

**CUB SCOUT FIELD DAY**

**An Annual Event To Promote Cub-To-Scout Transition**

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## INTRODUCTION

I began my years in adult Scouting as a Webelos Leader. Den activities included visits to Camporees and other Boy Scout events so that the Webelos Cub Scouts could see the opportunities that lay ahead in Scouting. When I became the Program Chairman for Smoky Mountain District, I instituted the Cub Scout Field Day as an event where all ages of Cub Scouts would interact with Boy Scouts. Four goals are achieved in this event:

1. Improve Cub Scout knowledge of Scout activities and program,
2. Help new Cub Dens to get started in the fall,
3. Help Cub Scouts pass some outdoor achievements, and
4. Give Boy Scouts the experience of training younger Scouts.

## THE CONCEPT

Boy Scout Troops host the Cub Scout Field Day and for them it is a weekend camporee. They check-in at Appletree Group Camp in the Nantahala National Forest on Friday and set up typical patrol and troop campsites. A junior leader, who has volunteered to be the Field Day Chief, holds a planning meeting Friday evening with the junior leaders from all the troops in camp. Appletree is an ideal site because of its good wooded camping facilities adjacent to a large grassed activity field and has parking space for a large number of daytime visitors.

Saturday morning is used to prepare the activity field for the day's events. Cub Scouts arrive about mid-morning and after an opening ceremony, participate in the more strenuous events. When the number of Cub Scouts was

small, lunch for all was cooked by the Boy Scouts. With larger numbers of Cubs, we now ask them to bring their own lunches and the Boy Scouts demonstrate cooking dutch oven desserts for the entire group. After lunch, the Scouts continue to lead the Cubs in contests and training until about 3:30 pm. The Cub Scouts leave after the closing ceremony and if someone has any energy left, the Boy Scouts might have a softball game. Webelos Cub Scouts are invited to stay for the evening campfire and a Cub-Dad overnight, often as guests of their prospective Scout Troop.

Sunday, after a chapel service, is cleanup day. Because Appletree Group Camp is a fee area, the Boy Scouts arrange to do a service project for the Forest Service to reduce the cost of the weekend. Cub Scout Field Day is held in the fall, shortly after Cub Packs have reformed. This event gives Den Leaders a goal to get new dens organized. The day's fellowship and competition develop den spirit. Being in the fall, the Scout service project often helps the Forest Service close the campground for the winter.

#### DETAILS OF FIELD DAY EVENTS

All events are run and scored by Boy Scouts. Their adult leaders stay in the background ready to help with crowd-control, scoring problems, safety suggestions, or if parents and Den Leaders attempt to unduly influence how the events are run. The Den Leader or a parent must stay with each Den as they move through the various events. Scores are recorded on a 3x5 card held by the Scout scoring each event. Equipment should include enough cards and pencils.

### Registration

Registration is handled by at least two adults at a point adjacent to the visitor parking area. Several Scouts, backed up by an adult, direct traffic and organize parking. A two-page information sheet with map (Fig. 1) is given to each Den Leader at a previous Pack meeting and large, prominent signs are placed along the highways at all critical turns; we have many new adults each year who do not need to start the day having trouble finding the campsite. Equipment for registration includes a dining fly, folding table and chairs, a "Check In Here" sign, sign-in sheet, pencils, and a shoe-box or bank bag to hold registration fees and change. Prepayment of fees, or covering costs some other way is desirable but not always possible. The sign-in sheet should show the following information: Pack and Den numbers, number of Cubs in Den, number of leaders, and amount of fees collected from each Den. The patch we give to each participant consists of two parts, the permanent 3-inch embroidered circle and a date tab each year (Fig. 2), thus we also need a count from each Den of the number of Cubs and Leaders who already have a patch from previous years.

