

Cub Scout Summer Day Camp Den Leader Essentials



Tricks of the Trade

Gather up some useful gear for your Den leader “tool box”

Some useful things I bring:

1. Baby Powder
2. Pump spray on Suntan lotion (Parents will forget)
3. multi-tool with needle nose pliers
4. nylon string or small rope
5. bungies...
6. Paper towels
7. Hand sanitizer
8. Shoes strings, a few mardi gras cups and a paper hole punch (To repair ‘cups on a string’)

Other assorted items for your Den Area

1. A Wagon (to load up shoes and towels)
2. 2 very inexpensive laundry baskets (one for towels...one for shoes)
** almost every other activity is a water activity and the boys will be changing from swim shoes to Crocs or some other closed toed shoe....It is very handy to use the wagon as the milk crate area gets a little chaotic....
3. What I do after a water event is make sure all the scouts dry off and then I powder their feet before they put on their crocs or other closed toed shoes....believe me THEY LOVE IT....it also helps to keep their feet from chafing due to sand and dirtThen when we reach the next station ...(while they are participating in the activity) Either I or my assistant den leader will roll up their towels and store them vertically in one basket and rinse their swim shoes and toss the into the other basket....that way they will be free of sand and gravel when they put them on again for the next water event....This is one of the most important things I do and it really helps speed up transitions....
4. A divided utility container (for beads)....I suggest beading the necklaces during lunch (one at a time...while they are busy eating)
5. Take one scouts list and use it as a master list.....I usually color code each day’s marks so that if a child does not show up for a particular day I will know what marks to leave blank on his sheet....ie..Monday red marker...Tuesday green marker etc..etc...
6. I bring two Ice chests....one for lunch bags and one (with Ice for their drinks) I find this works well because not all parents will put their scouts lunch in a zip lock bag...Wet paper lunch bags are a mess...
7. Assign duties for you and your Assistant Den Leader to be in charge of....ie...when at a station your assistant is in charge of noting the master sheet

- for achievements and collecting the beads while you are monitoring the scouts behavior and attention to the station volunteers....
8. Always and constantly initiate the scouts to sing marching songs and chant during the day....encourage them to start and lead the songs.
 9. Decorate you Den Tent and Make a Den Flag.....My guys last year were very proud of our flag and were very anxious when their turn came near to carry it.***MAKE SURE YOU MAKE A ROSTER AS TO WHO'S TURN IT IS TO CARRY IT.
 10. YOU ALSO WANT TO MAKE A ROSTER FOR PULLING THE WAGON.
 11. Get a set of those little sharpies on a string and keep them handy....You will be glad you did.
 12. Get a big water gun for Friday....(and a few inexpensive ones for the kids whose parents forget to send them with one on Friday (another item for your tool bucket)...I cannot tell you how disappointed one of your scouts will be when they figure out Mom or Dad forgot their squirt gun....It's happened to at least 2 scouts in my Den for the last 2 years.
 13. Bring a small folding table for your den area.....You will need something to set your stuff on and it is just all around handy....
 14. Get either Styrofoam fishing corks with the stopper for their bead string or some other device to cinch the strings together to avoid having to tie and untie the constantly.
 15. I always set up a towel drying cord on my den tent and hang towels up at lunch to do a little drying.
 16. You may want to anchor your awning or den tent to the ground....We sometimes get some fierce winds out there and I have seen some tents and awnings go flying...In fact last year one of the big awnings at waterfront blew over....
 17. I collect Den dues(\$10 for the week) **You choose what you need and provide afternoon snack and juice, cup and Lanyard, and Ice everyday....Plus other assorted expenses...(every penny is spent on my guys) some leaders like to make a snack list and rely on parents...I prefer not to....(Lessons learned)....You can be assured if you do it....Parents ...enough said...I want to make sure my guys are taken care of...I do it myself.
 18. Bring a comfortable chair for your Den as you will have a little (I stress a little) downtime at lunch...and right before flag and carline in the afternoon.
 19. This note is for the Ladies....Do everything you possibly can before coming to camp....all they have is port-a-potties.
 20. At a water event where they have to remove their shirt, cup and bead necklace....I put their necklace inside their cup and then stuff their shirt in the cup as well...that way each scout gets their cup, shirt and necklace in one grab when they get out of the water....It makes for a quick transition...and everybody gets their own stuff back.....Therefore I use Large Mardi Gras cups....It works like a charm..
 21. If I can possibly think of anymore tips and strategies I will email those to Ken...
 22. If you have any questions of ideas you may email me directly at sburkhal@bellsouth.net