

(As the audience enters, Rangers Jane and Jeff are finishing setting up for the meeting. A "Moose Scouts of America: The Helping Hand in the Wilderness" banner hangs proudly.)

Jane: You ready to get this show on the road?

Jeff: Is the presentation set up?

Jane: Yeah. Do you have the handbooks?

Jeff: Yep, and already handed out. Oh wait, let me fix your kerchief.

(Jeff fixes Jane's kerchief. Jane maneuvers her boob into his hand. He doesn't notice the overture.)

Jane: Let's do this.

Jeff: Yep. It's showtime!

(The Moose Scout Handshake)

Jeff: *(Turning to the audience)* Hello Midwest Regional Council! *(Waits for a response)* I said, HELLO MIDWEST REGIONAL COUNCIL!

(Some kind of response from the audience.)

Jeff: *(ad lib if necessary)* That's more like it! Thank you all so so much for braving the wind and the snow and the ice tornadoes and the rabid packs of coywolves that roam our streets to be with us tonight. We're here from the Moose Scouts National Headquarters to talk to you about—

Jeff and Jane: The Five Fingers of Moose Scouting: Leveraging your Leadership Potential.

Jane: But before we get into all of that, let's get to know each other a little better. My name is Ranger Jane and this is my colleague, Ranger Jeff.

Jeff: How's your Annual Midwest Summit going, Ranger Jane?

Jane: Thanks for asking, Ranger Jeff. It sure is great to be out here in the great plains of this great country with a bunch of warm and able-bodied citizens such as yourselves. It's been a real thrill to meet all of the Herd Honchos out here, and even have a little fun.

Jeff: I know some of us maybe had a little too much fun at the Moose Mixer Mashup last night—I for one could not stay away from the mashed potato bar. Anyone else find some chives in their hair this morning?

Jane: Well, it's a good thing that we're all comfortably situated here at the Moose Scouts Midwest Conference Pavilion. I'd say this is the finest meetings facility within a hundred miles, wouldn't you say so, Ranger Jeff?

Jeff: I'd have to agree with you there, Ranger Jane. The Midwest Regional Council Leaders have really done a lot with the place. Top of the line fortifications.

Jane: Did you see the electrified barbed wire they have out there?

Jeff: I most certainly did, right after I clocked those tasteful security fences. Excellent.

Jane: We'll be sure to send glowing reports back to National. And thank you to all of you, the Moose Scout Herd Honchos, for being here with us. As we like to say, Moose Scout Herd Honchos are the keystone to for our Moose Scouts' bridge to the future.

Jeff: You are the air traffic controller on their landing strip to tomorrow.

Jane: Yes. YOU are the bread that cuddles their sandwich meat. You are Herd Honchos. And for that, we salute you.

(Moose Scout salute.)

Jeff: Especially Herd Honcho Martha, who we're very lucky to have in the group today. Your opening keynote dance was fantastic.

Jane: It certainly made me tingle.

Jeff: I didn't even know that elbows could bend that way.

(A moment of silent appreciation.)

Jane: Now, as Herd Honcho Martha expressed in her dance, Moose Scouting is all about getting back to the basics. And what are the basics of Moose Scouting?

Jeff: The Moose Scout Anthem! Everybody up! Both hands on your head!

Jane and Jeff: (*singing*) Moose Scouts, Moose Scouts, Gather round
and hear our song today!

Remember to be brave and hon'st and true.

Never let despair

Worry your pretty hair

On your head that stands above your knees!

Moose Scouts, Moose Scouts, Always know

You're braver than you think!

You can climb the tallest mountain if you try.

Always do your best

You're better than the rest!

So Moose Scouts, give each other a high five!

(JEFF and JANE high-five each other. JEFF goes into the crowd and high-fives as many of the audience members as he can.)

Jane: Ranger Jeff, aside from the Moose Scout anthem, what are the basics of Moose Scouting?

(JANE waggles her fingers at JEFF.)

