

Cheerful- Abracadabra Roundtable Feb 2018

Cub Scouts love to amaze and to be amazed. Discover the magic this month as your pack dazzles the audience and spreads cheer by sharing magic tricks.

The BSA program has some great ideas but is “presentation” with limited “participation. - try breaking the boys into small groups and have teach group learn and do a trick (with a den leader/parent helping them learn) - one can be hands, one announcer and one audience participation picker

How to Do a Show

After you've mastered (or your boys have mastered) several tricks, you are ready to put on a magic show.

An entire show usually has 3 parts: opener, middle, closer.

For the opener, make it something that has lots of flash and that is quick to do. This is to make sure you capture your audience's attention.

For the middle section, you generally perform more involved tricks and stunts. I like to build on a theme. For example, for the Abracadabra theme a couple years ago, I made each boy a magician's apprentice and was “teaching” them how to be a real magician. So, each trick got progressively more difficult. Or, you could arrange them by type of trick (rope, card, coin, mind, and so forth). In any case, the middle tricks generally have a bit of setup time. This helps to build suspense – so don't rush it.

For the closer, you perform the best trick you have so you can end with a “bang”. This is the last thing your audience will remember about your performance, so make it great!

Some easier more participatory tricks

Google cub scout magic or children's magic - give easier tricks to younger boys. Here are a few easier tricks. Thespruce.com has some good easy kid tricks with pictures you can print to help them.

The Six Glasses Puzzle

Arrange six glasses in a row as shown. The three on the right are filled with water. The three on the left are empty. The puzzle is to arrange the glasses so that they alternate, full and empty. You are allowed to move only one glass.

Solution: Pick up glass number five, pour its contents into glass number two, then replace it in its original spot.

Super-Strength Napkin

This is a great trick to do at a dinner party, such as the Blue and Gold banquet. Twist a paper napkin into a "rope." Hand the paper rope to a friend, and challenge him to break the napkin rope by pulling at the ends. No matter how hard he pulls, he will not be able to break it. You take the napkin rope and break it easily.

Secret: Have a glass of water handy. First twist the napkin into a tough rope. While your friend is trying to break the napkin rope, dip your fingertips into the glass of water. When you take the napkin, twist the middle once more. Touch the middle of the rope with your wet fingertips, so that the rope gets wet. When the rope gets wet, it becomes easy to break apart.

Haunted Paper Clips

Materials: 2 paper clips and a dollar bill.

Fold a dollar bill into thirds (S shape) and hold it in that position with two paper clips placed over each end and the center. Now pull the ends of the dollar bill in opposite directions quickly. The paper clips will jump into the air and hook together!!

The Great Rope Escape

Materials

- 2 pieces of rope or string, each about 3 feet long

Instructions

1. Ask for two volunteers from the audience. For Cub Scouts, I recommend getting a parent/Cub pair.
2. Tie the ends of one string around the wrists of the first volunteer. They should be somewhat loose, but tight enough that he can't remove his hands from the loops.
3. Tie one of the ends of the other string in the same manner around one of the wrists of the second volunteer.
4. Slip the loose end of the second string through the middle of the first volunteer's arm/string loop.
5. Then tie the loose end of the second string to the second volunteer's other wrist. Now they should be linked together.
6. Tell the two volunteers to try to unlink themselves, but they can't remove the loops of string from their wrists.
7. After they try for a minute or so, ask them if they give up.
8. Now, take the center of one of the first volunteer's string and slide it under the wrist loop of the second volunteer.
9. Pull it through and bring it up over the hand and down the wrist of the second volunteer.
10. The first volunteer should be able to pull on his string to unlink the two now.

Dark Magic Mind Reading Trick

Materials:

- Various objects. At least two of the objects should be black.

Preparation

Enlist the assistance of a secret helper beforehand. This is a great job for a Den Chief if you are doing this with your Cub Scout den. Explain how the trick works to the helper so he can assist you without anyone else knowing.

Instructions

1. Put your objects on the table. Invite the Scouts to also place some objects on the table.
2. Leave the room.
3. Have one of the Scouts select an object.
4. When you come back in, your secret helper will be the person pointing to objects on the table. He will seemingly randomly point to the objects and you will say "No, that is not the object."
5. At some point he will point to a black object. The next object he points to will be the object which was chosen and you will say "Yes, I have read your mind. That is the object."
6. Repeat the trick a few times.

Notes

Really ham it up. Scouts love that.

You will have to be a little sneaky about making sure your secret helper is the one pointing at the objects. Try not to make it obvious that you are in cahoots.

The Spruce.com example

- Easy Magic Tricks: The Magnetic Pencil



Here's a classic easy magic trick or effect. You grab your wrist with your hand and a pencil appears to stick to your hand. It's almost as if your hand is magnetic.