### Opening Ceremony

Gathering around the flagpole for a Flag ceremony and Scout Oath and Law starts the formal activities for the day (Fig. 3). This is a good time for the Den Leaders to regain control of their excited charges and for the Scout hosts to outline the events of the day, explain any rules, and point out important locations such as bathrooms. If Packmasters feel that enough of their Cubs know the Cub Scout Promise or Law, these can be included in the Opening Ceremony, preferably led by a younger Scout or Den Chief who still knows the

Figure 1a. Sample information sheet issued by District Committee.

## CUB SCOUT FIELD DAY - 1986

October 10 - 12

- WHAT IS IT?** Games and races, contests of Cub Scout skills and demonstrations of Scout camping. Contests and games are chosen to help Cub Scouts complete several Wolf and Bear achievements.
- WHERE?** Appletree Group Camp, Nantahala National Forest (see map).
- WHEN?** Saturday, October 11, 1986. Check-in: 9:30 to 10:15. Activities start at 10:30.
- FOR WHOM?** All registered Cub Scouts and their families.
- LUNCH?** Cub Dens and families will bring their own lunch and drink. Boy Scouts will prepare dessert for all in a cooking demonstration.
- COST?** \$3.00 for each Cub Scout. This fee, to be paid at check-in on Saturday, covers awards for the dens, special participation emblem for each Cub, and dessert.
- RESERVATION?** Each Pack should make reservations, giving number of dens and approximate number of Cubs and adults by October 7th to: Lloyd Swift, 524-4304. WEBelos Dens can stay Saturday night for a Father-Son campout by notifying Lloyd Swift in advance.

Cub Scout Field Day is sponsored by the Boy Scout Troops of Smoky Mountain District (Macon County). In addition to providing fun and fellowship, the purpose is to help Cubs pass their achievements and to provide a chance for Cubs to see two important elements of the Boy Scout Program, camping and working together to help and teach younger Scouts. Field Day events will be similar to those used in past years:

1. Tug-O-War.
2. 30-yard, gorilla, kangaroo-hop, and crab-walk races (Bear #16).
3. Good Scout Relay; know Bobcat requirements.
4. Softball toss (Bear #16).
5. Gymnastics (Wolf #1).
6. Knot tying (Bear #22).
7. Rope throw (Bear #22).
8. Water haul relay.
9. Camp safety quiz.

The number and type of events may vary depending on the number of Cubs attending and space available. The water haul relay is a highlight event for the Cubs but they tend to get wet and muddy. A towel and change of shoes and socks are useful.

Figure 1b. Map included with Field Day information sheet.