Jeff: Ah, yes! Of course, Ranger Jane. As set down by The Great Founder Elvira Cunningsworthsinton, 236 years ago, they are:

Jane and Jeff: The Five Fingers of Moose Scouting

Jeff: One.

Jane: Wilderness Know-How.

Jeff: Two.

Jane: Superior Citizenship.

Jeff: Three.

Jane: Physical Fitness.

Jeff: Four.

Jane: Knives.

Jeff: And five.

Jane: Generosity in all Forms.

Jeff: And when you put them all together, what do you get?

Jane: One mighty moose knuckle.

Jeff: Speaking of hand-lore, we've got quite the presentation for you today. And what better place to start than at the very beginnings of Moose Scouting?

Jane: There is no better place indeed. Now, we all know that Our Great Founder, Elvira Cunningsworthsinton emerged from the wilderness of Western West Virginia over two centuries ago with a shining vision and her own severed hand. But, how many of us know how she got to this precipice of bloody inspiration? That's why the National Moose Scouts of America has put together this short video drama-cumentary about Our Great Founder.

Jeff: We give you: *The Helping Hand in the Wilderness: The Birth of The Moose Scouts of America*

(The lights dim. Jane presses a button on a remote. Nothing happens. She presses it harder. And harder. Tries repositioning. Nada.)

Jane: Sorry folks, I just can't seem to---

Jeff: Whoa there, Ranger Jane, *can't* is a very dangerous word, and is not in a Moose Scout's vocabulary. What seems to be the problem?

Jane: Well, it's just not (*presses the button harder still*) going. I'll go take a look.

(Jane hands the remote to Jeff, who takes out a flashlight to inspect it. Jane exits.)

Jeff: *(To the audience)* It seems we're just having a little problemo with the movie-o. *(To Jane, who is rummaging around somewhere)* Ranger Jane, have you tried plugging it in to the—

Jane: (*Offstage*) I am plugging it in to the—

Jeff: Did you turn it on first?

Jane: (*Offstage*) Of course I did—

(Blue screen of death lights the stage. It eventually starts cycling through different colors.)

Jane: (*Offstage*) Is it working?

Jeff: Almost?

Jane: (*Offstage*) Almost?!

Jeff: It's doing the thing.

Jane: (*Offstage*) What thing?

Jeff: The...uh...bad thing?

Jane: (*Offstage*) Now I'll have to unplug everything!

Jeff: It's all kookoobananas out here, Ranger Jane.

Jane: (*Offstage*) But I just--WHYYYYYYYYYYYYYYYYYY?

(The destruction of a projector, the tangling of cords, etc. is heard from offstage.)

Jeff: Herd Honchos, this is a good learning moment. If ever a fellow Herd Honcho or a camper experiences a sudden burst of frustration, be calm. Be cool. Be collected. Do not assume that the continued stress of living this crazy modern day life has turned her head and made her all goofy.

(JANE reenters, dragging a tangle of frayed cables.)

Jeff: (*Continuing*) See the good in others. Tell her to take a deep breath. Ranger Jane, show your fellow Herd Honchos how to take a deep breath. (*JANE breathes.*) That's how a good Moose Scout does it. And then we fix the problem together.

Jane: Thanks, Ranger Jeff. I might have lost myself out there if it weren't for you.

Jeff: There's that can-do spirit! The pride of every Moose Scout!

Jane: What would Our Great Founder, Elvira Cunningsworthinton do?

(Knowing look. Moose scout handshake.)

(The following is illustrated through some kind of hand shadow puppet show or acting it out with flashlights, campfire story-style.)

Jeff: *(As Elvira Cunningsworthington)* Good evening, ladies and gentlemen. My name is Elvira Cunningsworthington, and I am so glad to see all of my little Moose Scouts.

In 1828, I was the proud owner of the best ladies hand glove shop in the whole country—nay, the world! My gloves were supple and carefully hand-crafted by the most talented artisans in the land. But alas! After my shop burned down due to a most unfortunate incident involving a most careless use of absinthe, sperm whale oil, and a single match. I was left alone. Destitute. And so I fled to the forest, as a child to the dear breast of her mama.

