Diocese of Trenton
Catholic Committee on Scouting

Scout
Annual Retreat
Programs
Diocese of Trenton
Catholic Committee on Scouting

Dear fellow NCCS Participant:

In our diocese, our major committee event is a boy scout/girl scout annual weekend retreat. Some 400 scouters and scouts attend each year. It is a huge event, planned and implemented by a group of approximately 60 youth and adult scout staff. The planning process is a year long effort. Implementation of the retreat is in September, at a boy scout camp within our diocese.

Our retreat begins with a Friday evening campfire. On Saturday morning, we gather the entire camp for a flag ceremony, and opening service. Then, the group is broken into 5 smaller groups, and attend the 5 morning workshops. Saturday afternoon includes a penance service, and smaller activities, ranging from crafts to meditation and prayer. Saturday evening is social, with a dance and movie, simultaneously occurring. Sunday morning culminates the retreat with Mass at the waterfront, which our Bishop has attended whenever his schedule allows. Then we bid goodbye to the campers, and staff cleans up the camp!

We are very proud of the work that our staff does. We have assembled a number of our retreat services for you in this handout. Many of our full programs have received the National Committee on Scouting’s “Certificate of Recognition for Excellence” Award. We hope you enjoy these services and welcome any comments.

Yours in faith and scouting,
Ann Marie Smigelski
19 Jibsaill Dr
Bayville, NJ 08721
(732)606-1463
e-mail: asmig@aol.com
Staff Commissioning Service

Each year at the Easter Vigil, the most sacred of the Church’s liturgies, we begin with the Service of Light. The fire that is blessed that night is meant to be a reminder of the light of Christ returning to the world at the Resurrection.

*Light the fire.* The Christbears, a name which means “Christ-bearer,” is a church group dedicated to the spread of the Gospel. They recognize the need the world has for the light of Christ to shine upon us. Their slogan is that “it is better to light one candle than to curse the darkness.”

*Light a candle.* At our baptisms we were given a candle that was lit with the words “receive the light of Christ.” We were told to keep the flame of faith alive in our hearts. As followers of Christ it is now our task to carry that flame and bring the light of Christ into all parts of our world.

*Light all candles, person to person, each staff member holding a candle.* Recent events in our nation have challenged the strength of our nation. There are those who would hope that we become too frightened to move forward. They are mistaken, our nation is united and stronger than ever. I ask all present here to join me in prayer. Prayer for the victims, for those missing, for those involved in the rescue/recovery efforts, for our leaders and for our military who now go forth to defend us.

*Pause.* Join me as well in prayer for ourselves. We, as a staff, need to ask the Lord for His strength. In difficult times it is important that people of faith show forth that faith for all to see. It is our faith that gives us the strength to face the challenges this world presents. It is also our faith that binds us together. And united in faith we cannot fail. Together we ask God to allow our lights to burn brightly.

This weekend give us the opportunity as a staff to share the light of Christ with those around us. We know that there is great goodness in the world. Will you join me in directing others to that goodness by shining the Christ on it?

We also know that there remains darkness in our world. Will you join me in bringing the light of Christ more fully into the world to dispell that darkness?

Finally, we know why we are gathered here this weekend. So join me in asking the Lord to grant us the grace and the strength to live our lives in such a way that what we say and do brings glory to God our Father.

Will you join with me this weekend in helping all who are gathered for this retreat to raise the name of the Lord “Up in Lights”!

Now go forth with God’s blessing – and allow the light of Christ to shine for all to see.
Friday Night Campfire
SCREEN PLAY

MR. S.—OUR CLOSING TONIGHT WILL BE A PRODUCTION PLAYED BY THE
GRADUATING STAFF MEMBERS. AS YOU ALREADY KNOW THE STAFF HAS PUT
TOGETHER A PROGRAM BUILT AROUND MOVIE THEMES. LISTEN TO THE
STORY OF CREATION BY JAMES WELDON JOHNSON AND REFLECT ON IT AS
YOU LEAVE TONIGHT AND PREPARE FOR YOUR RETREAT WEEKEND.

