



More about Den Meetings

Cub Scouting is for Boys

Cub Scouting is for boys, and each boy is different. Cub Scouts come in all sizes, shapes, and colors and from a variety of backgrounds. There are no “average” boys. Cub Scouting is easily adaptable to a boy with a physical, mental, or emotional limitation, just as it is adaptable to boy who come from low-income, urban or rural areas.

Cub Scouting is Fun

Boys join Cub Scouting because they want to have fun. For boys, however, fun means a lot more than just having a good time. Fun is a boy’s code word for the satisfaction he gets from meeting challenges, having friends, feeling good, and feeling he is important to other people. While boys are having fun and doing things they like to do, they also learn new things, discover and master new skills, gain self-confidence, and develop strong friendships. Cub Scouting is a positive place where friends and leaders accept and support each boy.

Cub Scouting is for Families

There are many different types of family structures in today’s society. Scouting is a support to all types of families as well as to organizations to which families belong. We believe in involving families in the training of youth, and we are sensitive to the needs of present-day families. Cub Scouting provides opportunities for family members to work and play together, to have fun together, and to get to know each other a little better.

Cub Scouting Provides Adventure

Cub Scouting helps fulfill a boy’s desire for adventure and allows him to use his vivid imagination while taking part in skits, games, field trips, service projects, outdoor activities, and more. The use of monthly themes lets a boy play the role of an astronaut, clown, explorer, scientist, or other exciting characters. Boys find adventure in exploring the outdoors, learning about nature, and gaining a greater appreciation for our world.

Cub Scouting has an Advancement Plan

The advancement plan recognizes a boy’s efforts and achievements. It provides fun for the boys, teaches them to do their best, and helps strengthen understanding as family members work with boys and advancement requirements. Badges are awarded to recognize advancement, and boys like to receive and wear these badges. The real benefit comes from the worthwhile things the boy learns while he is earning the badges, as his self-confidence and self-esteem grow.

Cub Scouts Belong

Belonging is important to boys. They like to be accepted as part of a group. In Cub Scouting, boys belong to a small group called a den where they take part in interesting and meaningful activities with their friends. In the den they learn sportsmanship, good citizenship, and loyalty. They learn how to get along with others and how to do their best for themselves and their den. Cub Scouts also belong to a pack, which is a larger group made up of several dens.

The Cub Scout Den

A den is a group of six to eight boys within the pack, usually at the same grade level, that meets several times a month between pack meetings. The den organization allows boys to build relationships with leaders and other boys. The den provides opportunities for activities that would be difficult with a large group. The den also provides leadership opportunities for the boys.

More Information

This and the following information are brief overviews of the Cub Scout Den and how it is organized. For more detailed information please refer to the *Cub Scout Leader Book* and the *Webelos Leader Guide*.



Tiger Cub Den Meetings

There are usually eight parts to a Tiger Cub den meeting:

1. Before the Meeting Starts

The purpose of this part of the meeting is to give the den leader and host adult partner time to make preparations, gather supplies, set out the U. S. Flag and den flag, and take care of any last-minute details before the boys and their adult partners arrive.

2. Gathering

Now is the time for an activity or game that keeps the boys interested and busy while everybody else arrives.

3. Opening

Begin the program year with the den reciting the Cub Scout Promise or Tiger Cub motto. Later in the year, vary the opening with the Pledge of Allegiance or a song. As the Tiger Cubs get closer to becoming Cub Scouts, they might practice the Law of the Pack in unison.

4. Share

Let each boy share some of the things that he has done with his adult partner since the last den meeting.

5. Discover

Conduct the activity that the den leader and host Tiger Cub–adult partner team have planned, such as a Go See It, project, or game that the den can do together.

6. Search

Leaders will talk about the plans for the Go See It and the next den meeting. Give the date, time, place, and any other important information for the next den meeting.

7. Closing

During the early part of the year, close the meeting with the Cub Scout Promise or Tiger Cub motto. Later in the year, use your own closing or the Law of the Pack.

8. After The Meeting

The den leader and host adult partner review the events of the meeting and finalize plans for the next meeting and the upcoming pack meeting.





Cub Scouting Den Meetings

There are usually seven parts to a Cub Scout den meeting:

1. Before the Meeting Starts

Before each den meeting the den leadership team has a chance to make final preparations for a great den meeting. This can take place the night before, or just before, the meeting. Make sure you have everything you need and the meeting room is completely ready before the Cub Scouts and their parents arrive.

