

About Scout Campfires

Introduction

Campfires and SCOUTS go together. The fondest memories of many former Scouts are often the camps they attended and the campfires held at those camps.

We are not talking bonfires here. We are talking about a smallish campfire at the end of a busy day in camp with about 30 to 60 or more people singing their hearts out and sharing the experience with their friends.

These are special events in the life of our SCOUTS and as the next generation of leaders, it is our job to continue to hold equally memorable campfires and pass the skill on to those who will follow us.



Organising a campfire

Can't sing? Fear not. Your job as a leader is to organise the event and the programme.

Some people are born campfire leaders, some are trained and some are born to build the fire. But no matter which type of person we are, we all enjoy it most when sitting around the campfire soaking up the heat from the fire, smelling the wood smoke and hearing the sounds of song and laughter in the company of our friends.

So the first thing to do if you feel you need help, is to find a leader who can front up and present a great campfire while you manage the event.

This document will coach you through the stages of running a successful campfire, including:

1. Appointing a Campfire Chief and a Campfire Leader.
2. Finding a suitable site.
3. Building the fire and lighting it when ready.
4. Being aware of the safety risks and plan to eliminate or minimise them.
5. Overseeing the programme
6. Being aware of campfire traditions and even starting some new ones.
7. Locating ideas and songs you can teach the youth members.

Getting help

One thing we know about people who lead campfires really well is that they really enjoy the experience. If you need help and know of someone who is reputed to lead a good campfire, contact them and ask them to help.

If they can help, they will. Especially if you ask them to help teach yourself or another leader how to run a good campfire.

They don't have to be a current leader either. There are former leaders around who would jump at the chance to lead one more campfire.

About Campfires

Controlling the mood around the fire

Campfires may be high energy in parts, such as when singing action songs, but often campfires are places for reflection, harmony and friendship.

A skilled campfire leader will be able to raise and lower the mood around the fire simply through the choice of songs and activities and then finish up on a reflective note as the SCOUTS move quietly away from the fire for supper and bed.



Never end a campfire with a high energy song unless you want to be up late trying to settle excited youth members who need their sleep as much as you do.

The Campfire Chief

This person's role is to:

1. Open the campfire.
2. Close the fire.
3. And often, but not always, tell the campfire yarn.

In a Group situation, the Group Leader may well be the Campfire Chief, or it might be a visiting Zone Section Leader, or a former Leader in the Group. If you cannot sing but have organised the campfire, you may well choose to take the role.

The Campfire Leader

This is the person who actually leads and manages the campfire. He or she:

- Helps produce the programme of events.
 - Decides when and how to light the fire.
 - Makes sure the SCOUTS are not too close to the fire.
 - Welcomes the Camp Chief.
 - Announces the songs, the skits and the Campfire Yarn.
 - Leads the singing and calls upon others to help when needed.
 - Calls on the Campfire Chief to make the closing remarks.
 - Starts the last song gets the SCOUTS moving away from the fire.
 - Makes sure the fire is not left unattended until it is well and truly out.
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About Campfires, Continued

Setting up the campfire

Be aware of your environment for your campfire, i.e. checkout before the event, that you have:

- Suitable seating, comfortable seats for any special or aged guests.
- Suitable and safe area for the fire to be set. Look for a natural amphitheatre or a bank on which to seat people. Preferably sheltered from the wind.
- Set the fire to be no more than 80cm square at the base and 60cm high (for an audience of about 60 people).
- Seating is a suitable distance from the fire, to prevent overheating the audience.
- Supply of dry reserve firewood (stored safely away from the campfire).
- Fire permit if needed (check that no fire ban is force in the area).
- Bucket(s) of water or sand for damping down a spreading fire.

Learning the songs

Practice singing and presenting skits.

