

YOUTH RECOGNITION AWARDS

ARE YOU A ZIPLOC PACK?

Does this sound familiar? Boys from each den line up to receive a plastic baggie with their award, and a congratulatory handshake from their Cubmaster or Den Leader. The other boys fidget and chatter amongst themselves. Disinterested parents look on from the back of the room, checking their watches...

Ziploc bags may keep the freshness in, but they keep fun and excitement out! A young boy finds no fun in the "Baggie and Handshake" ceremony that seems far too prevalent in Cub Scouting. The sad fact is that it's not much more difficult to plan an entertaining and meaningful recognition ceremony that will add enjoyment back into your meetings for boys, parents and leaders alike! They don't need to be elaborate, and certainly shouldn't defer from the more significant ceremonies used for rank advancement, but should still be a fun and memorable event that recognizes the boy for his accomplishment.

These ceremonies and their supporting elements, like props and costumes, don't need to be sophisticated. Young boys have fantastic imaginations. Remember when you were a kid—a cardboard box could be a racecar, submarine or spacecraft, with only some minor decorations! A neckerchief over the face and a cardboard sign that says "Bank Robber" is enough to get your point across.

When planning a recognition ceremony, try to think like a nine-year-old boy! Anything that requires throwing, catching, hitting, running, jumping, breaking, popping, bouncing, stomping, rolling, crawling, climbing, swinging or dropping is bound to be a hit! Here are some ideas for adding pizzazz to your award presentations:

- Place awards inside inflated balloons and hand it to the boy. Let them pop the balloon with a plastic sword or by sitting on it. Turn it into a game!
- Shoot the awards in on balloons. Run some string from one side of the room to the other, and load it with some cut sections of straws. Fill the balloons, tape the award to it and the balloon to the straw, then let the air coming out propel the award/balloon rocket down the string.
- Tape awards to the underside of Frisbees and throw them out to your boys standing in the back of the room. Have them throw them back to you, and then let an assistant reload the Frisbees. You'll need 4-5 minimum. Or put them on paper airplanes for delivery.
- Use a small dead tree or branch in a pot with paper leaves or fruit on it. Attach the awards to the fruit or leaves and let the boys "prune" or pick them.
- Place the awards in a piñata and let them go at it with a stick, one or two hits each. While they're taking their swings you can announce who received what award.
- Hide the awards around the room and give each boy a treasure map to find them. Announce the awards while they look, or hide 'coins' that the boys can use to 'buy' their award from the Cubmaster/pirate king.
- Have them pan for gold nuggets and exchange them at the bank for their awards. You could make a speech about the value of the awards being greater than gold.
- Dish them out of a pot dressed as a chef. Or make cupcakes or a cake and stick them in the icing on top.
- Have someone dressed as a UPS, FedEx, US Postal or other delivery person "hand deliver" important packages to the boys during the meeting. Or have them dress as a military courier or paratrooper, with open parachute dragging behind them. (Make sure they take as lengthy a route through the room as possible in order to catch and twist the 'chute as much as possible. Ham it up!)
- Fire them from catapults. Make castle walls from refrigerator boxes and shoot from inside the castle (or outside, depending on where you want to be...)
- Give them out as carnival prizes, with each boy performing some simple, fun skill. (Don't make it so hard that your Tigers can't do whatever it is, and just get something handed to them.) It could be a balloon pop, basketball hoop, beanbag toss, or miniature golf course.
- Find someone who's good at magic or sleight of hand to conjure them from the boys ears, under their hats or neckerchiefs, etc.
- Put them inside Whiffle balls or balloons and hit them out to the boys with a big plastic bat. Let them "field" the award.
- Have a policeman visit your pack meeting and issue "citations" to the boys. Or invite a military officer to present the awards.

