

Kickingbird District January 2008 Cub Scout Roundtable

February Theme: Chinese New Year
Webelos Activity Badges: Scholar & Engineer

Gung Hay Fat Choy!! Happy Chinese New Year, In February we welcome the year 4706, the year of the rat, and learn about the cultures and traditions of China. The Chinese New Year is a centuries old tradition. Brightly colored decorations fill homes and businesses. The Chinese New Year is a time of spreading good will to family and friends.

CORE VALUES

Cub Scout Roundtable Leaders' Guide

Some of the purposes of Cub Scouting developed through this month's theme are:

- ✓ **Respectful Relationships**, Cub Scouts will learn to respect the traditions and values of another culture.
- ✓ **Family Understanding**, Cub Scouts will learn the importance of tradition in family activities
- ✓ **Fun and Adventure**, Cub Scouts will enjoy exploring the games and handicrafts of another land.

The core value highlighted this month is:

- ✓ **Cooperation**, Cub Scouts will learn how families work together in preparation for holiday traditions.

Can you think of others??? **Hint** – look in your **Cub Scout Program Helps**. It lists different ones!! All the items on both lists are applicable!! You could probably list all twelve if you thought about it!!

COMMISSIONER'S CORNER

I was a little apprehensive this month as I assume some of you are but after a little research and reading Baloo's Bugle I realize how wonderful this theme can be. .

Blue and Gold Decorations – Lantern's and DRAGONS, of course. You can start your B&G with a parade of dragons!!!!.

**Here is a Chinese quote that expresses why we all love working with Cub Scouts -
"If you want happiness for a lifetime - help the next generation." – Chinese Proverb**

In 2008 we enter the Year of the Rat -



TRAINING TIP

What is Philmont?

Bill Smith, the Roundtable Guy

The current issue of Scouting Magazine has a big article on Philmont Training Center, too. Don't miss it!

Philmont Scout Ranch is the Boy Scouts of America's premier high-adventure base. It covers more than 200 square miles of rugged New Mexico wilderness from the Great Plains up into the beautiful Sangre de Cristo Mountains.

Philmont is High Adventure – Much of Philmont is used for backpacking treks, horseback cavalcades and other high adventure challenges for Scouts and Venturers.

Philmont is History – Philmont straddles the mountain branch of the Santa Fe Trail. See the world's only known **T - Rex** track and view centuries old Anasazi rock art. There are archeological sites and museums on site. The nearby town of Cimarron boasts several historical buildings from the old “wild” west.

Philmont is a Working Ranch – Horses, cattle and bison are all raised at Philmont. There are real cowboys, wranglers and ranch hands working there.

Philmont is Training - Adults have opportunities of their own at the Philmont Training Center. World-class courses and seminars cover all aspects of Scouting—all amid Philmont's dramatic scenery. If you want the best of Scout leadership training, Philmont is for you and your family!

Philmont Training Center (36°27'30"N, 104°57'W)



Of particular interest to **Cub Scout leaders**, the National Volunteer Training Center of the Boy Scouts of America provides a unique environment for Scouting Conferences each summer and fall. In addition to hosting these Conferences, the Training Center also provides the opportunity for families to join their Scouters and enjoy a wide range of Family Programs-making the Philmont Training Center experience one of a kind.

Attendance: Attendance is limited to Scouters who have been recommended and approved by their local council. Most Cub Scouters who attend training conferences get invitations just by asking their DE. Scouters are encouraged to bring immediate family members with them.

Conferences: Over 96 separate weeklong conferences are scheduled. Conferences will cover almost every aspect of Scouting-from Cub Scouting and Boy Scouting to Council and District Operations, from Venturing and Professional Development to Scoutreach and Finance.

The Conferences are conducted by divisions and committees of the National Council and are led by a faculty of outstanding volunteer and professional Scouters. Each Conference is designed to discuss specific Scouting issues, share information from all over the B.S.A., and train using the "best methods" that will enhance the Scouting program for youth and adults.

Why Should You Go? Because Philmont training has consistently been the most popular and most effective training for Cub Scouting in the last half century. The best improvements in packs, districts and council Cub Scouting I have seen has come from PTC trained people. Philmont Training is family oriented, program directed and fun. What more could you ask for?

For a full schedule of 2008 Conferences, go to: <http://www.scouting.org/philmont/>

While Conference time is important, ample opportunity for a Scouter to enjoy the majesty of Philmont with his or her family is part of the schedule of most Conferences. There is also plenty of time to meet and socialize with other Scouters from all parts of the country. Making life-long friendships is a regular occurrence at Philmont.

Family Program: One of the great joys of attending a Philmont Conference is that your whole family can share in the experience. You can think of it as a Scouting Family vacation. The schedule is relaxed and the pace is comfortable.

The Philmont Training Center offers a full, organized program for every member of the family-from infants to spouses. Family members are joined by others in their age group and participate in carefully designed, age-appropriate programs under the leadership of trained and experienced Philmont staff.

Family Program Groups

Nursery (2 months to 2 year olds) - A fully equipped nursery is available for the youngest family members.

Small Fry (3-5 year olds) - The Small Fry Center is located next to the Handicraft Lodge. Philmont staff provides activities, games, pony rides, and supervised play during each program session.

Cowgirls, Cowpokes (6-7 year olds) - These individual groups participate in nature hikes, pony rides, games, songs and skits, crafts, museum tours, and an all day hike.

Ropers, Deputies (8-9 year olds) - Ropers and Deputies individual programs include hiking, Villa and Museum tours, archery and air rifles, pony rides, games, crafts and an all day hike.

Sidewinders (10 year old boys) - Sidewinders enjoy hiking, sports, crafts, archery and air rifles, Villa and Museum tours, and a Sidewinder/Parent overnigher.

Mustangs (11-13 year old girls) - Mustangs have fun enjoying horse rides, archery and air rifles, hiking, handicraft projects, nature activities, outdoor cooking, games, Villa and Museum tours, and an overnight camping trip in Philmont's backcountry.

Trailblazers (11-13 year old boys) - This group participates in day hikes, nature activities and games, horse rides, archery and air rifles, handicrafts, and an overnight camping trip in Philmont's backcountry.

Broncos (14-21 year olds) - The Broncos program is designed to accommodate those teenagers who choose not to participate in the mountain trek program. Broncos will stay at PTC with their families, but enjoy a week of activities built around participation in Philmont's C.O.P.E. course, day hikes, and horse rides.

Mountain Trek (14-20 year olds) - Mountain Men and Mountain Women treks are backpacking expeditions that provide the opportunity to experience the rugged challenges of Philmont's mountains. Mountain Trek crews travel approximately 20-30 miles in Philmont's backcountry.

Silverados (spouses and other adults not attending Conference) - Silverados find that a wide-range of exciting activities are available throughout the week. Activities include museum visits, day hikes, a pottery-making demonstration, Villa tours, COPE, horse rides, and trips to nearby resort towns.