- A CD of campfire songs is available for sale from the 'Right Royal Rover Crew' in the Upper North Island Region. Contact them at: rightroyalrovers@gmail.com
- Alternatively, search the internet for "Campfire Songs", "Campfire Songs Midi" and "Campfire Skits". There are hundreds of sites devoted to campfires, many with music tracks.
- Invite a parent who can sing confidently to visit the section several times to teach the youth members the songs.

Protocols to be aware of

Here are some Do's and Don'ts to be aware of in respect to campfires.

DO	DON'T
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have FUN! • Join in! • Sing – with everyone else. • Yell – when it's appropriate. • Learn something new. • Share new experiences. • Bring your Campfire Blanket or something warm to wear away from the fire. • Bring your singing voice and enthusiasm. • End the campfire after 40 minutes maximum, preferably sooner. • Invite an experienced campfire leader to help run it and teach you how to structure the programme of items. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Run around the Campfire. • Throw anything into the fire. • Say, but we do it this way at school. • Cook marshmallows, or food on the Campfire. • You can't eat and sing at the same time. But you can cook on the embers after leaving the fire and returning after say 10 mins. • Talk to your neighbour. Talking spoils the mood and detracts from what is going on. • Have torches to light your way, but don't use them around the fire. • No Clapping or Booing - that's why we have 'cheers' such as Bravo etc.

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About Campfires, Continued

Campfire ashes

A relatively recent 'tradition' in some groups is to collect up some of the cold ashes from a campfire and store them in a glass jar or a tin with a lid.

The Camp Fire Leader will during the opening of the campfire, invite people with ashes of previous fires to come forward and sprinkle them on the ashes.

Usually someone is charged with collecting some of the cold ashes to put back in the tin or jar ready for the next campfire.

A recent campfire at a training course saw one group sprinkle ashes that went back for 21 campfires. This little ceremony can be used to reward good behaviour or achievement by youth members and it's usually considered an honour to be entrusted with the task.

Building the campfire

Step	Illustration	Comment
1		Dig a shallow pit about 100mm deep and clear any other dry materials that are likely to catch fire well away from the pit. Aim to have a circle of clear of flammable material about 2 metres across. If the ground is damp, put a layer of tinfoil on the ground to keep the area under the tinder dry. Gather the 'tinder' and place it in the centre of the shallow pit and on the tinfoil if using any.
2		Now take the thinnest of the sticks in the pile of firewood and build a 'teepee' over the tinder. Keep on adding the thinnest pieces about the thickness of your finger until the tinder is all covered. Make sure that you can get a match through the sticks to light the tinder.
3		Check to see which way the wind is blowing or likely to blow. Once you know that, place two of the biggest logs either side of the fire, so the wind will blow between them and help the fire burn brightly.

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About Campfires, Continued

Building the campfire (continued)

4		<p>Place two more logs or branches on top of and across the first two logs as shown in the illustration.</p> <p>Each layer of logs should be shorter than the last layer.</p>
5		<p>Carry on placing branches, each shorter than the last layer, on top of and across the top layer so that a pyramid effect is achieved.</p>
6		<p>This illustration shows the effect you should be trying to achieve.</p> <p>Remember, for a group of up to 60 people, the fire base should be about 80cm x 80cm with a height of about 60cm.</p>

How long should it last

A campfire programme and the fire, should last about 30 mins, with 40mins being the maximum before closing and sending the youth members off to supper and bed.

Balanced programme

Songs, yarns, yells & skits.

- A programme of all actions songs, will leave your group tired, and unwilling to participate.
- A programme should have a flow of lows, highs, slows, lows, a start and a finish.
- Be aware of your audience, an audience of adults, will react entirely different, to an audience of Cubs, Scouts, Rovers or Leaders.
- For your Campfire, be prepared and teach a few songs and yells you expect to do at your Campfire. Participation is the key to a successful campfire.
- Cubs love the gory songs, the ones Mum's might not like so well.
- Be aware of the word content, we don't want to offend anyone, or let anyone feel picked on.
- Don't expect Cubs to come up with a skit, save this for an older audience.
- Be sure to audition any Scout skits so you are aware of their content & suitability for your audience, avoid embarrassment.
- Prior to your Campfire, explain how you expect them to behave, react and act.
- Discipline at a Campfire adds to an enjoyable experience for all.

