Midyear Kickoff

Get kids excited for the second half of the club year.

Planning for the Lock-in

- Choose a time slot, such as 7 p.m. to 8 a.m.
- Recruit adult helpers.
- Send home permission slips. Include lock-in rules and items kids aren’t allowed to bring.
- Decide how to handle any medications children need to take.
- Plan separate places for boys and girls to sleep. If you have Voyagers, try to have different sleeping areas for them so they can go to bed early if they need to.
- For Hot Dog Slob or Shaving Cream Snowmen activities: Recruit adults who are good sports.
- Arrange to use an oven.
- Consider having someone take pictures. Get each child in action at least once (use a checklist of their names if needed), plus a photo of each age-group.
- Then find a sale on small photo books and print one for each family who wants one. Include the price on the permission slip so parents can sign up and pay ahead of time.
- To continue the excitement of the lock-in, plan a special theme for the next regular meeting, such as crazy hair (kids come sporting wild hairdos) or green day (kids wear green; serve green snacks, etc.).
- Create a schedule for the rest of the club year and make copies to hand out.

Activities

- **Hot Dog Slob.** Kids love seeing adults act silly. Use this to introduce the mid-evening snack time. Say you’re going to demonstrate the proper, polite way to eat a hot dog so that the kids can learn. On a table, have a half hot dog in a pot of water, a half bun, bottle of ketchup, squeeze jar of mustard, jar of pickle relish and spoon. Cut an old T-shirt down the back, leaving the neck hole intact. Adult 1 stands behind the table with head through the T-shirt neck hole, arms through a pair of shorts and hands wearing socks and shoes. Adult 2 stands behind Adult 1 with arms around Adult 1 and through the T-shirt armholes. Stagehands hold a sheet between Adult 1 and 2 so Adult 2 can’t see the table. Now Adult 1 must narrate how he or she is making and eating the hot dog in the proper way, giving directions to Adult 2 while doing so. Example: “First I take the hot dog out of the pot which is to my left; no, a little further left.” Adult 1 must get Adult 2 to make the hot dog with ketchup, mustard and pickle relish and feed it to Adult 1. Encourage Adult 1 to play up the proper and polite aspect: “Now I daintily put the hot dog in my mouth so I don’t spill.”

- **Gum Sculptures.** Hand out giant bubble gum balls and plastic plates. Kids chew gum and then make a sculpture out of it. Let them do show-and-tell when they’re done. If your group is very large, have them do show-and-tell just for their age-group.

- **Skits.** Try some audience participation skits from the Pioneer Clubs Skits book (item #2726), such as “Uncle Zeb Went A-Shoppin’” and “Wild West Story”

- **Shaving Cream Snowmen.** For each age-group, an adult wears a rain poncho, short sleeve shirt, shorts, goggles and flip flops. Put dropcloths below them. Kids use shaving cream to turn the adults into snowmen. Provide a washable hat and gloves plus a broom for each team. Take pictures!
Activities continued...

- **Photo Kickoff.** Ask club members what they liked about the first half of the club year. Then create some excitement for the second half. Give a club leader of each age-group a digital camera and a list of 4-6 awards that will be done in the coming months. Have a box containing items that will be used in the awards. Club members look through the awards in their handbook, pick props and create a scene of working on some aspect of the award. The leader takes a picture of this. The leaders bring the cameras to you when they’re finished to check their work.

- **Videos.** This can be a good way to calm down closer to bedtime.

- **Midnight Prayer.** Fifteen minutes before bedtime, have a prayer time by age-group. Read Psalm 92:4. Let children take turns finishing these prayers: Lord, I praise you for (something you’ve done). Lord, I praise you because you are (character trait). Brainstorm ideas first.

- **Zzzzz.** Designate sleeping hours, such as 12:00-6:00. Insist on sleep!

- **Morning Praise & Prayer.** After breakfast, sit in a large group by age-groups. Read Philippians 4:6. Say that you learned last night about praising God, and you’re going to praise him again by singing in a minute. But human beings sometimes feel sad. Sometimes we have troubles God also wants us to ask him for help. We can praise God when we are happy or sad, and we can ask him for help when we are happy or sad. Praising him can help us know that he has helped us in the past and he will help us now. Sing praise songs (see “Songs” below) and then turn to age-groups to take prayer requests and pray for them.

- **Announcements.** After breakfast, tell kids about upcoming special activities you have planned for the rest of the club year. Hand out schedules to take home. Tell kids what the special theme will be for the next regular club meeting (crazy hair day, green day, etc.).

**Games**

- **Board Games.** Set out a number of board games. Have players rotate after a certain time limit.

- **Human Bowling.** One player is the bowler and another is the ball return. The others stand in a loose group as the pins. Pins may pivot on one foot to avoid being hit. The bowler gets three rolls to hit as many pins as ball return. The ball return becomes the next bowler. The bowler becomes a pin. (If the ball return has already bowled, The first pin out becomes the next have him or her choose someone else.)

