

A Round-the-World Progressive Dinner

Scout Jamborees all have a similar objective. That is, to bring a world of young people of all colours and creeds together for a brief period to live in an atmosphere of goodwill and peace in order to share new experiences and friendships with others with the same ideals. From the scout's point of view, it is almost always the highlight of his scouting career and a long remembered experience.

Unfortunately, because of problems of cost, it is often not within the resources of every scout to participate in a jamboree. That is, of course, unless you do some fund-raising (and besides, a scout will always gain greater satisfaction from an activity if he has had to make a determined effort in some way to make it all happen). Why not 'begin the year with a jamboree fund-raising night which involves both parents and scouts in a series of fun activities which will introduce them to some of the ideals of Jamborees? This should hopefully enthuse both parties and lead to a full year of fund-raising and fun.

A Round the World Progressive Dinner:

This activity needs a fair amount of planning to ensure both parents and scouts know all about it early on, (e.g. Don't drop it on the scouts a week beforehand). After Troop Council endorses the idea, each Patrol is asked to decide which nation it would like to represent at the dinner (try to get a wide variety of nations and make sure that no two Patrols pick the same country). Each Patrol is then responsible for providing a course for the dinner in the form of a dish of its chosen country (e.g. the Patrol choosing to represent the USA could provide apple pie for dessert). Ideally the courses should be fairly easily prepared and could be prepared served at the home of each Patrol Leader; if this isn't possible then alternatives include any other Patrol member's home or the hall, or (if worst comes to worst) a leader's place.

In addition to the meal, each Patrol could perhaps provide an activity based on either its chosen country or a particular jamboree theme (e.g. the Patrol representing Spain may put on a bullfighting display).

A possible evening's program:

Stop 1: Pre-dinner drinks at the Smiths' .

The Koala Patrol, representing Norway, serves assorted pre-dinner snacks (e.g. pilchard, herring, sardines or, if you're going all the way, perhaps caviar). An introductory activity may be to give everyone a nametag, pen and paper and before eating ask them to collect eight autographs from people whose name begins with the letters of the word 'Jamboree' - representing the friendships made at a Jamboree.

Stop 2: Entrees at the Joneses'

The Eagle Patrol, representing Thailand, serves a dish combining rice and fish. As an activity they could provide the materials and instruction for everyone to make a party hat - representing the new skills learned at a Jamboree.

Stop 3:

The Kanga Patrol, representing England, serves a main meal of Yorkshire pudding or perhaps Shepherd's Pie As an activity they could give each table a deck of cards with which they must build their own replica of London Bridge on the style of one of the many Jamboree gateways

Stop 4:

The Panther Patrol, who chose to represent New Zealand, serve a dessert of kiwi fruit 'and ice-cream and gives a display of Maori Dance - sure worth a photo.

Stop 5:

The Magpie Patrol, representing Australia, serves Billy tea and damper for supper and organises an ex-scout to give a short illustrated talk on his experiences of the Jamboree he attended as a scout. Perhaps follow this up with a chat from the Scout Leader on the up-coming Jamboree.

P.S. Make sure that the Patrols each thank the family whose household they used (destroyed?) for the presentation and serving of their course - and make sure they do the washing up!

Drinks:

The leaders offer to provide non-alcoholic drinks for the night, other drinks are to be BYO.

Post Script:

Try and get all the food donated by the families of Patrol members. Don't forget to ask for a \$5 donation from each participant before the event, so numbers can be catered for. Perhaps offer a discount for families.