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About Campfires, Continued

Creating the programme

A typical campfire programme could be similar to the following example:

1. Campfire Leader has someone light the fire. Once it starts burning, the Campfire Leader starts everyone singing 'Campfire's Burning' twice. It could be sung as a round.
 2. The Leader announces and everyone sings 'I hear Foot Steps'.
 3. The Campfire Chief starts walking towards the fire and enters the circle as everyone stands up.
 4. The Campfire Chief presents the opening speech (see an example below) and invites anyone with ashes from previous fires to sprinkle them on the fire.
 5. The Leader gets everyone to perform an action song to get the blood pumping.
 6. The first Patrol performs a skit or a song, and everyone gives them a 'yell'.
 7. Everyone sings a round such as 'Row, Row, Row your boat'
 8. The next Patrol performs a skit or song, and everyone gives them a 'yell'
 9. Hold another action song such as the "Grand old Duke of York". Continue alternating skits and songs until all Patrols who want to have presented an item.
 10. A leader presents the Scout Yarn – a 3 minute story with a moral to it.
 11. A quiet song such as 'Kum ba yah' should be next.
 12. The Camp Fire Chief is invited to close the campfire (see example text below)
 13. The Campfire Leader leads everyone in singing Scout Vespers softly. At the start of the second time through, the Campfire Leader leads everyone away from the fire.
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Camp Chief Opening speech

Scouts from the North, Scouts from the East, Scouts from the West, and Scouts from the South, may good luck come to you. May your God give you peace.

On every night of every year, somewhere in the world, a campfire is burning.

Around these campfires in distant lands, boys and girls in their thousands, of every race and creed will be singing these songs.

Let us all join together in our little piece of the world and let's add our voices to the magic that is Campfire. I ask that anyone with ashes from previous campfires step forward now and add these to our campfire so the tradition lives on.

Camp Chief Closing speech

As the flames die away and the embers slowly fade, I hope that the magic of campfire has spread throughout all of us tonight. As we leave this place, remember the simple things that bring happiness to our lives.

The sharing of songs and laughter together with family and friends, and being a part of something unique and special. Take that joy away with you tonight and spread it far and wide, so that the magic of campfire lives on, until next time.

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Campfire Skits for Scouts

Introduction Skits are a time honoured item that the Scout and Venturer Sections present at Campfires and Concerts such as Gang Shows. Here are a few just to give you an idea of what they are.

Bell Ringer 1

Props: Coat with football or wadded clothing under it for the Hunchback, hat or nightstick for Gendarme.

Announcer: The Hunchback of Notre Dame has decided to retire, and has placed an ad in the Paris Times for someone to come and learn how to ring the bells.

Effects: (Knock, knock, knock)

Hunchback: (Gravelly voice) Oh, somebody must be here about my job. I'll go down and see. (Goes 'round and 'round the campfire, as if going down the bell tower, bent over due to hunch.)

Effects : (Knock, knock, knock)

Hunchback: (Angrily) I'm coming, I'm coming. There's a lot of stairs here. (Arrives at and opens the door.)

Hunchback: Yeah ! What do you want ?

Applicant: I'm here about the bell ringer's job.

Hunchback: All right ! Come on up and I'll see if you can do the job. (Begins to go up (the other way around) followed by the applicant.)

Applicant: Boy, the ceiling is not very high here, is it ?

Hunchback: Listen, you go up and down these stairs 20 times a day for 45 years and you just learn to stay bent over. Hey, did you close that door, didn't you ?

Applicant: I don't know. I don't remember.

Hunchback: Well, we gotta go down and keep it locked, can't run up the church's fuel bill. (Both turn around and go back.)