Remember what we said about first impressions?

2. While Cub Scouts Gather

It is important for active, excited Cub Scouts to have something worthwhile to do as soon as they arrive. It could be a trick, a puzzle, or a simple game. This is a good time to have fun and still accomplish several “business” details such as taking attendance, collecting dues, and recording achievements or electives.

This is also a part of the meeting when parent helpers, a denner (a Cub Scout elected by the boys), and a den chief (an older Boy Scout recruited from a Boy Scout troop to help the den leaders) should be used.

3. Opening

A formal opening is important because it lets the boys know that the meeting has started. A good opening may also prove a chance to help meet the citizenship part of Scouting’s purpose, or to set the stage for the month’s theme.

The opening period may also be a good time for an occasional uniform inspection.

4. Business Items

Right after the opening is the time to discuss den business. Usually, during the first meeting in the theme, business items would include pack and den meeting theme ideas, plans for the den’s part in the upcoming pack meeting, and plans for special den activities. Later it could be a time for denner elections, creating a den yell or cheer, or playing a game.

This may also be an appropriate time to check advancement and record progress if you couldn’t do it earlier. Keep this part of the meeting short!

5. Activities

Games, tricks, puzzles, and challenging handicraft are great ways to expel boyhood energy and to accomplish learning goals such as teamwork, sportsmanship, personal fitness, and “doing your best.” Often, projects started at den meetings can be taken home for the boys to finish with their families.

Now might also be the time when the den practices its part in the pack meeting. Remember, when planning your part in the pack meeting, try to get everyone involved—even (or especially) parents and other family members.

6. Closing

A good den meeting closing can provide time for a Cub Scout to reflect, be recognized for achievement, or maybe even learn a new skill like folding an American flag. Closings can be solemn, patriotic, inspirational, or fun. It’s a good idea to invite the parents who are arriving to pick up their sons and the parents who helped with the meeting to join the den for the closing.

The relative quiet of the closing portion of the meeting is a good time to remind Cub Scouts of upcoming pack and den activities. Keep in mind that you are dealing with second and third graders, so the reminders should also be in written form for their parents.

7. After the Meeting

Immediately following the den meeting is the time to sit down with the den chief and assistant leaders to evaluate the meeting, talk about the next meeting, and update records while things are still fresh in your mind.

Notice that there was no mention of advancement other than record keeping? In Cub Scouting, most advancement occurs at home with the parents and family. But don’t treat it as homework. The Wolf and Bear books are filled with more than two hundred pages of quality family time ideas. Don’t “steal” this opportunity from the boys’ parents. Boys get their daily fill of structured bookwork at school, so den meetings should be fun, with some learning snuck in on the side.

Advancement does occur, however, in the Webelos den, but it is a little different.



Webelos Den Meetings

Webelos dens are similar in many ways to Cub Scout dens, but there are a few differences. Webelos Scouts are older, and are looking for something different. These are the parts of a Webelos den meeting:

1. Gathering

As is the case with Cub Scouts, if Webelos Scouts do not have something to do, they will find something on their own. Tricks, games, puzzles, or practicing the Boy Scout joining requirements should keep them busy.

2. Opening

In addition to getting the meeting off to a formal start, this may be another good time to practice the Boy Scout joining requirements. After the ceremony, a roll call, uniform inspection, and collection of dues may be appropriate.

3. Activity Badge Fun

As your *Cub Scout Leader Book* says, this is the heart of the meeting. This is a time for instruction, practice, games, and contests related to the activity badge you have chosen for this month. Consider asking a parent who has knowledge or skill related to your activity badge to help out as an “activity badge counselor.”

4. Preparation

This is when you can practice for your den’s part in the pack meeting and/or for upcoming projects or activities.

5. Closing

Use this time for announcements and a formal end of your meeting. A good closing can be the opportunity to get some strong messages out to your Webelos Scouts about the aims of Scouting – Citizenship training, character building, and personal fitness.

5. After the Meeting

Den leadership should evaluate the meeting and review plans for the next meeting and upcoming events.

Getting Started

No matter what grade a boy is in when he chooses to join Cub Scouting, he needs to earn an award during this first month as he starts along the Scouting trail. First-grade boys will begin their adventure in Scouting by earning the Tiger Cub belt totem. Boys in all other grades will complete the Bobcat requirements, which include learning the fundamentals of Cub Scouting.

