

What are Gathering Games?

(adapted from macscouter.com)

Games Are:

- **Lessons without teachers**
- **Body builders**
- **Mind stretchers**
- **Friend makers**
- **Building blocks**
- **Most of all, games are fun**

What does a Scout Gain through these games?

- **Learns new skills**
- **Develops new interests**
- **Learns to follow the rules**
- **Learns fair play**
- **Learns to wait his or her turn**
- **Is taught respect for the rights of others**

Scouts like games in which there is a sizable element of luck along with a challenge of technique. They do not require prizes, nor do they seem to worry if the game is not finished. They like games which restart almost automatically, so that everyone is given a new chance. Scouts like games whereby they gain the reassurance that comes with repetition.

Remember, the success of a game period depends greatly upon leadership. A leader can challenge and persuade the shy Scout and channel the energy of the "showoff", making meetings fun for all.

Choosing A Game:

- **Know and understand the game.**
- **Be prepared to teach the game.**
- **Take into consideration: Physical arrangements**
- **Equipment needs**
- **Number involved**
- **Abilities of the participants**

The important feature of every game: KISMIF - Keep it simple make it fun.
Give it full attention; practice to make it work; then evaluate to make sure it is right.

Suggestions For Conducting Games:

- Know the game well and the area needed before teaching it. Have all the necessary equipment on hand.
- Remove all possible hazards from the game area.
- Have the full attention of the group before trying to explain the rules of the game.
- To introduce the game, name it, demonstrate it, ask for questions, then start it.
- Always insist on fair play.
- If a game is going badly, stop it, explain it again, then try the game once more.
- Play, but don't overplay a game. A successful game will be more in demand if it is stopped while it is still being enjoyed.
- Be alert to overexertion.

Again – Keep it simple, make it Fun!

Some online resources that have scout gathering games....

www.programresources.org/categorized-activities-index/

www.inquiry.net/OUTDOOR/games/ripley/index.htm

www.scoutorama.com/activity/activity.cfm?gmttype_id=1

scoutingvideos.com/troop-wide-games/

macscouter.com/games/Volume2.asp