

WS Pre-conference notes for Jan-4-97 (Saturday)

- 1:20pm           Mtg brought to order  
                  Scout Oath  
                  Staff Intro's  
                  4 SM's, ASM's, SPL's, ASPL's, QM's, ...  
                  Staff intro'd CD
- 1:25pm           Reviewed new video (for recruitment)  
                  Participant goal : min. 120
- 1:35pm           Split y-staff into 4 grps for intro games  
                  Height alignment game
- 1:40pm           Reflection of games
- 1:45pm           Presentation by Carol Bick on WS course objectives.  
                  WS Course Objectives  
                  1. Conference & Knowledge  
                  2. Knowledge of 11 skills of leadership  
                  3. Share ideas & experiences  
                  4. Demonstrate Scouting at its best  
                  5. Improve Scout/SM interaction  
                  6. Have fun
- 1:50pm           SM for troop 973 w/ verbal presentation on "What is White Stag"
- 2:00pm           SM for troop 974 (T. Troxell) w/ presentation on "White Stag, A Safe Haven"
- 2:05pm           P. Lewis w/ presentation, took poll for uniform status (class A/B) during training weekends. "Civies" were selected for trng. weekends.
- 2:10pm           WS staff obligation letter
- 2:15pm           Break
- 2:30pm           Recruiting presentation  
                  Min. 120, will be equipped to comfortably serve 160.  
                  Note: Recruitment booth at Deer Creek
- 2:35pm           Staff manuals
- 2:40pm           Reviewed trng calendar  
                  Feb: Belzer / cabin / 14-16<sup>th</sup>  
                  Mar: Redwing / cabin / 21-23<sup>rd</sup>  
                  Apr: Ransburg / tents / 18-20<sup>th</sup> carpool  
                  May: Ransburg / tents / 9-11<sup>th</sup> carpool  
                  Pre-course: June 4-7<sup>th</sup> (wed-sat)  
                  Course: June 8-14<sup>th</sup>  
                  Post-course: June 25<sup>th</sup> Belzer
- 2:50pm           Dismissed  
                  Stored equip. (tables & chairs)
- 3:00pm           Senior staff mtg.
- 3:20pm           Dismissed

Reflection upon the weekend from the rookie ASM's point of view, for the benefit of future ASM's as well as input for the "Pre-conference Development Staff Guide":

- At this stage of the game, you will most likely not have an actual assignment other than that of being an ASM. So should you happen to already know your assigned SM, great! If not, communicate! As you must be prepared to fill in for them at any time during the course, check with them to see if there is anything that they need. Make a special note of any training dates that they may already be aware of where they may not be able to attend. The earlier that this information is shared with you, the easier it will be on you to be prepared. The reverse holds true also, in that if there are any training dates that you may not be able to attend, sharing this information with your SM and/or the CD will only help to make everyone's job easier!
- Now is the time to keep your eyes and ears open! Take notes as to what's happening. The day may come where you may be the SM, ACD, or even the CD. Your notes can serve as a valuable reminder as to the schedule of events that need to take place. A schedule only lists the order of events. As to what happens during the events, that comes from experience, and good documentation.
- Observe! Observe! Observe! Remember, the returning staff has already ~~survived~~ experienced at least one conference. This may be your only opportunity to sit back and watch. Give the experienced staff the opportunity to fulfill their role as the pre-course progresses. Have a question as to the reasons why certain events are taking place? Then consult your SM and/or your syllabus. As no time is wasted during the pre-course training, there is always a reason for everything. Many future events will build upon a previous event. Or to put it another way, you may be witnessing just one small step towards a much larger goal, or you may be seeing just a glimpse of the big picture, . . .
- Have a suggestion? Document it! (write it down!) Too many "good ideas" are lost simply by being forgotten.
- Finally, Set the example! By paying attention to the speakers and presenters, and possibly even taking notes, you can help to set the tone for the meeting. Regardless of whether the presenter is a youth or an adult, when you demonstrate that what the presenter has to say is important enough for you to be paying attention, the other staff (especially the new youth staff) may get the message that they need to be paying attention as well.

To be continued . . .