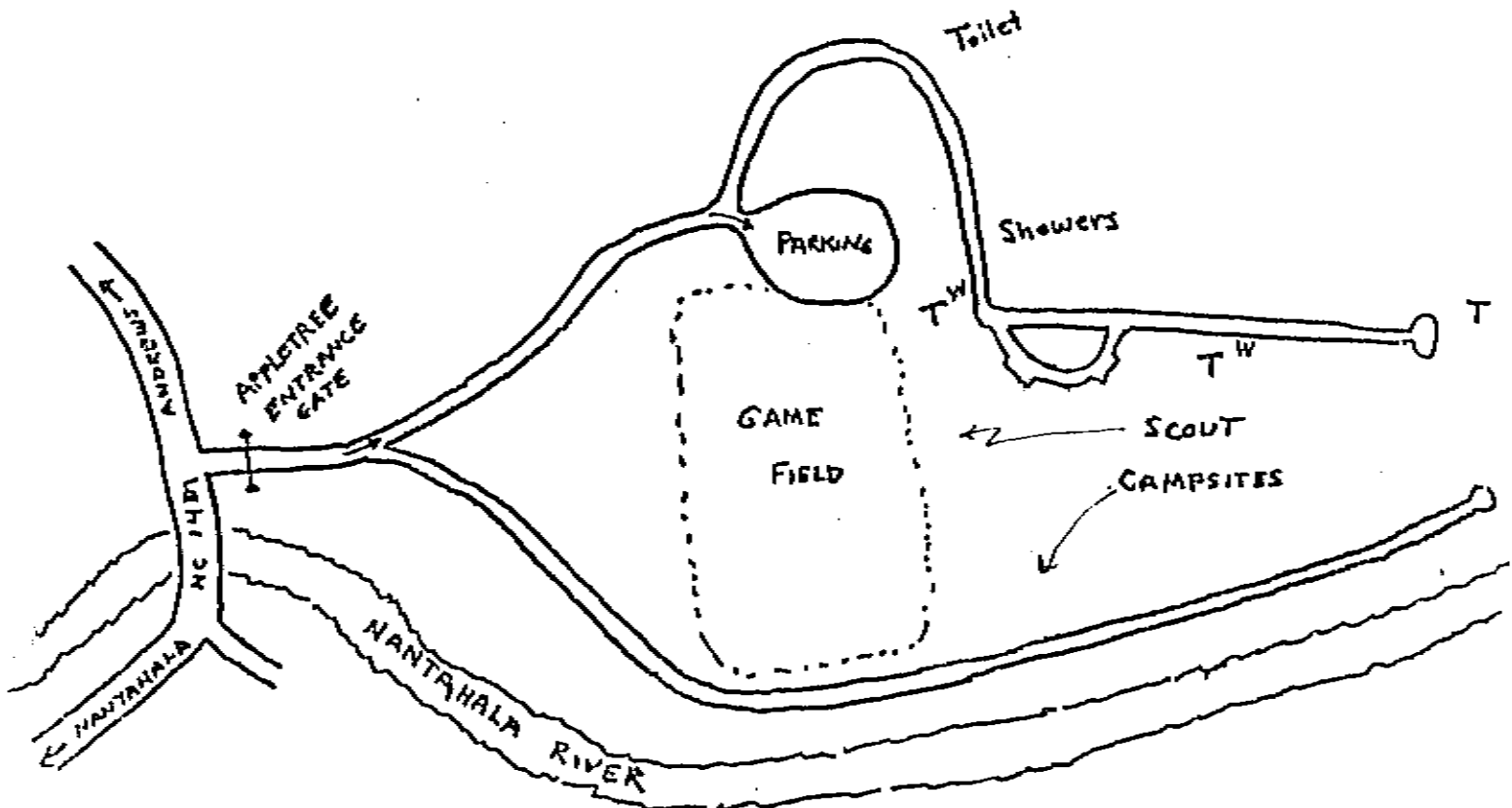
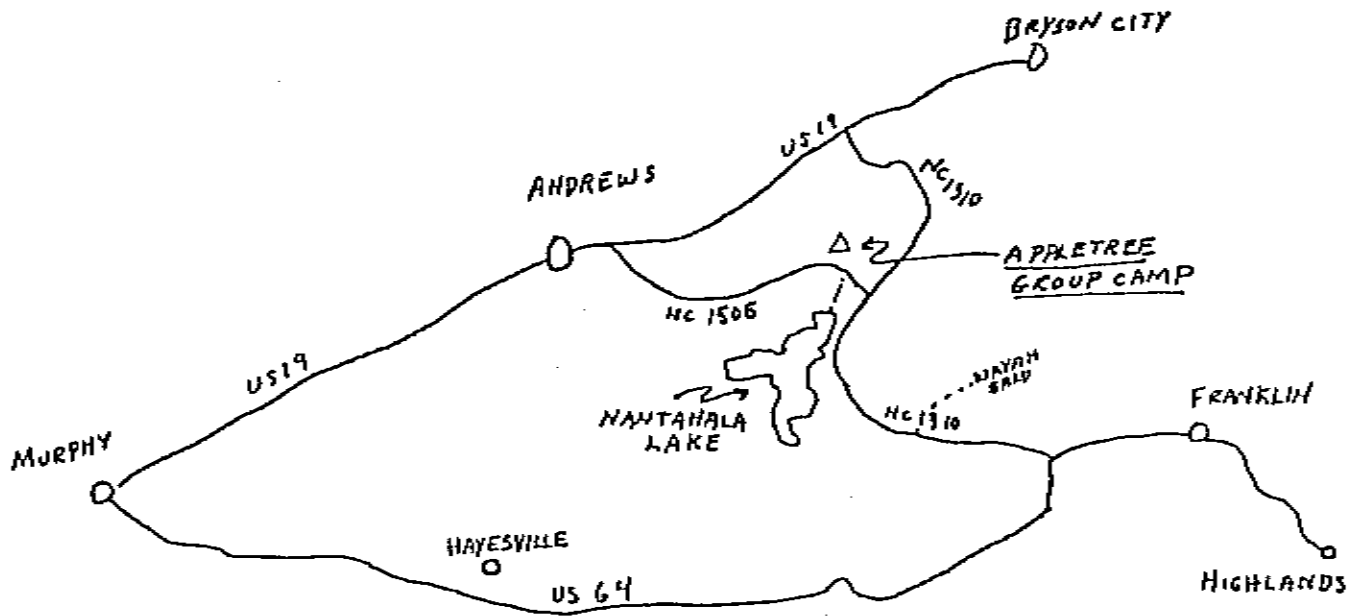