- **Snowball Fight.** Use rolled-up socks. When someone is hit, he or she runs to the other side and keeps playing.

- **Snowplows.** Use rolled-up socks again. Each team tries to get all its snowballs onto the other team’s side, by throwing, pushing and so on.

- **Snowball Tag.** Choose someone to be IT. Give a rolled-up sock to another player. On “Go,” IT starts chasing this player, who may throw the snowball to someone else at any time. Whoever has the snowball is the only one who may be tagged. If the snowball drops, play stops until someone is brave enough to snatch it up.
Games continued...

- **Hose Head Game.** Cut off the legs of old pantyhose. Each player puts a tennis ball into the foot of a piece of hose and then pulls the other end onto their head like a hat. Players run around trying to pull off each other’s hats while keeping theirs from being pulled off. No holding onto hats, though.
- **Penguin Relay.** Explain that penguins hold their babies on their feet to keep them warm. Players “run” the relay with a beanbag balanced on their feet, shuffling along.
- **Ice Skate Relay.** Players “skate” with feet in two shoeboxes.
- **Spaghetti O’s.** You’ll need two adults per cheering section of kids. One adult holds an uncooked spaghetti noodle and a cup of O-shaped cereal. On “Go,” the other adult uses mouth to put cereal rings on spaghetti noodle. Kids cheer their pair on. See who can fill the noodle first.

Food

- **Mid-Evening Snack.** Serve half hot dogs with fixings. Introduce the snack with Snack Slob (under Activities) if you choose.
- **Bedtime Snack.** Serve milk and some variety of bananas for a sleep-inducing snack: granola with bananas, peanut butter and banana sandwiches (check food allergies), banana muffins.
- **Breakfast.** Help each kid put together an egg-in-the-hole sandwich (see recipe at end of pdf). Serve with fruit. Have them clean up while the sandwiches bake.

Devotional

Have the devotional during the evening, so the Mid-night Prayer and Morning Praise & Prayer times can be follow-ups. Have everyone sit in a large group by age-groups so age-groups can answer questions and work together.

- Who’s ever been to a game with cheerleaders? Raise your hand.
- Who can demonstrate a cheer? If no one volunteers, be ready to lead this one: Defense, defense, get it from the offense! (Stomp, clap, stomp, clap.) Oh yeah!
- We get excited about sports games. What else do you enjoy or get excited about? One thing I can think of is that we’re having fun being here tonight.
- What have we done so far that you’re enjoying? We have lots of things in our lives to enjoy and get excited about.
- Have you ever thought of enjoying and getting excited about God? Read Psalm 92:1-5. This means the psalmist was glad and happy about what God has done. Reread verse 2. The psalmist wanted to praise God’s love and faithfulness.
- What are some things God does that show his love for us? (Being with us, sending Jesus to save us, giving us families, helping us.)
- What are some promises God makes and keeps that show he’s faithful and reliable? (I will never leave you; I will forgive you; I will teach you.)
- Tell someone about a time when God showed his love or kept a promise for you or your family. The stories you told are things to be excited about! God has a great love for us. We can be glad for his love, and we can love him back. The psalmist praised God with music and stringed instruments. Let’s make some music to God right now. Work with your age-group to create a praise rap, song or cheer showing you’re glad about ways God shows his love and keeps his promises. Allow time. Let groups perform for each other. Close in prayer, thanking God for his love and his promises.
Bible Memory
Memorize Psalm 92:4. Divide into two groups, the “speakers” and the “singers.” On “Go,” the singers sing the first word of the verse, the speakers say the second word normally, the singers sing the third word, and so on through the verse. Switch roles and try again. For fun, assign a different singing style for each round, such as opera, rap, country, rock.

songs
“Shout to the Lord”
“How Great Is Our God”
“Forever”
“10,000 Reasons (Bless the Lord)”
“This Is the Day”

Egg-in-the-Hole Sandwiches
For 1 sandwich.

2 slices of bread
3 tablespoons of shredded cheese
1 egg
1 teaspoon of bacon crumbles spreadable margarine

Preheat oven to 400° F (205° F).

Children work in small groups around a baking dish. They spread margarine on a slice of bread and put it margarine-side down in the baking dish. They sprinkle this piece with half of the cheese. They tear a 2 inch (5 cm) hole in the center of the other piece of bread and put it on top of the slice in the pan. Kids break an egg into the hole. Sprinkle with bacon bits and the rest of the cheese.

Bake 15-20 minutes or until eggs are cooked.

Original recipe:
8 slices bread
1 Tbsp. margarine, softened
3/4 cup KRAFT 2% Milk Shredded Cheddar Cheese, divided
4 eggs
2 slices OSCAR MAYER Bacon, cooked, crumbled

PREHEAT oven to 400°F.

Cut hole in center of each of 4 of the bread slices, using 1-1/2-inch cookie cutter or rim of drinking glass. Discard removed bread circles or reserve for another use.