ERIC—SLOWLY WALK ON AND VIDEOTAPE
CHRIS—KNOCK ON DOOR.
BRIAN—ANSWER DOOR
CHRIS—INTRODUCE YOURSELF AND EXPLAIN WHY YOU ARE THERE
BRIAN & J.B.—TOGETHER RESIST READING THE STORY
CHRIS—CONVINCE THEM TO READ YOUR SCRIPT
GOD SLOWLY WALKS ON.
BRIAN & J.B.—SIT DOWN AND START TO READ.

BRIAN—AND GOD STEPPED OUT ON SPACE,
AND HE LOOKED AROUND AND SAID:
I'M LONELY—I'LL MAKE ME A WORLD

AND AS FAR AS THE EYE OF GOD COULD SEE
DARKNESS COVERED EVERYTHING,
BLACKER THAN A HUNDRED MIDNIGHTS
DOWN A CYPRESS SWAMP.

J.B.—NO! CHANGE THAT TO A CEDAR LAKE. JUST LOOK AROUND US. SEE
THE CEDAR TREES.
CHRIS—OK THATS FINE JUST KEEP READING

BRIAN—THEN GOD SMILED, AND LIGHT BROKE
PAUSE
AND THE DARKNESS ROLLED UP ON ONE SIDE AND THE LIGHT STOOD
SHINNING ON THE OTHER, AND GOD SAID:
THAT'S GOOD!

THEN GOD REACHED OUT AND TOOK THE LIGHT IN HIS HANDS UNTIL HE
MADE THE SUN; AND HE SET THE SUN A BLAZING IN THE HEAVENS.
AND HE TOOK THAT LIGHT FROM THE SUN AND FLUNG IT AGAINST THE
DARKNESS.
SPANGLING IN THE NIGHT WITH THE MOON AND STARS.
THEN DOWN BETWEEN THE DARKNESS AND LIGHT HE HURLED THE WORLD:
AND GOD SAID: THAT'S GOOD!

J.B.—LET ME READ SOME OF THIS. THIS SEEMS LIKE A GOOD STORY.

J.B.—THEN GOD HIMSELF STEPPED DOWN AND THE SUN WAS ON HIS RIGHT
HAND, AND THE MOON WAS ON HIS LEFT;
THE STARS WERE CLUSTERED ABOUT HIS HEAD
AND THE EARTH WAS UNDER HIS FEET.
AND GOD WALKED, AND WHERE HE TROD HIS FOOTSTEPS HOLLOWED THE
VALLEYS OUT AND BULGED THE MOUNTAINS UP.

THEN HE STOPPED AND LOOKED AND SAW THAT THE EARTH WAS HOT AND
BARREN. SO GOD STEPPED OVER THE EDGE OF THE WORLD AND HE SPAT
OUT THE SEAS.
HE BATTED HIS EYES AND THE LIGHTNING'S FLASHED
HE CLAPPED HIS HANDS, AND THE THUNDERS ROLLED
AND THE WATERS ABOVE THE EARTH CAME DOWN,
THEN THE GREEN GRASS SPROUTED AND THE LITTLE RED FLOWERS
BLOSSOMED,
THE PINE TREE POINTED HIS FINGER TO THE SKY
AND THE OAK SPREAD OUT HIS ARMS
THE LAKES CUDDLED DOWN IN THE HOLLOWS OF THE GROUND
AND THE RIVERS RAN DOWN TO THE SEA
AND GOD SMILED AGAIN
AND THE RAINBOW APPEARED
AND CURLED ITSELF AROUND HIS SHOULDER.

CHRIS—WHAT DO YOU THINK SO FAR??

BRIAN & J.B.—QUIET! QUIET LET US READ!!!!

BRIAN—THEN GOD RAISED HIS ARM AND WAVED HIS HAND
OVER THE SEA AND OVER THE LAND
AND HE SAID: BRING FORTH! BRING FORTH!
AND QUICKER THAN GOD COULD DROP HIS HAND FISHES AND FOWLS AND
BEASTS AND BIRDS SWAM THE RIVERS AND SEAS. ROAMED THE FOREST AND
WOODS. AND SPLIT THE AIR WITH THEIR WINGS.
AND GOD SAID: THAT'S GOOD!