Facilities: Tent cities accommodate Training Center participants and their families. Tents are large, two person wall tents with wooden or concrete floors, electric lights, an electrical outlet, wardrobe, and two twin sized beds with mattresses. Each tent city has restrooms and hot showers. Cots and cribs are available for use during the week. Meals are served in the cafeterias at the Center. Family member who are in camp eat together. Camp meals are provided for those on the trail or in the back country.

Conferences are conducted in fully equipped conference rooms or at various locations in Philmont's backcountry. Family Program facilities include the Small Fry Center, the Handicraft building, and our Pony Ring. However, most of the time family members will be enjoying the best facility of all-Philmont's 137,493 acres of "Scouting Paradise."

Fees

Conference participants	\$420	Spouses and children over 20	\$300
Children ages 6-20	\$240	Children ages 3-5	\$150
Children 2 and under	\$55	Mountain Trek	\$320
NAYLE participant	\$320		

PACK ADMIN HELPS

Character Connections, part 1

(Part 2 - next month)

Carol E. Little, CS RT Commissioner
American Elm District, Black Swamp Council



The **Character Connection** information in this article and on www.Cubroundtable.com, my website come from excerpts from friends interested in helping other Scouters get needed information about the new program. Jamie Dunn, Three Rivers District –Cub Training Chair; Blaine in Coon Rapids, MN; Sean Scott, Council Vice President, Public Relations, California Inland Empire Council and Sean’s Philmont Report with one of the authors of the new Character Connections, Dr. Matt Davidson. Thanks, for the help.

Character Connections involves 12 core character values, but the program does not assume there are only 12 values, if we can succeed in creating a strong character foundation with our scouts they will learn other values later. Also, although each achievement emphasizes one particular **CC** it doesn't mean that it is the only character value that can be focused on in that activity.

When the first **Character Connections** achievements came out in the new Tiger books, leaders were not used to teaching character building. The old BSA **Ethics in Action** program which attempted to make character an optional element of the program did not succeed. **Character Connections**, by being integrated into the books, achievements, materials, and so forth, we are building on a child's developmental ability.

CC also involves three dimensions that aren't separate or even separable-- to know, commit and practice. The boy needs to know the **CC** (head), commit to it (heart) and practice it in his daily life (hand). Character is both caught and taught. We see someone exhibiting character and follow their example in our community. We can also teach character by telling, discussion, experience and modeling. This is where the discussion points in the books come into play.

The end goal of **CC** is to establish a moral identity for our youth. Until a boy takes on Scouting's values as his or her own, it isn't a violation of a child's personal morals to break those values. Values are situational, too. In the context of a Scout meeting, a boy may quite comfortable reciting the pledge or discussing the importance of not littering. However, under pressure from his peers in a non-Scouting setting, the boy needs to have a sense of greater conviction to those same values to stand behind them as strongly when they may not be as popular for him or her to follow them.

CC can be integrated into achievements in the following manner:

1. Say you're working on a conservation project or hike. You're out in nature, and you come across a pile of rubbish left by some campers or hikers. One of your boys makes a comment about how rude or careless littering is. Ask the boys why they think it's rude to litter. This is the **KNOW** component. They've seen an example of littering, and now they realize that it's not nice to toss your trash in the woods. Ask them how they felt when they came across the pile of trash. Did it distract them from everything else that was around them? Did it make them forget that they were looking for animal tracks, or a certain type of plant?
2. This is the **Commit** phase, where these boys realize that they don't want to be thought of in the same way as they're thinking of whoever left the trash. Now that you've guided them to discover how they feel, they establish a personal set of values about littering. The important part here is that it is easy to break a rule we don't believe in or hold as a personal value. People speed because they don't think it's too wrong--they consider themselves good drivers and capable of handling a vehicle at a higher speed than the posted limit, or because the importance of being someplace sooner outweighs the importance of breaking the law. Speeding just doesn't violate most people's core values or beliefs. Most people, though, do have a value system that prevents them from shoplifting. Doing so would violate their personal values.
3. Cultivation of a sense of community and the impact that values have on the boy's place in that community. we've helped the boys establish *for themselves* that littering is wrong, guided them to understand how they feel about the person that left the trash, and realize that they don't want to be thought of in the same way. Now we apply the last

part of the program, **Practice**, where the values are broken into actual skills. Here it may help to script the steps toward the end goal so that difficult concepts can be better understood. Help them make the decision to pick up the trash, and to not litter themselves. It's not until they have an opportunity to actually do/avoid something that the three parts come together and a character connection is made.

4. Cool down, where discussion of what went well, what could have gone better, and what might come next can be discussed.

How to do a Character Connection activity:

1. Reserve judgment—let them give their ideas
2. Open ended questions—require scouts to think and give personal ideas.
3. Feeling questions—what did they feel about the experience—that makes it personal to the scouts.
4. Judgment questions— about their feelings
5. Ask guiding questions and stay on track.
6. Closing thoughts—Bring discussion to an end.

This isn't a classroom type of program. Rather, it's a method by which we as leaders can have an informal discussion with our youth and allow them to discover how they feel about something. As in all Scouting activities, Make it simple, make it FUN! Examples found in the 2005 **Character Connections Packet** are collected from 2002 to present so that future Leaders will have the resources we had from the beginning.

To learn more check out Character Connections

[Character Connections Chart #13-323A](#) Chart explaining Character Connections

[Character Connections Data](#) Some history behind the program.

[Character Connections](#) Overview of all ranks on a chart.

[C Connections](#) Outdoor Grid Ideas for outdoor activities.

Knot of the Month

Cubmaster Training Award



Has your Cubmaster earned this?? Can you surprise him or her at the Blue and Gold with it?? CD

The Cubmaster Training Award can be earned by any registered Cubmaster.

A brief summary of requirements include:

Tenure

- ✓ Serve 2 years as Cubmaster, or 1 year as Assistant CM and 1 year as Cubmaster;

Training

Complete

- ✓ "The New Cub master" Fast Start Training
- ✓ New Leader Essentials
- ✓ Position Specific for Cubmaster and
- ✓ Youth Protection training
- ✓ attend during each year of tenure attend
 - 4 roundtables, or
 - 1 Pow Wow or University of Scouting.

Performance

- ✓ Plan and conduct pack meetings during each year registered as Cubmaster.
- ✓ While Cubmaster the Pack earns
 - The National Quality Unit Award at least twice (*I assume the National Centennial Quality Awards replace this requirement CD*)
 - The National Summertime Award at least once

For the complete requirements and a progress record, go to: <http://www.scouting.org/forms/34169/53.pdf>

BLUE AND GOLD IDEAS

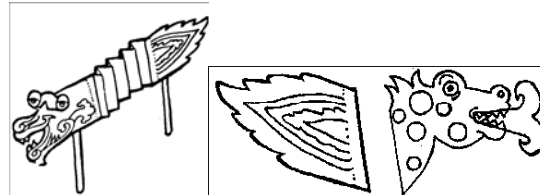
Chinese Decorations Ideas for Your Blue and Gold

Brenda, Last Frontier Council

Posters and Banners - One of the prominent Chinese New Year decorations is called “chun lian.” A chun lian is a temporary decoration placed outside the home at the entrance used only during Chinese New Year. Vertical strips of red paper contain Chinese characters expressing happy, uplifting messages about the coming new year. The characters are typically hand painted using a calligraphic style. These strips of paper are then posted on the front door with the first chun lian hanging vertically on the right side of the door, a second on the left and an optional third posted horizontally across the top.