The following pages have been designed to take the “guesswork” out of running den meetings your first month. We have provided you all of the information needed for you to get your den meetings off to a great start and have your boys earn their first award.

You will need to acquire the appropriate Tiger Cub, Cub Scout or Webelos books in order for you to fully utilize these materials. Information included:

- ✓ *Tiger Cubs.....1st months den meeting plans and activities*

Objective: Earn the Tiger Cub Belt Totem

- ✓ *Wolf, Bear,
and Webelos Scouts.....1st months den meeting plans and activities*

Objective: Earn the Bobcat Badge



Program Ideas for your First Month's Tiger Cub Den Meetings

Objective – Earn the Tiger Cub Belt Totem

Welcome

Tiger Cub den meetings are attended by the boy and his adult partner. The *Tiger Cub Handbook* has suggestions for all Tiger Cub activities. You'll also find additional program information in *Cub Scout Program Helps*.

The chart on the opposite page outlines sample Tiger Cub meetings for this month. During this first month, every Tiger Cub should try to earn the Tiger Cub belt totem by learning the Cub Scout sign, the Cub Scout salute, and the Tiger Cub motto.

Shared Leadership

The den leader plans and carries out a year-round program of activities for the Tiger Cub den and gives continuity to the program. Each month, however, the den leader also works with a different boy-adult partner team to plan the two monthly den meetings, the Go See It activity, and the den's part in the monthly pack meeting. This is called shared leadership.

(Cub Scout Leader Book page 19-1 and Tiger Cub Handbook page 7)

Activity Ideas for your First Month

Tiger Tales Scrapbooks

Explain to boys that they can use their scrapbooks to keep thoughts and mementos of their Tiger Cub activities, including pictures taken at pack events. Make individual scrapbooks from pre-punched typing paper placed in either an orange three-prong folder or covered with orange construction paper. Boys can then decorate their scrapbooks however they want.

They may have their adult partners letter the scrapbook for them. Have plenty of tiger stickers, crayons, markers, and other decorations for Tiger Cubs to use.

(Tiger Cub Handbook page 32)
(How To Book page 1-8)

Tiger Pennants

Materials: Sheets of orange craft foam, markers, feathers, hole puncher, glue, pipe cleaners, 24-inch sticks

Cut craft foam on the diagonal to make two pennants out of each sheet. Boys use markers to draw tiger paws or tiger faces on both sides of the pennant. (Have sample paws and faces for boys to look at.) Glue a couple of buff, orange, and brown feathers onto the pennant. Make three holes along the short side with a hole puncher. Attach the pennant with pipe cleaners to a 24-inch stick found in your backyard (a stick is more rustic-looking than a dowel, and it's cheaper, too!).

Shere Khan - The Tiger Game

One Tiger Cub plays Shere Khan, the tiger. The other players line up against a wall. Shere Khan stands in the middle of the play area. The object of the game is to cross to the opposite side without being tagged. To start the game, Shere Khan shouts, "Who's afraid of Shere Khan?" The others answer, "No one," and immediately run across the open space toward the opposite side. All Tiger Cubs and adult partners who get tagged help Shere Khan tag the remaining players. The last one caught becomes Shere Khan for the next round.

(How To Book page 3-8)

Tiger Cub Motto Song

Tune: "Ferre Jacques"

We are Tiger Cubs, we are Tiger Cubs,

Here's our den, here's our den.

Search, discover, share,

Search, discover, share,

We'll have fun, we'll have fun.

Newspaper Softball



Divide your den into two teams. Place a can on either side of "home plate" and balance a rolled newspaper across the tops of the cans. The first "batter" stands behind the newspaper and kicks it with his instep, and the game is on. All the rules of softball are followed except for the method of putting the ball into play.

(How-To Book, page 3-6)

Puzzle Gathering

Have a simple puzzle for each Tiger Cub to put together. This could be as simple as a picture of the Tiger Cub logo glued to cardstock, cut apart, and placed in an envelope.

Try to make one for each Tiger Cub. While the boys are putting the puzzles together, check with Tiger Cub adult partners for the correct spelling of names and correct addresses and telephone numbers.

1st Month's Tiger Cub Den Meetings

For your first meeting you will need to have the *Cub Scout Leader Book*, *Tiger Cub Handbook* and the *How To Book*. These items are available through your pack or the Scout Service Center. Review items below to prepare for your first month's den meetings.