I had only these two hands. And these five fingers.

As well as THESE OTHER five fingers. Until this one got eaten off by a bear. Then I had only ONE hand and THESE FIVE FINGERS.

And with only this hand, I made a life for myself. Out there. In the forest. With the wildlife. Each finger played a vital role, just as your fingers will play a vital role in your Moose Scout development, and will help you become the leaders that I know you can be!

Jane: Inspiring. Inspiring.

Jeff: So, let's leap into those Five Fingers! Let's get that projector cranked up and—ah.

Jane: There is no projector. Let us never speak of the projector again.

(to the audience, brightly) This is a great Moose Scouts reminder to always make sure that your electronics are in tip-top shape, and that malfunctioning equipment is just dead weight that will slow you down in your struggle for survival.

Jeff: How will we... well, but then... what do we do?

Jane: I think I saw some paper backstage. Let me grab it.

Jeff: All right, Herd Honchos! What does a good Moose Scout do when faced with adversity! They use their two sets of Five Fingers of Moose Scouting and improvise!

(JANE comes out from backstage, carrying a large BIOHAZARD DO NOT ENTER sign.)

Jeff: Hmmm. Ranger Jane, should we maybe use a different—

Jane: It was just blocking a doorway. It's fine. No one go backstage and through that door! Okay? It's very important. You will very likely die!
Great!

(She tapes it to the back wall.)

Jane: So, let's BREAK DOWN that first Finger of Moose Scouting: Wilderness Know-How.

Jeff: How can Wilderness Knowledge contribute to the SUPREME FORCE that is the MOOSE SCOUT HERD HONCHO?

Answer: A whole lot.

Jane: A solid background in Wilderness knowhow allows you to lead your Mooselets, and any other citizens requiring evacuation safely through the forest.

Jeff: Or. Orrrrr also perhaps in case the Moose Scouts want to go for a walk in the woods. There's no need for an evacuation order to enjoy the great outdoors. In light of some recent developments, we'd like to give you some tips--everyone, uncap those Moose Scout pens and open your Moose Scout ears!

Jane *(writing on the back of the BIOHAZARD sign):* Hiking Dos and Don't in both the Forest, The-Great-Swamp-Formally-Known-As-Northern-Indiana, and the Burned out Western Suburbs of our--

Jeff: Western Suburbia.

Jane: It's the same—

Jeff: Well, let me just change it.

Jane: I don't know if it's worth the ink.

Jeff: It'll bother me if I don't.

Jane: Ranger Jeff, there are more important things for our lovely Moose Scout Leaders to

Jeff: I ONLY HAVE CONTROL OVER SO MANY THINGS IN MY LIFE. LET ME HAVE THIS. WHAT DOES THIS COST YOU. LET ME HAVE THIS.

Jane: Certainly, Ranger Jeff.

(JEFF changes the words)

Jane: This is a good learning point for everyone. Tensions may, at some point, run a little high in your Moose Scout Troops, and it's best to let your Moose Scouts have at least a little agency and choice, in a world whose choices are proving increasingly limited.

(JEFF has finished changing the words.)

Jeff: Thank you, Ranger Jane.

Jane: My pleasure, Ranger Jeff.

“Hiking Dos and Don't in both the Forest,
The-Great-Swamp-Formally-Known-As-Northern-Indiana, and the Burned out Western
Suburbia of our Grand Metropolis

Jeff: Excluding, of course, Downer's Grove. Because the Bees have completely taken over that place, and unless you speak fluent Buzz, you'd best give it a wide berth.

Jane: But first, the forest.

There are many reasons why you might find yourself in a patch of unfamiliar woods. You might be wanting to reconnect with Mother Nature, and gotten a little carried away and strayed from the path. You might be looking for some small game to shoot. You might be looking for some prized possession that the Ice Tornadoes took away. Whatever the reason, whenever you venture on a strange path, PLEASE. Be careful to mark your new trail, so that you can find your way back to civilization.