Figure 2. Patch and year tab for Cub Scout Field Day, issued by Smoky Mountain District, Daniel Boone Council accentuates the theme of Cub-to-Scout transition with the symbology of a handshake.



Figure 3. Cubs, parents, and their Scout hosts gather at the flagpole for the opening ceremony of Cub Scout Field Day.

Cub ceremonies. The beginning of Field Day is an excellent opportunity for a pep-talk built around the Cub Scout Motto, "Do Your Best".

#### Tug-O-War

The Tug-O-War begins Field Day. Den versus Den builds "team spirit" and the Dens waiting their turn can be whipped into a formidable cheering squad by a clever set of Scouts working on the sidelines (Fig. 4). Equipment needed is a whistle, a long rope, large enough to hold but not too big for Cub-sized hands, a rag to mark the rope center, and some binder-twine and pegs to define the "pit". The Tug can be a fun event, or if enough time is available, we hold a single-elimination contest with a ribbon for best Den's flag.

With a large number of Cubs, we divide the group and run the foot races and do the Tug at the same time. The Scouts running the Tug learn to watch their Dens and match groups which have similar number and sizes of boys.

#### 30-Yard Dash

This is one element of Bear Achievement 16. Resources needed are a whistle, two long pieces of binder-twine and pegs to define the start and finish lines, two Scouts to manage the start, and three Scouts at the finish line to pick first three places out of each heat. The sites for this and the animal races must be carefully chosen, avoiding uneven terrain, holes, branches, and thorns (Fig. 5). Again, Scouts try to match similar sized Cubs for each heat. By elimination, the best three runners of the day can be determined and given individual ribbons and bonus points for their Den's score. Separate races and awards for Tiger, Wolf + Bear, and Webelos Cubs may be appropriate to compensate for their different ages.





Figure 4. Scouts directing a Tug-O-War for Cubs.

Figure 5. The 30-yard dash event being run at Appletree Campground.

### Crab, Gorilla, and Kangaroo Races

These races also are part of Bear Achievement 16. A track smaller than 30 yards is laid out using binder-twine for start and finish lines. Assemble similar equipment and staff as for the other race. With larger groups of Cubs, several tracks might be set up to run more than one of the animal races at a time. Have Scouts or experienced Cubs demonstrate these unusual racing positions (Fig. 6). Best racers for each event can receive ribbons and earn bonus points for their Den.