SPREAD remaining bread slices with margarine. Place, margarine-sides down, in 13x9-inch baking dish; sprinkle with 1/2 cup cheese. Top with cut-out bread slices to make four sandwiches. Break 1 egg into each hole. Sprinkle with remaining 1/4 cup cheese and the bacon.

BAKE 15 to 20 min. or until cheese is melted and eggs are set.
Uncle Zeb Went a-Shoppin’

Characters:
COUSIN CHRIS 5-10 COUSINS (played by volunteers from the audience)
ALL IN THE AUDIENCE (optional)

Hints:
Add your own items and their sounds and motions, if you wish. To involve the entire audience, have them stand and do the motions after the last COUSIN. Or instead of having a line of COUSINS, have COUSIN CHRIS tell the audience, “Uncle Zeb went a-shoppin’.” The audience replies, “So what did he buy?” and then does the motions along with COUSIN CHRIS.
(The COUSINS stand in a line, facing the audience. COUSIN CHRIS stands at one end of the line.)

COUSIN CHRIS: (to COUSIN 1) Uncle Zeb went a-shoppin’.
COUSIN 1: So what did he buy?
COUSIN CHRIS: A goldfish. (begins to pucker and unpucker lips like a fish)
COUSIN 1: (to COUSIN 2) Uncle Zeb went a-shoppin’.
COUSIN 2: So what did he buy?
COUSIN 1: A goldfish. (begins to pucker and unpucker lips like a fish)
COUSIN 2: (to COUSIN 3) Uncle Zeb went a-shoppin’.
COUSIN 3: So what did he buy?
COUSIN 2: A goldfish. (begins to pucker and unpucker lips like a fish)
(Continue down the line of COUSINS until the last COUSIN is making the motion.)
COUSIN CHRIS: (to COUSIN 1) Uncle Zeb went a-shoppin’.
COUSIN 1: So what did he buy?
COUSIN CHRIS: A rockin’ chair. (begins to rock while still puckering)
COUSIN 1: (to COUSIN 2) Uncle Zeb went a-shoppin’.
COUSIN 2: So what did he buy?
COUSIN 1: A rockin’ chair. (begins to rock while still puckering)
COUSIN 2: (to COUSIN 3) Uncle Zeb went a-shoppin’.
COUSIN 3: So what did he buy?
COUSIN 2: A rockin’ chair. (begins to rock while still puckering)
(Continue down the line of COUSINS until the last COUSIN is making the motion.)
COUSIN CHRIS: (to COUSIN 1) Uncle Zeb went a-shoppin’.
COUSIN 1: So what did he buy?
COUSIN CHRIS: A mountain bike. (begins “pedaling” while still making other motions)
COUSIN 1: (to COUSIN 2) Uncle Zeb went a-shoppin’.
COUSIN 2: So what did he buy?
COUSIN 1: A mountain bike. (begins “pedaling” while still making other motions)
(Continue down the line of COUSINS until the last COUSIN is making the motion.)
COUSIN CHRIS: (to COUSIN 1) Uncle Zeb went a-shoppin’.
COUSIN 1: So what did he buy?
COUSIN CHRIS: A windup clock. (begins shaking head from side to side and clucking tongue while still making other motions)
COUSIN 1: (to COUSIN 2) Uncle Zeb went a-shoppin’.
COUSIN 2: So what did he buy?
COUSIN 1: A windup clock. (begins shaking head from side to side and clucking tongue while still making other motions) (Continue down the line of COUSINS until the last COUSIN is making the motion.)
COUSIN CHRIS: (to COUSIN I) Uncle Zeb went a-shoppin’.
COUSIN 1: So what did he buy?
COUSIN CHRIS: A rowboat. (begins rowing motion with arms while still making other motions)
COUSIN 1: (to COUSIN 2) Uncle Zeb went a-shoppin’.
COUSIN 2: So what did he buy? COUSIN 1: A rowboat. (begins rowing motion with arms while still making other motions) (Continue down the line of COUSINS until the last COUSIN is making the motion.)
COUSIN CHRIS: (to COUSIN 1) Uncle Zeb went a-shoppin’.
COUSIN 1: So what did he buy?
COUSIN CHRIS: A trampoline. (begins jumping up and down while still making other motions)
COUSIN 1: (to COUSIN 2) Uncle Zeb went a-shoppin’.
COUSIN 2: So what did he buy? COUSIN 1: A trampoline. (begins jumping up and down while still making other motions) (Continue in the same way down the line of COUSINS until the last COUSIN is making the motion.)
COUSIN CHRIS: (to COUSIN 1) Uncle Zeb went a-shoppin’.
COUSIN 1: So what did he buy?
COUSIN CHRIS: Nothin’. He passed out! (suddenly stops all motions as do all the COUSINS)

From Pioneer Clubs’ Skits book (item #2726).