

The Timeline Presentation

Materials Needed: Calculator Ribbon, Poster Boards, "Hello My Name Is _____" stickers, Markers

Setup: Place poster boards around the room with the positions you need help with in your Pack. Have two current Leaders or Committee Members greet the Parents and Scouts upon arrival with "Hello My Name Is _____" stickers for the Parents.

Cut the calculator ribbon into a 8-10 foot strip and mark off the tape in 10 year increments with 0 at the left end and 100 at the right. Use large numbers so parents can see from the audience. Roll the tape backup. For the presentation you will need two helpers, a Lion and a Arrow of Light to hold the tape in front of you so you can point at various points on the tape.

Start out saying:

"With the current advances in medical technology it's very likely that your child will live about 100 Years. Here's a timeline of their life. "

(Have your helpers unroll the tape in front of you, so the whole timeline is visible.)

"If you're 35 now, statistically, you'll likely live until you're 75 or so, when your child will be about 50."

(Rip the tape off at the 1/2 way point and hand the end to your helper. Let the other half dramatically fall to the floor).

"This represents the years you and your child will have together in their lifetime and they are probably about 7-10 years old now."

(Rip of the tape slightly below 10 and let that piece fall to the floor. Hand the end to your helper).

"So here's the time you have left together. How old do you suppose your child will be when they go away to college (or decide it's time for them to be out on their own)? 18 - 20?"

(Rip off the tape someplace in this vicinity. Let that chunk fall to the floor. Hand the end to your helper).

"This is the amount of time you have left with them at home. When they are about 14 - middle school age - their friends start to become a much bigger, maybe the major, influence in their life."

(If you can - assuming you have teenager - make a comment about how you know this from experience.)

(Rip off the tape someplace in this vicinity. Let that chunk fall to the floor. Take the very short piece of tape from your helpers and hold it in front of you, and thank your helpers.)

"This is the time you have left to be the major shaping force in your child's life. You can show them how important they are to you by becoming involved in Scouting with him. I am not asking you to volunteer. I'm asking you to get involved in your child's life. This is a family effort and we are all in this together. I ask you to get involved."

(Go on to talk about volunteer opportunities in your unit and how parents can participate in them.)

"Before you leave tonight, I ask you to remove your name stickers and place them on a poster board around the room that you might be interested in getting involved."