- Make sports medals from gold paper, staple the awards to them and attach ribbons. Present them "Olympic" style with the John Williams theme music.
- Fix the awards to one or two radio controlled cars and have an assistant drive them up to the boys. (Or, let the boys chase them down!)
- Offer top pack fund-raisers the opportunity to throw a water balloon or pie at a leader of choice.
- Make up "Cubademy Awards" from shiny gold paper. Present the awards from a variety of categories, such as "Best Performance by a Den 2 Webelos Scout at Webelos Woods" or "For Special Achievement by A Wolf Cub in Bowling".
- Customize the "Twas the Night Before Christmas" poem to include Scouts names. Hand out awards from Christmas stockings hanging on a cardboard mantle, or pull them from a Christmas tree where they hang as ornaments.
- Using a big net or fishing pole, go fishing for achievements. Or let the boys toss their fishing pole into a "tank" and attach their awards along with a plastic or rubber fish.
- Attach awards to a plastic bug and pull them out of an aquarium that has some dirt and plants in it, as if you were a scientist studying insects. Make a spider web and tape awards to it, or hang rubber spiders or bugs from the ceiling.
- Save old food containers and boxes that could hold awards. Put them into a large paper grocery sack. Use a shopping list as a prop.
- Can the awards! Use one of the new can openers that removes the whole lid. Prepare in advance by saving cans for each boy and washing out. If you save the original label on the can the boys will be even more surprised when the first can is opened. Fill a can with awards for each boy. Replace the lid with glue. Let each boy open his award can.
- "Cook" the awards wrapped in tin foil over a fake campfire. Pull them from the fire with tongs and place them on each Scout's plate.
- Attach awards to wanted posters. Display posters on the outside of a large jail. Round up the boy getting award and have him give up something or do something to get out. (Example: Recite Cub Scout Promise, give Cub Scout sign, give up shoe, sing a song...)
- Pull awards out of a ten-gallon hat, magician's hat, etc., to fit the monthly theme.
- Attach awards to small kites. Display them on a wall with fluffy clouds, bright sun and/or a rainbow. On kite write, "It takes high ideals to earn your . . ."
- Attach award to airplane tickets. On airplane ticket write, "You are just the ticket. Congratulations on earning your . . ."
- Put awards in balloons with a lightweight paper basket. Write the message, "You soar to great heights in scouting. Congratulations on earning your . . ."
- Prepare a sheet of paper with a "Secret Message" on it, by writing on it in milk or lemon juice (as shown in the Wolf Cub Scout book). When the paper is held over a light bulb, the message will appear. The message could be congratulatory, or direct the boy to a location where the award was previously hidden.
- Pull awards from a witch's cauldron. Dress like a witch or ghou. If you put dry ice in a smaller container within the cauldron and add a little water a few minutes before the awards are presented, it will be "brewing". Pack awards outside the container in the cauldron. (Always use caution when using dry ice. Handle with gloves; do not put in your mouth and KEEP AWAY FROM THE KIDS!)
- Attach awards to card stock cut in the shape of wood working tools (i.e., saw, hammer, tape measure, etc.) Captions on the awards could match the tool, such as "Way to measure up", "You really nailed this" or "You really hammered this out!"

CREATIVE AWARD CATEGORIES

Often, derbies focus on the fastest and the first. This potentially leaves a majority of boys without anything to show for their efforts. However, rewarding creativity and workmanship should be just as important if not more so than who came in first place, since it recognizes the effort put forth by a boy and reminds both Cubs and parents that there are many different paths to success in life. Not everyone has to run and compete in exactly the same race to be a success. Each child is unique, and should concentrate on the motto: "Do your best!"

Some ideas for award categories include:

Best Craftsmanship
Best Design
Best Effort
Best Paint Job
Best Use of Materials
Best Use of Hardware
Best Workmanship
Most Amazing
Most Artistic

Most Attractive
Most Beautiful
Most Clever
Most Colorful
Most Constructive
Most Creative
Most Decorative
Most Delightful

Most Elegant
Most Exquisite
Most Fantastic
Most Fascinating
Most Humorous
Most Ingenious
Most Inventive
Most Irresistible
Most Modern

Most Original
Most Out of this World
Most Realistic
Most Skillful
Most Unusual
Most Useful
"I did it myself!"
"Super"
"Great Job!"

POSITIVE STATEMENTS

Children need lots of positive encouragement to build self-esteem. When they come from someone important, like Akela, words of praise mean a lot to a Scout. Try using statements like:

I knew you could do it!
You are a good listener.
Good thinking!
WOW!
I think you're neat!
Fantastic!
Outstanding!
Now you've got the hang of it.
You're really sharp today!
I like the way you did that.

