more at ease here, and you won’t need to roam... So when you want to go camping and you have weekend free ... Well there won’t be any reason why you can’t stay here with me.

The Night They Made the First Cub Scout – Steve Henderson

Many years ago on this very night ... Some people gathered 'round a campfire's light .. Everyone was saying the world was in a mess ... Not enough people trying to do their best. (So...)

Chorus: They took a little blue ... and they took a little gold ... They took a little boy about six years old ... turned him around and lo and behold ... That's how it became about ... The night they made the first Cub Scout.

Now they come in every size, they come in every shape ... And everywhere they are, the world's a better place ... Every Bobcat and Bear, every Wolf and Webelos ... Remembers that night many years ago (when...) (Repeat chorus)

Lion cubs are new the boys aren't very old ... you know it won't be long before they wear the blue and gold ... To search, Discover, Share with their parents in toe .. Headed down the path that started years ago (When...) (Repeat chorus)

Leaders are the ones who make the program go ... And trainers do their best to put the leaders in the know ... How the promise and the Law help the Cub Scout grow ... And blossom on the trail that started years ago (When...) (Repeat chorus)

Scouting Leader Spirit – Leslie Herman, Thomas Edison District, Blue Water Council BSA

I've got the Boy Scout tents in my living room. My living room, my living room. I've got the Boy Scout tents in my living room, my living room to stay. I've got the Cub Scout flags in the back of my car ... back of my car, back of my car, I've got the Cub Scout flags in the back of my car, back of my car to stay. I've got boxes of scout stuff in my bedroom, in my bedroom, I've got boxes of Scout stuff in my bedroom, In my bedroom to stay.

I've got Scouting stuff all over the house, all over the house, all over the house. I've got Scouting stuff all over the house, all over the house to stay.

I've got the Pinewood derby track out in the garage. In my garage, in my garage. I've got the Pinewood Derby track in my garage to stay

I've got the Scouting spirit surrounding me. Surrounding me, surrounding me. I've got the Scouting spirit surrounding me to stay.

I've got the Scouting spirit way up to here. Way up to here, way up to here, I've got the scouting spirit way up to here, way up here to stay.

Alice the Camel

Alice the Camel has 10 humps, Alice the camel has ten humps, Alice the camel has ten humps, so go Alice go ... 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9 (Continue with 9, 8, 7, ... until) Alice the camel has no humps, Alice the camel has no humps, Alice the camel has no humps, because Alice is a HORSE!

My Bonnie Lies over the Ocean

My Bonnie lies over the ocean, My bonnie lies over the sea, My Bonnie lies over the over the ocean, Oh bring back my Bonnie to me, to me. (Repeat .)

Action: As you sing each word beginning with the letter B, change from a standing position and vice versa. All should be standing at the end of the song. When you have it mastered sing it again, faster.

Boom Chicka Boom

I said a-boom-chicka-boom! (Group echoes). I said a-boom-chicka boom! (Group echos).

I said a-boom-chick-a-boom,-chick-a rocka-chicka-rocka-chicka boom! (Group echos)

Uh-huh! (Group echos). Oh Yeah! (Group echos). This time! (Group echos) We sing higher (Group echos) Each time adds a new version: LOWER, WHISPER, LOUDER, COOL HEEEEYY

A Scout's Campfire Songbook

When the Scouts Come Hiking In.

Oh when the scouts come hiking in, when the scouts come hiking in, I want to be at that campfire - when the scouts come hiking in.

Now here comes Dave – he needs a shave, when the scouts come hiking in, and we'll have Dave at that campfire, when the scouts come hiking in.

Now here comes John, with his short shorts on, when the scouts come hiking in. and we'll have John at that campfire, when the scouts come hiking in.

Now here comes Pete with his aching feet, when the scouts come hiking in, and we'll have Pete at that campfire, when the scouts come hiking in.

Now here comes Tom, going like a bomb, when the scouts come hiking in, and we'll have Tom at that campfire, when the scouts come hiking in.

Now here comes Keith, with clean white teeth, when the scouts come hiking in, and we'll have Keith at that campfire, when the scouts come hiking in.