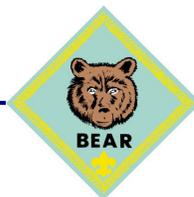
	First Week	Second Week	Third Week	Cub Scout Pack Meeting
BEFORE THE MEETING STARTS	Prepare puzzles for Puzzle Gathering; have U. S. Flag and paper and other supplies for scrapbook.	Review the meeting plans, gather the materials and den records and set up the meeting room.	Confirm plans for the Go See It activity. Make sure boys and adult partners know where to meet.	Host team writes a thank-you note to the destination of last week's go and see it.
GATHERING	Collect dues, record attendance, check boys' books for completed achievements, etc.			
	Tiger Cubs do puzzles as they arrive. When they finish, have them swap with someone else and do another puzzle.	Play <i>Newspaper Softball</i> .	Play Shere Khan – The Tiger Game.	Let the boys try their hand at the Clothespin Game.
OPENING	Teach the Cub Scout salute (<i>Cub Scout Leader Book page 2-4</i>). Recite the Pledge of Allegiance in repeat-after-me fashion.	Recite the Pledge of Allegiance in a repeat-after-me fashion.	Have boys and adult partners make the Cub Scout sign and repeat the Tiger Cub motto.	
SHARE	Each boy introduces his adult partner, explains their relationship, and tells about something fun that they like to do together.	Boys and adult partners share something they did as a family since the last meeting.		Tiger Cubs and adult partners sign the thank-you note.
DISCOVER	Make Tiger Tales Scrapbooks (<i>Tiger Cub Handbook Achievement 1D</i>). Tell the boys that they have just completed their first achievement toward the Tiger Cub Badge. Give a brief overview of the advancement plan.	Make Tiger Pennants. Tell boys and adult partners about the pack meeting and what to expect. Decide on a den yell (<i>How To Book page 5-11</i>) to share at the pack meeting.	Take a Go See It trip to a TV station, Radio Station, or newspaper office (<i>Tiger Cub Handbook achievement 4G</i>). At the end of your trip, lead a reflecting discussion with boys and partners about the outing.	Participate in the monthly pack meeting with a song or skit (<i>How To Book chapter 5</i>). Set up a den display table to exhibit Tiger Cub scrapbooks, Tiger pennants or photos from your Go and See It activity.
SEARCH	Plan a Go See It activity to fulfill Achievement 4G in the Tiger Cub Handbook	Finalize plans for next week's Go and See It trip.	Make sure all boys have learned the Cub Scout Sign, Cub Scout salute and the Tiger Cub Motto. That completes the requirements for the Tiger Cub Belt Totem.	Check with your Cubmaster on what would be appropriate for this month's pack meeting. Be sure to submit boys' names to receive Tiger Cub Belt Totems. Your Cubmaster can explain this process to you.
CLOSING	Teach boys how to make and the meaning of the Cub Scout Sign (<i>Cub Scout Leader Book page 2-4</i>).	Teach boys the Tiger Cub Motto and its meaning. (<i>Cub Scout Leader Book page 2-4</i>). As they leave, each boy gives the Cub Scout salute to the den leader.	Recite the Tiger Cub Motto. As they leave, each boy gives the Cub Scout salute to the den leader.	

For more program ideas, read *Boys' Life* and *Scouting* magazines and attend your district's Monthly Adult Leader Roundtable.



Program Ideas for your First Month's Den Meetings

Theme: "Bobcats All"



Every boy in second, third, fourth, or fifth grade must earn the Bobcat badge first. So, what could be a better first theme than "Bobcats All"?

The Bobcat requirements include the fundamentals of Cub Scouting. Keep in mind that Cub Scouts and Webelos Scouts should do these requirements with their parents at home. The den meeting plans will include practicing the requirements at the meeting, but parents should still approve their completion in the boy's book.

Cub Scout Den Meeting

The objectives for this month's den meetings are to give every boy the opportunity to earn his first award-Bobcat; to complete den organization, get acquainted, and elect boy leaders; and to give leaders and boys an idea of how den meetings are conducted.

A grid on the next page will outline all four of the Cub Scout den meetings this month. Here are the details.