Another typical decoration involves the Chinese word “fu” which means “luck.” When people celebrate Chinese New Year, they often create posters with this word written upside down. This is the only time that Chinese words are purposely posted upside down. Chinese people often decorate their homes with beautiful paintings at the beginning of the year. These paintings usually depict spring rituals and legends. In addition, Chinese

Dragons



The Chinese dragon is a symbol of royalty and a symbol of strength and goodness. A dragon parade is held every Chinese New Year. ***You can stage a dragon dance to open your Blue and Gold.***

First, have each boy make a dragon’s face from paper plates, then tape each plate to a craft stick or straw. Play some lively music and have the boys lead a dragon dance around the room.

They should hold their dragons high as they wish one another happiness and good luck. The body of the dragon shown is made of green construction paper and the head/tail patterns should be enlarged.

Lanterns

Chinese New Year celebrations traditionally end with the Festival of Lanterns. ***This would make a great closing for your Blue and Gold.*** Help the boys celebrate their Chinese New Year, which signals the end of winter and the coming of spring, by making paper lanterns.

For each lantern, fold 9” x 12” construction paper in half lengthwise. Cut slits from the fold to about one inch from the edge. Unfold the sheet and tape or staple the two shorter edges of the paper together to form the lantern. Add a paper handle and hang from ceiling or use as table decorations.

A Different Kind of Calendar



One of the calendars used in China is a lunar calendar, which is divided into 12-year cycles, that follow the moon. Each year of the lunar calendar is named after an animal, so the year and date a person is born determines their animal sign. Some believe that their animal sign can determine the type of life they will live. The beginning of each lunar year changes because of the moon cycles, but it usually falls between January 21 and February 20 on our calendar. Have the boys create their own Chinese New Year calendar. Can they find out which animal sign they were born under?

A Luck Hanging



Paper was invented in China. Besides writing, another use for paper that is still popular today is “papercuts”. They are pictures or designs cut into paper and hung for good luck. Some believe that the rooster will protect the house from fires. A favorite color for papercuts is red, which stands for joy and life. Have the boys make their own luck hanging using the pattern below, enlarge to desired size.

Chinese Banners

Sam Houston Area Council

Have the Cub Scouts trace these characters and transfer them to red poster board. Use them to decorate for your Blue & Gold Banquet.

恭
賀
新
年

HAPPY
NEW
YEAR

Paper Dragon

Sam Houston Area Council

In China, the dragon is a symbol of good luck.

During the New Year's holiday, people have a dragon parade.



Here's a dragon that you can make for your own parade.

Materials

- ✓ Two different colors of construction paper
- ✓ Scissors
- ✓ Pencil
- ✓ Ruler
- ✓ Craft sticks, dowels, tongue depressors or even chopsticks (for holding the dragon)
- ✓ Tape
- ✓ Glue
- ✓ Poster board or cardstock for stiffening the dragon's head
- ✓ Crayons or markers
- ✓ Sequins for eyes
- ✓ Dragon head pattern
- ✓ Colored tissue paper (several colors) in $\frac{1}{2}$ " to $\frac{3}{4}$ " strips least 12 inches long

Instructions

Dragon Head

1. Enlarge the dragon head pattern to fill a piece of construction paper (or larger if you have bigger paper and a plotter)
2. Color the dragon head.
3. Glue it to the poster board or cardstock and let it dry.

Forming the dragon body. using the two long construction paper strips,

4. From the construction paper, cut several 1" wide strips from both of your colors of construction paper until you have enough to make (by taping strips together) two different colored 36" strips
5. Take the end of one long strip and lay it crosswise over the end of the other strip. (You can tape these beginning ends together).
6. Now take turns folding one strip over the other until your strips runs out. Tape the two ends of the strip together and then open the dragon body.
7. Glue the dragon body to the back of the dragon head.
8. Glue several tissue paper strips to form the tail of the dragon.

9. Attach a craft stick (or other stick) to the dragon's head and another craft stick to the dragon's tail - you will hold onto the dragon in these two places during the dragon parade.

Fortune Cookie Decoration

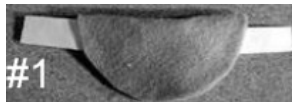
Brenda, Last Frontier Council

Materials:

Tan felt
Yogurt lid (or similar size)
Black marker
Scissors
Low-temp glue gun
Thin strip white paper
Black pen

Instructions:

- ✓ Write a good fortune on the piece of paper with the pen. An example could be: You will find peace and happiness. (Note: Only the ends of the paper will show)
 - ✓ Trace around lid on felt with black marker.
 - ✓ Cut out the circle you traced.
 - ✓ Fold felt in half and crease by pushing down with finger.
 - ✓ Open felt.
 - ✓ Put a line of glue around the edge of the circle. **Leave a gap near the crease where the paper will stick out.**
 - ✓ Quickly lay the white strip of paper across the felt circle to one side of the crease, be sure to let the paper stick out on both ends. (see #1)
 - ✓ Immediately fold the felt over and press with fingers until glue sets.
 - ✓ Push the felt in the middle of the folded area (see #2) to make the felt puff up.
 - ✓ Then add some glue in the middle where the felt will meet when pushed together.
- Push the ends toward each other and hold until glue sets.



Easy Paper Lantern

Brenda, Last Frontier Council

Materials:

1 Piece of 9" by 12" +/- Construction Paper (You can also use bond or cardstock. But stay close to the 9" by 12" (or 8 1/2 by 11") size)
Pencil
Ruler
Scissor

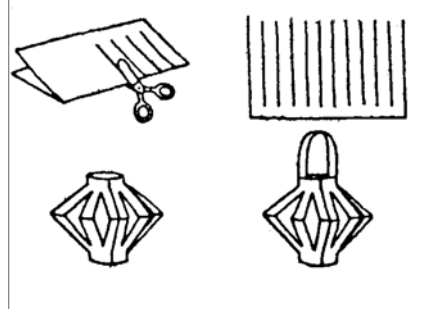


Instructions:

- ✓ Use the ruler and make a straight line about 3/4" away from one of the 6.5" long edges.
- ✓ Cut this strip off and set it aside to be the lantern handle.
- ✓ Fold the piece of paper in half, lengthwise. **Make sure you line up all the edges.**

NOTE: If your paper has a good and bad side, make sure the bad side (the side that will be the inside of your lantern) is facing out at this point.

- ✓ Draw a line along the open, long edge, of the paper, about 1" of an inch from the edge.
- ✓ Take your scissors and, starting at the folded edge, cut a strip from the folded edge up to the line you drew.
- ✓ Make the first strip about 3/4" away from a short edge and continue to cut several strips along the piece of paper like shown in the picture.



- ✓ Once all your strips are cut, you should unfold your piece of paper and refold it lengthwise so the pencil mark will be hidden on the inside.

