

If Your Scoutmaster Ran on Windows

A TROOP 1018 Skit

for 8 Scouts

This might very well be our most popular skit. We could perform this one over and over and still get a good reception. We performed this one before Scouts from many countries at the campfire at the Kandersteg International Scout Centre in Switzerland. We also like to do this before Cub Scouts interested in joining our troop. It has a little of everything, including pratfalls and a chance to make fun of Microsoft.

It's not a difficult skit _ it has parts big and small to get everyone involved _ but it's important to have the one prop that draws the biggest laugh _ the huge hourglass. We make it by cutting a big piece of white cardboard into an hourglass shape. Then we support it by taking a stick on the back side for the SCOUTMASTER to hold.

CAST

SCOUT A

SCOUT B

SCOUT C

SCOUTMASTER

SCOUT D

SCOUT E

MAN FROM NEXT CAMP

SCOUT F

Setup / Props:

SCOUTMASTER stands center stage for entire skit. He has a postcard, a magazine, a can of Spam and an white cardboard cutout of an hourglass. He is also wearing a reversible cape, with one side blue. The hourglass needs to be hidden from the audience at the start of the skit, preferably in a box in front of the SCOUTMASTER. The SCOUTMASTER is holding the postcard, magazine and can of Spam behind his back when skit opens.

SCOUTS A, B and C are standing to one side, addressing audience when skit opens.

SCOUT A: "Good evening, we're the Troop 1018 players."

SCOUT B: "And, tonight, using the latest technology, we're going to show you what would happen if ... your Scoutmaster ran on Windows."

SCOUT C: "There he is now, Scoutmaster Version 1.0."

SCOUTS A, B & C run over to SCOUTMASTER.

SCOUTMASTER: "Good evening, Scouts. You've got mail."

SCOUTS A, B & C say "All right", "Oh, boy" etc. as SCOUTMASTER hands them their mail.

SCOUT A: "I've got a magazine!"

SCOUT B: "I've got a postcard from my father!"

SCOUT C: "I've got Spam again." (tosses it away) "I think I'll just hit delete."

SCOUTS A, B & C depart as SCOUTS D & E enter running.

SCOUT D: "Scoutmaster! Scoutmaster! There's a strange man coming into our camp."

SCOUT E: "He's right behind us."

SCOUTMASTER: "Don't worry, Scouts. I've got virus protection."

MAN FROM NEXT CAMP: "I just wanted to see if I could borrow some firewoo ..."

Before he can finish, SCOUTMASTER turns and punches out the man.

SCOUTS D & E react approvingly and leave. SCOUT F enters, holding finger.

SCOUT F: "Scoutmaster! Scoutmaster! I cut my finger. It's bleeding. What should I do?"

SCOUTMASTER picks up his hourglass and holds it up. After a few seconds, he turns it upside-down. After a few seconds, he turns it upside-down again. All the while, SCOUT F is grabbing his finger in pain, saying things such as "C'mon, Scoutmaster. It hurts." "What should I do?" etc.

Eventually, SCOUTMASTER puts down the hourglass and says: "Is it bleeding bad?"

SCOUT F: "Yes! Yes! It's bleeding real bad."

SCOUTMASTER picks up hourglass again and holds it up, flipping it over every few seconds.

Meanwhile, SCOUT F starts to collapse.

SCOUT F: "Losing blood ... feeling faint ... can't hold on much longer."

SCOUT F falls to the ground.

After a few more seconds, SCOUTMASTER puts down hourglass and says: "You need first aid. Open first aid module now."

SCOUTS A, B & C enter running, in sheer panic.

SCOUT A: "Scoutmaster, Mark fell out of a tree."

SCOUT B: "Scoutmaster, Johnny put his hand into the campfire."

SCOUT C: "Scoutmaster, Branson tipped over a canoe."

SCOUTMASTER: "Scoutmaster overloaded. Scoutmaster is shutting doowwwwwn." (puts head down and shuts eyes.)

SCOUT A: "Oh, no. What are we going to do?"

SCOUT B: "I know, reboot!"

The three SCOUTS go behind the SCOUTMASTER and kick him in the rear.

SCOUTMASTER: "Greetings, Scouts!" (SCOUTS react happily) "Illegal shutdown detected." (SCOUTS moan) "Scanning hard drive for errors. One percent. ... Two percent. ... (As he counts, SCOUTS grow impatient ... "We'll be here all night." ... "There are other skits to perform." etc.) Three percent. ... Four percent. ... Five percent. ... Six percent. ... Seven percent. ...

SCOUT A: "I know. Let's trying pressing F-one."

SCOUTS A & C press either side of SCOUTMASTER's temples.

SCOUTMASTER: "You have performed an illegal operation, 4-point-2-5-6-dash-7-8-5 ... dash-1." (SCOUTMASTER flips the cape over his head so that the blue side is facing the audience.)

SCOUTS A, B & C: "Oh, no. It's ... the Blue Screen of Death! Aauugh!" (SCOUTS run offstage)

After all have left, SCOUTMASTER peeks from under cape.

SCOUTMASTER: "Goodbye."

FINAL NOTES

There are several modifications that can be made to the script. Our real Scoutmaster suggested the second line of the skit be changed to add the word "Microsoft" _ just in case someone thought we were talking about the other kind of windows.

Also, our original version had the SCOUTMASTER holding a recycle bin in which the SCOUTS put the trash from their mail, but that didn't really work.

Troop 1018's Chris B., who played the Scout with the bleeding finger, simulated a flow of blood by stuffing a red poncho up his sleeve. He gradually pulled it out as he "bled" to death. In the darkness of the campfire, it looked very effective.

By far the biggest laugh comes when the SCOUTMASTER reveals the hourglass. Make sure to ride the laughter. Have him flip it several times, if necessary, before speaking again once the audience is quiet.

By far the biggest laugh comes when the SCOUTMASTER reveals the hourglass. Make sure to ride the laughter. Have him flip it several times, if necessary, before speaking again once the audience is quiet.

It helps if SCOUTS A, B & C are good at showing panic. Troop 1018's Dan C. acted as if the world were coming to an end when telling the SCOUTMASTER about someone falling out of a tree.

Just before we performed this skit at Hawk Mountain, we found a rickety cart near the campfire and decided to work it into the skit. William Donnell drew up a “Recycle Bin” sign and put it on the side of the cart. Someone wheeled it on at the end of the skit and picked up the two bodies that were lying on stage.

Finally, when we performed this one at the Kandersteg International Scout Centre in Switzerland, SCOUT A (Dan C.) opened by announcing the Troop 1018 players were from the United States. Everyone applauded. Then he said that the U.S. is the home of Microsoft. Everyone booted.

ORIGINAL TROOP 1018 CAST:

SCOUT A: DAN C.

SCOUT B: HARRY W.

SCOUT C: CHAZ A.

SCOUTMASTER: JOHN D.

SCOUT D: QUINN E.

SCOUT E: JOHNNY W.

MAN FROM NEXT CAMP: PETER M.

SCOUT F: CHRIS B.