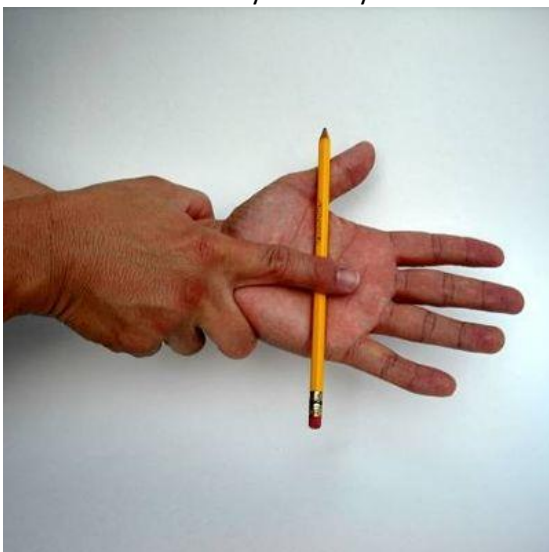
When you let go, the pencil drops. At the end, your spectators can examine the pencil - there are no gimmicks. There's nothing to find and you're clean.

Video Lesson: How to Perform the Magnetic Pen

Learn the Magnetic Pen by watching our video here. For more video magic lessons, please [subscribe to our video channel](#).

Materials: A pencil.

Secret: It's all in how you hold your wrist.



Rest the pencil on a table. Grab your wrist with one hand. Your other hand reaches from underneath to grasp your wrist.

Bring down your hand, palm down, to rest on top of the pencil. As you bring your hand down, secretly extend the first finger of your "grabbing" hand.

Rest your hand on the pencil and secretly shove your first finger underneath the pencil and hold the pencil against your hand, as shown in the picture. This is the exposed view from underneath that spectators would not see.

Easy Magic Tricks: The Magnetic Pencil



You can now lift your hand and the pencil will appear to stick to your hand. Notice that there is a discrepancy as you only show three fingers gripping your wrist, but this is usually not a problem if you perform the trick quickly.

Bring your hand down onto the table and as you come down, slip your first finger out from under the pencil and then wrap it around your wrist along with the other fingers.

With the pencil on the table, you can lift your hand slowly to show that there is seemingly nothing that caused the pencil to stick to your hand.

Thoughts:

This is a trick that should be performed quickly. You don't want spectators to get a long view of the situation and think about it. Simply cause the pencil to "stick" to your hand and then drop it and you're done. Spectators may ask you to perform it again, but if you want to protect the secret and prevent them from figuring it out, you'll need to decline. This trick can't withstand a lot of examination.

A good way to take spectator's minds off of your trick and away from the secret is to immediately move onto another effect. For this, you can take the pencil and perform "The Rubber Pencil" (to learn the trick click [here](#)).

As mentioned earlier, if you would like to learn a more convincing version of this trick, please click [here](#). In this version, you can let go of your hand and the pencil still stays in place. In fact, this second effect is often performed in conjunction with this one. You perform this trick by grabbing your wrist and using your finger to hold the pencil.

And then you expose the trick by showing how your finger is actually holding the pencil in place to apparently defy gravity.

In the second phase, you setup the second pencil with your watch as taught in version 2, and then grab your wrist to cause the pencil to stick to your hand. Watch the amazement in spectators' faces when you release your hand from your wrist and the pencil stays in place.

I don't normally encourage you to expose a magic trick. But in this case, and because the basic "magnetic hand" is so well known, you can set spectators up for something more amazing.

While the tricks require more setup, you can follow this trick with a levitating trick, either "The Levitating Pencil" (click [here](#) to read about and learn the trick) and "The Levitating Ring" (click [here](#) to read about and learn the trick). As the titles imply, in "The Levitating Pencil," a pencil that's placed into a bottle and it appears to levitate up. And in "The Levitating Ring," a finger ring, which can be borrowed, is placed onto a pencil and it mysteriously floats up.

Keep in mind that you don't have to do these tricks with a pencil. If you have one, you can use a magic wand. You can read a collection of tricks with pencils and wands [here](#).

Other TheSpruce.com Tricks. <https://www.thespruce.com/magic-tricks-for-kids-2266288>

The Best Card Magic Trick for Young Kids to Learn and Do - Find a Card

How to Float or Levitate a Playing Card

Science Magic Tricks for Kids

How to Vanish a Coin Under a Glass - DIY Easy Magic Trick

The Floating or Levitating Cup

The Jumping Paper Clips

The Clipped Cards

The Starbucks Magic Paddle Trick

The Necklace

The Jumping Rubber Band

The Vanishing Bead

Sawing the Lady in Half

Easy Magic Trick with a Ring for Beginners and Kids