

In My Corner

By Scout Executive Duane Rhodes

Outdoor program is the year-round laboratory of Scouting. For Cub Scouts, Boy Scouts and Venturers, nothing compares with adventure in the out-of-doors in bringing alive the promises of fun with friends while learning new things. Schools are great places to learn things. When we make Scouting too much like school, however, we miss the opportunity to make the learning a natural outcome of games, hikes and campouts. The outdoors lends itself to hands-on activities much better than having Scouts indoors.

We will always have den, pack and troop meetings, but we should always be thinking about how to get the Scouts out more often. To actually make that happen, schedule it. Put a year's worth of outdoor program on your calendar, and let every parent know about it.

Sometimes I hear leaders talking about these fall and winter months in terms of scaling back the outdoor program, because the weather is so often cold and wet. Couple of problems with that: One, well-prepared Scouts do not spend much of their time cold and wet; if they do get that way once in a while, they can learn from it. Two, getting the Scouts out is more important than watching another football game. Three, the cooler weather is great for us adults, because we burn more calories! So, when is your next unit outing, and have you picked your camp dates for next summer?

Wishing you all a Merry Christmas and a wonderful Holiday Season!