### Cooking Demonstration

We are fortunate to have adults in our District staff who like to cook and to teach cooking. When duties are assigned for the morning, several Scouts who wish to learn the mysteries of campfire baking are detailed to help prepare the luncheon dessert (Fig. 7). Part of the entry fee for Field Day pays for cooking materials, disposable plates, spoons, napkins, and trash bags. The cooking area should be located where the Cubs can view the preparations while waiting their turn for the morning events. Keep the communal cooking and eating area away from the Troop campsites.

The number of afternoon events and how they are run depends upon the number of Cub Dens. During the lunch break, the junior leaders in charge of the afternoon events meet briefly to finalize the program and schedule. If a large number of Dens are expected, events should be set up with dual facilities to handle two or more dens at the same time.

Afternoon events are set up as stations around the field and in the camp area. Cub Dens each start at a different station and move in order through



Figure 6. Cubs in the Gorilla Race at Field Day.

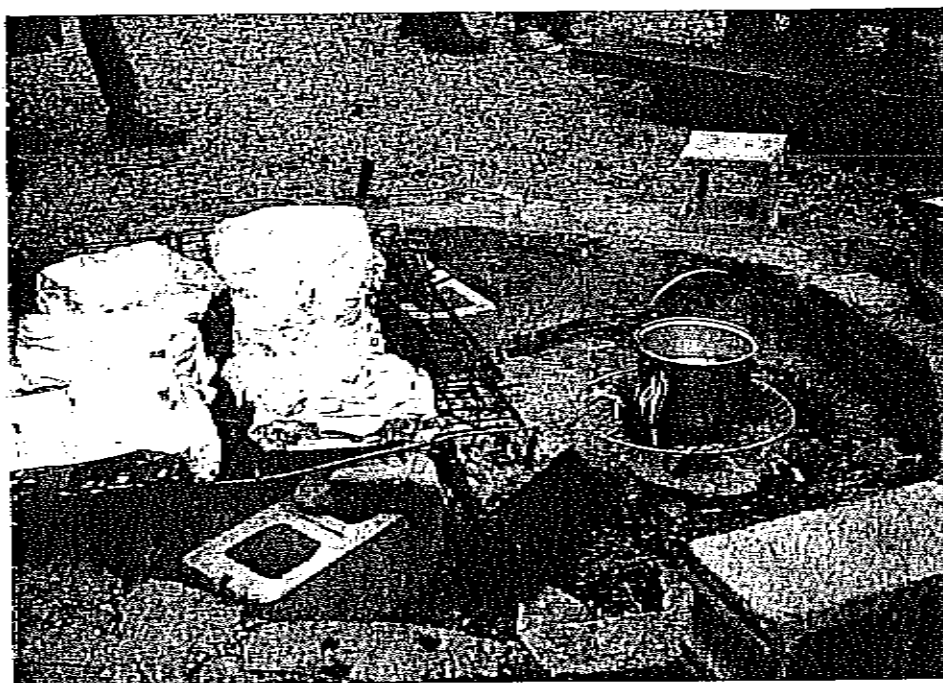


Figure 7. Pies on the stove for the cooking demonstration and dessert at Field Day.

the series, going to the next station at about 20 minute intervals. The Scout in charge of Field Day must explain this to the Cubs and their adults after lunch. Furnishing each Den Leader with a map or list of stations for their particular sequence is very helpful. The Field Day Chief should also establish some signal such as a whistle blast to identify the time to move.

### Softball Toss

This is an exercise of Bear Achievement 16. Each Cub throws a softball for distance (Fig. 8). They may have second or third tries to use up the time period. Resources are a fairly large open space away from other events, a start line and 50-, 100-foot, etc distance markers, two softballs, a tape measure, and Scouts to spot where the ball lands, measure distances, and return balls to the start line. Score for participation. Record names of the Cubs with the three furthest throws for individual ribbons and bonus points. Separate awards for Tiger, Wolf/Bear, and Webelos will be useful.