THEN GOD WALKED AROUND AND GOD LOOKED AROUND
ON ALL THAT HAD BEEN MADE. HE LOOKED AT THE SUN, AND HE LOOKED
AT HIS MOON, AND HE LOOKED AT HIS LITTLE STARS.
HE LOOKED ON HIS WORLD WITH ALL IT'S LIVING THINGS,
AND GOD SAID: I'M LONELY STILL

THEN GOD SAT DOWN ON THE SIDE OF A HILL WHERE HE COULD THINK:
BY A DEEP WIDE RIVER HE SAT WITH HIS HEAD IN HIS HANDS,
GOD THOUGHT: I'LL MAKE ME A MAN.

CHRIS— YES! YES! READ ON THIS IS THE BEST PART!

BRIAN & J.B.— LOOK AND CHRIS AND SAY NOTHING!!
CHRIS: ALL RIGHT I'LL SHUT UP.

J.B.— UP FROM THE BED OF THE RIVER GOD SCOOPED THE CLAY
AND BY THE BANK OF THE RIVER HE KNEELED DOWN
AND THERE THE GREAT GOD ALMIGHTY WHO LIT THE SUN AND FIXED IT IN
THE SKY, WHO FLUNG THE STARS TO THE MOST FAR CORNER OF THE NIGHT.
WHO ROUNDED THE EARTH IN THE MIDDLE OF HIS HAND
THIS GREAT GOD
LIKE A MAMMY BENDING OVER HER BABY
KNEELED DOWN IN THE DUST TOILING OVER A LUMP OF CLAY TILL HE
SHAPED IT IN HIS OWN IMAGE:

THEN INTO IT HE BLEW THE BREATH OF LIFE
AND MAN BECAME A LIVING SOUL.
AMEN.....AMEN.....

PAUSE

CHRIS— TO BE CONTINUED TOMORROW
Saturday Morning Activities
ACT II

ALL PLAYERS TAKE THEIR PLACE

GOD STANDS QUIETLY IN THE BACKGROUND NOT MOVING

CHRIS— SO WHAT TO YOU THINK? DID YOU LIKE MY SCREEN PLAY LAST NIGHT?

BRIAN— I THINK THIS IS A GREAT STORY. IT PUT ME IN A PEACEFUL STATE OF MIND. I COULDN'T STOP THINKING ABOUT IT LAST NIGHT.

J.B.— IS THERE MORE TO THE STORY? I THINK WE COULD DO MORE WITH THIS.

CHRIS— YES! YES! IT HAS FIVE MORE ACTS.....WE CAN DO THE FIVE ACTS TODAY AND HAVE A GRAND PRODUCTION TOMORROW MORNING.

BRIAN— WHAT ARE THE FIVE ACTS? AND WHAT IS THIS GRAND PRODUCTION?

CHRIS— YOU WILL HAVE TO WAIT FOR TOMORROW MORNING TO FIND OUT ABOUT THE GRAND PRODUCTION. BUT WE CAN DO THE FIVE ACTS TODAY.

J.B.— WHAT ARE THE FIVE ACTS?

CHRIS— THE FIVE ACTS ARE

ACT I..... DUDE WHERE'S MY GOD?
ACT II..... GOSSIP
ACT III..... OH GOD
ACT IV... BIBLICAL HISTORY X
ACT V..... LIAR, LIAR

BRIAN, CHRIS, J.B.—WHAT ARE WE WAITING FOR? LETS GO!
Penance Service
Penance Service

Song:
Amazing grace! How sweet the sound that saved and set me free!
I once was lost, but now am found, was blind, but now I see.

Through many dangers, toils and snares I have already come,
’Tis grace has brought me safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.

The Lord has promised good to me, His word my hope endures,
He will my shield and portion be as long as life endures.

Leader: +In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

All: AMEN.

Leader: Grace and peace be with you from God and from the Lord, Jesus Christ, who loved us and washed away our sins in His blood.

All: GLORY TO GOD FOREVER. AMEN.

Leader: Let us pray for God's help to be truly sorry for our sin.