Oh when the scouts come hiking in, when the scouts come hiking in, I want to be at that campfire – when the scouts come hiking in.

On Top Of Spaghetti

On top of spaghetti – all covered in cheese – I lost my poor meatball – when somebody sneezed.

It rolled off the table - and onto the floor – and then my poor meatball – rolled out of the door.

It rolled down the garden – and under a bush – and then my poor meatball – was nothing but mush.

So, if you have spaghetti – all covered in cheese – hold onto your meatball – because someone might sneeze.

She'll be coming round the mountain

She'll be coming round the mountain when she comes (Wooh Hooh)

She'll be coming round the mountain when she comes (Wooh Hooh)

She'll be coming round the mountain, She'll be coming round the mountain, She'll be coming round the mountain when she comes.

She' be riding six white horses when she comes, (Whoa back), She' be riding six white horses when she comes, (whoa back) She' be riding six white horses, She' be riding six white horses, She' be riding six white horses when she comes.

Oh we'll all go down to meet here when she comes, (hi babe) Oh we'll all go down to meet here when she comes, (Hi babe) Oh we'll all go down to meet here, Oh we'll all go down to meet here Oh we'll all go down to meet here when she comes.

Oh we'll kill the old red rooster when she comes (whack, whack), Oh we'll kill the old red rooster when she comes (whack, whack), Oh we'll kill the old red rooster, Oh we'll kill the old red rooster, Oh we'll kill the old red rooster when she comes (whack, whack).

Oh we'll have chicken and dumplings when she comes (yum, yum), Oh we'll have chicken and dumplings when she comes (yum, yum), Oh we'll have chicken and dumplings, Oh we'll have chicken and dumplings, Oh we'll have chicken and dumplings when she comes (yum, yum),

Oh she'll have to sleep with grandma when she comes (snore, snore), Oh she'll have to sleep with grandma when she comes (snore, snore), Oh she'll have to sleep with grandma, Oh she'll have to sleep with grandma, Oh she'll have to sleep with grandma when she comes (snore, snore),

APPENDIX E
SURVEYS AND RESULTS

Survey #1: This survey is used two to three times throughout the year and completed at the end of the Roundtable session.

1. Scout position. _____
2. Distance traveled. _____

Circle one

1 is Do it again (Best), 2, 3, **4** is Never do it again (Worst)

1. Opening ceremony 1, 2, 3, 4
Comments

2. What are the worst parts of attending Roundtable?
Comments

3. Announcements 1, 2, 3, 4
Comments

4. Big Rock Topic 1, 2, 3, 4
Comments

5. Breakout topic 1, 2, 3, 4
Comments

6. Activities 1, 2, 3, 4
Comments

Additional comments

SURVEY #1 AND RESPONSES (This survey was repeated in May)

1. On the average, how often have you attended District Roundtables?

Answers:

“I didn’t know committee people could attend.” (There were three similar answers.)

“I thought only scout leaders attended.”

“Twice, If I was in the area.” “It is a three hour round trip.”

“Twice, the one meeting at the beginning and one other.”

“Our unit made four meetings, when we knew the agenda or needed to talk to someone.”

“I made a few.” “When the Roundtable worked in my schedule, I would come.”

“Seven, try to make them all.”

7-9

“As many as I can.”

2. How far would you have to travel to the District Roundtable in Seward?

20 miles

25 miles

30 miles

45 miles

70 miles

85 miles

3 hours round trip

3. What are the best parts of attending a District Roundtable?

“A great way to meet other Scoutmasters and representatives of other communities.” (2)

“Getting updated scout information.” (3)

“Fellowship – Comrades sharing.” (4)

“Contact with the District Representatives.”

“It is an obligation I took on as a scoutmaster to attend.”

“New ideas—need more.”

4. What are the worst parts of attending a District Roundtable?

“Distance driving, Lack of time to travel long distances.” (3)

“Not knowing what will be discussed-no monthly agenda beforehand.” (6)

“No introductions-name, troop, city, position.”

“A large block of time that doesn’t always relate to your unit, just council information.”