Assembly

- ✓ Roll the paper into a tube shape as shown above
- ✓ Staple or tape the edges together
- ✓ Attach the handle by taping or stapling the ends of the strip of the paper you cut off the large sheet of paper, just inside the top of the lantern.
- ✓ Completed lanterns can be hung up or set on a table for decoration.

These lanterns are only for decorative purposes and should not be used near open flames such as candles.

Make a Chinese Gift Packet

Brenda, Last Frontier Council

Instead of presents as in the West, the Chinese give gifts of money at Chinese New Year, weddings and birthdays. The money is usually placed in a red packet/envelope decorated with an appropriate symbol, greeting or lucky sign. Red envelopes filled with money are called "hong bao." [Children](#) are the typical recipients though adults with no job also receive them. Red is a lucky color that represents good fortune, good luck, happiness, and abundance.

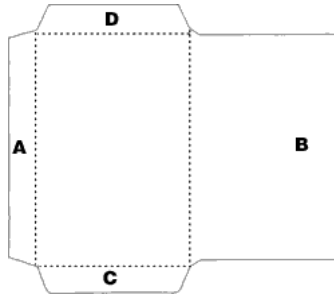


Materials:

sheet of red paper
Scissors,
Black or Gold marker (fine point Sharpie?)
paper glue.

Instructions:

- ✓ Copy and enlarge the pattern to desired size



- ✓ Print the pattern onto a sheet of red paper, (or white paper and color it red)
- ✓ Draw a Chinese character on the rectangle bounded by flaps A, B, C, and D. (To make your packet extra nice, use gold paint or a gold marker)
- ✓ Cut out the packet and fold along the dotted lines, fold away from the printed Chinese characters.
- ✓ Straighten the packet out, and turn it so you are looking at the side without the characters.
- ✓ Now fold over flap A and apply a little glue along its right edge.
- ✓ Fold over flap B and press it firmly onto the glued edge of flap A.
- ✓ Apply a little glue to flap C and press it firmly onto flap B.
- ✓ You now have your Chinese gift packet! Flap D is the flap of the envelope and a little glue can be applied to seal it- but don't forget to put your gift money inside first!

Chinese Garland

Brenda, Last Frontier Council

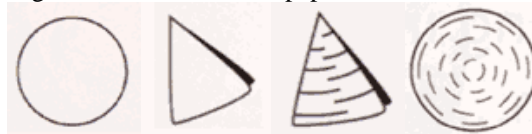
Each year the streets of China are decked with long, lacy garlands in honor of the New Year. Celebrate in your home with this version of the popular decorations.



Materials:

Colored paper
Scissors
Glue

- ✓ Cut at least a dozen or more large circles from colored paper.



- ✓ Fold each circle in half, then in half again, and finally in half a third time (it will resemble a wedge of pizza).
- ✓ Perforate each wedge by making a series of snips from both sides toward the center.
- ✓ Unfold the snipped circles.
- ✓ Apply a few drops of glue along the edge of one open circle.
- ✓ Place a second circle on top of the first, so that the edges stick together.
- ✓ Next, apply glue to the center of the second circle and place a third circle on top of it.
- ✓ Continue adding the remaining circles, alternately gluing the edges and the centers.
- ✓ When the glue is dry, gently pull the top and bottom circle in opposite directions and hang the garland

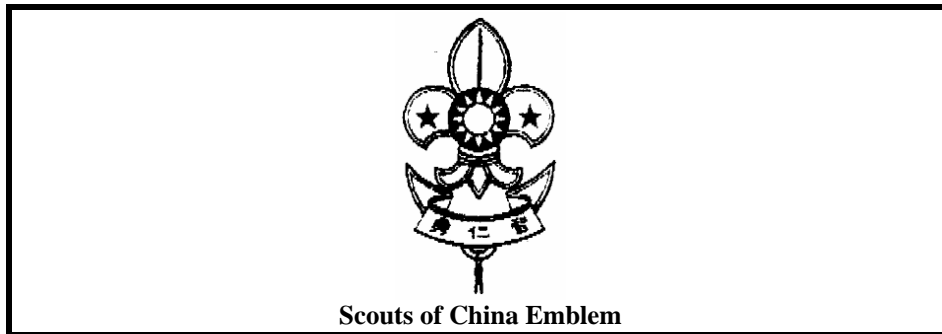
THEME RELATED STUFF

Brenda, Last Frontier Council

Chinese New Year starts with the New Moon on the first day of the new year and ends on the full moon 15 days later. The 15th day of the new year is called the Lantern Festival, which is celebrated at night with lantern displays and children carrying lanterns in a parade. In 2008, New Year's Day falls on Thursday, February 7.

Legend has it that in ancient times, [Buddha](#) asked all the animals to meet him on Chinese New Year. Twelve came, and Buddha named a year after each one. He announced that the people born in each animal's year would have some of that animal's personality. In 2008 it will be the year of the Rat, those born in rat years tend to be leaders, pioneers and conquerors. They are charming, passionate, charismatic, practical and hardworking.

Lai See is the custom of giving a gift of money in a special red envelope during the New Year's celebration. In the Chinese culture red is a lucky color. The combination of the red envelope and money represent a wish for good luck and good fortune in the coming year as red represents good luck and money wealth. While the amount of money in the envelope is usually small (a single, low denomination bill – never coins) it symbolizes a wish for good fortune. Many believe that good luck will come to both the giver and the recipient of the Lai See.



Alice, Golden Empire Council

Chinese New Year is celebrated each year in January or February – the date is based on The Chinese calendar, a combination solar/lunar calendar, and some complex astronomical calculations, including the longitude of the sun. Chinese New Year falls on the second new moon after the winter solstice (all months begin with a new moon). Parades are held all over the world to celebrate the beginning of the Chinese New Year. The celebration lasts for 15 days and ends with a Lantern Festival, with children again parading with lanterns. There are a lot of customs or superstitions surrounding the New Year – check some of them out:

Superstitions about the New Year:

- Clean House - Before the New Year arrives, the Chinese consider it very important to give the house a thorough cleaning, sweeping away any bad luck that may have accumulated over the past year. They also don't clean for the first few days of the New Year – to avoid sweeping away their good luck!
- Decorate! - Doors and window panes are also often painted red, considered to be a lucky color. In addition, people like to hang paper cuts on doors and windows. (Paper cutting is an ancient Chinese art form dating back to the Han dynasty).
- An important tradition on New Year's Eve is for families to gather together and spend the evening preparing Chinese Dumplings. They hide a coin in one of the dumplings, to bring good luck in the coming year to the person who finds it.
- Pay Debts and wear new clothes – never wear white, as it is a color associated with dying. Red is the color of good luck and new beginnings.
- Chinese people believe that evil spirits dislike loud noises – that's why firecrackers are set off – houses are even decorated with plastic firecrackers!
- They also buy kumquats, since the name of the fruit is a play on the word for "Prosperity"
- The peach blossom is also considered to be lucky and the markets are decorated with the delicate blossoms wrapped in tissue paper that stops them getting damaged....
- The word for Tangerines and oranges sound like luck and wealth, so they are popular. Pomelos, the large ancestor of the grapefruit signifies abundance, as the Chinese word for pomelo sounds like the word for "to have."

