



Webelos Den Meeting 16

Puppetry Showmen

Showman Activity Badge (complete).

Preparation and Materials Needed

- ▶ Read the Showman chapter in the *Webelos Handbook*.
 - **Note:** This meeting plans a puppetry-focused version of Showman, and so adds some other elements from Webelos Den Meetings 17 (Music) and 18 (Drama), to complete the activity badge in one meeting.
 - But if you have interest and it fits your schedule, you could cover each element of Showman.
 - Or you may choose to pick a more even mixture from each: Showman requires completion of nine requirements, as long as there is at least one from each of puppetry, music, and drama.
- ▶ Identify any parents or other pack resources (like teachers) who are into performing, crafts, and/or puppetry and who could be your activity badge counselor for this meeting. Alternatively, you might see if a hobbyist can visit your den meeting, or you might do this meeting as a field trip to a site that has lots of puppets.
 - Be sure any guest speaker knows how long you the presentation should run, and that you've confirmed what can or should be covered that would be interesting and fun for the Scouts.
 - Show any guest speaker the Showman chapter in the *Webelos Handbook*.
- ▶ If you are doing this as a field trip, inform Scouts and families about when and where to meet.
- ▶ Materials checklist (add to your den Cub tub of U.S./den flags, paper/pencils, other supplies):
 - See the materials used for the puppetry options you pick from this plan and the *Webelos Handbook*.
 - The *Cub Scout Songbook* or words to a folk song for the Scouts to sing
- **Showman activity badge** pins for each of your Scouts (so they can be awarded if completed today), and compass emblems or points (if those will be completed today)

Before the Meeting

- ▶ Make final preparations with assistance from any assistant den leader or other parent helper, den chief, and/or denner. Organize the space (seating, flags, advancement charts, activity materials, handouts, etc.). If you're snacking, organize space for that and the cleanup.

Gathering

- ▶ Have a gathering activity (games, puzzles, other) that will keep Scouts interested and busy and that others may join as they arrive. If the den desires, serve a healthy snack during this time.
- ▶ If you have background materials for the activity badge, Scouts may be interested in reviewing those.
- ▶ If you're on a field trip, as boys arrive, collect permission slips from parents who are not staying.
- ▶ Collect dues, record attendance and any advancement completed at home (a good job for an assistant den leader). Assign parents to meeting roles and hand out a meeting plan to each.

Opening

- ▶ Flag ceremony (rotate planning and leadership to complete **Webelos requirement 6**), with Pledge of Allegiance; maybe recite the Cub Scout Promise or sing a patriotic song; perhaps add a roll call, uniform recognition, or den yell.
- ▶ If you have a guest, give a formal introduction, including what the guest will do for you.

Business Items

- ▶ Remind the boys of appropriate behavior, including safety considerations, at the site of your visit.
- ▶ Use this time to discuss participation in coming pack meetings or pack events, as needed.
- ▶ Explain that today's meeting is to work on the **Showman activity badge** because we want to get exposed to theater and music arts, to build self-confidence by performing, and to have fun.

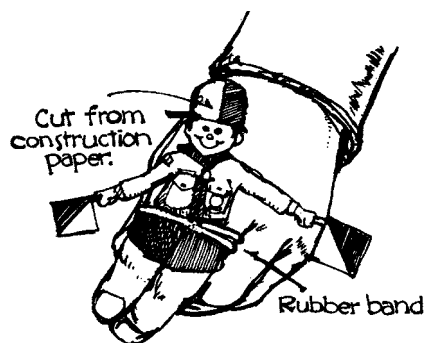


Activities

- ▶ The **Showman activity badge** requirements are to complete nine requirements from among the puppetry, music, and drama requirements offered, as long as there is at least one requirement completed from each of the puppetry, music, and drama areas.
 - This is a puppetry plan, and adds music and drama requirements to complete the activity badge.
- ▶ Puppetry Activities:
 - **Showman 2:** Write a puppet play about one of your Webelos den activities or a subject of your choice.
 - One way to handle the play-writing phase of this badge is to let Webelos Scouts produce a film, using a home camcorder to record the action.
 - This is a unique opportunity that should excite the boys. Let the boys write the script, choose someone to direct and film it, and act in it. You'll find that ideas for the plot will come easily.
 - **Showman 3:** Make a set of puppets or marionettes for the play you have written or for another play.
 - **Showman 7:** There are sock, stick, and finger puppets. There are paper bag puppets and marionettes. Explain their differences and show any puppets you have made for this badge.
 - There are many kinds of puppets—see the *Webelos Handbook*, pages 435–437, and these ideas:

Finger Puppet

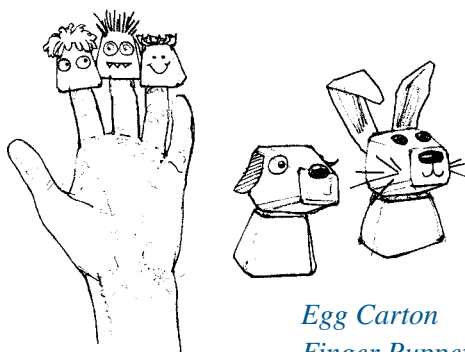
- ▶ The finger puppet is a good introduction to puppetry because it's so easy to make.
- ▶ Cut it out from construction paper or other heavy stock, and then paint or decorate with colored markers.
- ▶ Also use yarn for hair, buttons for eyes, and ribbon for bow ties.
- ▶ Use a felt-tip pen for additional features. Attach to fingers with a rubber band.
- ▶ Your fingers form legs.



