

PLANNING A CAMPFIRE

When planning a campfire, think about:

- the age of the girls
- the repertoire of the girls (don't teach more than 1 or 2 new songs)
- how long the campfire will be (not more than 10 or 12 songs at the most)
- where the campfire will be (inside? Outside? Can the campfire participants see and hear you clearly?)
- the event (a camp? A unit campfire? A large District event?)
- the theme you are incorporating (if any)

One person should be the campfire leader and should bridge the gaps between the songs. If different people are leading different songs, the campfire leader keeps track of who is leading which song and cues the song leaders at the appropriate times.

The shape of your campfire should follow the shape of a fire.

- at the beginning, when the fire is just beginning, sing a campfire opening such as Fire's Burning, Tall Trees, Tsoona Campfire Opening or Sussex Campfire Opening. This draws people into the circle of the campfire and focuses them on the campfire.
- while the fire is building, sing 3 or 4 happy songs and rounds. Examples are: Kookaburra, As We Trek Along, Jamaica Farewell, Something to Sing About, Tzena, Heidi
- when the fire is at its peak, sing 2 or 3 action songs, yells, chants, and maybe some singing games. This is when the campfire is at its loudest. Examples are: Dutch Shoe Game, Tongo, TIRO, Lu La, the Girl Guide Cookie Chant, Chinese Fan, My Hat, My Mother Gave Me. If the participants have prepared skits, this is where the skits would go.
- as the fire begins to die, sing one or two more rounds or fun songs to bring the energy level down a bit
- then, shift to 2 or 3 quiet or thoughtful songs. Examples are: Bantu Echo Song, Bell Yodel, Ira Congo, Kumba Yah, Land of the Silver Birch, Barges, Peace I Ask of Thee O River, No Man is an Island, Whene'er You Make a Promise
- here, you may wish to add a thoughtful story or reading for the participants to take away with them.
- finally, close the campfire with vespers, such as Zulu Farewell, Light the Stars, Creina Good Night or Breton Fisherman's Prayer
- a campfire should always end with Taps (daylight or evening version, as appropriate)

**SAMPLE BROWNIE CAMPFIRE
INTERNATIONAL THEME**

Sussex Campfire Opening (Jubilee Songbook p. 7) – can be sung as a round

Kookaburra (Canciones de Nuestra Cabana p. 37)

My Aunt Grete (Jubilee p. 43)

Orchestra (Our Chalet Songbook p. 5)

Lu La (Jubilee, p. 45)

Caimarusa (Musical Fun with the Brownie Pack, p. 18)

Zulu Warrior (Jubilee p. 50)

Sarasponda (Celebrate with Song p. 48)

Bantu Echo Song (Songs for Tomorrow p. 20)

Zulu Farewell (Jubilee p. 62)

Taps

SONG LYRICS
(refer to song books for music and actions)

Campfire Openings:

Australian Campfire Opening (Australia) – Jubilee Songbook page 5

Sit round the campfire, now night is here,
All birds are resting, no-one is near.
Clap with your hands and tap with your feet
Now sway oh so gently, keep with the beat.
Oh, ai, ai, oh, ai
Oh, ai, ai, oh, ai.

Sussex Campfire Opening (UK) – Jubilee Songbook page 7

Come, come, light up the fire,
Come, come, join in the ring,
Here find dreams to inspire,
Stories to tell,
Music to sing.

Fun Songs:

Kookaburra (Australia) – Canciones de Nuestra Cabana, page 37

Kookaburra sits on an old gum tree,
Merry, merry king of the bush is he,
Laugh, Kookaburra, laugh, Kookaburra,
Gay your life must be.

Orchestra (Estonia) – Our Chalet Song Book page 5

Part 1: Drum, drum, drum, drum, drum, drum, drum-drum-drum.
Part 2: Yeh, oh yeh, oh yeh, oh yeh, oh yeh
Part 3: La, la, la, la, la, la, la-la-la-la-la

Bell Song (Denmark) – Jubilee Songbook page 21

Min fod
Min arm
Min albue
Min lille finger

Tongo (African) – Jubilee Songbook page 36

Tongo
Jim de-be-na be-i-oh
Tongo
Oo-pe-oo-kum-ba-ya
Oh, wa-lay
Mah-lee-pah mah-lee-way

My Aunt Grete (Netherlands) – Jubilee Songbook page 43

My Aunt Grete, veeda veeda veet
Had a puss, veeda veeda vuss
And that puss, veeda veeda vuss
Had a tail,
And that tail, veeda veeda vail
Had a curl, veeda veeda vurl
And that curl, veeda veeda vurl
Had a tip,
Comma,
And that tip, veeda veeda vip
Had a curl, veeda veeda vurl
And that curl, veeda veeda vurl
Had a tail,
And that tail, veeda veeda vail
Had a puss, veeda veeda vuss,
And that puss, veeda veeda vuss,
Had my aunt.