- The word for fish, "Yu," sounds like the words both for wish and abundance. So on New Year's Eve fish is served at the end of the evening meal, symbolizing a wish for abundance in the coming year. For added symbolism, the fish is served whole, with head and tail attached, symbolizing a good beginning and ending for the coming year.
- And what about the sweet, steamed cakes that are so popular during the Chinese New Year season? Their sweetness symbolizes a rich, sweet life, while the layers symbolize rising abundance for the coming year. Finally, the round shape signifies family reunion.

The Legend of the Quarreling Animals

There is a twelve year cycle to the Chinese calendar, and an animal to represent each year. According to Chinese legend, the twelve animals quarreled one day as to who was to head the cycle of years. The gods were asked to decide and they held a contest: whoever was to reach the opposite bank of the river would be first, and the rest of the animals would receive their years according to their finish.

All the twelve animals gathered at the river bank and jumped in. Unknown to the ox, the rat had jumped upon his back. As the ox was about to jump ashore, the rat jumped off the ox's back, and won the race. The pig, who was very lazy, ended up last. That is why the rat is the first year of the animal cycle, the ox second, and the pig last. According to the cycle, 2008 will be The Year of the Rat.

According to the Chinese horoscope, people born in the Year of the Rat are noted for their charm and attraction for the opposite sex. They work hard to achieve their goals, acquire possessions, and are likely to be perfectionists. They are basically thrifty with money. Rat people are easily angered and love to gossip. Their ambitions are big, and they are usually very successful. They are most compatible with people born in the years of the Dragon, Monkey, and Ox.

Chinese Inventions

Scouter Jim, Great Salt Lake Council

- **Umbrella** - The umbrella were used as much a 4,000 years ago in ancient Assyria, China, Egypt, and Greece, originally to make shade from the sun. The Chinese were probably the first to waterproof the umbrella for use in the rain; they used wax and lacquer (a type of paint) to repel the rain.
- **Abacus** - The abacus was first seen in a sketch book written during the 1300s in China, although there isn't a record of who actually invented it. Masters of the abacus can often count as fast as another person using a computer.
- **Papermaking** - Chinese legend tells that the new invention of paper was presented to the Emperor in the year 105 AD by Cai Lun. Archeological evidence, however, shows that paper was in use two hundred years before then. Either way, the Chinese were significantly ahead of the rest of the world. The craft of papermaking relied upon an abundance of bamboo fiber to produce a fine quality paper.
Paper was made in Egypt out of papyrus plant. Since about the first century AD when the Chinese made paper out of the fibers from the mulberry plant, **folding paper** has been practiced. The Chinese developed some simple forms, some of which survive down to this day. When the secret of paper was carried to Japan in the sixth century AD by Buddhist monks, they quickly developed complex designs.
- **Printing** - The Chinese invention of moveable type, credited to Bi Sheng in the year 1045 AD, did not significantly impact Chinese society. Three hundred years later in Europe, Gutenberg's development of moveable type revolutionized the Western world. Why? The Chinese language uses 3000 to 5000 characters in an average newspaper. The English language, in comparison, uses 26 characters in an average newspaper. Clearly, manipulating 5000 characters on a printing press took much longer than moving 26. Still, the invention of moveable type furthered Chinese technology and its role in the advancement of human civilization.
- **Gunpowder** - Imagine their enemy's surprise when the Chinese first demonstrated their newest invention in the eighth century AD. Chinese scientists discovered that an explosive mixture could be produced by combining sulfur, charcoal, and saltpeter (potassium nitrate). The military applications were clear. New weapons were rapidly developed, including rockets and others that were launched from a bamboo tube. Once again, the raw materials at hand, like bamboo, contributed ideas for new technologies.
- **Compass** - By the third century AD, Chinese scientists had studied and learned much about magnetism in nature. For example, they knew that iron ore, called magnetite, tended to align itself in a North/South position. Scientists learned to "make magnets" by heating pieces of ore to red hot temperatures and then cooling the pieces in a North/South position. The magnet was then placed on a piece of reed and floated in a bowl of water

marked with directional bearings. These first navigational compasses were widely used on Chinese ships by the eleventh century AD.

- **Silk** - was first made by the Chinese about 4,000 years ago. Silk thread is made from the cocoon of the [silkworm moth \(*Bombyx mori*\)](http://www.mediamesage.com/Kayton/Silkworms/whole.htm), a small moth whose caterpillar eats the leaves of the mulberry tree. The cocoon is a single, continuous thread about 500 to 1200 yards long – it's made from a protein from two glands in the caterpillar's head. After the caterpillar spins his cocoon, it is dropped into boiling water and the thread is unwound. Silkworms are also fed to turtles, lizards, frogs, fish and birds. Some American teachers send away for silkworms so their class can see the whole process and actually unwind the silk thread. **(It takes about 6 weeks or more, but if you have scouts who really want to try it, go to <http://www.mediamesage.com/Kayton/Silkworms/whole.htm>. There is also a journal from a class that did the project, which is fun to read, at <http://www.geocities.com/Athens/Forum/6966/silkworms.html>)**

Chinese Trivia

Brenda, Last Frontier Council

Did you know...?

- ? Some of the first forms of currency in China were made of shell, satin, or Jade.
- ? There are 55 official minority nationalities, and 206 listed languages.
- ? China has approximately a 75% literacy rate.
- ? Only Imperial dragons embroidered on the robes of the Emperor or his personal attendants could display five claws.
- ? The Chinese women have won medals at the Olympics for their outstanding ability of weight lifting!
- ? In China, Tiger body parts are sought for use in traditional Chinese medicine and exotic recipes.
- ? In China, snake is a delicacy. Some dishes include roast boa and five-step snake, snakeskin with peppers, and snake lemon liqueur, which is "good for a person with a weak body". Some Chinese even check into sanitariums for extended snake-diet therapy.
- ? Even though there are French and Italian eateries popping up in southern China, Barbecued rat and dog are still favorites. Others include silkworms and black beetles.
- ? The ancient Chinese consider the peach a symbol of long life and immortality. These "Persian apples" actually had their beginning in China, but were developed in Persia and went from there to Europe and then to America with the colonists.
- ? Ladies in the high society in China once made black dye from dark eggplant skins and used it to stain their teeth to a black luster, a fashionable cosmetic use.
- ? Chinese is the oldest and the greatest of the world's literature.
- ? Acupuncture originated in China more than 5000 years ago.
- ? The Great Wall is the only man-made structure that can be seen from the Space Shuttle and is used by scientists to study earthquake

Confucius

Scouter Jim, Bountiful, Utah

Confucius was a scholar (551-479 BC) who searched for the fundamental principals of social order and harmony. He wandered from court to court attempting to convince rulers of the right way to govern.

