

distribute them to poor children. Each youth member may also be asked to contribute one usable toy. If your community does not have a Christmas toy collection, and if agencies servicing the poor agree that it would be a valuable service, your council or district might spearhead such a campaign. This means creating a detailed plan, cooperating with other organizations that want to participate, and selecting a coordinator, who must spend a great deal of time supervising the project.

### **Christmas in Nursing Homes**

Nursing homes can be forlorn-looking places at Christmas. Boy Scout troops can cheer them up with one or more of the following ideas:

- Make tray favors (check with nursing staff if food is included). Practical items such as decorated comb cases or eyeglass cases are best.
- Make Christmas cards and have the boys deliver them.
- Make flameproof decorations for the lobby,

lounge, cafeteria, individual rooms, placemats for holiday meal, tabletop Christmas trees.

- Fill stockings for patients with soap, toothpaste, pens, nail files, etc.
- Give a caroling program.
- Conduct skits, possibly using prerecorded tapes or a microphone if lines are spoken (many patients are hard of hearing).
- Demonstrate simple crafts that could be used by patients for occupational therapy.

### **Conduct Drug Abuse Workshops**

The council or district can organize a series of workshops on drug abuse if schools or other agencies are not providing similar educational programs. It is absolutely essential that only factual information be given. Young people will respond to authorities and to people who have seen the drug scene firsthand. They will be turned off by hand-wringing and emotional pleas about the dangers of drugs.