

# Webelos Family Member Activity Badge

## Community Group

We are all family members. We are part of a group of people who care for and share with each other. How can we be better family members? We could learn how to help our other family members in our homes and outside of our homes.

### IDEAS FOR DEN ACTIVITIES

- -Start a family photo album
- -Switch chores with another family member for a month
- -Discuss "secret chores" that the boys can do for their families without their families finding out
- -Send a "why my \_\_\_\_ (dad, mom, etc) is important" letter to someone in your family
- -Teach the boys basic cleaning skills. If possible, invite a professional housecleaner to come to your den meeting.
- -Have a contest and see who can sew a button on the fastest and the best.
- -Have the boys fix a meal and invite the parents for a feast!
- -Have the boys start their own recipe files. Invite a dietician to come visit the den and explain why balanced diets are important.
- -Visit a grocery store.
- -Go to a restaurant for a tour and then eat there!

### GAMES AND ACTIVITIES

#### THE GREAT BATHTUB EXPERIMENT

Should you take a bath or a shower?

Materials:

Your bathtub with an overhead shower, a yardstick

Start by taking a bath. Fill your bathtub with water as usual, but before you step in, use a yardstick to measure the depth of the water in the tub. Be honest with the amount of water you use. If you are not, the experiment will be useless. Record the number for future reference.

Next time you bathe, take a shower. But before you begin, do something unusual. Close the bathtub drain so that the shower water will collect in the tub. When you are finished, measure the depth of the water that has collected.

Compare this reading in the shower with the bath water depth. You will find that your shower used substantially less water - probably less than half as much! A lot of this water is hot water. As a rule of thumb, figure that it takes a cubic foot of gas, or 1/4 kilowatt-hour of electricity to heat a gallon of water. So you can see showering saves energy - as well as water!

#### WASH-SORT

Gather some "dirty" laundry - clean actually and enough for Webelos Scouts to sort through in roughly a minute. Mix the laundry into two piles having about the same amount of white, color, and dark items in each. You can add to the fun by including something that must be dry cleaned so that the Webelos Scouts must read the labels to properly sort things. Also, put some pens and/or papers into the pockets for even more reality.

Split the den into two teams. The first team to sort their clothes properly wins. You may want to time each Webelos Scout individually for another variation.

## FOLD-EM GAME

When you get done sorting the laundry, you may want to do the fold-em game. It's just that...fold each item neatly. First team done is the winner.

## FAMILY FACTS

Save your family memories and pass them on to the next generation. Nothing gives more enjoyment to a family than "REMEMBER WHEN". Children learn who they are from their parents and grandparents. To play FAMILY FACTS have each member of your family write out questions that only your family would know - the more personal the better.

Who went to Canada on vacation?

What was this family's first pet?

Who broke their arm during the school play?

Who ran into the basketball standard and chipped his front tooth?

What was the address of our first house?

When is Grandma's birthday?

When did dad graduate from high school?

Play in the car, home on a rainy day or at family gatherings.

For a different twist, make up cards in categories -dates, people, places, events, pets, vacations, etc., and play family trivial pursuit. Use the regular Trivial Pursuit game, but substitute your family cards.

## FIND THE WASTED ELECTRICITY

Have a lot of lights and appliances on in your house. Go outside your house to the electric meter and have the boys observe how fast the meter is spinning. Then have them go inside and turn off as many things using electricity as possible (leave the refrigerator plugged in!). Observe the results. Have them find and list the things using electricity in the house:

-Lights

-Washing machine

-Refrigerator

-Air conditioner

-TV

-Fans

## HAZARDS AND SECURITY CHECK

Using the list below, have the boys do a home inspection inside and outside for possible hazards.

- Is trash lying around outside the home or in the garage?
- Are insecticides stored in a safe place out of reach of small children?
- Are flammable substances such as paint thinner, gasoline or charcoal lighter fluids stored in marked containers and kept in a cool well ventilated area away from any flame?
- Are sharp tools in a locked cabinet?
- Are power tool cords unplugged and out of the reach of small children?
- Are roller skates, skateboards and bicycles kept out of the driveway and sidewalks?
- Are oily rags lying about?
- Is the door of an unused freezer or refrigerator removed?
- Are all outside lights in working order?
- Are garbage cans kept covered?
- Is your sidewalk free of uneven areas or broken cement?
- Are curtains and furniture away from air conditioners and heating elements?
- Does the fireplace have a screen?

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- \_ Do large glass doors have a decal as a safety reminder?
- \_ Are electrical cords in good repair?
- \_ Are electrical wires on the floor where people can walk or trip on them?
- \_ Are poisonous substances in childproof containers?
- \_ Are all prescription drugs in childproof containers?
- \_ Are non- prescription drugs kept in the medicine chest?
- \_ Are matches stored in rodent proof and childproof containers?
- \_ Are smoke alarm batteries checked on a regular basis?
- \_ Are fire extinguishers operable?
- \_ Are the telephone numbers of the police, fire and paramedics displayed on or beside each phone?

