

Autumn Event Ideas

Sing-along

Family pumpkin-decorating contest (using paints, markers, stickers, glue, etc.)

Bobbing for apples

Fall craft fest

Square dance / hoe-down

Story-telling -- not necessarily scary stories. Get a *good* story-teller and everyone from Daisies to Grand-dads will be enthralled! This could be done around the fire, too.

We had a fabulously successful Father-Daughter Hayride last night (no Daisies or younger siblings & no stick cooking).

A group of us go every year to a pumpkin farm during the day -- have since our kids were a year old. Daytime, no fires. It would work only once for older girls, probably. Apple picking is good, too -- but maybe too early in the year to organize it.

Family Swim -we planned water games for both areas. underwater scavenger hunts, penny and cointreasure dives, shark attack (we threw hundreds of rubber 5" sharks into the water and girls had to use nets to capture them, kickboard relays, dressup relays (we used big t shirts, boxer shorts- swimmers had to put on clothes, jump into pool swim across and take t shirt/boxers off hand them to next swimmer etc.), we've used DJs for setting a festive mood. We always schedule a snack time. Sometimes we would have door prizes.

- Halloween Party (D/B/J)
- Halloween Dance (C/S)
- Square Dance
- Harvest Festival (D/B/J)
- Outdoor Skills Day

Astronomy and the Night Sky - Brownie through Senior
Learn about the stars and planets, how constellations got their names. What is a nova, a red dwarf, a nebule? Look through a telescope, tour an observatory. Create your own constellation and write a legend about its name.

Family Service Project

Food Drives-Collect food to help the needy in your area. Make arrangements with a local food bank, church, or Senior Center to distribute the collected, non-perishable food.

Clothing Drives- Collect, launder, and repair clothing, then donate them to a charity to distribute. Perhaps, find out if a local church has a "clothing closet" you could donate the collected clothing to.

Troop Pictures/Family Partnership Event (Add \$1 to photo pkg.for family partnership)

"Songs and S'mores". For a small charge per person,, the participants receive a patch, s'mores cooked over one of two small fires (I am also an LNT trainer) and all the songs they can sing! Troops who wish to are invited to come up front and lead a song or two. Otherwise, we have four song leaders who keep things going.

Our Service Unit hosts a Bonfire and SingAlong. Each troop brings a gallon of drink and 1 dozen donuts. We don't roast or cook anything. We sing songs and parents are able to participate if the desire.

At my old SU they have a hike/picnic. Families are encouraged and the hike is around the council's camp area so the families get to see where the girls will come to camp. Every one brings their own food and drinks and games are held for the girls by the cadets and leaders.

Our unit just had a new event for fall this year and it was a huge success. We called it Fall Family Fun and it was billed as a FAMILY event -- girls were to come with family members -- not troop leaders. We got a surprisingly large response. Mainly from our younger girls, though there were some older juniors attending and Cadettes helping.

Some of the things included were:

Make your own scarecrow -- we supplied the hay. The girls brought old clothes to stuff.

Decorate pumpkins -- we provided pumpkins.

Shrunken head contest -- sounds gruesome! Actually, these were made from dried potatoes, with instructions that had been handed out prior to the event. Girls made the "heads" at home and brought them to be judged.

Many games with pumpkin themes (Use squirt gun to blow out the candle in the pumpkin, Pumpkin Toss, etc.)

Refreshments of cider, apples and cookies.

We just held a carnival. It was great! Cans were given in exchange for tickets; every troop had a booth of some kind; the SU sponsored the cake walk; we sold minor refreshments. It lasted two hours and a great time was had by all. You could easily have a Fall Festival.

Trip to a corn maze

We had a Family Fun Night. Given the time of the year it surrounded a Halloween theme. There were several games of varying skill levels - carnival type; facepainting; a pumpkin decorating contest; a costume contest; trick or treating in the haunted hallways; a songfest led by our music teacher; and a moonwalk. Additionally we had information booths set up around the perimeter of the gym/cafeteria from a variety of local organizations that families might find helpful - Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts, 4-H, PTA, YMCA, etc. There was a chili or hot dog dinner with pie or cookies for dessert. I've never seen such excitement - even the school mascot, a bulldog named Rudy, got into the act.

How about a cookie swap? Everyone makes a batch of cookies and everyone assembles at one place and brings a container, then everyone takes a turn goes around and collecting the cookies, afterwards you could provide hot-cider for the taste-testing! And, if you were really creative, you could have everyone save their old "small coffee cans" and decorate them on the outside and make them look nice. This could even be a major fund-raiser for your troop! So much a can for the home-made cookies!

How about hosting a free supper for the elderly? Having everyone that normally goes to the fall fling donate their time and efforts!

How about a costume swap? Everyone I know of (me included) has old costumes that the kids wont wear anymore. This way, everyone could bring a costume and leave with a new one!

How about a treasure hunt? Give each group clues that they have to find around town. Make it relatively easy (maybe with adult help) and have the clues be easy. If they can't find a clue, give them a number that they can call to find out what it is. Have little prizes along the way to encourage them to continue on. At the end, have a grand prize. With whoever finishes putting their name in a hat and winning a prize. Maybe a couple of passes to the movies or something similar.

How about a roller-skating party?

Gather everyone together and have them contact the town to decorate local businesses. The girls could make pumpkins, witches, cats, etc. and really get creative!

Do something as a group for "Make a difference Day". You could have people make a quilt for the neo-natal unit at the local hospital?

How about a book swap? The girls and their families could bring in their books that they have already read and do a swap.

How about putting on a pot-luck supper? Everyone brings a dish to share and then you can sit around and tell ghost stories or whatever.