

## **Appendix GG**

# **LARGE-GROUP GAMES**

Large-group games involve everyone and can be a great tool for building group spirit. There are many sources in BSA literature and elsewhere for games that will be great fun for your group to learn and play! Avoid extreme physical contact and games in which large numbers of players get eliminated as play goes on. The object is for everyone to participate and have a great time.

## **Barnyard Bedlam**

### **Supplies**

- Peanuts in the shell (double the amount needed for each Scout to have a handful)
- Lunch bags or similar containers

### **Playing Area**

A large field or lightly wooded area (where you can still see all the boys)

### **Preparation**

- Shortly before game time, when the Scouts aren't around and they won't be coming to that spot, have a leader distribute little piles of three or so peanuts in obvious and not-so-obvious spots around the field—at the base of a tree, on top of a stump, in the shadow of a rock, etc. Make lots of piles if you want a long, fun, loud game!
- Away from the site, divide the Scouts into two or three groups. Make someone in each group the farmer; the other members in each group decide on one animal they will be (e.g., birds, or forest or farm animals—whatever theme you've chosen). Each group must have a different animal. Practice making the animal sound, then give each "animal" a bag to collect peanuts. Explain why you are using peanuts: If they aren't found, they will feed the animals or biodegrade. Note: You can also use wrapped candy if there is a problem with nut allergies, but you will need to make sure all of the candy is found and nothing is left behind.

### **Rules**

- Players cannot go out of bounds for safety reasons. Show them the boundaries, don't just tell them.
- On "go," the animals (not farmers) from all groups will spread out and look for peanuts hidden around.
- Players cannot talk at any time, for reasons explained below.
- Once an "animal" finds a hoard of peanuts, the animal does not touch them or talk about them but stands with toes pointing toward the peanuts and making the animal's noise as loud as possible. (Cub Scouts have no trouble with this at all!)
- The farmer has to listen for the animals' noises. The farmer hustles over to the animal making the noise (there's often more than one at once) and picks up the peanuts.
- Then comes the "bedlam" part:
  - After a while, Scouts are everywhere making loud noises. The strategy is for teams to split up so that, for example, there may be three "horses" neighing in different spots.
  - If a "horse" sees a pile of peanuts and is neighing, a "cow" can run over and start mooing. Whichever farmer hears first and reaches the spot, gets the peanuts. The farmers have to listen well, and judge which pile to pick up first.

- Bring the Scouts to the site, and turn them loose! You don't need to have winners if you don't want, but the youth may! If you play it a few times over the day, with only a few piles each time, different teams have a chance to win.
- Compost the peanuts that were used in the game, but give the Scouts the extras that weren't on the ground as a snack.

## **Blob**

### Rules

- No preparations are needed. Just pick two players to join hands and form the “blob.” On “go,” the blob tries to tag as many other players as possible. When tagged, a player joins the blob by grabbing the last hand in line. The blob grows by chasing other players and touching them. The players try not to be tagged. They cannot go out of bounds for safety reasons. (Again, show them the boundaries, don't just tell them.)
- Only the free hands at the end of the blob can be used to touch players. The blob continues to grow until only one player is left untouched. That player is the winner. The last three players to join begin the next round as the blob.
- As a variation, require the blob to split when it grows to six players; now there are two blobs, which split again when each grows to six players.

## **Spies**

### Supplies

- Several 8½×11 sections of cardboard hung about one yard above the ground
- Markers for players to write their names on the cardboard pieces

### Preparation

- Shortly before game time, when the Scouts aren't around and they won't be coming to that spot, have a leader hang the cardboard pieces around the area about one yard above the ground.
- Depending on the size of the area and the cover, identify one to three umpires who will patrol the playing area.
- Give each youth a marker to write their names on the cards.

### Rules

- From the starting point, players move through the area attempting to find a specific number of hanging cards and write their names on them—while avoiding detection by the umpires.
- The umpires write down the names of players that they spot within five yards of a hanging card.
- At the end of the game, add the number of times a player has signed their name on different sheets and subtract the number of times that umpires recorded seeing that player. The individual or team with the most points wins.

## Streets and Alleys

### Rules

- No supplies are needed for this tag game, which is best done with about 20 players in a large field.
- Have two players volunteer to be “it.” One will be the pursuer and the other is the quarry. A facilitator will be in charge of the other players, who will divide into lines. A square-shaped group is best, so if you have say 25 players, divide into five rows of five.
- With the players in lines, have them face the facilitator with their arms stretched out. This creates the “streets,” and the pursuer and the quarry are able to run in the openings between the lines but they can’t break through the players’ arms. When the facilitator yells “Alleys!” the campers turn 90 degrees to the left and touch the hands of the players now beside them, forming the “alleys.” This changes the layout so that the pursuer and the quarry now have to cope with a different path. This can change the situation dramatically.
- The pursuer chases the quarry down the streets. Neither may break through or duck under the arms of those forming the streets or alleys. After a short time, the leader calls “Streets!” and the formation shifts once again.
- Continue to alternate between streets and alleys as the game progresses. Runners should be changed every minute or so to give them a break and allow everyone a chance to run.

### Safety

- **Physical:** Don’t let the players hold hands, which can cause injuries. If the ground is gravel or asphalt, remind the players to be careful. If necessary, limit the pursuer and the quarry to very fast walking to prevent slips and further injury.
- **Emotional:** Don’t let one player become alienated by having to always chase the other players. Switch them out after a period of time.

## Steal the Bacon

### Supplies

An object like a ball, a 2-liter soda bottle, or even a sack of clothing, to serve as the “bacon.”

### Rules

- Mark off a large playing field, identify a goal for each side, and mark the middle of the field. Split the group in half. Teams should be divided equally, both kids and adults.
- Teams line up on opposite sides of the playing area, by height. Each side counts off, starting from the short end. The shortest person on each team is number 1; the tallest person is the highest number. The tallest person on team A should be opposite the shortest person on team B, so they have to come from opposite sides when their number is called.
- Draw a goal line for each team about 20 feet apart. Place the “bacon” object at the center of the playing area.
- The person running the game will call out a number, and that number player from each side comes out to the center of the field. The object of the game is to get the bacon back to your line on your side of the field.
- One point is scored for getting the bacon back to your side, untouched by the other player, or one point for tagging the other player while that player is holding the bacon.

- Players can drop the bacon if they think they are going to get tagged, and the game continues. Once everyone gets the hang of the game, multiple numbers can be called.
- The leader can call multiple numbers to have multiple players from each team active. They can also have multiple bacons if using multiple players at once.

### Alternative

**True/False.** Have a red and a blue bacon—one for “true” and one for “false.” Call out the number, and then ask a true/false question. The players should then retrieve the correct bacon. If a player returns with the wrong one or tags another player with the wrong one, the player’s team loses a point. The leader walks down the line asking true/false questions instead of calling out numbers.

## Camp Baseball

### Supplies

A foxtail

### Rules

- Form two teams in a large field. One team is “batting,” and the other is “fielding.”
- The batting team spins the foxtail and launches it in any direction. The batting team forms a tight circle and the batter starts running around the batting teammates, counting each complete orbit as a run.
- Meanwhile, the fielding team has to recover the foxtail and pass it through the legs of the entire fielding team. Once this is accomplished, they yell “out” and the batter stops counting runs.
- There is no prescribed rule on how to accomplish the passing; it’s up to the team to decide its technique, but the foxtail must go through the legs of all players on the team.
- Once three outs are made, the teams switch, and the fielding team bats. Play as many innings as you want.