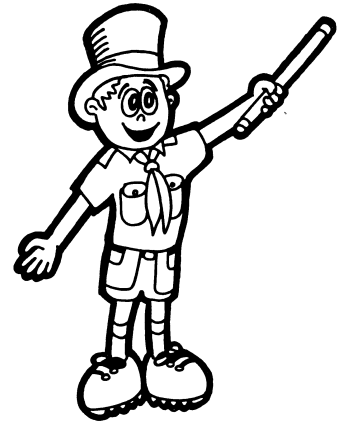




How to Have a Successful Blue & Gold Banquet

It's not hard to plan and execute a great Blue & Gold Banquet for your Pack. Here are some ideas to help you celebrate Scouting's Anniversary.

1. Pick a Theme
2. Set the Date
 - Most packs have their Blue & Gold in February – to celebrate the birth of Scouting (February 8, 1910)
 - Many packs use a weekend – what is most convenient to the most parents?
 - Avoid “bad” dates – Super Bowl Sunday, Valentine’s Day, etc. Stay away from school testing dates
 - Use a good location – Blue & Gold should be HUGELY attended – think 3-4 times the number of boys in your pack.
3. Recruit a Chairman
 - This person needs to be a planner, not a procrastinator.
 - Recruit the chairman early – at your Pack’s Back to Pack is best so they have plenty of time to plan.
4. Recruit a Team
 - Registration
 - Food
 - Cake/Dessert judging
 - Mater of Ceremonies
 - Awards
 - Marketing
 - Check In
 - Set Up
 - Clean Up
5. Set Checkpoints
 - Your chairman should attend monthly pack committee meetings to give a report on the status of the dinner.
 - Checkpoints might include dates by which:
 - Invitations are to be mailed to all boys and leaders (do a “Save the Date” postcard 6 weeks out, then mail invitations 3 weeks out)
 - Location confirmed (get it in writing and reconfirm the week before)





- Food arranged (confirm 4 weeks out and reconfirm the week before)
 - Awards ordered/purchased from the Service Center (try for 4 weeks before Blue & Gold)
6. Get the Word Out
- Invite the whole family (even the Grands!) and have something for everyone to enjoy
 - Use your Den Leaders to remind boys of the event
 - Mail invitations to all boys and leaders (your District Executive can provide a set of mailing labels if you request them in advance.
 - Use Email as an additional way to remind parents to attend and of the dens' responsibilities
 - Be sure to invite your Charter Organization Representative and Institutional Head/Executive Officer – ask them to be judges or somehow involved.
7. Assign every den with a task
- If every den has something important to do at the banquet, then all the dens will attend.
 - Likewise, if all the boys are “on the agenda” their parents will attend too!
8. Set a budget
- Be sure to include the cost of Blue & Gold in your annual budget plan (Ideal Year of Scouting) so that the popcorn sale will cover the cost. You might consider letting boys who sell a certain amount of popcorn attend for free
 - Do you want to cater the event or have a pot luck dinner?
 - Awards
 - Decorations (assign most of this to your dens – placemats, name tag holders, centerpieces, invitations, etc)
 - Leader recognitions
 - Thank you gifts for planning committee
 - Rental fee for location
9. Plan a Great Agenda!
- If your unit is chartered to a church, invite the pastor to give the invocation.
 - Be sure your District Executive knows when and where your Blue & Gold will take place so a Family Enrollment presentation can be included.
 - Songs, skits, and awards are fun – try to be mindful of overall time, though, as many families have hard time sitting still for more than an hour!
 - Leader recognition – be sure to thank your leaders with a small gift – the Scout Shop at your Jefferson and Lawrenceville Service Centers have plenty of great ideas!

