

Calculator Tape Speech



Materials: You need an 8-10 foot long piece of adding machine or calculator tape.

Using a large dark marker, mark the tape in ten 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 back up, so that the 100 is in the center of the roll.

For the presentation you will need two helpers to hold the tape in front of you so you can point at various points on the tape. (You might consider using scouts as your helpers, as this can be an effective visual.)

Begin by saying: "With the current advances in medical technology it's very likely that your son will live about 100 years." (Have your helpers unroll the tape in front of you, so the whole time line is visible.)

"Here's a timeline of his life. If you're 35 now, statistically, you'll likely live until you're 75 or so, when your son will be about 40-50." (Rip the tape off at the 1/2 way point and hand the end to your helper. Let the other half fall to the floor -- very important dramatic effect).

"And he's probably about 8 or 9 now." (Rip off 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 son will be when he goes away to college (or you decide its time for him to be out on his 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 him at home."

"When he's about 13 - middle school age - his friends start to become a much bigger, maybe the major, influence in his life." (If you can - assuming you have a 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. Hand the end to your helper).

(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 influence in your son's life. This small scrap is our main opportunity to help shape the outcome of his life. This is our opportunity to get closer to our sons by becoming involved in Scouting with him. Scouting is a remarkable opportunity for you and your son to share a great variety of fun, exciting and positive experiences. Experiences that give you that opportunity to help him grow into an adult that you'll be proud to know."

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