Hunchback: That's the first thing you gotta learn. Keep the door closed. Up and down these stairs, that's the hard part. (Arriving at door) O.K., so now you're here, close the door.

Applicant: (Closes door) How are the benefits in this job ?

Hunchback: (Both going back up) Well, it has it's ups and downs. The Church board will buy you ear plugs every six months and a new bottle of bell polish once a year. (Finally arriving at the bell) Alright, now you stand over there, and I'll show you how it's done. First you grab the bell here and push it out very hard (steps back and follows path of bell out and back) then the bell comes back on it's own. That's all there is to it. Do you think you can do that ?

Applicant: Sure ! (does the action with the bell, but does not step back, is hit by bell and falls back, to the ground)

Hunchback: Oh my gosh ! He's fallen 15 stories to the sidewalk. I'd better get down there. (Goes 'round and 'round until he reaches the ground) (Crowd enters mumbling, stops astonished at body)

Gendarme : (Entering, calls to Hunchback) Hey you ! Do you know this guy ? (Rolls body over with foot)

Hunchback: No, but his face sure rings a bell !

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Campfire Skits for Scouts, Continued

Lost Coin

Scene: One person acts as a lamp post, shining a flashlight on the ground. Another is groping around in the pool of light. (He's # 1).
 A third person enters, sees # 1, and asks: "What are you looking for ?"
 # 1: "A coin that I lost".
 He joins # 1, and helps him search. A fourth and fifth enter and repeat the above scene.
 Finally one of them asks # 1: "Where did you lose the coin?"
 # 1: (Pointing away) "Over there."
 Boy: "Then why are you looking here ?"
 # 1: "Because the light is better over here !"

Gathering of Nuts

Vincent: I am the famous artist, Vincent Van Go Go. I have come here this evening at great expense to create one of my living nature paintings which will express the atmosphere of this camp ! First I am going to need some trees. (Two trees are selected from the participants in the audience, and are directed where to stand. They wave their arms gently.)
Vincent: Now I will need some birds to twitter among the trees. (Three birds are selected and they move around the trees making twittering sounds.)
Vincent: (Stands back to view scene) Perhaps a sun to shine on everything. (A tall participant stands on a bench and smiles brightly.)
Vincent: (Again viewing) It's not right yet. I know, some rabbits hopping around. (Assistant Leaders are chosen for rabbits)
Vincent: One last touch. A babbling brook. Leader, will you be the brook, you're always babbling ? (The brook takes his place.)
Vincent: (Turns to audience) There it is, another Vincent Van Go Go original nature scene. I call it "The Gathering of the Nuts."

Rubbish

Scene: 1st scout walks to center of stage and starts talking in a loud voice.
1st scout: "Empty cornflakes packet, banana skin, old tin can, bottle top, sweet wrappers, broken bottle, moldy cheese, milk carton."
2nd scout: (Enters) "Say, what do you think you're doing?"
1st scout: "I'm talking a load of old rubbish."

Smoke Signals

Scene: 2 scouts spot smoke signals in the distance.
1st Scout: "Hey George, look over there, smoke signals"
2nd Scout: "Oh yes Mike, what do they say?"
1st Scout: "Help.....My.....Blanket's.....On.....Fire."

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Campfire Skits for Scouts, Continued

Go Cart

(One participant is on hands and knees as the 'Go Cart')

Driver : Oh, this stupid Go Cart is always giving me trouble ! Now the front wheel has come off. (Selects member of audience) Would you come over and give me a hand. Thanks. (Selected person may have some comments to respond to - then they are led to the cart.)

Driver : Here, if you would just be the wheel I need. That's right, get down on your hands and knees up there and be the front wheel. Now let me try it again. (Driver gets on car, tries to start it up.)

Go Cart: (Makes sputtering noises, starts, moves forward, then sags and sputters out.)

Driver : Now what is it ? (Driver moves to rear, lifts cart, lets go and cart sags again.)