Den Code Of Conduct

Boys will respond to and respect rules if they have a part in setting them. Before your first den meeting, think about some of the rules you would like to have your den follow at meetings. Have a large piece of paper or poster board and a marking pen ready for the meeting.

During the business part of your first den meeting, introduce the idea of a Den Code of Conduct by asking, "What are some of the things you are not

allowed to do in your home?" As boys respond, have them agree on their rules them on the piece of paper. When they agree on the list, post it at all of your den meetings.

Ask, "What should happen if someone breaks a part of the code?" and let the boys discuss this. One possibility is that the first time he must phone home and have his parents pick him up immediately. (If you do this, make provisions for someone to pick up your son if necessary.)

Share the code of conduct with the parents of your Cub Scouts.

Some dens use a "Conduct Candle" as an incentive for good behavior. A large candle is lit at the start of the den meeting, and stays lit until there is a behavior problem, or until the end of the meeting. Tell the boys that when the candle burns to the end, there will be a special den party or field trip.

This Months Den Activities

This month's openings, closing gatherings, and den activities are designed to be simple and fun, using materials you might have around your house.

Gathering Activities

It Can't Be Done.

First, the leader says that he can jump backward farther than the boys can jump forward if they do exactly as he does. Then he grasps his toes and hops backward a few inches. When the boys

(How To Book Page 5-55)

assume the same position, they find they cannot even budge.

Guess Who I Am.

The leader starts by saying, "I will answer 'yes' or 'no' to twenty questions while you try to find out who I am." This is a good den game that will also keep boys busy and quiet at the pack meeting. With the help of one leader for each den, leaders can decide who they will be, and the game can be conducted as a contest to see which den can guess who they are. Rotate leaders each time.

Magic Knot Trick.

The den leader provides several pieces of rope or cord about three feet long. Ask a Cub Scout if he can tie an overhand knot in the middle of the cord without letting go of either end. He lets the Cub Scout try it, then shows him the trick:

First he folds his arms over his chest, then he leans over and picks up each end of the cord without unfolding his arms. As he straightens up, he unfolds his arms-still holding the ends of the cord- and, presto, there's the overhand knot!

Clothespin Game.

Place a wide-mouthed bottle or jar upright on the floor. Give each boy, in turn, ten clothespins. Have him stand over the bottle and, holding each clothespin at eye level, try to drop them into the bottle.

(How To Book Page 7-7)

Wolf and Bear Scout Den Meetings - 1st Month - “Bobcats All”

For your first meeting you will need to have the *Cub Scout Leader Book*, *Wolf or Bear Scout Handbook* and the *How To Book*. These items are available through your pack or the Scout Service Center. Review items below to prepare for your first months den meetings.

	First Week	Second Week	Third Week	Fourth Week
BEFORE THE MEETING STARTS	Review the meeting plans, set up a den record book (<i>Cub Scout Leader Book page 10-1</i>) for attendance and dues, and set up the meeting room.	Review the meeting plans, gather the materials and den records and set up the meeting room.	Review the meeting plans, gather the materials and den records, and set up the meeting room. Have the cord or rope ready.	Review the meeting plans, gather the materials and den records, and set up the meeting room. Have the jar and clothespins ready.
WHILE CUB SCOUTS GATHER	Collect dues, record attendance, check boys’ books for completed achievements, etc.			
	Have a parent or the first boy to arrive lead the <i>It Can’t Be Done Trick</i> .	Play <i>Guess Who I Am</i> .	Provide each boy with a cord or rope about three feet long for the <i>Magic Knot Trick</i> .	Let the boys try their hand at the Clothespin Game.
OPENING	Explain the Cub Scout sign. Have the boys give the sign and say the Cub Scout Promise. Show the Cub Scout salute, and repeat the Pledge of Allegiance. (<i>Cub Scout Leader Book page 2-3</i>) Introduce the den leaders and den members.	Have the boys stand in a semicircle, then give the Cub Scout sign and repeat the Law of the Pack. Light the Conduct Candle.	Recite the law of the Pack. Light the Conduct Candle. During roll call, have each boy step forward and salute as his name is called.	Ask the denner to lead in the Law of the Pack. Light the Conduct Candle.
BUSINESS ITEMS	Discuss and establish the Den Code of Conduct. Explain and light the Conduct Candle.	Talk about achievements and electives. Recognize birthdays, etc. Tell the boys about the pack meeting and work on a den yell. (<i>How To Book page 5-11</i>)	Elect the denner and assistant denner by secret ballot (<i>Cub Scout Leader Book page 20-7</i>). Then ask the boys to suggest their den yells.	Give recognition to those in uniform.
ACTIVITY	Play Newspaper Softball.	Practice the Cub Scout handshake. Make Snake clay slides.	Play Grab Bag.	Review the meaning of Webelos and the Arrow of Light. Make Spatter Prints. Practice the den yell.
CLOSING	Remind the boys of upcoming meetings and to work on their Bobcat requirements at home. Form a “Living Circle,” then blow out the Conduct Candle.	After reminders, have the boys form a line and repeat the Cub Scout Promise, then blow out the Conduct Candle.	Close with the boys sitting in a circle as you tell them the meaning of the Cub Scout motto. Blow out the Conduct Candle.	Talk about the theme for next month. Ask the assistant denner to lead in giving the Cub Scout sign, and then say the motto together. Extinguish the Conduct Candle.
AFTER THE MEETING	Put away equipment, put records in order, and review the meeting with your leadership team, and assign duties for next week.	Put away equipment, put records in order, and review the meeting with your leadership team, and assign duties for next week.	Put away equipment, put records in order, review the meeting with your leadership team, and assign duties for next week.	Put away equipment, put records in order, review the meeting with your leadership team, and assign duties for next week.