“Too many announcements and interruptions from other (leaders-commissioners, and district executives,) let the speaker, speak; and if there are questions, ask and answer when meeting is over.” “The topics are not pertaining to the group but more for individual attention. Sometimes the discussion was caused by the scout leaders or other representatives of the council or district.”

“Need separation of cub scouts and scouts BSA after opening remarks and general information.”

“Sometimes the Big Rock topic was good for all in attendance, but the breakout sessions sometimes wasted the time of half of the people in attendance. If no information for one group or other they should not have to attend.”

“Have agenda/announcement for specific activity- re-chartering, popcorn sales, camp information, etc. This way the correct people are in attendance.”

“There is a lack of participation by other units. Sometimes there are more people to run the meeting and give information, then people to receive the information.”

“Units are being “volunteered” or pressured to host activities on the spot without advanced notice. Have initial private request prior to meeting (sometimes several days in advance that group (leaders and committees) may have time to make decision for the meeting.”

“More respect to non-scout leaders that attend.”

“There are too many people running the meeting or interjecting. If the district executive has one important item for all, then do it without interference unless asks for assistance.” “I THINK SHE IS DOING A GREAT JOB”, but there is too much discussion and council updates during the meeting. If there are other questions, cover them after the meeting. Make an announcement at the beginning that question and answer will be at the conclusion of the meeting.”

“Don’t want to know about the other districts and if we are keeping “up”.

5. What topics of interest would you like to cover at District Roundtables?

“Scout skills-Ideas-for retention and keeping crossovers from cubs to scouts.”

“Keeping leaders and parents actively involved. Make a list of ideas for community involvement, recognition and support.”

“Recruiting ideas- small communities and combined communities/schools.”

“Questions/topics on day-to day items units face every week?”

“Scoutmasters share about successful outings-overnighters, weekends, camp ideas hosted only by a local unit. Make this one meeting.”

“Camp Cornhusker promotion earlier to give troops a chance to promote locally.”

“Strategies for dealing with scouts who have sensory issues, physical and special need issues.”

“Minutes available to those who can’t attend, such as upcoming events.”

“Make a list of Scoutmaster’s names, locations, addresses, phone numbers, and emails. Maybe put in our troop packets at roundtable meeting.”

“Attention to years of service, birthdays of the month, eagle recognition, community and individual troop activities.”

“The units are setting up activities with invitations to other troops.”

“Give advanced notice of local troop activities.”

“Door Prizes for attendance, number of attendees from each troop. Distance traveled. Have prizes or activities for attendance from drawings.”

“Technology night-Scouters are set up with computers-laptops to do a specific training or activity. Maybe hosted by a local school.”

*Topics or information that can only be obtained by attending the Roundtable. “You do not want to miss this.”

6. What are your suggestions to make a better roundtable?

The First Roundtable will have a publishing of an agenda prior to meeting. A program for the entire year that is available at the opening meeting in August. Random drawings. Gas cards, scout catalog gifts, gift cards from businesses—Walmart, Scheels, Dick’s Sporting goods, Scout trading post, Orschelins, Have an Option to use “Zoom” or “Skype” for the main theme (Big Rock) and/or break-out sessions in person.

Allow more time for Scout leaders to bounce ideas off of each other. Have a designated time for interaction (maybe during cracker barrel) or a break out session, or in the parking lot if needed.

Remind leaders of their obligation as a Scoutmaster to attend or have their unit represented.

Build back a bridge between Cub and Scout leaders with District and Council. No trainings are at Roundtable- all on internet- maybe have something for training that can only be obtained at Roundtable.

Maybe have a pack/troop/district/council make monthly theme activity-plan at beginning of the year- Flag ceremony, skit, and presentation of craft or merit badge training or activity.

Use and promotion of Council scout trailer.

There is a need for more use and promotion of Outdoor Education Center.

Have a presentation of ideas for unit leaders to have community activities for Cub Scouts and Scouts BSA.

Outside speakers that would/could work with Scouting.

Make a calendar in place of announcements at opening or closing. Holiday activities/National themes-Military/Police/Fire and Rescue, Troop anniversaries, recognition of scouts and scout leaders in community and school activities-athletics, music, FCCLA, FBLA, FFA, 4-H etc.