All: LOVING GOD, YOU HAVE BROUGHT US TOGETHER IN THE NAME OF YOUR SON, TO RECEIVE MERCY AND GRACE IN OUR TIME OF NEED. OPEN OUR EYES TO SEE THE EVIL WE HAVE DONE. TOUCH OUR HEARTS AND TURN US BACK TO YOU. GIVE US A NEW HEART TO LOVE YOU, SO THAT OUR LIVES MAY REFLECT THE IMAGE OF YOUR SON. WE ASK THIS THROUGH JESUS CHRIST, OUR LORD. AMEN.

Reader: A reading from the Gospel according to Matthew:

Matthew 14:22 - 33

All: THANKS BE TO GOD.

Examination of conscience, skit & Homily

Leader: In the Sacrament of Penance, we receive forgiveness and God's grace and blessings, that strengthen us to do better. My friends, confess your sins and pray for each other that all may be healed.

All: MY GOD / I AM SORRY FOR MY SINS WITH ALL MY HEART. / IN CHOOSING TO DO WRONG / AND FAILING TO DO GOOD / I HAVE SINNED AGAINST YOU / WHOM I SHOULD LOVE ABOVE ALL THINGS. / I FIRMLY INTEND / WITH YOUR HELP / TO DO Penance / TO SIN NO MORE / AND TO AVOID WHATEVER LEADS ME TO SIN. / OUR SAVIOR, JESUS CHRIST / SUFFERED AND DIED FOR US. / IN HIS NAME, MY GOD, HAVE MERCY.
Leader: The Lord is kind and merciful. The Holy Spirit makes us clean of heart and leads us to freedom when we admit we have sinned. Let us ask Jesus to forgive us and heal the wounds our sins have caused.

All: OUR FATHER . . .

Leader: Lord God, be near to us, your servants, as we confess that we have sinned. Through the ministry of your Church free us from all sins and renew us in spirit, so that we may always give you thankful praise. Teach us reverence for our bodies, fill our hearts with faith, our days with good works, our lives with your love. We ask this through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

All: AMEN.

(During the time of individual confessions, please write a message to God on the paper provided. Fold the paper and attach this message to one of the crosses or stairways. After individual confessions, conclude with this prayer)

Leader: Together we give thanks to God for His mercy in this Sacrament of Reconciliation.

All: GOD OF LOVE YOU HAVE FORGIVEN OUR SINS
AND SENT US YOUR PEACE.
WE PRAISE YOU AND WE THANK YOU
FOR THIS WONDERFUL GIFT.
HELP US ALWAYS TO FORGIVE EACH OTHER
AND TO WORK TOGETHER FOR PEACE IN THE WORLD.
WE ASK THIS THROUGH JESUS CHRIST, OUR LORD. AMEN.

Priest: May the blessing of Almighty God, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit come upon you and remain with you for ever.

All: AMEN.

Priest: The Lord has freed you from sin. Go in peace.

All: THANKS BE TO GOD.

Please remain in the Penance Service area until you are directed to go to the afternoon sessions. As you leave the Penance Service area you will be given a remembrance of the Penance Service. You will also receive a game card for the afternoon sessions.
Penance Service

Entire skit is done in mime.

Eric enters, wearing a t-shirt with a sun on it. He represents Jesus, enters through the crowd spreading candy and joy. He is carrying a bag labeled "The Word of God" and tossing tiny bags of candy corn. He is wearing a brilliantly white scarf around his neck. He should be shaking hands with people and doing a one man version of happiness. He comes on stage and dances with Alicia. She represents "everykid" and is wearing a t-shirt that says this. She looks at what Jesus is doing in the crowd with great interest and excitement. When Jesus comes on stage, she interacts with him enthusiastically. Then Jesus moves stage right of the action but stays on stage and sits "frozen." Alicia remains center stage.

JB, representing the tempter, hands two sets of Walkman headphones to Kate. Kate crosses to center and gives Alicia one of the headphones. They "groove" to the music. Kate exits. Jesus reenters, crosses to Alicia. Alicia dances, but not enthusiastically with Jesus. Then Alicia moves away from Jesus and gestures for him to go back to his corner, as if waving goodbye. Jesus returns to stage right and "freezes."

JB hands two pistols to Kerri. Kerri crosses to center, she and Alicia admire the weapon. Kerri gives her one and they strike a few "Charlie's Angels" poses, then Kerri exits. Jesus crosses to Alicia and dances near her. Alicia feels too heavy to dance with him and gestures him away as if she's too tired. Jesus returns to stage right and "freezes."