For more program ideas, read *Boys’ Life* and *Scouting* magazines and attend your district’s Monthly Adult Leader Roundtable.

Den Activities



Newspaper Softball

Divide your den into two teams. Place a can on either side of "home plate" and balance a rolled newspaper across the tops of the cans. The first "batter" stands behind the newspaper and kicks it with his instep, and the game is on. All the rules of softball are followed except for the method of putting the ball into play.

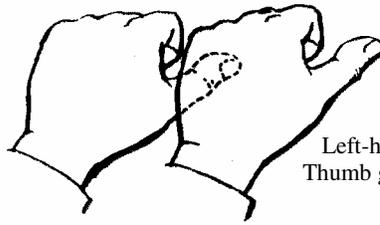
(How-To Book, page 3-6)

The Living Circle

The Living Circle is an important Cub Scout ceremony that may be used as an opening or closing for a den meeting. It reminds the boys of the friendships he is making and links him with all other Cub Scouts.



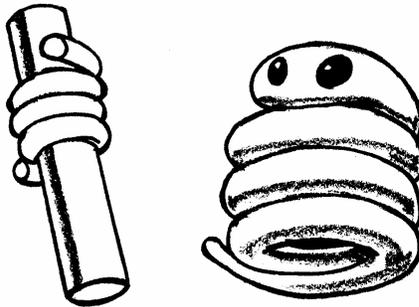
To form a Living Circle, Cub Scouts and Leaders face inward in a close circle. With the right hand, each person gives the Cub Scout Sign. Then turn slightly to the right and extend left hands into the circle. Each thumb in the circle is pointed to the right, and each person grasps the thumb of the person on his left, making a complete Living Circle hand grasp.



The promise, Law of the Pack, or motto can then be repeated.

The Living Circle also can be used by moving all of the left hands up and down in a pumping motion while the Cub Scouts say, "A-ke-la! We-e-e-ll do-o-o ou-r-r best," snapping into a circle of individual salutes at the word *best*.

Clay Snake Slide



Clay is especially versatile for slides, as you can mold it into millions of different unique shapes. Here is one example

1. Roll about 2 tablespoons of clay into an 8-inch-long rope.
2. Coil clay rope around a $\frac{3}{4}$ -inch dowel that has a light coating of vegetable oil on it.
3. Flatten the head and make a point on the tail.
4. When dry, remove from the dowel; paint and decorate as desired.

(How-To Book, page 2-38)

Laundry Grab Bag

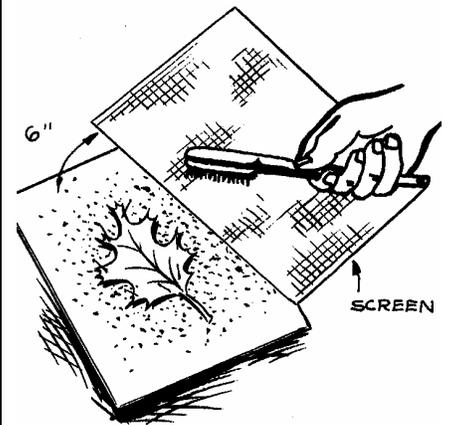


Fill a large pillowcase or bag with an assortment of old clothing items (hats, shirts, belts, pants, shoes, etc.). Have the Cub Scouts stand in a circle, and give the bag to one of them.

On signal he passes the bag to the player on his left, and he to the next, and so on around the circle. As the bag is being passed around, the leader blows a whistle.

Whoever has the bag in his hand when the whistle sounds must reach inside, take out an article of clothing, and put it on. Play continues until all clothing is being worn.

(How-To-Book, page 3-17)



Spatter Print

For this craft you will need an object such as a leaf or a cutout design; construction paper; an 8-by-10-inch piece of screen; an old toothbrush; straight pins; and paint.

1. Spread newspaper over your working area.
2. Place the object on construction paper and secure it with the pins.
3. Dip the toothbrush in paint and shake it until almost dry. Hold the screen about six inches above the construction paper. Brush across the screen with the toothbrush, being careful not to spatter yourself.
4. When the paint has dried, remove the objective from the construction paper.

Suggestion: Try white shoe polish or paint on colored construction paper.

Webelos Scout Den Meetings - 1st Month “Bobcats All”

Sportsman Activity Badge

For your first meeting you will need to have the *Webelos Leader Guide*, *Cub Scout Leader Book*, *Webelos Scout Handbook* and the *How To Book*. These items are available through your pack or the Scout Service Center. Review items below to prepare for your first month’s den meetings.

First Month

Welcome to Webelos (We’ll be Loyal Scouts) Scouting! As a new Webelos leader, you and your Webelos Scouts are probably anxious to get started on the activity badges in the *Webelos Scout Book*. However, if most or all of the boys are new to Cub Scouting, they will first need to earn the Bobcat rank. The meetings outlined here are designed to get the den organized, to help all the boys become Bobcats, and to help them earn the Sportsman activity badge.

Look over the material in the Cub Scout section on the Den Code of Conduct and the gathering activities. We will be using these in the Webelos den meetings, too.

Activity Badges

Each month the Webelos den program will feature one of twenty Webelos activity badges. For the first month we will work on Sportsman.

Don’t be afraid of the technical-sounding names like Geologist and Engineer. Keep in mind that these badges are designed for fourth and fifth graders, and there are lots of resources to help you. Take advantage of them, and if you aren’t careful, you might have some fun and learn something, too!

When you start using *Program Helps*, you will find that there is a pattern involved in earning the activity badges that leads toward earning the Webelos badge and the Arrow of Light Award. Keep this pattern in mind when you plan so that your Webelos Scouts do not miss an activity badge that they need.

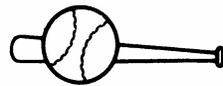
Webelos-To-Scout Transition

If your Webelos Scouts are in the fifth grade (or are 10 years old) it is not too early to contact a Boy Scout troop and begin the process of preparing your Webelos Scouts to become Boy Scouts. Your *Cub Scout Leader Book* and *Webelos Scout Program Helps* can help with ideas.

However, you need to be careful, regardless of how old the boys are. Some of us who were Boy Scouts tend to do too many “Boy Scout things” too early.

Keep the age and abilities of your Webelos Scouts in mind, and keep them looking forward to the excitement of Boy Scouting.

Prepare them to become Boy Scouts when the time comes, but don’t make them Boy Scouts too early.



Sportsman Activity Badge

Your *Webelos Leader Book* (page 138) will have more detailed information about other activities and requirements for earning this activity badge.

Sports are usually high on the list of favorites for Webelos Scout-age boys, so most boys will show an instant interest in the Sportsman activity badge. Chances are some of them will already know enough about the rules. Techniques and scoring of several sports to pass the requirements quickly. But that isn’t enough.

We’re not as concerned with the athletic skills as we are with fitness and good citizenship, which help fulfill the purposes of Cub Scouting. Your own example will help to achieve these goals. Be sure that the least skilled boys get just as much instruction and encouragement as the best athletes. See that the better athletes learn not only to tolerate more awkward boys but to help them, and that all boys learn to win and lose with grace. Stress the fun of the game, not just the winning.

To earn this badge, boys must earn Cub Scout Sports participation awards for two individual sports and two team sports. This means that a variety of opportunities should be available to them in den meetings.