Make a directory of all leadership by District and Council. List all of the Executives, Commissioners, Committee's Unit Commissioners, and Staff. Make a directory of the entire district and unit leaders. A listing of the Key three for personal interaction

Survey #2

This survey was used during the summer prior to the August Roundtable.

GREETINGS FELLOW SCOUTERS OF THE PRAIRIE WINDS DISTRICT

My name is Lonnie Pohlman of Troop 290, in Milford Nebraska. I have had about every position that exists at the local level of Cub Scouts and Scouts BSA over the past 25 years. There are many of you that have served in the same positions with even more years of experience. There are also some of you that may just be getting started in scouting leadership.

I am in my first year as Roundtable Commissioner for the Prairie Winds District. The emphasis the first year was on the Troop program simply because I was more current with the Scout program at this level. My goal for next year is to continue building program ideas for the Scout level, while revitalizing the Cub Scout program at Roundtable for next year. A similar letter was sent out last summer to Scout leaders. I am looking for reliable and sound ideas for Cub Scouts from veteran scouters and new/fresh ideas from those starting their adventure. Along with the ideas are the leadership possibilities that you may be interested in for Roundtable implications. I would like to develop a Roundtable committee.

I am sending you a questionnaire that is between **you and me**. From the questions and answers you and your fellow scouters of the Prairie Winds District send back; I will try to make or suggest these thoughts to the District level. Our suggestions may help in:

1. Setting an advanced monthly theme for the entire roundtable season.
2. Increase interest.
3. Increase attendance.
4. Strengthen the bond between the scout leaders.
5. Strengthen the bond between the scout leaders and representatives of the district and council.
6. Making the experience enjoyable for our leaders and young scouters.

Please share this questionnaire with assistant pack leaders, den leaders, and committees **if** you think it will help. I have full approval from our district to do this survey. Again this report will be confidential between you and me. Only the information to improve the round table will be presented and no names will be involved.

Thank you for your support of Scouting.

Lonnie Pohlman

Lpohlman53@gmail.com

Enclosure: Please use the self-addressed envelope to reply back to me with **page 2**. I would like to use May and June to compile and discuss the information as a new roundtable committee with the District Executive and Unit Commissioners. This way the Pack leaders and potential Roundtable committee may be organized before the opening of the new scout year in August.

SURVEY #2

Name: _____ Troop/Pack# _____

Position: _____

Years of scout leadership: _____

Have you ever served in any capacity with

Roundtables? _____

Use the back of this paper if necessary.

1. On the average, how often have you attended District Roundtables in a year? _____
2. How far would you have to travel to the District Roundtable in Seward round trip? _____
3. What are the best parts of attending a District Roundtable?
 - A.
 - B.
 - C.
5. What are the worst parts of attending a District Roundtable?
 - A.
 - B.
 - C.
6. What topics of interest would you like to cover at District Roundtables?
 - A.
 - B.
 - C.
7. What are your suggestions to make a better roundtable?
 - A.
 - B.
 - C.
8. Would you be interested in a Roundtable position? YES NO
9. If Yes, there are many possibilities:
Roundtable Commissioner for Cub Scouts, Scouts BSA,

Assistant Roundtable Commissioner,
Roundtable Committee—endless directions to go here.

10. Do you have questions about the Roundtable positions?

A. Do I need to be at every meeting? Although that would be nice, it is not always possible. The Roundtable leaders and committee would/could share this responsibility.

B. Do I have to present a theme at every meeting? No

C. Do I have to speak at every meeting? No

D. May I speak at a meeting or present a theme? YES. As many as you feel comfortable with. Any scout interest you have is an interest to us.

E. Do I need to be a registered member of Scouts BSA and take Youth Protection training? **YES**

F. Is there training available for Roundtable leaders and committees? YES. As much as you want. I gained valuable information from our District Executive, Commissioners, online training through Scouting.org and Commissioner Universities. I also gained insight and encouragement by talking to other leaders throughout the course of the Roundtable season.

Survey #1 Responses (Given again May)

1. Most responses showed an increase in the number of Roundtable attendances as well as an increase of units in attendance.

