

Passage to Hogwarts (Harry Potter theme night)

Description:

There are seven passages in and out of Hogwarts, and one passageway unknown to most. Come be sorted into your House, and then begin the quest to find your way into Hogwarts. Once there, we will undertake a lesson at the Astronomy tower with Professor Sinistra, learning to find “passages” in the skies!

Summary of Events:

- Create Platform 9 ¾ sign to place out front. If possible, have staff member play the role of Hagrid and greet all visitors outside, showing them the way to Hogwarts (“First years, this way!”).
- Have a staff member play the role of Professor McGonagall who sorts each newcomer into their House after they enter.
- Everyone is directed to Hogsmeade and ushered into the Hogs Head Inn (some designated area before entering the planetarium). If possible, serve drinks (such as sparkling grape juice).
- Underneath some of the cups are either letters or words. Any time a letter or word is discovered, they should be directed to give them to the bar owner, Aberforth Dumbledore (need a staff member to play this role). He will write the letter/word on whatever is available to project so the people can see it (we used an overhead projector) and allow the audience to unscramble them once they have all been found.
 - The letters will spell “ARIANA” – the girl in the portrait. She was the sister to Aberforth and Albus Dumbledore.
 - The words will spell “You know what to do.” This is the key phrase to be spoken to the portrait of Ariana which will open the secret passage to Hogwarts, from the bar, to the Room of Requirement. At this point we lead the audience through the “secret passage” and “step out” to head up the stairs to the astronomy tower to the lesson (the planetarium).
- In the planetarium, I will do a basic night sky presentation, pointing out “star passages” (using one familiar star pattern to find others)
 - The Big Dipper asterism of Ursa Major points to Polaris in Ursa Minor in one direction, and to Leo the Lion in the other! Follow the arc of the Big Dipper’s handle to the bright star Arcturus in Bootes. Imagine Bootes as an ice cream cone, and Corona Borealis becomes a second scoop that has fallen off, or a magic basket of some Native Americans. Turn the magic basket into a picnic basket, and the lid points to a beautiful butterfly, which is really Hercules! Then back to the Dipper’s handle, arc to Arcturus again, but this time speed on to Spica in Virgo!
 - In the Winter sky, identify Orion the Hunter. Use his belt stars to find Sirius, in Canis Major and Aldeberan, the eye of Taurus the Bull. Then circle around Orion with bright stars to discover Canis Minor, Gemini, and Auriga.