## More on the Family Member Activity Badge

Families are important. Every member is important. In some families there are only three people. Other families may have 12 people. It doesn't matter much who is in the family or where they live—being a member of family is what the Webelos will earn from the Family Member Activity Badge.

A definition of a family is "all the people living in the same house." Families have many and varied faces. Some families are the traditional mother, father, and children, while others are one-parent families. Still other families consist of grandparents raising grandchildren. Even if a guardian is in charge of rearing a child, we hope that love and understanding is part of every family structure.

The family member activity badge helps each boy understand his family and his part in that family. This badge is geared to open each boy's awareness of how the family works and what makes the family work well. Chores, laundry, grocery shopping, and house cleaning are all elements included in the family unit. Remember to stress that each boy is important to his own family and that his family is important to him.

### PURPOSE

Because of the importance of the family involvement in this activity badge. It's a good idea to hold a parent's meeting to explain the requirements and give some suggestion on how they can work with their son on this badge.

Remember that the parent should initial the completed requirements, but a review of the activities with the individual boys at a later meeting by the Webelos leader will ensure that all the activities were properly completed. Another good approach is to let the boy's plan a "Family Day: for a Saturday or Sunday afternoon of fun for their parents and siblings. The boy's creativity and resourcefulness will amaze you and entertain everyone who attends.

Make sure the presentation of this badge at a pack meeting includes the family.

### Suggested Patrol Activities

1. Have the boys bring family favorite recipes from home and have a recipe exchange meeting. It might be fun to have the boys make a recipe book with their favorite recipes from home or a campout recipe book for patrol campouts. Have a cooking contest.
2. Tour an energy conservation home.
3. Invite a homebuilder to come to your meeting to tell you what measures he uses in house building to save energy.
4. Invite a home economics teacher or dietitian to your patrol meeting.
5. Tour a power facility and get an employee to explain ways to save energy
6. Tour a local water facility and ask about water conservation.

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7. Ask the boys to list things their families spend money for each month. This can be done individually, or in teams. Compare lists, and award a small prize to the boy or team with the most items not mentioned by the others.
8. Hold a family game night for the patrol. Have the families play and share their favorite games, or play charades. Include popcorn and juice for refreshments.
9. Have the boys fix a meal and invite the parents to your meeting for the feast. The boys must plan the meal, shop for the food, and cook it.
10. Have the boys make a family tree, which covers their family back to their grandparents. Let each boy show his tree after completion.

### Find The Wasted Electricity

Have a lot of lights and appliances on in your house??

Go outside your house to the electric meter and have the boys observe how fast the meter is spinning. Then have them go inside and turn off as many things using electricity as possible.

Observe the results.

Have them look at an electricity bill to see how big a difference they can make.

Have them find and list the things using electricity in the house:

- Lights on
- Washing machine
- Refrigerator
- Air conditioner
- TV

They may find other things using power, based on your meeting place's facilities.

### Family Key Board

#### Materials:

- 1 - One foot long  $2\frac{1}{2}$ " x 1" pine board
- 2 - picture hangers
- 5 - small brass cup holders
- Spray paint or stain and polyurethane

#### Directions:

- ✓ Spray paint or stain and poly the board a color that will work in each Scout's home (white is usually safe)
- ✓ When dry, screw picture hangers on back of the board.
- ✓ Then screw the cup holders to the front of the board, evenly spaced, and  $\frac{7}{8}$ "s inch from the bottom.
- ✓ Above each cup holder have each boy cut out and glue, or draw, a picture
- ✓ The pictures may be of members of the family or pictures of the car and house. Let them be creative.

### Household Chore Charts

#### Materials:

- Poster board,
- stickers,
- straight edge,
- sharpie markers

#### Directions:

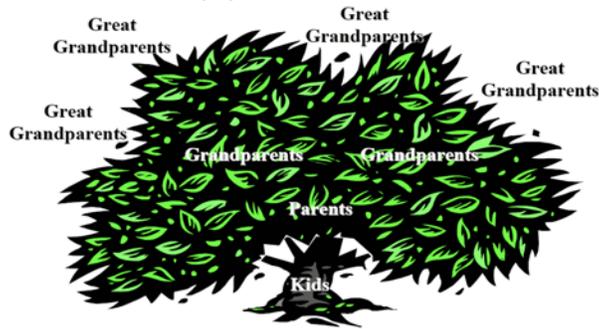
- ✓ At your Patrol meeting have the boys create their own family chore tracking chart.
- ✓ Cut the poster board into 11"x 17" charts for each boy.
- ✓ Having light lines on the poster board makes cutting and drawing easier.
- ✓ Decorate with pictures of their family members and types of chores.

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- ✓ They need to be able to track two months of chores.

### Family Trees

**Materials:** White and light green construction paper



#### Directions:

- Have the boys cut trees out of the green construction paper and paste them onto the white paper.
- Have them write their name and their siblings' names, birthdates and birthplaces on the trunk of the tree.
- Above this near the bottom of the leafy part of the tree write their parents' names, birthdates and birthplaces.
- Above each parent write the grandparents' information.
- Above the tree add Great-Grandparents, if possible.
- Connect lineages with lines.



