



“Pioneer Clubs Time Machine” Skit

Length: 10-15 minutes

Props: time machine (large box with large button, dials, etc., drawn on it), chair; *optional:* calendar page with “October 1939” across top, sign that reads “First and Only Camp Cherith for Boys in the World”

Stagehand: person to turn room lights off and on and to make sounds for the time machine

Costumes: *optional:* Choose appropriate costumes.

Characters:

Narrator—to read script

Girl & Boy (or 2 girls or 2 boys)—from present day

Joe—college student from 1939

Harriet—13-year-old girl from 1939

Billy—Harriet’s brother

Carol Erickson & Louise Troup—young women from 1942

Pioneer Girls Leader—from 1960s

Junior-High Girl(s)—from 1960s

Camp Counselor—man from 1981

Directions: *Recruit children (grade 3 and up recommended) to play the characters. Throughout the skit, characters pantomime the story as NARRATOR reads it. NARRATOR pauses for characters to do actions named. Option: No rehearsal is needed, but characters may better understand what actions to use if they read through the script before performing.*

Scene 1

(Pioneer Clubs room at church. Time machine is in a corner. Chair is in another corner.)

NARRATOR: It’s the end of the 70th birthday party celebration at a local church’s Pioneer Clubs® meeting. As the party winds down, two club members are playing hide and seek in a club room. The GIRL runs into the room. She crouches down behind a chair and hides. The BOY runs in after her. He looks all around, searching for her.

As the BOY runs around looking for the GIRL, he bumps into a strange-looking machine in the corner. Curious about the machine, he examines it—looking at all the strange

knobs, buttons and dials.

The GIRL cautiously comes out of her hiding place. She taps the BOY on the shoulder. She asks what he’s doing. The BOY waves his arms excitedly. He tells the GIRL that he’s found this weird-looking machine and wonders what it’s for. He points out the buttons to her. The GIRL waves her arms worriedly. She tells him not to push any buttons, but it’s too late! He pushes a button!

(STAGEHAND turns out lights and makes strange noises. Turns lights back on.)

Scene 2

(JOE is standing and talking to HARRIET and BILLY off to one side.)

NARRATOR: The BOY and GIRL find themselves standing in a garage. They look shocked. The GIRL excitedly points at a calendar on the wall that says, “October 1939.” They both look at each other in amazement. They wonder if they truly are in 1939.

Suddenly the BOY grabs the GIRL’s arm. He tells her that the machine

they found must be a time machine—they’ve traveled back in time! The BOY’s and GIRL’s mouths drop wide open. They look over at a college student and two kids. The college student is talking to the kids. The BOY and GIRL cup their hands behind their ears. They listen in on the conversation.

The college student is telling the 1939 boy, who he calls BILLY, that he’ll see him at their boys club. BILLY nods happily. The 1939 girl, BILLY’s sister, is called HARRIET. She pouts and looks sad. She looks up at the college student who she calls “Uncle Joe.” She taps her foot impatiently. She asks him when she and her friends can have a girls club because the boys have so much fun in their boys club.

The GIRL nudges the BOY in agreement. They keep listening with their hands cupped behind their ears.

JOE waves his arms excitedly. He tells HARRIET that she *can* have a girls club. A friend of his at Wheaton College has answered an ad in the Wheaton College newspaper and

offered to lead it. Her name is Betty Whitaker. HARRIET jumps up and down with excitement. She claps her hands happily. HARRIET thanks JOE and tells him she can't wait for the girls club to begin. They all leave.

The GIRL looks at the BOY because the name Betty Whitaker sounds familiar. Suddenly the BOY smacks himself on the head. He remembers that was the name of the first Pioneer Clubs director! He waves his arms excitedly. The Pioneer Clubs members just learned about Betty Whitaker at the 70th birthday party. The BOY and GIRL give each other a high five. Joe and Harriet were talking about the same person!

The GIRL wonders where they'll go next if they push another button on the time machine. So she pushes a button!

(STAGEHAND turns out lights and makes strange noises. Turns lights back on.)

Scene 3

(CAROL ERICKSON and LOUISE TROUP are sitting at a table in an apartment. CAROL is writing; LOUISE is asleep with her head in her arms.)

NARRATOR: The BOY and GIRL look around them. But don't know where they are. It looks like an apartment. That's when they jump in surprise. They notice two young women sitting at the table with papers scattered everywhere. The BOY grabs the GIRL by the shoulders. He asks her what year she pressed. She tells him 1942.

Suddenly the young woman sleeping gasps and sits up. She asks who's there. The BOY apologizes for waking her up, introduces himself and the GIRL and asks her name. The woman gives a huge yawn. She tells them that she is LOUISE TROUP and the other woman is CAROL ERICKSON. The BOY and GIRL shake their hands. LOUISE says they're working on their

Pioneer Girls plans. She gives another huge yawn. She explains that she is so tired because she's been working in the steel mill all day and then coming home to work on plans for Pioneer Girls.

The BOY waves his arms in confusion. "Don't you mean Pioneer Clubs?" the BOY asks LOUISE. LOUISE and CAROL look confused. They explain that they've never heard of Pioneer Clubs; the name of their club is Pioneer Girls. The BOY holds his head in confusion.