2. Distance traveled increased with new units in attendance.

3. Answers:

- a) "Topics covered were relevant to my unit and to me as a unit leader."
- b) "As a participant, I was kept engaged throughout the presentations."
- c) "I was kept informed and up-to-date on useful information for my troop."
- d) "I was able to use the information for my pack and all the activities, skits, and kept me involved with the meeting. I will use these ideas at my den meetings."
- e) "I would always look forward to the next Roundtable."
- f) "The other leader's sharing ideas that were brought up at the Roundtable."
- g) "Information from the council and district was usually shared in paper form and not in a lengthy lecture."

4. Answers:

- a) "Personal stories from other leaders that had no relevance to my troop were a little out of place. Fortunately the stories were usually redirected to after the meeting had concluded."
- b) "Covid, which no one could control." Roundtable did keep us up-to-date on the protocols."
- c) "The council updates were usually good to know about, but didn't always need to know about the other districts status."
- d) "Didn't need the spreadsheet numbers from the District or Council but enjoyed hearing about the progress and plans for our District."

5. Answers:

- a) "Big Rock topics were covering things I needed to hear, and most often I did not know where to find the answers."
- b) "Big Rock topics were (up to date) and relevant to my unit or me as a unit leader."
- c) "I can really use the Big Rock information."

6. Answers:

- a) "I liked the variety of Breakout topics that were just to the pack or troop; and sometimes were kept together for both."

- b) "Good variety"
 - c) "Good time to talk about current issues to just the pack or troop."
 - d) "Breakouts became more specific and therefore more meaningful."
7. Answers:
- a) "Activities always fun with a challenge."
 - b) "I will use these at my unit."
 - c) "My scouts arrive earlier so they can do the activities I bring home from Roundtable."
 - d) "We have used several of the skits at our pack meetings, not sure if they would fit some of the scout meetings."
 - e) "Good teamwork building for our scouts."
 - f) "The presentation and recognition of leader awards are nice to see at our level."
 - g) "The attendance awards are a nice touch at the end of the year."

APPENDIX F

RESULTS FROM ATTENDANCE

By year

2018

(average) 23%

2019

(average) 24%

2020

(Average) 32.6%

August 2020 through May 2021- 50%

By month

January 2020 33.33%

February 2020 36.67%

March 2020 51.85%

April 2020 28% Virtual (Covid Protocol)

May 2020 Cancelled (Covid Protocol)

August 2020 30.77%

September 2020 26.9% Youth Protection Training

October 2020 48.1%

November 2020 49.4%

December 2020 53%

January 2021 18% 1st total virtual (Covid Protocol)

February 2021 50%

March 2021 53.7%

April 2021 57.1%

May 2021 58.3%

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Boy Scouts of America Northern Ridge District Roundtable Attendance Records: 2008-2015, n.p.

The Purdue OWL. Purdue writing Lab, 2010. Web. Date of access: July 10, 2015

<https://www.scouting.org/commissioners/training/doctoralcourses> DCS

502 Commissioner College 2020

<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1/VLgOmagM66CRCn19DHxv09K0Mo4T9RbelQDtRpEjs/ed#grid=132324765>

<https://www.scouting.org/scouting.org/scoutsource?Media/LOS.aspx>

Roundtable planning (boy scouts)

[https://filestore.scouting.org/filestore/boyscouts/pdf/510-714\(17\)](https://filestore.scouting.org/filestore/boyscouts/pdf/510-714(17))

Scouting Wire Powerpoints/slides <https://scoutingwire.org/marketing-and-membership-hub/unit-recruiting>

Philmont Cub Scout Roundtable Supplements September 2019.pdf – songs

US Scouting Service Project: MacScouter.org Songs for Scouts and Scouters

THESIS OUTLINE – By Lonnie Pohlman

TOPIC: Improvement and Maintenance of Roundtable

1. Opening and History
2. Roundtable Length
3. Roundtable Musts
4. Big Rock and Breakout
5. Communication
6. Homework
7. Awards and extras – refreshments, surprises, bells and whistles
8. Roundtable Calendar Planning
9. Announcements
10. Summation
11. Resources
12. References