

THE NEWSPAPER GAME

Materials Needed

- Generous supply of newspaper.
- Several rolls of masking tape.

Directions

1. Divide the group of new Cub Scouts and adults into den-sized groups. It is OK to combine grade levels to get a group of 6-8 boys but try to keep grade level boys together. Current leaders are needed to observe this activity and should not participate.
2. Explain to the group that this game requires the participation of every person in the group, both boys and adults. The first thing the group should do is to select a new Cub Scout as a model (or two). Then the group should decide on a costume that they could make from their stack of newspaper. *Hint: throw out suggestions such as pirate, astronaut, Indian, football player, Superman, etc.* Further explain that the group needs to select a spokesperson from the group who will describe the costume to an independent panel of judges. *Hint: the judges should be some current leaders, commissioners, or district personnel.* Let the group know that sometimes, the explanation may sway the judges as much as the costumes. Finally, let the group know that they will have **5 minutes** to complete the costume and the winner will be recognized. If there are no questions, then yell GO!
3. While the groups are making their costumes, current leaders and judges should mingle amongst the groups and pay close attention to the activities (as observers).
4. After about 4 minutes, announce that there are 3 minutes left (this is Cub Scout time). Then announce 2 minutes left after a couple of more minutes. Then 1-2 minutes later, let the groups know that they need to put on finishing touches and prepare for judging their costume. Only the model(s) and the one adult spokesperson should be standing. Starting with the first graders and on up, let the spokesperson explain their costumes to the judges. Enthusiastically applaud each group after their presentation. After all the groups have finished, let the judges discuss amongst themselves for a few minutes, only to come to the decision that all of the costumes were so good that they cannot decide on a single winner, so **EVERYONE WINS!** *Hint: in Cub Scouts, everyone is a winner.* Have the current leaders lead in a big round of applause or other cheer for everyone. Let the Cub Scout disassemble his costume. *Hint: the boy model should be allowed to wear the costume home before anyone tears it off of them, to avoid getting feelings hurt.* Then make sure each group clean up their area.
5. Current leaders and judges (as observers) will be looking for behavior consistent with what you are looking for in a prospective leader. Observe such traits as delegation skills, smiling faces, getting others involved, creativity – which are qualities of a good den leader. Observe other traits such as a really unique story behind the costume – good assistant Cubmaster. Other traits such as motivating others, having a positive attitude, having a fun time – good Cubmaster. Also watch out for adults who distance themselves from the action or assume a negative posture – either avoid them or candidates for committee members. Find out the names of the prospects and plant a seed saying “you look like you were really having a great time with the boys during the game... that’s what Cub Scouting is all about!”
6. At the Parents Orientation meeting the following week, actively recruit the prospective adults into your pack leadership.