Session Three
Preopening Activity

Time Allowed

10 minutes

Teaching Objectives

• Explore a few simple techniques of leading group singing.
• Model an effective, enjoyable activity that Scout leaders can use with their own troops.

Materials Needed

None

Recommended Facility Layout

• Session meeting area. Each participant should have a comfortable place to sit, take notes, and organize written materials. That setting most often consists of tables, each accommodating six to eight participants forming a patrol, and enough chairs for all participants.

Delivery Method

• Instructor-led activity and brief discussion.
Presentation Procedure

Singing has been a part of the Scouting experience since the organization was founded. Rousing songs have accompanied Scouts on many hikes, canoe trips, and service projects. Thoughtful songs have brought a meaningful close to many troop meetings. It is hard to imagine Scouts sitting around a campfire without enjoying some songs.

Being able to lead songs is a valuable skill for a troop leader. It is not difficult—it is mostly a matter of being willing to stand in front of a group, encourage them to start singing a song more or less at the same time, and then being a bit animated through the verses.

For this preactivity, instructors can choose several of their favorite Scouting songs and lead the group in singing them. If the words may be unfamiliar to some of the participants, instructors can photocopy the verses ahead of time. If possible, model good song-leading techniques. The more important message to convey, though, is that enthusiasm and a willingness to give it a try are all the tools someone needs to get a group of Scouts and Scouters to start singing.