

INGREDIENTS OF A SUCCESSFUL CAMPFIRE

A successful campfire is the result of good planning and preparation. **A good rule to follow in planning the campfire program is to follow the flames.** Start slow as the fire begins to glow and then as the gently grows bigger and brighter, build to a high point of lively and active presentation and participation and as the fire slowly turns into embers, slow down to quiet, patriotic, spiritual, inspirational, meditational songs, poems, and messages.

Depending on the skill of the Program Officer and the response of the participants, a Troop campfire will vary between 60 to 90 minutes. **Another good rule to follow is end the campfire while every body is still clamoring for more, at its height.** Better to close the program with everybody clamoring for more than let the campfire go boring and die a natural death.

Vary the content of the campfire program. Make it a mixture of songs, skits, stunts, tricks, poems, spirituals, games, yells, and presentation of awards and badges. Avoid stereo type programs. Place a little of the unexpected into it.... small surprises that give the campfire a little mystery.

Every successful campfire will have the following ingredients:

1. **Opening Ceremonials** – This should be simple, short, creative, and colorful.
2. **Songs and Cheers** – This should include folk songs, patriotic songs, spiritual songs, round songs, mixed songs, and action songs.
3. **Stories** – This includes mysteries, adventure, biographies, folk tale, and legends.
4. **Games** – This should be based on inter-patrol challenges or individual test of skill.
5. **Dramatics** – This should feature native or modern dances, comedy skits, skills application, folk traditions, cultural, nationalistic, and spiritual values.
6. **Recognition and Awards** – This should include advancement and merit badges, troop and patrol ribbons and pennants, etc.
7. **Information and Announcement** – This should include future Scout activities and projects to be participated by the Troop whether on a National, Regional, Council, District, or Institutional level.
8. **Inspirational Message** – Traditionally, this is given by the Troop Leader. This may however, be delegated by him to a special guest of the Troop.
9. **Closing Ceremonies** – This must be short, simple and solemn.

TYPES OF CAMPFIRE

There are three (3) types of Campfires. These are the following:

1. **Presentation** – These are the most common and make use of Patrol presentation in forms of skits, demonstrations, and stunts.
2. **Fellowship or Social** – This has for its objective the building of morale and the strengthening of friendships and associations. This contains mostly group songs, stunts, games, and story telling.
3. **Inspirational or Spiritual** – This is designed to inculcate values. This mostly contains inspirational and meditational songs, skits, messages, and ceremonials.

Campfires may further be classified according to themes, thus:

1. **Ideals Campfire** – This focuses the activities on the Fundamental Principles of Scouting and the Scout Method.
2. **Skills Campfire** – The focus of activity is on the demonstration of Scout Skills or the Advancement requirement.
3. **Ceremonial Campfires** – These are Commitment and Installation ceremonies done by the campfire.

PARTS OF THE CAMPFIRE

1. Opening Ceremony:

- Lighting of the Fire
- Presentation of the Campfire to the Campfire Chief
- Formal Declaration of the Campfire Opening

2. Presentations:

- Songs
- Yells
- Skits
- Stunts and tricks
- Stories
- Games
- Ice Breakers

1. Moment of Recognition

2. Announcements

5. Yarn – Given by the Campfire Chief

6. Closing Ceremony

- Quieting Songs
- Scout Benediction

CAMPFIRE YARN: DEVELOPING FILIPINISM

The mission of the Boy Scouts of the Philippines is to contribute to the Character Building and Citizenship Training of boys; to help Filipino boys of Scouting age to grow to be disciplined, responsible, self-reliant, and concerned citizen of the country. This, however, cannot be achieved unless we are able to inculcate in their hearts and minds the knowledge, the understanding, the appreciation, and to ultimately awaken in them love and concern for everything that is FILIPINO. We must be able to implant in them the seed of pride in our cultural heritage and values to nurture its growth, and thus, to usher the birth of the Filipino Soul in every boy....the beginnings of Patriotism.

This is FILIPINISM. And its development in the hearts and minds of the young is the inalienable responsibility of every Filipino adult....more so, of every Troop Leader.

To plant the seed is easy. But to nurture its growth is something else. Because nurturing the growth of Filipinism in the young necessitates the manifestation of its fruit in ourselves. The appreciation for everything Filipino and the ultimate love and concern for the Filipino must be visible in us. Otherwise, our attempts at development will be nothing but imputed information without any significant and practical application to the present generation.

How to Develop Filipinism in the Boy Scouts

Developing Filipinism in the heart and mind of our Scouts necessitates the following process:

1. Role Modeling

The Scouts must see in our speech in our behavior, and in our relationships, the things that we are teaching them. Remember, the maxim that says "our action speaks so loud that what we say cannot be heard". So it is in our relationship with our boys. We must never lost sight of the fact that they are hero seeking and worshiping young beings. They look up to their leaders and adapts to what they perceive in people whom they admire and idolized. The things we do will easily be picked up by their impressionistic minds much more than the things we say.

2. Information Sharing

There must be a continuous flow of information to them on the greatness of the Filipino and on the rich Philippine historical and cultural heritage and values that unites us as a people. Tell them about our heroes and the characteristics that formed the beauty and the glory of our most revered traditions.

3. Inspirational Activities

Camping, hiking, community involvement, and environmental activities conducted in areas with a magnificent view of the surrounding country side or in historical sites are good opportunities in developing Filipinism. Patriotic and nationalistic songs sang preferably during campfires as well as the presentation of skits that features the lives of our heroes, the Philippine cultural traditions and values, the folk stories, dances and

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songs of our people are effective means in developing appreciation and pride in the Filipino.

4. Patrol Projects

The making of scrapbooks that features the lives of Filipino heroes, Tourists spots and destinations, historical events and sites, folk traditions and values, and the like are also helpful means in developing Filipinism. The making of models that features the ingenuity of the Filipino may also be a good idea.

5. Good Turns

Performing daily good turns so as to develop the habit of doing their duty to country and others. Weekly reporting on the kind and the number of good turns done and giving recognition to performers is a must.

Extreme care must, however, be taken in making sure that divisive ideas in the Development of Filipinism will be avoided. Considering that the Philippines is a multi dialect country with a diverse culture, it will be best that purist as well as isolationist ideas be avoided. **True Filipinism is a unifying spirit.**

Filipinism and World Brotherhood

While the mission of the Boy Scouts of the Philippines is to contribute to the **character building and citizenship training** of Filipino boys so they can become valuable and dependable citizens, we must make sure to avoid the pitfalls of jealousy and narrow nationalism. Rather, we must strive to develop in our Scouts the Pride and Love of Country so as to give them the desire and the motivation to excel in their professional, social, and political endeavors. In the process, they will become more in a position to serve effectively not only their country but also the people of other countries. And thus, they will be able to earn the recognition and the respect of other nations. This is the essence of World Brotherhood. **True Filipinism supports and strengthens the principle of the Brotherhood of Men under the Fatherhood of GOD.**