CONFUCIUS QUOTES

- A superior man is modest in his speech, but exceeds in his actions.
- Ability will never catch up with the demand for it.
- An oppressive government is more to be feared than a tiger.
- And remember, no matter where you go, there you are.
- By three methods we may learn wisdom: First, by reflection, which is noblest; Second, by imitation, which is easiest; and third by experience, which is the bitterest.
- Do not impose on others what you yourself do not desire.
- Everything has its beauty but not everyone sees it.
- Faced with what is right, to leave it undone shows a lack of courage.
- He who learns but does not think, is lost! He who thinks but does not learn is in great danger.
- Heaven means to be one with God.
- Hold faithfulness and sincerity as first principles.

- I hear and I forget. I see and I remember. I do and I understand.
- I want you to be everything that's you, deep at the center of your being.
- I will not be concerned at other men's not knowing me; I will be concerned at my own want of ability.
- If you look into your own heart, and you find nothing wrong there, what is there to worry about? What is there to fear?
- If you shoot for the stars and hit the moon, it's OK. But you've got to shoot for something. A lot of people don't even shoot.
- If you think in terms of a year, plant a seed; if in terms of ten years, plant trees; if in terms of 100 years, teach the people.
- It does not matter how slowly you go, so long as you do not stop.
- Learning without thought is labor lost; thought without learning is perilous.
- Life is really simple, but we insist on making it complicated.
- Never give a sword to a man who can't dance.
- No matter how busy you may think you are, you must find time for reading, or surrender yourself to self-chosen ignorance.
- Old age, believe me, is a good and pleasant thing. It is true you are gently shouldered off the stage, but then you are given such a comfortable front stall as spectator.
- Only the wisest and stupidest of men never change.
- Our greatest glory is not in never falling, but in getting up every time we do.
- Real knowledge is to know the extent of one's ignorance.
- Respect yourself and others will respect you.
- Silence is a true friend who never betrays.
- Speak the truth, do not yield to anger; give, if thou art asked for little; by these three steps thou wilt go near the gods.
- Study the past, if you would define the future.
- Success depends upon previous preparation, and without such preparation there is sure to be failure.
- The cautious seldom err.
- The expectations of life depend upon diligence; the mechanic that would perfect his work must first sharpen his tools.
- The firm, the enduring, the simple, and the modest are near to virtue.
- The more man meditates upon good thoughts, the better will be his world and the world at large.
- The object of the superior man is truth.
- The strength of a nation derives from the integrity of the home.
- The superior man acts before he speaks, and afterwards speaks according to his action.
- The superior man is distressed by the limitations of his ability; he is not distressed by the fact that men do not recognize the ability that he has.
- The superior man is modest in his speech, but exceeds in his actions.
- The superior man makes the difficulty to be overcome his first interest; success only comes later.
- The superior man thinks always of virtue; the common man thinks of comfort.
- The will to win, the desire to succeed, the urge to reach your full potential... these are the keys that will unlock the door to personal excellence.
- There are three methods to gaining wisdom. The first is reflection, which is the highest. The second is limitation, which is the easiest. The third is experience, which is the bitterest.
- To be able under all circumstances to practice five things constitutes perfect virtue; these five things are gravity, generosity of soul, sincerity, earnestness and kindness.
- To be wronged is nothing unless you continue to remember it.
- To see the right and not to do it is cowardice.
- Virtue is not left to stand alone. He who practices it will have neighbors.
- We should feel sorrow, but not sink under its oppression.
- What you do not want done to yourself, do not do to others.

- When anger rises, think of the consequences.
- When it is obvious that the goals cannot be reached, don't adjust the goals, adjust the action steps.
- When we see persons of worth, we should think of equaling them; when we see persons of a contrary character, we should turn inwards and examine ourselves.
- When you are laboring for others let it be with the same zeal as if it were for yourself.
- Where-so-ever you go, go with all your heart.
- Wisdom, compassion, and courage are the three universally recognized moral qualities of men.
- Without feelings of respect, what is there to distinguish men from beasts?
- You cannot open a book without learning something.

Chinese Proverbs and Western equivalents

Scouter Jim, Bountiful, Utah

Chinese	Western
There are always ears on the other side of the wall.	Walls have ears .
Flowers look different in different eyes.	Beauty is in the eye of the beholder.
(As rare as) phoenix feather and unicorn horns.	Scarce as hen's teeth
Water spilled can never be retrieved.	Don't cry over spilled milk
Fish a needle in the sea.	Finding a needle in a haystack
Play a harp before a cow	Cast your pearls before swine
Seeing once is better than hearing a hundred times.	Seeing is believing
Lift a stone only to drop on your own feet.	Shoot yourself in the foot
A bottle half filled (with vinegar) tends to rock.	Still waters run deep
Love my house, love the crow on it.	Love me love my dog
Pluck flowers as they bloom; wait and you'll have only the twigs.	Strike while the iron is hot
Add oil to a flame.	Add fuel to the fire
Disasters never come alone.	Misery love company
An overcrowded chicken farm produce fewer eggs.	Too many cooks spoil the soup
Pick up a sesame seed only to lose a watermelon.	Strain at a gnat to swallow a fly
A sly rabbit will have three openings to its den.	Keep your options open
Flowing water never goes bad; door hubs never gather termites.	A rolling stone gathers no moss
Throw in a rock as someone is drowning in the well.	Kicking a man while he's down
Fallen leaves return to the root.	Apples don't fall far from the tree
It is easy to dodge a spear that comes in front of you but hard to avoid an arrow shot from behind.	Watch your back
Honing your hatchet will not delay your effort of wood cutting.	Take time to sharpen you saw
A person cannot be judged by his appearance in the same token as the sea cannot be measured with a bucket.	Don't judge a book by the cover
Good will be rewarded with good and evil with evil; it is only a matter of time.	You reap what you sow
No banquet in the world that never ends.	Nothing last forever
He who plays with fire may become its victim.	Play with fire and you'll get burned.
Mend the pen only after the sheep are all gone.	Close the gate after the cows are out.
Add frost to snow.	Adding insult to injury.
A deliberate inaction is better than a blind action.	Look before you leap.
Once bitten by a snake, one is scared all his life at the mere sight of a rope.	Once bitten, twice shy.
Fight poison with poison.	Fight fire with fire.
Pass off a fish eye for a pearl.	Pig in a poke

Be considerable to others and you will be treated likewise.

Do unto others as you would have others do unto you.

GATHERING ACTIVITIES

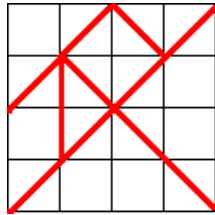
Make a Tangram

Alice, Golden Empire Council

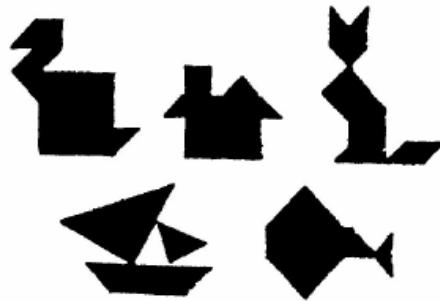
A Tangram is an ancient Chinese puzzle. This activity is sometimes called “seven pieces of cleverness,” named for the seven pieces that were used. The object of the puzzle is to rearrange the pieces of a square (the puzzle pieces) to form figures (like a picture of a cat) using the tangram pieces.