Driver : Now that old suspension has gone, I need more help. (Selects someone else) Please come over here and be the suspension. That's right, just hold the back end up there. Now I'll try it again. (Gets on car, starts engine.)

Go Cart: (Sputters to life, moves forward, wobbles, and stops)

Driver : (Getting off) Oh, no. Now the rear wheel is loose. I'll go and get more help. (Selects more help) (New help is positioned at rear wheel.)

Driver: This wheel is loose. If you will just hold the wheel (indicates leg) tightly so it doesn't fall off, you'll be a big help. Thanks. (Driver gets on cart, starts engine)

Go Cart: (Starts up, runs fine, moves forward)

Driver : (Braking to halt) Oh, that's perfect now ! All I needed was a few NUTS to get it going !

Bus

Leader acts as Bus Driver, in a bus full of passengers. Each time the bus stops one or more passengers holding their noses and making a face, while looking at one special passenger. Then exit the bus.

Soon everyone is off the bus except the driver & special passenger.

Driver: Say, you're running all the people off my bus.

Passenger: Well it isn't my fault they can leave if they want.

Driver: Yes, But they seem to detect a peculiar odour about you. Do you bathe regularly?

Passenger: Sure do!

Driver: Do you use deodorant?

Passenger: Sure do!

Driver: Did you wash your feet today?

Passenger: Sure did!

Driver: Did you change your socks?

Passenger: (very irritated) Well, I sure did. (Pulls socks from pocket) And what's more I have my dirty ones here in my pocket to prove it!

Dead Body

Scene: One person lying on the ground, dead. Another sees him and pulls out a cellphone and panicking, gasps: "Police, there's a dead person here... Where ? ... Umm, (looking for a sign), "I'm at Montgomery and Westchester... Spell it ?... Uh, M-o-t-n... Uh, M-o-t-g," (confused), "Just a minute, I'll drag him over to King and Elm Streets !"

Campfire Songs

Songs to get you started

Here are a few songs to get you started. When you are looking for more or for the tunes, check the internet and search for "campfire songs" or "campfire songs midi". This will give you more songs than you will ever need.

<p>The two opening songs Start with two verses of this song: Campfire's burning, campfire's burning Draw nearer, draw nearer, In the gloaming, in the gloaming, Come sing and be merry.</p> <p>Then sing: I hear footsteps, I hear footsteps, Hark who's there, Hark who's there, I think it is the Camp Chief, I think it is the Camp Chief, Stand up do, Stand up do.</p>	<p>Alice the camel (Action song) Alice the camel has five humps Alice the camel has five humps Alice the camel has five humps So go Alice go! Boom boom boom</p> <p><i>...repeat counting down until...</i> Alice the camel has no humps Alice the camel has no humps Alice the camel has no humps Because Alice is a horse!</p> <p><i>Actions:</i> Everyone puts their arms around the shoulders of their neighbours. At each line, when you get to the number of humps, everyone bends their knees together. At "boom boom boom", everyone bumps bums with their neighbours!</p>
<p>Do Your Ears Hang Low? (Action song) Do your ears hang low Do they wobble to and fro? Can you tie them in a knot? Can you tie them in a bow? Can you throw them over your shoulder Like a continental soldier Do your ears hang low?</p> <p>Actions for the first verse: Ears hang low: tug at earlobes Wobble to and fro: wave hands back in forth Tie them in a knot: tie an invisible knot Tie them in a bow: tie an invisible bow Throw them over your shoulder: toss something over your shoulder Continental soldier: salute Ears hang low: tug at earlobes</p>	<p>Row, Row, Row your boat Row, row, row, your boat, Gently down the stream, Merrily, merrily, merrily, merrily, Life is but a dream.</p> <p>or:</p> <p>Row, row, row your boat, Gently down the stream, Throw..... overboard (Akela, Balloo, Skip etc) Listen to him /her scream.</p> <p>Or:</p> <p>Row, row, row your boat, Underneath the stream, Ha, ha, fooled you, I'm a submarine!</p>
<p>There ain't no flies on us There ain't no flies on us! There ain't no flies on us! There may be flies on some of you guys, But there ain't no flies on us!</p> <p>Split in to groups: <i>1st group sings the song and points to the 2nd group. At the end of the verse, the 2nd group responds to the first. The singing gets louder each time.</i></p>	<p>Train Chant <i>Repeat each line, getting faster and faster until you feel you are fast enough for the next line. Should sound like a steam train starting.</i> Bread and Butter (4 or more times) Cheese and Biscuits (4 or more times) Fish and Chips (4 or more times) Soup (sssssooooouuuupppp) (This is meant to sound like a steam whistle)</p>