Finger Puppet

Egg Carton Finger Puppets

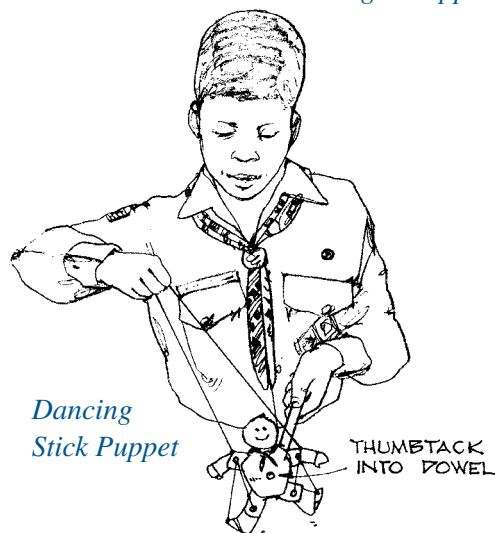
- ▶ Cut the cups from a cardboard egg carton. Decorate as desired.
- ▶ To help the puppets stay on your fingers, wind a 3-inch piece of cellophane tape around your finger, sticky side out.
- ▶ Tuck this tape inside the puppet.
- ▶ When you put the puppet on your finger, it will stay in place.
- ▶ Animal heads can be made by using two cups glued together.
- ▶ Use pieces of the egg carton lid to make ears or antlers.



Egg Carton Finger Puppets

Dancing Stick Puppet

- ▶ Cut parts from heavy cardboard or plastic.
- ▶ Decorate with marking pens.
- ▶ Punch holes for joints and assemble with heavy brass paper fasteners.
- ▶ With a needle, run heavy thread between the right elbow and knee and between the left elbow and knee; tie each.
- ▶ Have one loop of thread tied at the elbow and feet for the operator to use to work the puppet.
- ▶ Attach a dowel to the puppet's back for support.

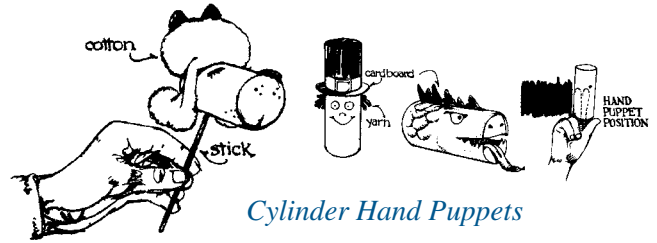


Dancing Stick Puppet



Cylinder Hand Puppets

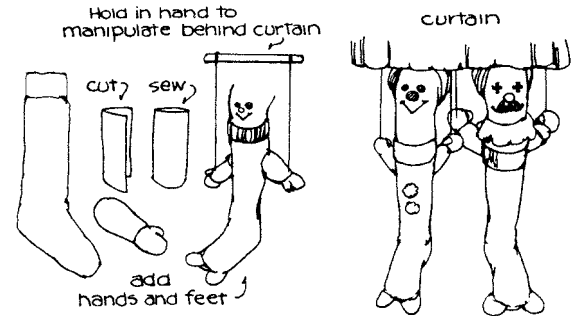
- ▶ Use cardboard toilet tissue cores to make these puppets.
- ▶ Features can be made with made with cardboard, construction paper, yarn, cotton balls, paint, markers and other craft materials.



Cylinder Hand Puppets

Kneesie Puppets

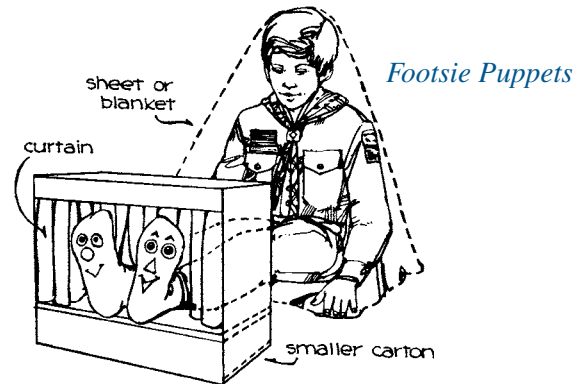
- ▶ A type of sock puppet.
- ▶ The puppet's body is a sock coming up to the knee.
- ▶ Draw the puppet's face on the knee with lipstick and eyebrow pencil.
- ▶ For the arms, cut a second sock as shown and sew to the body.
- ▶ Hands and feet are pieces of felt.
- ▶ String arms to a stick so the puppeteer can manipulate them.



