Finishing Strong — Pack Planning for the Second Half

Verdugo Hills Council Roundtable, January 8, 2026

Oftentimes, Cub Scout Packs do a great job of planning their fall activities. But sometimes they do not continue the effort into Spring. Here are some tips regarding various spring and summer activities.

Re-registration: One of your pack leaders should personally contact Scouts who have not re-registered (except those who have graduated, or you know they have moved out of the area.) That leader should gently ask why the Scout is not re-registering and suggest possible solutions. For example, if a parent has to work the den meeting night, maybe another parent can pick up the Scout.

Scouting for Food: Sign up as a Pack and talk to Scouts about this service project.

Scout Sunday/Sabbath/Jumu'ah: If your unit is sponsored by a faith-based organization, attend services there on Scouting's anniversary day (in 2026, the Scouting Anniversay Day and Scout Sunday both fall on February 8.) I used to tell the Scouts that this is the one time a year we are very visible to the church community. If the unit is sponsored by a civic organization, you could do Scout Sunday at the house of worship of one of the Scouts. Bonus opportunity: You can work on the Reverence Adventure.

Blue and Gold Celebration: This is another part of celebrating the anniversary of Scouting. It's a special pack meeting, often with a meal, usually in February. And it doesn't need to be an evening event. This is a good time to invite guests, such as extended family members, teachers, school principals, local politicians, etc.

Arrow of Light Bridging: Be sure to emphasize bridging as a *milestone* in Scouting, not the end. Younger Scouts should be encouraged to see this as a goal.

Spring Outdoor Activities:

- **Rocket Academy** – Rocket Academy (usually in April) and Haunt On (the weekend in October before Halloween) are very easy campouts for Packs to participate in. The council's program team plans the program, and plans and prepares the meals, making this a "turnkey" outing — just show up and have a great time!. For parents who haven't been camping, there are plenty of people around who can help set up a tent. [Be sensitive if a family has no camping gear; is there somewhere they can borrow gear? Your affiliated Scout troop?]
- **Pinewood Derby** – Be sure to have at least one "workshop day" to help families without tools or woodworking experience. And watch for the council's Pinewood Derby competition in June
- Scouts join Scouting for the **OUTINGS!** Go on a hike, a field trip, a beach day, a whale-watching trip, a pack campout, etc.
- Encourage families to attend **Cub Scout Resident Camp** or **Cub Day Camp**.

The Result: When school starts in August, Scouts will be excited about all they did in Scouting! And maybe their non-Scouting friends will get excited, too….

Maureen Brown, VHC Cub Scout Roundtable Commissioner (mab4swim@aol.com)