JB hands a poster and a video to John III. He crosses to center, and shares the pornography with her. (audience does not actually see the poster, just Alicia's reaction) John leaves her with a video bearing a XXX label, then exits. Jesus crosses to Alicia and dances near her. Alicia is too busy looking at all the things she has to dance with Jesus and ignores him. Jesus returns to stage right and "freezes."

JB hands Dan O'B a pile of money. He crosses to center, and shows Alicia how great he is because he has money. Dan gives her a pile of money, then exits. When Jesus crosses to Alicia she is weighed down by all the things she has and is too busy for Jesus now. She angrily gestures for Jesus to go away. Jesus returns to stage right and "freezes."
JB hands Jenny two joings. She crosses to center and gives Alicia a joing, then exits. When Jesus crosses to Alicia she is pulled down by all the things she has and is too preoccupied for Jesus now, she doesn't even see him. Jesus returns to stage right and "freezes."

JB gives two bottles to Omar. He crosses to center, and shares the booze with Alicia, then exits. When Jesus crosses to Alicia, she gestures even more angrily for Jesus to go away. Jesus returns to stage right and "freezes." The things Alicia has make it hare for her to stand up, because they are weighing her down. She doesn't look happy.

JB gives two knives to Allyn. He crosses to center, and he and Alicia play with the knives. Allyn then exits. When Jesus begins to cross toward Alicia, she orders him with a gesture to go away. Jesus returns to stage right and "freezes." She is so burdened down with her things that she cannot stand. She looks distressed.

JB crosses to Alicia and brings her to stand in front of a cross that is center stage. He points to all the things she has, then holds up a black (or stained) scarf. He points from one to the other as if to say that because of what she has done, her soul looks like this. JB lays the scarf around her shoulders. He holds her wrist as if to nail her to the cross. However, before he can bring the hammer down even once, Jesus catches his arm and moves him out of the way so that the audience can see clearly the following action.

Jesus takes each item that Alicia has been given and puts it in his candy bag. This is done slowly and deliberately. As each thing is taken Alicia is lighter and Jesus is weighed down. After the final thing is taken, Jesus takes the stained scarf from her and places his white scarf on Alicia's shoulders. He puts the stained scarf on himself. Alicia steps away from the cross. Jesus heaves the bag onto his shoulder and walks in front of the cross.

JB crosses to Jesus and nails Him to the cross in pantomine. Alicia kneels at the foot of the cross. Jesus' hand comes down and rests on her head.

Grand Pause

Another staff member reads the poem "Footprints"
SATURDAY

AFTERNOON

WORKSHOPS

For the afternoon workshops, the staff sets up 21 stations in the field around the dining hall. Participants can spend 2 hours visiting as many of the stations as they wish. Each station has a hands on activity.

Each participant is given a sheet of paper with Bible verses on it. After participating in the activity at each station, the participant decides which Bible verse applies to the activity. The staff member then uses a rubber stamp to mark that square on the game sheet.

Participants who participate in at least 20 activities are rewarded with a free soda at the trading post.
Afternoon Sessions

1. Game of slides and steps - Individual game board with spaces filled as for the morning workshop. No group discussion unless conversation ensues. "Happy are those whose greatest desire is to do what God requires; God will satisfy them fully!" Matthew 5:6

2. Pray as you go - Pick a prayer from the box, think of a way that that prayer can be used in their everyday life. "Do not merely listen to the word and so deceive yourself, do what it says." James 1:22

3. The spirit shop - Answer a quiz to obtain paper with quote and prayer that applies, reminds you that Jesus is in all of us. "It will come to pass in the last days, God says that I will pour out a portion of my spirit upon all flesh" Acts 2:17

4. Optician Shop - Make construction paper glasses into a cross, never take your eyes off Jesus. "Now we see but a poor reflection as in a mirror; then we shall see face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I am fully known." 1 Corinthians 13:12


6. Pet shop - pick a duck, each duck will have a bible verse written on it. Participants look up the verse in the bible. "I have told yo this so that my own joy may be in you and your joy may be complete." John 15:11