Jeff: There are several ways to mark a trail. You can take your trusty Moose Scouts knife and mark an X on trees as you pass them.

Jane: Ranger Jeff, if I might suggest something here.

Jeff: Suggest away, Ranger Jane.

Jane: Instead of an X, I'd carve in your initials, as well as the date. If you should happen to be mauled to death by a group of coywolves, then the search party can find your mutilated remains and bury them with some semblance of dignity.

Jeff: (*Brandishing the knife*) Good POINT, Ranger Jane!

Jane: It's worth it, for your family's peace of mind, to practice carving your initials. Practicing knife dexterity never hurt anyone, and the ability to do it quickly and quietly will serve you well.

Jeff: Oh! Most most most most most most MOST importantly! There has been some most deadly information floating around. I don't know if anyone of you have broken into a library and stolen a few of those antique books about wilderness know-how.

Jane: Trying to get a leg up on the competition—completely understandable, and it does fall within the Golden Exception to the Rule as long as you share the books with fellow Moose Scouts

Jeff: But in some of these antique “survival guides”--HA! Survival guides!

(This is very hilarious. Everyone laughs until they cry.)

Jane: (*wiping away tears*) Ah, we were all so young and foolish.

Jeff: But DO NOT. I repeat. DO NOT stack stones on top of each other in this matter. (*JANE draws a diagram of this, and draws a BIG X over it.*) For several reasons—

Jane: For innumerable reasons.

Jeff: FIRST, because it takes precious time to find a large stone, and then a slightly smaller one, and then a slightly smaller one. And any moment when your hand is not on your knife in the Traditional Moose Scout Pose is a dangerous moment indeed.

Jane: Also, the ice tornadoes will knock them down anyway.

Jeff: Quite true, quite true. But MOST IMPORTANTLY, should a SENTIENT BEE see your crude sculpture, he—

Jane: Or she!

Jeff: Yes, or she will take it as a sign that Humans think of themselves as on the same level as Bees by attempting to recreate the Holy Hive. So DO NOT DO IT unless you want to rain destruction onto us all. The Treaty of 2062 calmed them for now. But we mustn't take their mercy for granted.

Jane: If you do happen to meet a sentient bee, please! Be polite. Be respectful. Keep your knife sheathed in a gesture showing that you mean no harm.

Jeff: Very true, Ranger Jane. Beeeeeeee humble! Remember, their intellect does surpass ours by quite a bit, despite what you might hear on Fox Radio.

Jane: If I may, Ranger Jeff. If you are in an area that has been designed by the Treaty of 2062 as Sentient Bee Territory, then know that you are in the wrong, and should leave immediately. First, of course, draw on one of your Five Need-To-Know-Buzzwords.

(writing on the back of the BIOHAZARD sign)

"I am lost." That's *[RANGER JANE says the phrase in Buzz.]*

Everybody, now. This could be life or death! Everybody!

I mean no harm. That's *[RANGER JANE says the phrase in Buzz.]*

Thank you for your mercy. That's *[RANGER JANE says the phrase in Buzz.]*

I will now leave with all due and appropriate speed. *[RANGER JANE says the phrase in Buzz.]*

And, finally, "May your queen live long, and may her larvae cover the Earth." That's *[RANGER JANE says the phrase in Buzz.]*

Jeff: If I may, Ranger Jane.

Jane: Of course, Ranger Jeff.

Jeff: That last little line does rather stretch the truth a bit. Because, of course, if the bees larvae were to cover the earth, then we would all be dead!

(This idea is quite hilarious. Everyone laughs for a long time.)

Jeff: So I know that all Moose Scouts promise to be brave, honest, and true. And that, as Moose Scouts, you would expect others to treat you with bravery, honesty, and truth.

But if a little fib is all that stands between you and that final Shuffle off to Buffalo, then tell the fib, for muck's sake!