

Boy Scout Breakout: **Great Campfires**

Significance: An ideal opportunity to reinforce the values of scouting: particularly cheerfulness, friendliness and reverence.

Benefits of a campfire: Inspiration, showmanship/ public speaking experience*, and of course, fun.

*Master of Ceremonies (MC) can fulfill a Communications MB requirement.

Preparation: Impromptu or highly orchestrated? Traditional or innovative? Yes & Yes!

SPL should call a PLC meeting well in advance to plan the campfire. Encourage participation from all scouts and patrols in the troop. Allow time in your schedule to prepare.

Components of a Campfire:

- Showmanship/ Skits
- Stunts/ Cheers
- Songs
- Stories

Organization of the Campfire: Create and arc of activity – build up energy and then bring it down

- Opening & Fire Lighting
- Flash light Cheer
- Active Songs/ Fun Skits
- A cheer after each component
- Transition to more solemn parts:
 - Stories
 - Slower/ more serious songs
 - Thorns, Roses, Buds (led by SPL)
 - Special Honors & Recognition
 - Flag retirement
 - SM Minute
- Closing Song/ Dismissal
- Extinguish Fire

Ground Rules:

- All content must meet Scout Law Test: *friendly, courteous, and kind*. No one should be demeaned or made fun of.
- Topics to avoid: Religion, Politics, Underwear, Inside Jokes, Toilet Paper, Alcohol, Drugs, Tobacco, Cross-gender impersonation.
- Campfire should be boy-led. MC & SPL should be prepared to address improper behavior/ heckling or boo-ing. Remember the power of the Scout Sign.

The scouts will amaze you with their humor and creativity if you let them. Have fun!