Kneesie Puppets

Footsie Puppets

- ▶ Create puppet faces on the soles of socks.
- ▶ Sew or glue scraps of felt for facial features, or use construction paper, yarn, and other materials.
- ▶ Make the footsie theater from a cardboard carton.
- ▶ The curtain is made of crepe paper strips affixed along the top.
- ▶ Put a smaller carton underneath as a resting place for legs.
- ▶ The puppeteer can stay out of sight beneath a sheet or lightweight blanket.



Footsie Puppets

Glove Puppets

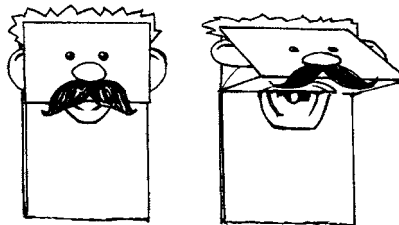
- ▶ Supply each boy with a work glove to decorate as a puppet; gloves come in assorted styles and textures and can be decorated with pieces of felt, pom-poms, glitter, etc.
- ▶ Insert the glove through a hole in a large cardboard box that is decorated to match the style of the puppet (for instance, decorate the box as a jungle for a tiger glove puppet).
- ▶ To animate the puppets, boys can insert their hand into the glove or move the puppet with a stick inserted into the glove.
- ▶ White gloves decorated with black dots make great Dalmatian puppies in a basket. A green glove could become a family of caterpillars on a tree limb. An orange glove could become a family of tigers or giraffes if you add stripes or spots.
- ▶ Brown gloves can be used as reindeer with brown chenille stick antlers; have the glove peek out of a chimney, or make a cardboard sleigh.
- ▶ More puppet options will come from the imaginations of your Scouts and the *Cub Scout Leader How-To Book*.
 - **Showman 4:** Build a simple stage for marionettes or puppets.
 - See the Webelos Handbook, pages 438–439, and the *Cub Scout Leader How-To Book*.
 - **Showman 6:** Make a set of four paper bag puppets for a singing group. With the help of three other den members, sing a song with the puppets as the performers.



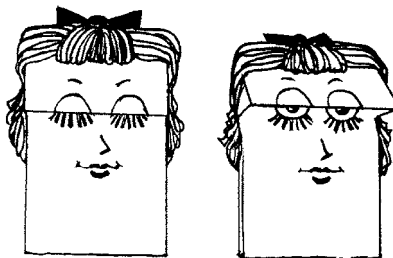
Paper Bag Puppets

- ▶ These can be simple, with the bag completely open and the face done on one side.
- ▶ They could be more complex, with the face using the “bottom fold-over” as a “flap” so if you open that flap, you can draw a mouth in/under there. Or it could have eyes that open and close.
- ▶ Your puppet’s features may be drawn directly on the paper bag, but a more interesting puppet results when features are made with bits of colored felt, construction paper, or other materials. Use bright colors.

Paper Bag Puppets



- ▶ To give the impression of speaking to your puppet, put the top of the mouth at the bottom of the flap, and put the bottom lip directly underneath on the front of the bag. This will cause the lips to meet.
- ▶ Open the flap and finish the mouth so that it will be continuous. (See top illustration.)
- ▶ For a puppet that will open its eyes and then close them, locate the tops of the eyes at the bottom of the flap and directly under the flap front of the bag.



- Under the flap, make the eyes open.
 - **Showman 5:** Alone or with the help of others, put on a puppet show for your den or pack.
 - Music activities (you could pick another item from requirements 8 to 15 if you choose):
 - **Showman 11:** Tell what folk music is. Hum, sing, or play a folk tune on a musical instrument.
- ▶ See Page 441 of the *Webelos Handbook*. For example, “This Land Is Your Land.”
- ▶ Drama activities (you could pick other items from requirements 16 to 23 if you choose):
 - **Showman 17:** Attend a play. Describe the story. Tell what you liked about it.
 - Here the Scouts get to be drama critics as they watch a puppet play put on by another Scout or group of Scouts in the den.
 - **Showman 20:** Make a list of stage directions. Tell what they mean.
 - Have this incorporated into the puppet plan put on by the Scouts.
 - In the boys’ *Webelos Handbooks*, sign the requirements met (and update your records).

Closing

- ▶ Award (or recognize) any advancement completed today (ideally, award the activity badge, belt loop, or compass item completed today, and recognize later at the pack meeting); thank hosts, guests, and helpers.
- ▶ Closing ceremony (rotate planning and leadership to complete **Webelos requirement 6**): Retire the colors; maybe with the Boy Scout Oath and/or Law, or the Law of the Pack and/or den yell. Den leader may add a den leader’s minute comment.
- ▶ Remind the Webelos Scout who will plan and lead the next meeting’s flag ceremony, and remind about home assignments (and include these in any family information letter or e-mail).
- ▶ Hand out or send family information letter.

After the Meeting

- ▶ If you’ve changed the sequence of den meetings, double-check to make sure you will still advance your boys appropriately and check with the Cubmaster to make sure you stay coordinated with the pack.
- ▶ Refreshments: If appropriate
- ▶ Cleanup: Recruit enough help to do a good job. Scouts always leave an area as clean, or cleaner, than they found it.