

Roundtable Safety Moment

The Game of Safety



DO NOT ANNOUNCE. HERE IS OUR SAFETY MOMENT*

Do this instead-Give everyone in the room a colored dot and ask them to stick it somewhere inconspicuous (in other words don't put it on the front of the shirt-but on your back, your sleeve, your shoe, etc.) and do not talk about your sticker with anyone. When it is time for your safety moment tell everyone in the room, they need to find a partner as fast as they can-catch is they have to have the same color sticker as you. Then watch the fun begin as everyone starts looking for their dot color to find a partner. This is an uncomplicated way to talk about being aware of who is around, the importance of having a buddy, and situational awareness and safety. If you are inclined, give the first five teams a treat or prize for being aware of the people around them.

General information

By now, most scouters know that every meeting should start with a safety moment, and too many times we say here is our safety moment and start a long, boring lecture about safety. If that is you, have you ever looked up into the faces of the people in front of you? What you will see are glazed eyes, absent head nodding, and the knowledge that all they just heard is yadda, yadda, yadda. Is that what a safety moment was designed for? No!



Safety moments are not a box to be checked off-they are an important part of scouting, and we need to ensure that all youth and adults understand that. But that does not mean they have to be a lecture. Every thought about a safety moment game? Have you ever asked the power company to come talk about live electrical wires? Have you invited Smokey Bear to your unit or event to discuss wildfire safety?

We want to challenge all leaders to find new ways to present safety moments as a seamless part of your program. No safety moment announcement-just a fluid here is some interesting info you should know or let's play a game (a disguised safety moment). Now you are delivering the safety moment in a fun environment where youth are having fun and learning about safety.

We are not suggesting that you should stop the serious safety moment discussions-those are absolutely an essential part of specific meetings. You are going to camp in a place with snakes-a serious safety moment of what to look for should be a serious conversation. But what if we want to talk about germ safety? Can you present an opening activity, such as having a designated person put luminescent powder on their hands and shake hands with everyone? Then bring on the black light to see how far the germs have spread. They make a kit just for that.

Or what if you challenged your patrol to create a safety song or skit for the next campout? Youth are great at making things fun and exciting. At one Woodbadge in the "old days" when there was a patrol project-one group decided to make up a skit about a scout with bad first aid practices and how other scouts ran away screaming (literally) that had everyone laughing. Yes, we want safety moments to be important, but we also want and need that info to stick. Often people will tell you that they learn best by doing it - this is perfect to reinforce all the safety information.

Resources

Troop Leader Resources Meeting Plans & Ideas: SAFETY	
MacScouter Webpage	
Den leader resources	