Campfire Songs, continued

Songs to get you started, continued

<p>Kum Ba Yah (a good closing song) Kum ba yah, my Lord, kum ba yah Kum ba yah, my Lord, kum ba yah Kum ba yah, my Lord, kum ba yah Oh Lord, kum ba yah!</p> <p>Someone's sleeping, Lord . . . Someone's crying, Lord . . . Someone's singing, Lord . . . Someone's laughing, Lord . . . Someone's praying, Lord . . . Someone's Scouting, Lord . . . Someone's camping, Lord . . . Kum ba yah, my Lord, . . .</p>	<p>Bicycle Built for Two Daisy, Daisy, give me you answer true. I'm half-crazy all for the love of you. It won't be a stylish marriage, I can't afford a carriage; But you'll look sweet upon the seat Of a bicycle built for two.</p> <p>Henry, Henry, here is your answer true; I'm not crazy over the likes of you. If you can't afford a carriage, Forget about the marriage; Cause I won't be jammed, And won't be crammed, On a bicycle built for two.</p>
<p>My Bonnie Lies over the Ocean (action song) My Bonnie lies over the ocean, My Bonnie lies over the sea, My Bonnie lies over the ocean, Oh bring back my Bonnie to me. Bring back, bring back, Oh bring back my Bonnie to me, to me; [x2]</p> <p>Action: <i>As you sing each word beginning with the letter B, change from standing to a sitting position and vice versa. All should be standing at the end of the song. When you have mastered these movements, sing it again, faster.</i></p>	<p>Boom Chik A Boom I said a boom chik-a-boom! (echo) I said a boom chik-a-rock! I said a boom chik-a-boom, chik-a-rock, chick-a-boom! Oh yeah? All right.</p> <p>Repeat Just a little bit louder. Repeat little bit softer Repeat in a whisper Repeat shouting.</p>
<p>Scout Vespers (Closing song. Sing softly as you leave the campfire)</p> <p>Softly falls the light of day As our campfire fades away. Silently each Scout should ask "Have I done my daily task? Have I kept my honour bright? Can I guiltless sleep tonight? Have I done, and have I dared Everything to be prepared?"</p> <p>Sung to the tune 'Oh Christmas Tree' also known as 'Tannenbaum'. http://www.scoutingpages.org/us/oh/troop406/vesper.htm Link for the tune.</p>	<p>If You're Happy and You Know It If you're happy and you know it Clap your hands, If you're happy and you know it Clap your hands, If you're happy and you know it And you really want to show it If you're happy and you know it Clap your hands</p> <p>If you're happy and you know it ...nod your head... ...stamp your feet... ...shout hello... ...do all four...</p>

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Campfire Songs, continued

The Bear Hunt action chant

*Would you like to go on a bear hunt?
Ok, let's go!
(Watch me & do all the things I do & repeat after me all the things I say.)*

Here we go!
We're going on a bear hunt,
I'm not scared,
Cause I've got a gun,
With real bullets too!

(Make marching sound by slapping your knees with your hands.)

I see a river
A great Big River.
We can't go around it.
We can't go under it.
We can't go over it.
I guess we'll have to swim it.

