

4 S's

of Campfire Planning



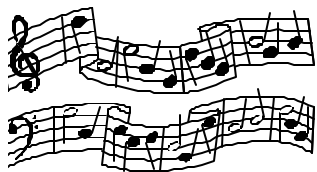
SHOWMANSHIP: Showmanship is the art of attractive presentation. It puts sparkle and life into a gathering. Without showmanship, a campfire can go flat.

Campfire Location: Location of the campfire is an important part of showmanship. Where possible, an outdoor campfire setting is ideal, but it can be held anywhere large enough to accommodate the group. Just make sure there is ample lighting so that the action up front can be seen.

Opening Ceremony: Get a program underway with plenty of pep. A dramatic way of lighting the fire is one way to do this. Use lively songs and cheers. The opening ceremony sets the tone of the program, so make sure it's good!

Closing Ceremony: The end of a campfire should be quiet and inspirational. Give the most important message of the night as the embers die down.

In between the opening and closing, use stunts and songs to add sparkle to the program.



SONGS: Different types of songs are appropriate for campfires. These include: Scout Songs, quiet songs, inspirational songs, and songs that require audience participation.

STUNTS: Campfire stunts and skits have one *major* purpose—fun! But don't forget that stunts can also train and inspire.

Sources: Use Boy Scout literature, campfire books, and most importantly the imaginations of Scouts as resources for ideas of skits/stunts.

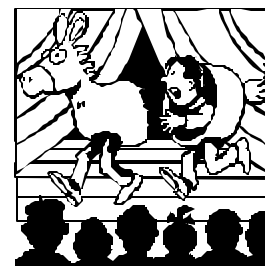
Appropriateness: Skits and stunts must always be appropriate. Avoid the following gray areas:

- Underwear
- Inside Jokes
- Water on the audience
- Toilet Paper
- Use of alcohol, drugs, or tobacco
- Cross dressing

Have skits/stunts practiced and approved by a scout leader before presenting them at the campfire. If something inappropriate makes it on the stage, the master of ceremonies should stop and dismiss the act tastefully, and use it as a time to teach the boys about appropriateness.

Campfire Discipline: Campfire Leaders must be rather strict about discipline at the campfire discipline. There shouldn't be booing or hissing or jeering.

Cheers: Use cheers as reward for campfire acts. These will build self-esteem and boost participation.



STORIES: Storytelling is an art, that can be learned with practice. There are five categories of campfire stories:

- *Ghost
- *Humorous
- *Adventure
- *Hero
- *General Interest

A campfire program should build toward a high point or climax. This should be an event that will make the evening a thing to remember.