Thank you for helping.
I'm glad you thought of that!
You're on the right track now.
I'm proud of you!
I like you!
Way to go!
Sensational!!
I can tell you really worked on this.
I'm glad you're here today!
I'm glad you're in my den!

That was the best ever!
I thought of you during the week.
You must have been practicing.
That's right!
Super!
Great!
Nice job!
You figured that out fast.

JUNGLE BOOK NAMES

The following may be of interest to Scouters not familiar with the Jungle Book nomenclature. It is a table of accepted pronunciations obtained from *All the Mowgli Stories*; Doubleday, 1936 and from Dee LaRock. These names are used in the United States, the United Kingdom, Canada, Australia, and many other countries.

Characters in the Story

Akela	Ah-ky-la*h* (Father Wolf, leader of the Pack)	Kaa	Kar, with a sort of gasp in it. (the Python)
Bagheera	Ba*r*-gheer-a*h*; in history (the Panther)	Mowgli	Mow(as in "cow")-gly (the Boy)
Baloo	Baa-loo (the Bear)	Nag	Na*r*g
Bandarlog	Búnder-logue (the Monkey People)	Rikki-tikki-tavi	Rikky-tikky-tay-vy
Chil	CheelCheel	Shere Khan	Share-karn (Tiger)
Hathi	Huttee or H*r*-ty	Tabaqui	Tar-bár-kee (the Jackal)
		Tha	Creator of the jungle

Names Used in Cub Scout Packs

Akela	Cubmaster	Grey Brother	Leader
Baloo	Assistant Cubmaster	Red Fang	Leader
Bagheera	Assistant Cubmaster	Tawny Fur	Leader
Raksha	Assistant Cubmaster	WhiteClaw	Leader
Black Plume	Leader	Sahi (the Porcupine)	Pack Scribe (UK)
Brown Tip	Leader	White Hood	Pack Storekeeper (UK)

Names Awarded for Prowess in Cub Activities

Andeek (the Reindeer)	Team Games	Limmerskin (the Wren)	Message-carrying.
Apukwa (the Bulrush)	Weaving		Lair-building.
Blue Smoke	Signalling	Little Beaver	Good hearing.
Chil (The Kite)	Singing	Mysa (the Wild Buffalo)	First Aid.
Crimson Arrow	Throwing and catching	Nag (the Cobra)	Guide.
Dahinda (the Bull-frog)	Leapfrog, cartwheels, etc.	Nushka ("Look!")	Reciting.
Ferao (the Scarlet Woodpecker)	Woodwork.	Oonai (the Wolf)	High Jump.
Golden Quill	Artist.	Pukeena (the Grasshopper)	Fire-lighting.
Hawkeye	Observation.	Scarlet Feather	Diving.
Hiawatha	All-round athletics.	Sea Catch (the Seal)	Skipping.
Iagoo (the Story-teller)	Telling stories.	Shaw-shaw (the Swallow)	Book-carrying.
Jacala (the Crocodile)	Acting.	Singum (the Lion)	Good eyesight.
Kaa (the Python)	Tree-climbing.	Rann (the Eagle)	Musician.
Karela (the Bitter Vine)	Knotting.	Tilji-pho (the Lark)	Folk-dancing.
Keego (the Fish)	Swimming.	Toomai	Walkingthe Plank.
Keneu (the Great War Eagle)	Running.	Wabeeno (the Magician)	Modelling.
Kotick (the Seal)	Wrestling.	Wawbeck (the Rock)	Long Jump.
Kwasin (the Strong Man)	Boxing.	White Elk	Hopping.
		Won-tolla	

Names Awarded by Akela at his Discretion

Hathi (the Elephant)	Punctual and regular attendance.	Onaway ("Awake!")	Alertness.
	Fattest Cub.	Shada (the Pelican)	Perseverance.
Jeebi (the Ghost)	Helpfulness.	Rikki-tikki-tavi (the Mongoose)	Cheeriness, or Courage.
Kim (Little friend of all the world)	Noisiest Cub.		Friend to animals.
Ko (the Crow)	Obedience.	Mowgli	Good manners.
Mang (the Bat)	Tidiness and cleanliness.	Sona (the Himalayan Bear)	Smallest Cub.
Mor (the Peacock)		Suggeema (the Mosquito)	Tallest Cub.
		Tall Pine	