Lu La – Jubilee Song Book page 45

Lu la le lu la le lu la lu la lay,
Lu la lu la lu la lu la lu la lay,
(repeat)

Zulu Warrior (African) – Jubilee Song Book page 50

I kama zimba, zimba, zimba,
I kama zimba, zimba, zee! (repeat 2 lines)
Hold him down, you Zulu warrior,
Hold him down, you Zulu chief (repeat 2 lines)
Mologay!

My Hat (German) - Jubilee Song Book page 50

My hat, it has three corners,
Three corners has my hat,
And had it not three corners,
It would not be my hat.

Rounds:

Let Us Sing Together (Czech) – Our Chalet Songbook page 7

Let us sing together, let us sing together, one and all a joyous song.
Let us sing together, one and all a joyous song.
Let us sing again and again,
Let us sing again and again,
Let us sing again and again,
One and all a joyous song.

Sarasponda (Finland) – Celebrate with Song page 48

Bunda, bunda, bunda,
Sarasponda, sarasponda, sarasponda ret set-set.
Sarasponda, sarasponda, sarasponda ret set-set.
A do-re-o, A do-re-bun-de-o
A do-re bunde ret-set-set, Ha-se paseo

Heidi (Africa) – Jubilee Song Book page 51

Heidi, heidi, hei-diddy dydi, heidi, heidi-heiday (repeat)
Heidi, hei-diddy dydi, heidi, heid-heiday (repeat)

Quiet or Thoughtful Songs:

Bantu Echo Song – Songs for Tomorrow page 20

Abi yo yo (repeat)

Our Chalet Song – Our Chalet Song Book page 1

High up, high on the mountain, We've founded Our Chalet (repeat)
Its sloping roof and wide, shall shelter us without a care,
And each Girl Scout and Guide shall find a welcome there.

High up, high on the mountain, We'll go to Our Chalet (repeat)
Our simple life is free, our hearts are light, our songs are gay,
We ever shall remember the joys of Our Chalet.

High up, high on the mountain, We've founded Our Chalet (repeat)
And this its dedication shall never fail nor be undone,
Each race, each creed, each nation, beneath its roof are one.

Ira Congo (Africa) – Jubilee Song Book page 29

Ira congo, ira congo by-ay
Ira congo, by-ay congo, by-ay congo, by-ay.

Active Songs, Singing Games and Dances:
(see also dances taught from Let's Dance tapes)

Swedish Action Song (Sweden) – Musical Fun with the Brownie Pack page 12

Infantry, cavalry, soldiers of Sweden and artillery.

Caimarusa (Colombia) – Musical Fun with the Brownie Pack page 18

Caima, Caima, Caimarusa, Caimarusa, Caimarusa,
Caima, Caima, Caimarusa, Caimarusa-sa!
La-la-la (etc.)

I Let Her Go, Go (Trinidad) – Musical Fun with the Brownie Pack page 54

I let her go-go, Ee-ay I let her go-go, Ee-ay I let her go, I let her go-go-go

Hey, Hey, Hey, Jubilee Hey (Sri Lanka) – Canciones de Nuestra Cabana page 66

Hey hey hey, jubilee hey!
Hey hey hey, jubilee hey!
Ju ba ju ba ko, ju ba ju ba ko, ju ba ju bako bako, ju ba ju ba ko hey!

Closings:

Breton Fisherman's Prayer (France) – Celebrate with Song page 112, Songs for Tomorrow page 36

Protect me, O Lord, for my boat is so small,
Protect me, O Lord, for my boat is so small,
My boat is so small and the sea is so wide,
Protect me, O Lord.

Zulu Farewell (Africa) – Jubilee Song Book page 62

Go well and safely, go well and safely, go well and safely, the Lord be ever with you.

Stay well and safely, stay well and safely, stay well and safely, the Lord be ever with you.

(Use other verses appropriate to the occasion, e.g. sleep, camp, etc.)

Graces:

World Hunger Grace – Jubilee Song Book page 31

For food in a world where many walk in hunger,
For faith in a world where many walk in fear,
For friends in a world where many walk alone,
We give you humble thanks O Lord.

Jamaican Camp Grace – Jubilee Song Book page 63

Lift up your hearts
Hearts and minds and voices all give thanks

For this our food
Hearts and minds and voices all give thanks

For these our friends
Hearts and minds and voices all give thanks

For this our camp
Hearts and minds and voices all give thanks

For this our world
Hearts and minds and voices all give thanks

We thank thee, Lord,
Hearts and minds and voices all give thanks