



Help develop well-rounded youth, better prepared for success in the world.

## **How to Run a Family Gathering – Food-Share with Investiture**

Think about a family food-share dinner to celebrate and follow an investiture ceremony or a year end advancement, change Tail colour ceremony, Swim-Up, going-up ceremonies, or just a get together to have a get-to-know-you.

Doing this on a meeting night might be nice because everyone is expecting to come anyway just make it a bit longer. This type of event is typically around 1-2 hours.

You can choose to do this inside or outside depending on your preferences and weather.

### **Plan**

- Pick the event date.
- Send invitations to the families.
- Have a sign-up sheet with spots for cold dishes and desserts. One line per family so you have enough of everything, with a note to bring enough to feed 6 people so you have enough food and a good variety.
- Have families bring their own dishes/mess kits or supply dishes.
- Section/Group to supply the hot dogs, buns, condiments, beverages, cutlery and napkins.
- Determine where/how you will cook.
- Have everything you need for the ceremony (flags, tails, badges, Neckers, Woggles, etc.)
- Ensure you have enough tables and chairs for everyone to sit down
- Have the ceremony written out. This is good to help remember everything on the day.
- Assign duties to Scouters, and or parent helpers.
- Set up – time, where, who, and how?
- Maybe a “get-to-know-you” activity to help everyone interact and get to know one another better.
- Paperwork completed (AAF if required and an ERP)
- Times to start, activity, ceremony, mealtime, wrap-up
- Safety – Following the building maximum person limit. Having full First Aid kit available.
- Housekeeping - Letting everyone know where the emergency exits, muster point & washrooms are. How to seek First Aid if there is an injury on site.
- Establish a dress code: Do all members wear full uniform or branded shirts, or casual clothes with Group Neckers. Remind about proper footwear.
- Reminder for everyone to bring a dish to share.
- Reiterate the point of the event, which is to enjoy family time & watch their youth's ceremony.
- Anything else that might be appropriate to share/mention prior to the event.



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### **Do the Shopping**

- Hot dogs/Veggie Dogs (Average serving per youth is 1 hot dog, and adults is 2 hot dogs)
- Hot dog buns – enough to match the number of hot dogs
- Relish, ketchup, mustard
- Beverages – juice and water, soda, and maybe coffee or tea
- Napkins and cutlery

### **The Event**

- Set up
- Welcome everyone as they arrive, host a get-to-know-you activity
- Cook the hot dogs
- Hold your ceremony
- Enjoy the shared-food and conversations
- Clean up (leaving no trace) and Goodbyes!

### **Quick Review**

You might want to have a short reflection at the end of the event to get feedback from youth, Scouters and family members. Some questions you might ask:

- What went well and what didn't?
- What did you learn?
- What should we do differently next time?
- What parts did you like the most?
- How did everyone enjoy it?
- Would you attend another similar event in the future?
- Was the event a suitable length of time (or should it be longer or shorter)?
- Is there anything you would like to see added to the event in the future?
- Can you think of other questions to ask?

Very important: Remember to **thank everyone for coming!**