The GIRL grabs the BOY's arm and shakes him gently. She whispers to him not to be silly. After all, doesn't he remember learning at the 70th birthday party that Pioneer Clubs was called Pioneer Girls first? The boy nods. He'd forgotten that fact.

CAROL and LOUISE wave their arms excitedly as they tell the BOY and GIRL about all of their cool plans for Pioneer Girls. Friends of theirs who worked with Pioneer Girls groups at Wheaton College have now started groups of their own in other cities. Also, now you can earn seven different awards and the girls have uniforms.

The BOY makes a "yuck" face. "Uniforms?" the BOY thinks—"Yuck!" The GIRL puts her finger to her lips and says, "Shh!" The BOY rolls his eyes.

LOUISE explains that CAROL came up with the club slogan: Christ in every phase of life. They want young people to be excited about knowing Jesus.

The BOY and GIRL thank them. Everyone waves goodbye. The GIRL stares at the time machine. She decides what button to push and she pushes it!

(STAGEHAND turns out lights and makes strange noises. Turns lights back on.)

Scene 4

(PIONEER GIRLS LEADER from 1960s is sitting on the ground, wiping her forehead.)

NARRATOR: The BOY and GIRL look around. They notice a covered wagon and a woman sitting on the ground. She's dressed like a pioneer. She wipes her forehead and looks tired. The BOY's and GIRL's mouths drop open in shock. They run over to her. They ask her if she's all right. She nods. She tells them she's fine, just tired because her covered wagon got stuck in the mud. The BOY nervously looks at the GIRL. The girl scratches her head in confusion. She tells the BOY she's pretty sure she punched in the year 1965 on the time machine, not 1865!

They ask the woman why she's traveling by covered wagon. The woman laughs happily. She says she's a Pioneer Girls leader. She explains that Pioneer Girls people are towing the covered wagon on a trailer all around the United States and Canada for the Pioneer Girls 25th anniversary. The wagon attracts attention and then they tell people about the clubs: Pilgrims, Colonists and Explorers.

"Wow!" the BOY and GIRL exclaim. "That sounds great," they tell her. Suddenly a group of JUNIOR-HIGH GIRLS come running over to the wagon. They wave their arms excitedly. They tell the woman that they really "dig" the new Pioneer Girls handbook. They tell her it's "groovy" and "out of sight." They say the old book was too "square."

The BOY and GIRL scratch their heads and shrug—groovy and square? The woman laughs loudly. She explains to the BOY and GIRL that Pioneer Girls continually updates their materials to keep up with club members' needs. No matter how times change, she tells them, Pioneer Girls wants to present biblical ideas in a way club

members can relate to their lives and live by.

The BOY and GIRL wave goodbye. The BOY picks the year 1981 for the time machine. He pushes the button!

(STAGEHAND turns out lights and makes strange noises. Turns lights back on.)

Scene 5

(A male CAMP COUNSELOR is making a sign that reads, "First and Only Camp Cherith for Pioneer Boys in the World.")

NARRATOR: The BOY and GIRL look around and see the man. They ask him what the sign is for. The man explains that he is going to put it up at Saguaro Camp Cherith® for the start of the first-ever camp week for Pioneer Boys. He also explains that he's one of the camp counselors. He waves his arms excitedly. He thinks it's going to be a great week!

The GIRL gives him a confused look. She says it's 1981. Is he sure there was never a Camp Cherith for boys before this? The CAMP COUNSELOR explains that there have been a few test Pioneer Boys clubs for about a year, and that Pioneer Boys will officially start in the fall. He and the BOY give each other a high five. The CAMP COUNSELOR says that's why there haven't been boys at Camp Cherith before. He tells the BOY to tell his friends to come. Then he waves goodbye and leaves.

Suddenly the BOY looks worried. He grabs the GIRL's arm. He tells the GIRL that they'd better get back to the Pioneer Clubs room or everyone is going to wonder where they are. He choose the year and pushes the button!

(STAGEHAND turns out lights and makes strange noises. Turns lights back on.)

Scene 6

NARRATOR: The BOY and GIRL look around worriedly. Then they wipe their foreheads and say, "Whew!" They're back in the Pioneer Clubs room again. What a trip! The GIRL folds her hands thoughtfully. She tells the BOY, "I love Pioneer Clubs but I never thought about how it got started before. It started with just a few people who worked hard to put together a club that would share God's love with kids. And it grew!"

The BOY nods. He adds that these days there are clubs for kids from age 2 through middle school. He counts 1-2-3 on his fingers. He says there are three programs to meet the needs of churches of any size—Pioneer, Discovery and Exploring. It seems as though the Pioneer Clubs people are always improving the program so that it will meet the needs of churches and club members. The BOY jumps up and down happily.

The girl waves her arms excitedly. She exclaims, "What would Betty, Carol and Louise say if they saw Pioneer Clubs today?" They both wonder what Pioneer Clubs will look like in the next 70 years. They slowly turn and look at the time machine. Then they look at each other with huge grins. "Let's find out!" they shout. They choose the year 2079. They both push the button!

(STAGEHAND turns out lights and makes strange noises.)