*(Pretend to swim by over arm strokes.)
(Back to marching sound.)*

We're going on a bear hunt,
I'm not scared,
Cause I've got a gun,
With real bullets too!
I see a tree
A great Big Tree.
We can't go around it.
We can't go under it.
We can't go over it.
I guess we'll have to climb it.

*(Pretend to climb up the tree, using your arms. Get to the top look around & then climb down the other side.)
(Back to marching sound.)*

We're going on a bear hunt,
I'm not scared,
Cause I've got a gun,
With real bullets too!
(Continued in column two)

I see a wheat field
A great Big Wheat Field.
We can't go around it.
We can't go under it.
We can't go over it.
I guess we'll have to go in it.

(Make the sound of walking through wheat by rubbing your hands together.)

(Back to marching sound.)

We're going on a bear hunt,
I'm not scared,
Cause I've got a gun,
With real bullets too!
I see a cave
A great Big Cave!
We can't go around it.
We can't go under it.
We can't go over it.
I guess we'll have to go in it.

(Feel in front of you as though in the dark.)

It sure is dark in here.
I feel something.
It's BIG.
It has a cold wet nose.
Two point ears.
It fuzzy.
IT'S A BEAR!
Let's GET OUT of HERE!
Out of the cave.....
Through the wheat field (Rubbing hands together)
Up the Tree (Climbing up)
Down the other side (Climb down again)
Through the river (Over arm)
Home & through the gate.
We've been on bear hunt.
We weren't scared.
Cause we've got our guns.
With real bullets too!

Campfire Songs, continued

Ging Gang Gooli Story and song

During the first World Jamboree Baden-Powell was looking for a song that everyone could sing, no matter what their language was. Ging Gang Gooli was the result. It is not a language, but it means a lot of fun. The story was apparently created later.

In the deepest darkest Africa there is a legend concerning the Great Gray Ghost Elephant. Every year, after the rains, the great gray ghost elephant arose from the mists and wandered throughout the land at dawn. When he came to a village, he would stop and sniff the air, then he would either go around the village or through it. If he went around the village, the village would have a prosperous year, if he went through it, there would be hunger and drought.

The village of Wat-Cha had been visited three years in a row by the elephant and things were very bad indeed. The village leader, Ging-Ganga was very worried, as was the village medicine man Ha-la-shay. Together, they decided to do something about the problem.

Now Ging-Ganga and his warriors were huge men with big shields and spears. They decided to stand in the path of the elephant and shake their shields and spears at it to frighten it away. Hay-la-shay and his followers were going to cast magic spells to deter the elephant by shaking their medicine bags as the elephant approached which made the sound shala-wally, shala-wally, shala-wally.

Very early in the morning of the day the Great Gray Elephant came, the villagers gathered at the edge of the village, on one side were Ging-Ganga and his warriors, (indicate right) and on the other was Hay-la-shay and his followers (indicate left). As they waited the warriors sang softly about their leader

**Ging gang gooli, gooli, gooli, gooli, watcha,
Ging, gang, goo, Ging gang goo,
Ging gang gooli, gooli, gooli, gooli, watcha,
Ging, gang, goo, Ging gang goo,**

As they waited the medicine men sang of their leader

**Heyla, heyla sheyla,
Heyla sheyla, heyla ho,
Heyla, heyla sheyla,
Heyla sheyla, heyla ho,**

And they shook their medicine bags

**Shalli-walli, shalli-walli,
Shalli-walli, shalli-walli,**

And from the river came the mighty great gray elephants' reply

Oompa, oompa, oompa ...

The elephant came closer, so the warriors beat their shields and sang louder (signal warriors to stand and beat their thighs in time)

**Ging gang gooli, gooli, gooli, gooli, watcha,
Ging, gang, goo, Ging gang goo,
Ging gang gooli, gooli, gooli, gooli, watcha,
Ging, gang, goo, Ging gang goo,**

Campfire Songs, continued

Ging Gang Gooli Story, continued

Then the medicine men rose and sang loudly

**Heyla, heyla sheyla,
Heyla sheyla, heyla ho,
Heyla, heyla sheyla,
Heyla sheyla, heyla ho,**
And they shook their medicine bags
**Shalli-walli, shalli-walli,
Shalli-walli, shalli-walli,**

And the mighty great gray elephant turned aside and went around the village saying **Oompa, Oompa, Oompa, Oompa...**

There was great rejoicing in the village and all the villagers joined together to sing ...