7. Living Rosary - balloons with intercessions to blessed mother. "Blessed are you among women." Luke 1:42

8. The light of the world - Make prayer candles with baby food jars, tea lights and colored sand. "You are like light for the whole world. A city on a hill cannot be hidden. No one lights a lamp and puts it under a bowl, instead he puts it on the lampstand, where it gives light for everyone in the house. In the same way you light must shine before people." Matthew 5:14-16

9. The puzzler - assemble a puzzle and answer a question.
10. Turning Points - scouts asked to reflect on a turning point in their life. Find a bible passage or story about it, or write a reflection on how faith helped/could help. "But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well." Matthew 6:33

11. Prayer Garden - Posters of beatitudes, music playing softly. Invitations to pray. "And pray in the spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying." Ephesians 6:18

12. Jesus fish - make Jesus fish out of popsicle sticks, then decorate them and make fish medallions. "come, follow me, Jesus said, and I will make you fishers of men." Matthew 4:19

13. Image God store - Look at a ink-blot type picture, and see God in its face. "They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them." Acts 2:3-4


15. Just Bead It - Make crosses out of lanyard and beads. "Carrying his own cross, he went out to the place of the Skull." John 19:17

16. Windows of God - make hanging stain glass windows of tissue paper, construction paper, clear contact, and ribbon. Donate them to various shut-ins. ""And in the church God has appointed first of all apostles, second prophets, third teachers, then workers of miracles, also those having gifts of healing." 1Corinthians 13:28

17. East meets West - Origami creations. "And a voice came from heaven: You are my Son, in whom I am well pleased." Luke 3:22

18. Prayer Rock - Make prayer rock crafts with cloth, yarn, prayer cards. "He ransoms me unharmed from the battle waged against me, even though many oppose me." Psalms 55:18

19. God's Eyes - Yarn and popsicle sticks makeing "God's eyes" "But whenever you pray, go to your room and shut the door and pray to your father in secret." Matthew 6:6
Now all that I know is hazy and blurred, but then I will see everything clearly, just as clearly as God sees into my heart right now.
1 Corinthians 13:12

Do not deceive yourselves by just listening to his word; instead, put it into practice.
James 1:22

But the angel said, "Don't be surprised. Aren't you looking for Jesus, the Nazarene who was crucified? He isn't here! He has come back to life!"
Mark 16:6
As they looked on, a change came over Jesus: His face was shining like the sun, and his clothes were dazzling white.
Matthew 17:2

Pray for the living and the dead.

Spiritual Works of Mercy

Human beings live not on bread alone but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.
Matthew 4:4

I will pour out my Spirit on everyone. Your sons and daughters will proclaim my message.
Acts 2:17

Happy are those who work for peace; God will call them his children.

Matthew 5:9

He will bring me safely back from the battles that I fight against my enemies.
Psalm 55:18

For you have been called for this purpose, since Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example for you to follow in his steps.
1 Peter 2:21
But Jesus said, "Let the little children alone, and do not stop them from coming to me; for it is to such as these children that the kingdom of heaven belongs.
Matthew 19:14

After you have received a stamp at 20 stations, take this paper to Trading Post for the final stamp and a free soda.

Watch yourselves, then, so that you will not lose what you have worked for, but will receive your reward in full.

2 John 1:8
Luke 3:21

As to love, as to love,
form, like a dove.
down upon him in body
and the Holy Spirit came

Matthew 25:40

Did it for me.
of these brothers of mine, you
for one of the least important
you, whenever you did this
The King will reply, 'I tell
Expressions 618
always keep praying
this in mind, be short and
prayers and requests.' With
occasions with all kinds of
and pray in the Spirit on all

Matthew 6:25

Put on, for your body, what you shall
or what you shall drink, nor
He's so to whom you shall eat,
Do not be anxious for your

Matthew 6:6

Satisfy them fully!
God requires God will
fretless desires is to do what
You are the light of the

1 Corinthians 12:27

member of it.
Every one of you is a
Christ. Every one of you is a
You, then, are the body of

1 John 13:11

and you joy may be.
In my joy may be in you
I have told you this so that

John 19:11

called the place of the skull
himself, went out to what is
Carrying the Cross by

Luke 1:42

woman,
Blessed are you among

Stairway to Heaven

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