### Rope Throw

This is part of Bear Achievement 22. The Cub is shown how to coil and throw a rope to hit a target 20 feet away and then each Cub takes one turn (Fig. 9) with those who miss being given repeat tries as long as time allows. Bring a well-used and limp rope that is at least 6 feet longer than the distance to the target. The target can be a 2-foot space between two stakes or a hat to represent the head of a drowning person to be saved. Score for participation and proficiency with a minimum of 5 if every Cub tries and 10 if all save their victim.



Figure 8. Scouts directing Cub participation in softball throw event.



Figure 9. A Cub Scout throwing the rope to save his "victim".

### Good Scout Relay

This is the Bobcat requirement. Because Field Day comes early in the Fall, many new Cubs may not know their Motto, Salute, Sign, Handshake, Law, or Promise. Therefore, the Scouts directing this station will be both teaching and testing. One way to do this event is to have a warm-up session with each Den when they first get to the station and then have them stand behind a line and come up to the Scout one at a time. He will ask only one question at random from the list and coach the Cub through the correct response. Cubs repeat taking their turn until time expires. Score for participation and proficiency between 5 and 10 points, expecting more from the older, more experienced boys. The adult who oversees this station may wish to prepare a cue-card for the Scout running the event to use as a reference to the Cub Motto, Law and Promise.

### Gymnastics

This event is a combination of exercises taken from Wolf Achievement 1. Cubs run a path marked by twine which has sharp, right-angle jogs to simulate a previous Dodge-Spring requirement. They vault over a pole lashed between two trees to perform the fence vault. On a large tarp or sheet of polyethylene laid on smooth ground they do forward and backward somersaults and then walk the narrow edge of a 12-foot 2x4 lashed at ground level to stakes. More can be added because this exercise is completed faster than any of the other events. Equipment needed is rope and twine, a pole, tarp, the 2x4, and several stout stakes. Each step should be demonstrated by the Scouts managing the event. Score up to 10 for participation and proficiency.

### **Knot Tying**

This is a portion of Achievement 22 which requires the Bear to tie the square and slip knots, among others. Usually the knots must be demonstrated and taught to the Cubs (Fig. 10) and scoring up to 10 points is based on participation and to a lesser degree, accomplishment. Tigers may not get beyond the overhand knot and Webelos should be expected to learn one or two extra knots. But time is limited, so do not attempt too much. The overhand and two half hitches seem to be the next easiest to learn. Equipment includes 12 pieces of limp rope and a pole to tie knots around. Double the equipment if you expect to handle two Dens at one time. White sash cord with one end dyed red makes excellent practice rope because the pattern of the two ends is easier to see when teaching the square knot. This event goes best with several Scouts serving as coaches to the Cubs.

### **Camp Safety Quiz**

No specific achievement is satisfied by this event, however through it Cubs learn much about safety while visiting a Scout Campsite. A Troop rigs part of their camp to contain as many safety hazards as they can imagine, usually about 20-25. Exposed axes, tent ropes, unattended fire with trash near it are the type of items left for the Cubs to discover. Each den walks through the campsite as a group calling out safety hazards they see (Fig. 11). Scoring to 10 points is based on percentage of hazards found. Often, Cubs will identify some extra safety problems not in the planned set! Initially, the Scout leading this inspection may need to point out a few items to help the Cubs get into the spirit of the game.



Figure 10. A patient Boy Scout teaching four Cubs and a younger sister how to tie the overhand knot.



Figure 11. A Den of Cubs inspecting the unsafe campsite.



### Knife and Axe

This event is mainly a teaching demonstration and scoring is based on participation in terms of paying attention and answering questions (Fig. 12). The material covered is similar to the "Toten-Chip" class. Equipment includes knives, a hand axe with sheath, sharpening stone, and a chopping block. Because of the hazards which might come from a poorly taught class, I prefer to have a rehearsal with the Scouts leading this event.