File folders, cardstock or thick paper work well to make tangrams.

Start by making a square, then cut into pieces as shown.



Now see if you can make the bird, cat, dancer, top – how about a rat, since 2008 is the Year of the Rat?



What else can you make using all seven pieces?

Origami

Alice, Golden Empire Council

Bring out a package of Origami paper and let everyone try their hand at it. The paper is usually easily available in packages – but you can make your own.

If you use wrapping paper or colored copy paper, cut out perfect squares – 6” or 8” is a good size to use.

Have the cubs and parents make an Origami Rat (actually a Mouse), in honor of the Year of the Rat.

Get directions for the mouse at www.ActivityVillage.co.uk.

Try other places listed under Web Sites for more ideas!!

Under Pack and Den Activities there is a link to a video on how to make a bird.

OPENING CEREMONIES

Welcome And Happy New Year

Sam Houston Area Council

- Cub # 1:** Welcome to America! - Where there are more than 3 million people that are from China or claim Chinese descent. We'd like to wish a Happy New Year to them.
- Cub # 2:** Chinese New Year's Day this year is on February 7th and the celebration lasts for 15 days.
- Cub # 3:** Wow! That's a long celebration!
- Cub # 4:** Let's all say, "Gung Hay Fat Choy" [Everyone says, "Gung Hay Fat Choy"]. "Gung Hay Fat Choy" means "Best wishes and congratulations. Have a prosperous and good year."
- Cub # 5:** Before our celebration of Chinese New Year this evening begins, please join me in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Brotherhood Opening

Utah National Parks Council



Preparation:

- ★ Have U.S. and pack flags posted.
- ★ Have a boy hold the Chinese flag or picture of the flag or map of China.
- ★ Write each boy's part of the poem in LARGE print on a card for him to read his part in turn.
- ★ When done with the poem, ask the audience to rise and say the Pledge of Allegiance.

- Cub # 1:** Last night I watched the sunset
When my day was almost done,
And thought about another boy
Whose day had just begun.
- Cub # 2:** I'll probably never know him,
Since we're half a world apart.
How different we must be
If my day ends as his day starts.
- Cub # 3:** On the far side of the sunshine,
On the other end of day,
Lives a boy who seems a stranger
In a hundred different ways.
- Cub # 4:** Still I think we might discover
If we look beneath the skin,
That instead of being strangers,
He and I are more like twins.
- Cub # 5:** His skin's another color,
And he walks another shore.
The flag that he salutes
Is not the flag that I adore.
- Cub # 6:** But listen to his heartbeat,
Oh, just listen to his dreams.
You'll know that deep inside
We aren't as different as we seem.
- Cub # 7:** I think I'll write a message.
I might send it on the wind.

So when he hears it blowing
He will know he has a friend.

Cub # 8: I think that I can touch him
If I reach out with my heart.
How different can we be
When we're just half a day apart?

Cub # 9: On the far side of the sunshine,
On the other end of day,
Lives a boy who exactly like me
In the most important ways.

Cub # 10: Yes, I know we will discover
When we look beneath the skin,
That instead of being strangers,
He and I are really twins!

ADVANCEMENT CEREMONIES

We are celebrating the Cub Scout Anniversary but also need to remember to recognize the achievements the boys have earned!!!

DO NOT FORGET to recognize all your leaders at the Blue and Gold

A Den Leader's *PayDay*

*Chris Reisel, the original editor of Baloo
March 1998*

*To make a great presentation to volunteer,
substitute either the candy bar or a picture of the candy bar where you see an asterisk (*).*

Sometimes we were *Butterfingers*

But always a *Joy*

Even though we heard *Snickers*

We think from other boys.

What we would like to do
is give you *\$100,000 Grand*

But we have *Zero* money
So that idea was canned.

We *M & M*ade you this card
With *Mounds* of love and rhyme
To thank you for giving up
so much of your time.

Then I end with a row of Hershey Hugs and Kisses and have the boys sign the card or plaque.

Chinese New Year Advancement

Brenda, Last Frontier Council

Tonight we gather to not only celebrate the birthday of Scouting, but also to recognize our Scouts for their excitement in the Scouting program. All of our boys have been working hard to present their parents and families with an exciting and well decorated party tonight. Lets thank all of them for their effort with a New Years Cheer = Gung Hay Fat Choy!! (that means Congratulations on coming into prosperity)

First let us present our Tiger rank. Will our Tigers please come forward? Our Tigers remind us of the Firecrackers we see during the Chinese New Year. Firecrackers are used to awaken the dragons during the New Year celebration and to chase off evil. Our Tigers are busy all year running and shouting and enjoying the Scouting program with their Tiger partner. Tigers, can we hear some Firecracker noises? Your advancement is enclosed in the symbolic firecracker!

Next lets call up our Wolf dens. The wolves remind us of the Chinese dragons in the way they dance and weave through the program. They were awakened by the Tiger “firecrackers” last year and continue this year to learning about the community, citizenship, health and more. They are in and out of all areas of the program and are very eager and showy in their manner. Wolves can we see the dragon dance! Your advancement is enclosed in the symbolic firecracker that awakens the dragon during the Chinese new year.

Bears, will you come to the front please. Our Bears have been busy this year doing what Bears do..... At this stage in the Scouting program they are becoming knowledgeable in family life as well as citizenship in the community. They become more independent and work on “other” activities that interest them. They are looking for more, much more in the Bear year. Our bears remind us of Chinese Kites; Soaring on the breezes, wanting to go higher, needing more in the program. Be sure to keep them challenged!! No one wants to be around a bored Bear! Your advancement is enclosed in the symbolic firecracker that still excites you, but with more “POW”. Can we see either some kite antics or some POW!!

Will our Webelos I please come forward. Our Webelos are beginning to transition into the Boy Scout program. They are a symbol of change as they explore the unknown.

We will let the Chinese lantern represent our Webelos I. They are becoming the older boys in the Pack and as such they become the guiding light of the unit. Webelos please show us your best guiding light impression! Your advancement is enclosed in the symbolic firecracker to remind you of how fun and important the Tiger year is, and to encourage you to lead and encourage the Tigers.

Please welcome our Webelos II to the front. This will be their last Blue and Gold as a member of the Pack. They are branching into a new program called Boy Scouts. They have been visiting Troops and camping with them. Most of these boys know what Troop they will be joining this month. What Chinese symbol do with give them?..... They are the fortune cookie. They have been created with the best ingredient, mixed with the Scouting program and values, shaped by their mentoring leaders, and baked in the great outdoors. Inside them is the fortune that will begin to reveal itself in the coming years. Webelos, your advancement is contained in the symbolic firecracker, always keep the firecracker excitement you had as a Tiger. Webelos, can we hear some POW!

Those Webelos who have received their Arrow of light please come forward. The arrow of light is the highest award in the Cub Scout program. These scouts have had their Arrow of Light Ceremony with all the bells and whistles. Please add this feather to your arrow as a symbol of encouragement as you go into the future and the Boy Scout program.

Chinese New Year Arrow of Light Ceremony:

Scouter Jim, Great Salt Lake Council

Props: Red Envelope (bag) with 4-6 surprise display items obtained about Cub(s) ahead of time, and 3 or more oranges depending on people asked to share service/activity stories.

Narrator, CC or CM: The Chinese New Year Parade was first celebrated in the 1860s by Chinese immigrants working in the mines during the California Gold Rush. They wanted to teach others about the Chinese New Year. The fortune cookie was invented at a Tea Garden bakery in Golden Gate Park in 1909.

So this month, in the year of 2008, we are celebrating the year of the “Arrow of Light.” All Cubs who are awarded in the year of the “Arrow of Light,” will exemplify these character traits: (meaning of the Arrow of Light-

highlighting the values as found in Ceremonies for Packs and Dens pg. 110.) In the year of the “Arrow of Light,” these requirements need to be met. (Explain the requirements.)

With every New Year, the Chinese children ask for their red envelopes. The red envelopes contain even amounts of money to signify life and luck. The year of the “Arrow of Light” red bag contains treasures revealing the fortune of that Cub. Display items.

Oranges were given for abundant joy. We have some oranges to give out tonight. Have the Webelos Den Leader and Parents share a service/activity about each Cub and give him an orange.

The Cub can then tell about his favorite activity/service to earn the Arrow of Light and quote either the Scout Oath or Law.

Cubmaster then presents the award. The Cub then gives the pin to his mom with the “Mother’s Salute,” after which, the Father can present the award with the Cub Scout or Scout handshake. The Cub leads everyone in his favorite cheer!

Advancement Ideas

Sam Houston Area Council

- ★ Make red envelopes (*lai see* – **pronounced “lie-see”**) for each boy receiving an award. Have the boys come up with their parent(s) and then they can open the envelopes and receive their awards. Don’t forget to emphasize the importance of the color red in the Chinese New Year and the significance of the envelopes that are given to children each year during the New Year celebration.
- ★ Attach awards for boys to different symbols used to celebrate the Chinese New Year. Some of these could be: red envelope, small dragon, lantern, firecracker (not real), a small broom, pictures of the different Chinese zodiac animals, a tangerine, etc. You can explain the symbolism (see section on symbolism above) of each object as each boy comes up to receive his award.

STUNTS AND APPLAUSES

APPLAUSES & CHEERS

Sam Houston Area Council

Firecracker Cheer

(Remember - firecrackers were invented in China)

Strike a match on the leg, light the firecracker, make noise like fuse “sssss”, then yell loudly “BANG!!”

Broom Cheer

Pretend to take a broom and sweep the floor saying “Clean Sweep” three times.

Can Do Applause: Shout “Gung Ho!” (Can Do in English) three times with enthusiasm.

Happy New Year Applause:- Shout "Gung Hay Fat Choy!" while jumping up and down.

Chinese New Year Applause: Divide room in thirds –

✓ First group makes sounds like firecrackers and fireworks: Pop, Pop, Pop, Pop, BOOM!

✓ Second group then looks up in the sky and says “Oooooooh!”

✓ Third group shouts, “Gung Hay Fat Choy!!”

Repeat three times, getting faster each time.

Origami Applause: Audience shouts “Fold it – Fold it Right – Fold it Tight!”

Year of the Rat Applause: Hooray for the Rat! Shouted three times, getting louder each time

Fish Applause - Suck in your cheeks, form an "O" with your mouth, move it as if you were a fish, make no sound!

Chinese Applause I - Put your hands together under your chin, bend from the waist and say, “AH SO, AH SO, AH SO.”

Chinese Applause II

Put your hands together under your chin, bend from the waist saying: "Kung Phooey, Kung Phooey, Kung Phooey!"

Chinese Applause III

Pretend you are eating with chopsticks, lay your sticks down, stand up and rub your stomach and say, "Velly good, velly good!"

RUN-ONS

Utah National Parks Council

Knock, knock.

Who's there?

Al.

Al who?

Al be back from China next week.

Knock, knock.

Who's there?

Pagoda.

Pagoda who?

Pa-go-da store and I haven't seen him since.

Knock, knock.

Who's there?

Dragon.

Dragon who?

These knock knock jokes sure do dragon.

SKITS

Chinese Zodiac Animals

Sam Houston Area Council

Each Cub Scout stands with a picture or drawing of one of the 12 Chinese zodiac animals with the most recent corresponding year number on the front and his part in **LARGE** print on the back. .

If you don't have 12 Cub Scouts, have them take turns, or invite members of the audience to hold one of the zodiac pictures.

Leader: We are here to celebrate Chinese New Year. Chinese years are based on a lunar calendar which means that the cycle of years is based on the cycles of the moon. The New Year starts with a new moon and is usually sometime in January or February.

Each year is given the name of one of the zodiac animals. Each animal has certain qualities. Some people believe that you will have the same qualities as the animal connected with the year you are born. Let me now introduce the twelve Chinese zodiac animals.

You decide if the animal for your year has qualities that you have, too.

Cub # 1: 1997 is the Year of the Oxen. Oxen are hardworking and patient.

Cub # 2: 1998 is the Year of the Tiger. Tigers have a forceful personality and are adventurous and confident.

Cub # 3: 1999 is the Year of the Rabbit. Rabbits are home lovers, peaceable and sociable.

Cub # 4: 2000 is the Year of the Dragon. Dragons have strong personalities, love their freedom and hate routine.

Cub # 5: 2001 is the Year of the Snake. Snakes are sensitive with a strong sense of responsibility.

Cub # 6: 2002 is the Year of the Horse. Horses are hardworking, admirable and ambitious.

Cub # 7: 2003 is the Year of the Ram. Rams are gentle, caring and achieve what they want by kindness.

Cub # 8: 2004 is the Year of the Monkey. Monkeys are charming, cheeky and clever.

Cub # 9: 2005 is the Year of the Rooster. Roosters are faithful to family and friends.

Cub # 10: 2006 is the Year of the Dog. Dogs: are loyal and caring with a fearless streak.

Cub # 11: 2007 is the Year of the Pig. Pigs are peace loving, trusting and strong.

Cub # 12: 2008 is the Year of the Rat. Rats are cheerful, charming and welcome everywhere.

CLOSING CEREMONIES

Lantern Closing

San Houston Area Council

- CM:** The Festival of Lanterns takes place on the last day of celebrations for the Chinese New Year. There are many legends about how this festival originated. The festivities begin on the 15th day of the New Year, when the first full moon of the New Year also occurs. The festival ushers in the increasing light and warmth of the sun after the winter's cold into the New Year.
- Cub # 1:** According to a Chinese tradition, at the start of a New Year, when there is a bright full moon in the sky, the presence of colorful lanterns hung out will make people cheerful.
- Cub # 2:** We can be cheerful.
- Cub # 3:** As people we can be like those lanterns and give off light.
- Cub # 4:** Like the Chinese lanterns, let us be warm and welcoming in our friendships...
- Cub # 5:** Let us cheerfully give light...
- Cub # 6:** The light of friendliness...
- Cub # 7:** The light of kindness...
- Cub # 8:** And the light of understanding.