

It's Show Time



The Program:

The art of magic and slight of hand have fascinated both young and old alike. Give your boys and their friends a chance to try their hand at a bit of prestidigitation and show it off to their parents.

The Set Up:

Putting on a magic show isn't as tough as it might sound. All you really need is a large meeting area to hold your spectators, a master of ceremonies and a few up and coming magicians.

If your regular meeting place does not have a large enough room, check with your local school or perhaps a church. There are just about always rooms available.

Once your Pack has decided to hold a magic show a responsible adult will need to be recruited to coordinate the preparation. Remember that for many of your boys and their friends this will be their first exposure to performing magic, and you want them to be successful. Select a few tricks that can be easily learned by everybody. One is included on the back of this sheet along with some websites where more tricks can be learned. Check your local library as there are numerous books published on the subject; many of which cater to the young magician.

After deciding upon the tricks to be taught, gather the needed materials to be used. Keep your magic acts simple, cheap and easy. Avoid the temptation to go overboard with props. Ideally you'll just need a coin or two, perhaps a handkerchief, playing cards and maybe a "magic wand".

The Invitation:

Two weeks prior to your activity have each Scout make a list of friends they are going to invite. You can help them

create the list by asking questions such as; if you were going to have a Birthday party today; who would you invite? Don't leave anybody off the list. Write them all down. Have each Scout complete a written invitation to everybody on the list, and hand deliver it to them over the next three days.

Have each of your Scouts make a personal follow up phone call no later than two days prior to the activity. Try to get a commitment from those that can attend. You'll need to know so that the proper amount of materials and any refreshments can be gathered and prepared. Don't be offended or put off if somebody turns you down. People are busy or may not have an interest in this activity. It's OK.

On the day of the activity, make contact with the invitees and let them know you are excited to have them come with you. Offer to give them a ride.

The Execution:

Begin your gathering just as you would with any other Pack or Den meeting. This may include a flag ceremony, or repetition of the Cub Scout Oath. You don't want people who are new to Scouting to feel awkward or left out, so make sure somebody explains the procedure and conspicuously post those things, such as the Oath, where others can easily read them.

Now the fun begins. Separate the boys by Den and lead them to different rooms or corners of the big hall. Be prepared to teach at least two different tricks to each of the Dens. This will take some help from adult leaders or Den Chiefs who are familiar with the tricks. Make certain that all of the boys have the opportunity to participate in the learning of the tricks, even if they make it clear that they do not want to perform later. Many boys

this age are likely to share a new found talent with their friends or family, but aren't quite so excited about standing in front of an audience.

While the boys are learning their tricks, have the parents meet in a separate room or corner to talk about Scouting to the new parents. Don't get bogged down in the details. Basics such as meeting times, registration fees and an example of the kinds of things the boys will be learning and doing is enough information allows parents to make a decision on whether or not to join. After about 20 minutes, bring the boys and parents back together and let the show begin.

This is where your Master of Ceremonies has a chance to shine. You may have the boys perform by Den or simply in random order. Either way, give each boy who wants, the opportunity to show off his new trick. Conclude with some type of closing ceremony and thanks to all who attended or participated.

Before departing; make sure that you announce the upcoming events and activities. It's important that your friends know that this isn't just a one time thing, and that they can be a part of something like this each week. Scouting should be full of fun activities.

The Follow Up:

At the end of the activity, let your friends know how much you appreciated them coming along. Remind them of the upcoming events and invite them to join you to those as well.

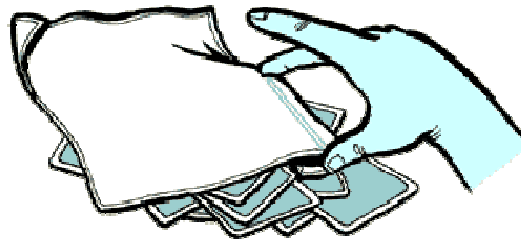
A day or two after your activity, make contact with your friends, and extend another invitation for them to join you. If it feels right; invite them to become a member of your Troop. Call those who couldn't make the activity and let them know they were missed.

Effect

Make a card vanish into thin air!

Supplies You Need

- Ordinary deck of cards
- Handkerchief with a hem
- Toothpick
- Scissors



Picture 1

Setup

Take a toothpick and match it up against the end of one of the cards. Take the scissors and cut the toothpick so it's the same as the width of the card. Poke it into the hem of the handkerchief. Make sure it won't fall out.

How to Perform

Take the deck of cards and spread them out in a pile on the table in front of the audience.

Bring out your handkerchief and say, "I will make an ordinary playing card disappear, right before your very eyes," or something similar.

Place the handkerchief on top of the pile of cards, with the part with the toothpick underneath the rest of the handkerchief. Look casual as you do this.

With one hand, pick up the toothpick between your thumb and forefinger and raise it up from the pile of cards. It will look like you are holding the edge of one of the cards.

Say, "And it's gone!" as you wave the handkerchief in the air, showing there's no card inside. It's vanished into thin air!

Here are a few sites where you can find some more tricks for your beginning magicians.

<http://kids.mysterynet.com/magic/>

<http://allmagic.com>

http://community-2.webtv.net/Fluff_dog85/FreeBeginnerTricks/index.html