

WS Pre-conference notes for Mar-21-97 (Friday) (Camp Redwing)

Overview of Friday evening's schedule:

- First recorded mosquito kill of '97 !
- After opening and announcements, group divided into their "tentative" troops for presentation practice and review.
- The troop SM initiated the introductions of the staff. Following the intro's the SM briefly explained the presentation process (20 min. presentation with a 10 min. review).
- The tentative SPL lead the primary review, followed by the rest of the troop, concluding with the SM & ASM.
- We started the presentations with volunteers, then by selection.
- With the permission of the CSM, the balance of the presentation time was used to prepare presentations.

Overview of Saturday's schedule:

- After breakfast we reviewed the "Guide to Reflection" along with the purposes behind the reflection process (see pages 251-264 for details).
- Presentation practice and review was the main goal of the morning.
- Break from 11:00 - 11:15
- Troop practiced marching, formations, and songs until just before lunch.
- Immediately prior to lunch we selected "troop colors" and troop positions.
- After lunch the staff learned a new song, "Oh it was sad..." <<< *no not the song, THE TUNE !!!* The song goes to the tune of the Titanic. (can't explain, you'd just have to be there!)
- Anyways, after the "staff was deprived", the presentations continued.
- Break - Soccer game.
- Reflection Workshop II
- Campfire Planning
- Free Time
- Supper
- Stained Staves
- Campfire Program
 - Song #1 Chicago Fire
 - #2 Raccoon Rex (made notes of the lyrics, if anybody wants them!)
 - #3 The Ants Go Marching . . .
 - #4 Baby Bumble-bee
 - Skit "We're Jumping Off The Cliff"
 - Song #5 Cat Came Back
 - #6 Twinkle Twinkle Little Star
- CSM's Minute - Presentation of the troop numbers.
- Final march of the evening.

Overview of Sunday's schedule:

- After breakfast, various announcements.
- Scout's Own
- Reflection on the weekend.

Reflection on the weekend from an ASM's point of view:

Friday evening presents a few unique opportunities for the staff development process. First, keeping in mind that in the closing announcements from February's session, the staff is to have prepared their presentations prior to this evening. More than likely, you will have at least a few scouts that have arrived unprepared. This will actually work out in your favor. Here's why: First, begin your presentations with those that volunteer and have their presentations prepared. Then have those that are not prepared give it a try. Letting them attempt their presentations in this manner really emphasizes the lesson of being prepared. Because not only do they know that they are unprepared, but they get to prove it to the group. After a few (and this is important so as not to single any one individual out) have tried (and failed) to give an acceptable presentation, the troop SM will remind everyone that they were to have their presentations ready upon arrival. He will then "consult with the CSM" and upon returning, announce that our CSM has graciously ok'd the request to use the balance of their presentation time to prepare their presentations.

As far as the ASM goes, what you need to prepare for this evening would only be that of knowing what to look for in a good presentation for the review process, and to familiarize yourself with the "role-playing" of what to do if your presenters arrive unprepared. As this will be your responsibility should your SM not be present. Remember, if and/or when the "unprepared" scenario presents itself, build upon it in a positive manner. During the review process, always be on guard to "critique" without criticism, and to compliment a job well done. Even in a very poor presentation, you must find something positive to give credit on.

Watch for those that actually came prepared. Also watch for those that are only partially prepared, and see how they handle it. We were fortunate to have one presenter that had only prepared his note-cards, and developed his flip-chart as he went. But he did an excellent job! Now for the rest of the story: this is his first year as staff!

On to Saturday . . .

Now that we are ~~divided~~ grouped by troops, we will be eating by troops. So if you're still dining with the crowd at the "observation tables", more than likely you are going to be asked to go dine with your troop. PS: they won't bite. (and even if they do, *mom's* nearby)
Mealtime with your troop is when you get to learn about the person behind the name and face. Learning what makes everybody "tick" (or clash) will be a plus during the upcoming development sessions and especially the encampment.

Become very familiar with the Reflection Workshop II, as you will probably be in charge of the events (again).

During the presentation sessions, be thinking of who you would assign to what troop position. Weighing their strengths and weaknesses in presentation abilities, "crowd control" or "controlling the group", self-confidence, and the position that that may have requested.

Finally, on this weekend you will have the privilege to witness a truly remarkable chain of events. During the day as the staff begins to march together for the first time, sometimes they look good and sometimes . . . well let's just say that they're still learning (but best characterized by a centipede that is having trouble coordinating its front half with its back half). By evening when they march in for supper, the group is really shaping up. As they march around the dining hall you can see the look of determination in every face. Every step is measured. Every step is timed. Perfection is their goal. But also in the many faces there is the look of worry, the look of "please don't let me be the one to mess up!" So after supper they practice more, and more. Finally, after campfire, they have their grand march entrance. As they enter, the look of worry is gone. They now carry the look of confidence. Every step is perfect. The snap of every stave precise. Pride soars through the air. You would have about as much hope in stopping a steam locomotive heading downhill with its boiler running full tilt, as you would in stopping this group from uniting as one. They have just reached the next level, the next plateau.

To be continued . . .