**Ging gang gooli, gooli, gooli, gooli, watcha,
Ging, gang, goo, Ging gang goo,
Ging gang gooli, gooli, gooli, gooli, watcha,
Ging, gang, goo, Ging gang goo,
Heyla, heyla sheyla,
Heyla sheyla, heyla ho,
Heyla, heyla sheyla,
Heyla sheyla, heyla ho,
Shalli-walli, shalli-walli,
Shalli-walli, shalli-walli,
Oompa, Oompa, Oompa, Oompa**

Campfire Yarns

Campfire yarns are short 3 to 4 minute stories with a moral or a humorous punch line.

The link below lists about 30 yarns with an American flavour that a storyteller would be able to adapt and give a distinct New Zealand flavour.

<http://www.boyscouttrail.com/boy-scouts/boy-scout-stories.asp>

If you have a natural or a trained story teller available, use and learn from them until you feel comfortable having a go yourself. Remember, practice makes perfect.

Campfire Blankets

Campfire blankets should always be made out of wool (not synthetic material which is a fire risk). They are worthwhile having as they serve several purposes.

1. They keep the owner warm and sometime dry at a campfire.
2. They can be used as an extra blanket on a cold night.
3. They provide somewhere to sew and display the badges you collect while in SCOUTS.
4. You can wear them anytime in camp to keep warm.



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Campfire Yells

Camp Fire Yells

SCOUTS traditionally don't clap at campfires. Instead they use yells like BRAVO after someone performs a skit or an item. It's important to acknowledge the efforts of others and to encourage them to take part again next time.

Here are some traditional 'Yells' you can try.

BRAVO

Leader:

Give me a B (*response is a B shouted loudly*)
 Give me an R (*response is a R shouted loudly*)
 Give me an A (*response is a A shouted loudly*)
 Give me a V (*response is a V shouted loudly*)
 Give me an O (*response is a O shouted loudly*)
 What have we got? (*Everyone shouts BRAVO*)

Rolling BRAVO

The leader runs around the horseshoe pointing to each person in turn. It's a rolling version of BRAVO and sounds like BBBRRRAAAVVVOOO with the O being sounded as the leader gets to the last person.

One thousand volts

The leader shouts :

One thousand volts (*response is One thousand volts shouted*)
 Two thousand volts (*response is Two thousand volts shouted*)
 Three thousand volts (*response is Three thousand volts shouted*)
Everyone shouts: SHOCKING

Week

Monday (*response is Monday shouted*)
 Tuesday (*response is Tuesday shouted*)
 Wednesday (*response is Wednesday shouted*)
Etc
 Sunday (*response is Sunday shouted*)
Everyone shouts : WEEK!

"That deserves a seal of a approval"

Everyone reverse their hands and hits the back of their hands together while making seal like barks.

BBBBBB

Leader

Give me a B (*response is a B shouted loudly*)
 Give me an B (*response is a B shouted loudly*)
 Give me another B (*response is a B shouted loudly*)
 Give me one more B (*response is a B shouted loudly*)
 Give me a final B (*response is a B shouted loudly*)
 What have we got? (*Everyone flicks their finger against their lips generating a vibrating BBBB BBBB*)

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Thanks

Acknowledgement We would like to thank long serving leaders Steve and Vicki Hurley of Mayfield Group in Mahurangi Zone, and Craig Bleakley of Manukau Zone whose collection of notes and song sheets we pillaged while creating this skill guide.

campfire_building_leading.docx 30/4/2010

My Notes: