

**Preliminary Version**

**Check on-line for updated information**

<http://northernlights.nbsa.org/Roundtable/hangfile.htm>

# **Scout Expo 2009**

## **“Let Your Scout Shine”**

### **Northern Lights District**

### **Brookdale Shopping Center**

### **February 21<sup>st</sup>**

## **Unit Exhibit Planning Guide**

### **Unit Guide for Selecting, Developing and Executing the Expo Exhibit**

One of the primary goals of the Scout Expo is to turn the selection, planning and presentation of the exhibits over to experienced scouts. We are confident that with guidance, the scouts of the Northern Lights district are capable of performing in outstanding ways. Our mission as scouters includes the charge to train our scouts to become tomorrow's leaders. Therefore, it is up to us to promote the concept of 'Boy Lead' events whenever possible. The Guide that follows is intended as a resource to help you accomplish this task with your experienced scouts. Obviously, we have a wide range of ages involved in Scouting, which is why we have many programs for youth. Tiger cubs will be less able to plan than cubs or webelos, while experienced scouts, venture crew members and explorer scouts will be quite capable to develop a great exhibit with minimal guidance.

#### **Share your ideas**

No doubt, many of you have ideas showing boys how to lead, and are experienced at 'stepping back' and letting your experienced scouts run with a program. If you have anything you would like to see in future guides along this line, please forward those ideas to Floyd Shreeve, Northern Lights Expo Chair, email [fshreeve@comcast.net](mailto:fshreeve@comcast.net) or cell phone 763-923-5324. Your suggestions would be most welcome!

#### **Who is an 'Experienced Scout'?**

For the sake of guidance only, an experienced scout is one who has attained the rank of Star. Even though the goal of scouting is that every boy becomes a First Class Scout, by becoming Star, a boy has had time to act as a First Class Scout and probably has held positions of leadership in the troop. He has already worked with other scouts in promoting his ideas in a respectful way, and has had a chance to both fail and succeed in leadership. He probably is in the Senior Patrol, has been exposed to Order of the Arrow, and is one of the scouts your younger scouts look up to. This is a guideline only, you know your scouts best.

For Venture Crews or Explorer Posts, the experienced scout might be someone who has been in your unit for over a year, and has a good grasp of your unit's goals and objectives.

For Cub Packs, your cubs will probably need a great deal of help and direction in planning their expo participation, but they should still be included in the process and planning.

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#### Let Your Scout Shine

Our theme for Scout Expo 2009 encompasses the traditions and skills of scouting, and the realization that scouting teaches things that are valued long after the scout has entered adulthood. We want our community to know that if they support scouting now, they will reap the benefits for many years into the future. We also believe that exhibiting a skill is the best way to teach our scouts to become expert in the skill, gaining confidence that will carry with them through their entire lives.

#### Your role

You will need to be present during the planning process to help keep the process moving and to step in if there is a problem. If you do need to step in, try to disengage quickly and let the meeting revert back to being boy run. You may wish to show this write-up to your event leader(s), who may or may not be your SPL or crew leader. Perhaps he will appoint someone from the Senior Patrol to handle this task. In any case, make your expectations clearly known to your youth leader, and make sure he is able to articulate the expectations to the group at the start of the meeting. Choose a selection style (noted below) with your boy leader, and turn the group loose!

#### Event Topics

Topics for Scout Expo 2009 are almost limitless and suggestions follow at the end of this document. The topics are not etched in stone. Since our Theme is Let Your Scout Shine any scouting related exhibit topic is available for presentation. You just need to clear your topic with the Expo staff prior to the Expo for coordination purposes. However, we wanted to give you a leg up in discussing this with your troop so we created the list of topics you see here. Each exhibit should be explainable in about 10 minutes, with greater depth available to be shared with interested attendees.

The exhibit should have a heavy component of active participation by the less experienced scouts and attendees who are traveling from exhibit to exhibit. Remember, in studies done by educational institutions, learning by listening ranks below learning by seeing, which ranks below learning by doing in effectiveness.

#### Methods of Presenting Exhibits for Choice

There are three basic ways to make a selection in a group setting. None of them are more valid than any other method, but each does have varying degrees of 'buy-in' for the group. The first is **dictatorial**. The leader looks over the options and makes his selection. It then becomes his task to create the needed buy-in so he doesn't have to shoulder the entire burden of planning and executing the exhibit. The second method is **democratic**. The leader forms a study group, they examine and discuss the options. Usually a champion for each of the worthy options is selected, and that person campaigns for that option. Finally a vote is taken, with all members agreeing to support the majority rule. The final method is **consensual**. The leader forms a study group, they examine and discuss the options. No specific champions are needed, as the discussion will ebb and flow until the obvious outcomes rise to the top, and less fruitful ones are discarded. Finally a choice is agreed to by all present. This method consumes the most time but usually guarantees the best buy-in of the participants.

Let's say that as a result of your process, your troop is going to offer an exhibit on Citizenship.

#### Event Development– First Meeting

Once the topic is selected, a general outline of the specifics should be created. Logical breaks in the outline should be assigned to various members of the group with clear expectations of what they should be developing. It is best if three to five major ideas can be conveyed in a short amount of time to the exhibit viewers.

Perhaps the outline that comes out of the discussion is

1) Voting is a sacred duty

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- 2) Being a good citizen has other attributes besides obvious political ones
- 3) A particular political leader's or historical figure's comments about citizenship
- 4) What event participants can do to further their own good citizenship

Discussion then follows on what the unit might need in way of supplies to present their topic. In this case, the unit may decide they need the American Flag at their station, a table, a picture of the political or historical leader they wish to highlight, a discussion board with important bullets, and a set of certificates which exhibit participants/viewers may use to commit to further their good citizenship. They figure that they will have to provide pencils or pens, and other inducements to get people to stop at their booth.

#### **Reporting back to the Expo Staff**

A general description of the event should now be submitted to the Expo Staff for publication on-line and in the Expo manual. The Expo Staff reviews the topic to make sure it works into the logistics and space available, and in some cases coordinates with other units who are doing similar exhibits to make the Expo more cohesive. They OK the choice and get back to the unit right away so the unit can start planning. The adult representative and the youth representative to the district expo staff make a commitment to attend the three coordination meetings scheduled.

#### **Budgeting**

It turns out that the planners believe that their budget for the event will be minimal, so they decide that they don't have to raise money. They create a budget which shows some minor copying expense for the commitment forms, a color copy of a painting of the historical leader, and some white foam core from the craft store for their displays. They also need to create a unit sign which shows their charter organization, their unit number and their location. Because they hope that new scouts will want to join their unit, they decide to create some Name-Phone-Email business cards with their unit chair's information to help potential scouts find out more about the unit. These things are itemized on a piece of notebook paper and given to the troop committee chair for his assistance.

The boy leader then allows group members to choose what they want to cover, and adjourns the meeting with a clear date when they will reconvene to finish the process.

#### **Event Development– Second Meeting**

Upon reconvening the group members show that they have been busy. Each reports on what they have discovered, and would like to present. The scout responsible for voting has found a sample ballot of a previous election which city hall happened to have on hand. He would like to make samples to hand out to attendees. He has talked to his father and mother about their experiences in making important voting decisions, and has decided that it would be good to have a role playing experience between the exhibit participants, with himself playing a father talking to his soon to be voting son. In practicing the role-play, the group jots down quite a few surprising comments and questions they think might be tossed out by event participants and try to come up with answers for each.

The member who was responsible for other areas of good citizenship was going to concentrate on conservation, but he realizes that another unit will likely cover this topic in detail, so he has selected an alternate, that of being an involved volunteer. He knows that his scoutmaster spends a significant amount of time working with the troop, and he wants to convey to the exhibit viewers that being a good citizen can also mean volunteering to make society better. He plans to conduct a Q&A with the participants about what they can do to be better volunteers.

The member who researched political figures selected Thomas Jefferson and in a strange twist of thought, Robert Baden-Powell, founder of the scouting movement. The group felt that it was an easier 'sell' to emphasize Thomas Jefferson and his quotes. They also decide to build a simple light

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board where viewers can match a citizenship quote to a noted figure, and if they are right the circuit lights a bulb!

The self-evaluation portion was presented as a form with specific questions requiring some thought, and not just yes-no answers. It was decided that the expo participants would keep the forms as a reminder of their decisions, along with a certificate filled out in their name when they commit to better citizenship.

#### **Logistics**

The unit has noted that they will need to maintain the buddy system at Scout Expo, so they assign an older scout to create a buddy board and tags or clothespins to represent each attendee. That way the scout buddy pair can be checked out on the Expo Floor, or checked in the booth. They decide to further jot down cell phone numbers of the scouts and adults who will be present, in case an emergency comes up. They create a roster of exhibitors and organize who will be responsible for bringing each item to Expo. Finally, they turn in their roster and \$3.00 check plus the \$20.00 unit fee for each attendee to the scout office.

#### **Rehearsal**

The group rehearses the exhibit, acting as viewers and exhibitors. They realize that all of them will have to be 'expert' in each portion of the exhibit, so they cross train each individual. The first run through takes over an hour! But subsequent practices get the time down to the required 10 minutes. Several run-throughs are required to make sure that enough presenters are cross-trained so that they have enough presenters that the exhibit doesn't become stale.