### Home Inspection Check List Additions

There is a good home inspection checklist in the Webelos handbook, but there are other important inspections to do. Here are a few that Webelos can do at their homes and at their grandparents' homes:

1. Check to see that there are smoke detectors on every floor of the house, near all bedrooms and in hallways that connect sleeping areas to living areas of the house.
2. Test the batteries of all of the smoke alarms.
3. Use a "polarity tester" on every outlet inside and outside the house. Outlets are often wired with the black and white wires backwards or without a good ground wire. Inexpensive testers are available.
4. Are any power plugs hot or extra warm to the touch?
5. Check to see that appliance, telephone and lamp cords are not in places where people typically walk, so that they are unlikely to trip on them.
6. Check to be sure that power cords are not under any furniture legs, rugs or carpeting.
7. Are all power cords in good shape; not frayed or cracked?
8. Are several cords going into an extension cord that is not rated for the load?
9. Are any of the area rugs able to slip or slide?
10. Is there a list of emergency numbers near every telephone, including poison control, local police (911 and non-emergency), and fire?
11. Check the wattage of every light bulb versus the rating of the sockets.
12. Make an emergency exit plan so that the whole family knows how to get out of the home from any room. Everyone needs to know what the emergency gathering spot will be. Are there any safe alternative ways out of upstairs windows? Do a practice emergency escape from the home to see how long it takes.
13. Does the stove vent out smoke properly?
14. Are any appliances plugged in too near the sink in the kitchen or bathroom?
15. At night, is kitchen lighting bright enough to see adequately and be safe?



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16. Does the fireplace have something to keep sparks from entering the room?
17. Are there any rugs or flammable objects near the fireplace?
18. Are hallways well-lit and free of clutter?
19. Do bathtubs and showers have non-skid surfaces to stand on?
20. Are poisons and household chemicals out of reach of small children?
21. Are there light switches at both the top and bottom of all staircases?

### SUGGESTED DEN ACTIVITIES

- ✓ Invite a fireman, policeman or security guard to a den meeting to talk about home safety. Perhaps he can also provide you with a home inspection sheet.
- ✓ Invite a home economics teacher or dietician to talk to your den. Perhaps your den could also plan a weeks worth of meals for a family and visit a retail food establishment and price the food required to sustain this family and see how it relates to the budget of a family budget.
- ✓ Tour a waste disposal facility; have an employee give a talk.
- ✓ Invite an energy conservation engineer to give a talk on energy.
- ✓ Make a list of fun activities that involve little cost; do them over several meetings.
- ✓ Invite someone from a professional home cleaning service to give a talk on how to properly clean things.
- ✓ Tour a fast food restaurant or small café.
- ✓ Have someone from OSHA or a plant safety committee give a talk after touring a manufacturing facility.
- ✓ Have a family relation's teacher visit and talk.
- ✓ Switch chores with another family member for a month.
- ✓ Keep a personal budget for a month.
- ✓ Tour an energy conserving home that is built in the area.
- ✓ Visit with a local financial institution to find out how the monetary system works and how saving money as a family unit can be beneficial in the long run.
- ✓ Contact local public utility companies, or the environmental control agency to find out how our natural resources can be saved and what we as individuals within the family unit can do to conserve energy.

### WATER YOU USE YOURSELF

There is little danger of North America running out of water. But there is a danger that we will run short of pure water. You can help prevent this by using only as much water as you need. If you study how you use water now, you will be able to find ways to use less. Study the two charts below. Then keep this sheet with you for a DAY. Mark it each time you use water. You can use the back of this paper to do your figuring.

Remember that this is an estimate, not an exact measure of how much water you use. Therefore, you can use the average amount given in the second column when you do your figuring. For example, if you get six drinks of water a day, you would estimate  $6 \times \frac{1}{4} = 1 \frac{1}{2}$  gallons. (Note: The averages assume you let the water run to get hot or cold. You wouldn't for example, drink  $\frac{1}{4}$  gallon of water each time you get a drink, but that much would run from the faucet if you let it run to get cold). Enlarge chart to desired size.

### YOUR SHARE OF THE FAMILY'S WATER

Some water is used for the good of everyone in your family, such as water for cooking and cleaning. This chart can help you estimate your share of that water. Suppose, for example, that there are five people in your family. If you estimate that water for meals, cleaning and other family uses equals 100 gallons, your share is 100 divided by 5, or equals 20 gallons. Enlarge chart to desired size.

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DAILY WATER USE			
How you use it	Average Amount	Put "X" for each use	Total
Taking a bath	30 gallons		
Taking a shower	20 gallons		
Flushing toilet	3 gallons		
Washing hands or face	2 gallons		
Getting a drink	$\frac{1}{4}$ Gallon		
Brushing teeth	$\frac{1}{4}$ Gallon		
Other	You estimate		