### Water Haul Relay

This event worries leaders and parents, earns no achievement, teaches no lesson, but is pure fun for the Cubs and Scouts. The object is to hold a relay race between two or more dens to fill their 5-gallon barrels with water using fire buckets made from #10 cans. The fun comes from the buckets being slightly leaky and the source of water being a creek with a somewhat muddy bank. The natural tendency of young boys to play in water and mud is brought out by this devilish event. It is the most popular of the day, if the weather is warm. If each den is timed, then the event can be scored by giving 10 points to the fastest 10% of the dens, 9 points to the next fastest 10%, etc.

### Closing Ceremony

Compiling the scores and marking the ribbons takes time and Cubs and leaders can become restless. A good song-leader is helpful or some other activity must be provided. We have had the Boy Scouts put on pioneering demonstrations such as a travois race, jiffy bridge, or let the Cubs cross a rope bridge the Scouts have built (Fig. 13).



Figure 12. A Cub Scout Den intently watching a safety lesson on knife and axe.



Figure 13. Cub Scout gingerly ending his walk across the "Durma Bridge" at Field Day.

To follow the theme of the day, recognitions and ribbons are presented by the Boy Scouts, not by adults (Fig. 14). The three Dens with the highest score each get a large ribbon for their flag. Dens winning the Tug-O-War also get large ribbons. Cubs winning individual races and softball toss each get a small ribbon. Every participant gets a patch and year tab. A Cub Leader can lead the Cubs in thank-you cheers for the Boy Scout hosts. In turn, the parents and Cub Leaders who transported and shepherded the Cubs all day must be recognized.



Figure 14. Scout who served as Field Day Chief shows a big grin after awarding blue ribbon to proud Den Leader.

## SUGGESTIONS FOR IMPROVEMENT

An EMT or other medical help should be present during Field Day. We require all Scout and Cub units to carry insurance in order to participate. Webelos Dens who plan to stay over Saturday night for a father-son campout must make previous arrangements.

The Cub Scout Field Day, held in the Smoky Mountain District-Daniel Boone Council, has developed over a ten-year period with no change in the plan or goals but with many small refinements in technique to make the day pass smoothly. Now, with the extended age span of the Cub program, we must make some major changes in how the events are held. Because one of the Field Day goals is to complete some Bobcat, Wolf, and Bear Achievements, we could limit participation to Cubs of those ranks. Or we could request that Tiger Cubs not be brought to Field Day. These restrictions might be possible if the Field Day program were just beginning in a District. Alternatively, Field Day could have activities appropriate for each age-group. Separate races and awards for each age is a solution suggested earlier in this report. Having alternate afternoon events for the Tigers and Webelos is another solution if enough Cubs in each program will participate.

The planning committee for a Cub Scout Field Day should include representative Cub Leaders as well as leaders of the Scout Troops which will host Field Day. Cub leaders may suggest other contests to aid their unit programs or prefer to alter the awards scheme described in this report to eliminate inter-den rivalry and the inevitable situation of someone being second-best.

**REFERENCES**

Along with other references, the following BSA literature contains the requirements for the contests used in Field Day, ideas for alternate events, guidelines for Cub-Dad overnights, and information on Cub-to-Scout transition.

The Big Bear Cub Scout Book. 1986. Boy Scouts of America. 256 pg.

Cub Scout Leader How-To Book. 1985. Boy Scouts of America. 329 pg.

Webelos Scout Book. 1985. Boy Scouts of America. 300 pg.

Webelos-To-Scout Transition. 1985. Boy Scouts of America. 6 pg.

Wolf Cub Scout Book. 1986. Boy Scouts of America. 224 pg.

*Mrs Rice*

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READER'S APPROVAL

This is to certify that I have read and approve the thesis

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submitted by: Lloyd W. Swift, Jr.

in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the PhD Degree  
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and Sequoyah Councils, Boy Scouts of America.

Signed: *Margaret Rice*  
Date: *March 3, 1987*

My appointment as a reader for this purpose was approved at  
the faculty meeting held at LutherRidge Assembly, Jan. 18, 1986