Den Activities



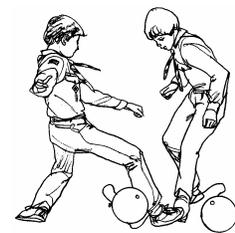
Forehead Squeeze Play

Activity level: Moderate

Needed: Large playing area, even number of players, several tennis balls or oranges

The object is for two players in each team to carry a ball or orange across the room and back again by holding it between their foreheads. If dropped, start again. When the first pair completes their circuit, the next pair in that team begins. Hand over the ball or orange quickly.

(*How-To Book*, page 3-16)



Balloon Battle Royal

Activity level: High

Needed: Any # of players, balloons, string

Arrange Cub Scouts in a large circle, each with an inflated balloon tied to his ankle. On a signal, players try to break all other balloons by stomping on them, while not letting their balloon get broken. When a balloon is broken, that player leaves the game. The game continues until only one player is left. Scouts knocked out of the game should be encouraged to cheer on those still playing.

(*How-To Book*, page 3-3)

1st Month Webelos Den Meetings

First Month's Cub Scout Theme: Bobcats All and Sportsman Activity Badge

	First Week	Second Week	Third Week	Fourth Week
BEFORE THE MEETING STARTS	Review the meeting plans, set up a den record book for attendance and dues, and set up the meeting room.	Review the meeting plans, gather the materials and den records and set up the meeting room.	Review the meeting plans, gather the materials and den records, and set up the meeting room.	Review the meeting plans, gather the materials and den records, and set up the meeting room.
GATHERING (Keep early arrivals busy)	Brief business period-roll call, collect dues, and conduct uniform inspection.			
	Have a parent, or the first boy to arrive lead the <i>It Can't Be Done</i> trick.	Play <i>Guess Who I Am</i> .	Play <i>Balloon Battle Royal</i>	Let the boys try their hand at the <i>Clothespin Game</i> .
OPENING (Ceremony)	Explain the Cub Scout sign. Have the boys give the sign and say the Cub Scout Promise. Show the Cub Scout salute, and repeat the Pledge of Allegiance. (<i>Cub Scout Leader Book page 2-3</i>) Introduce the den leaders and den members.	Have the boys stand in a semicircle, then give the Cub Scout sign and repeat the Law of the Pack. Light the Conduct Candle. Tell the boys about the pack meeting, and work on a den yell.	Recite the law of the Pack. Light the Conduct Candle. During roll call, have each boy step forward and salute as his name is called.	Ask the denner to lead in the Law of the Pack. Light the Conduct Candle. Give recognition to those in uniform.
ACTIVITY BADGE FUN (Instruction, practice, games, and contests related to Webelos skills)	Discuss Sportsman requirements. Discuss the importance of teamwork and cooperation in sports. <i>Play Forehead Squeeze Relay (How To Book page 3-16)</i> Discuss the meaning of good sportsmanship (requirement 2)	Practice skills of one or more of the sports for the Sportsman requirements 3 and 4. Review and practice official's signals. (requirement 1)	Practice skills of one or more of the sports for the Sportsman requirements 3 and 4	Play another den in a sport or practice skills of one or more of the sports for the Sportsman requirements 3 and 4.
PREPARTION (Making props and equipment; getting set for future special events)	Discuss and establish the Den Code of Conduct. Explain and light the Conduct Candle. Tell what the Webelos den will be doing at the pack meeting.	Practice the Cub Scout handshake and work on a den yell. (<i>How To Book page 5-11</i>) Discuss a name for your den.	Elect the denner and assistant denner by secret ballot (<i>Cub Scout Leader Book page 20-7</i>). Then ask the boys to suggest their den yells.	Prepare a demonstration or display for the pack meeting. Check with your Cubmaster for details.
CLOSING (Announcements, ceremony)	Remind the boys of upcoming meetings and to work on their Bobcat requirements at home. Form a "Living Circle," then blow out the Conduct Candle.	After reminders, have the boys form a line and repeat the Cub Scout Promise, then blow out the Conduct Candle.	Close with the boys sitting in a circle as you tell them the meaning of the Cub Scout motto. Blow out the Conduct Candle.	Talk about the theme for next month. Ask the assistant denner to lead in giving the Cub Scout sign, and then say the motto together. Extinguish the Conduct Candle.
AFTER THE MEETING	Put away equipment, put records in order, and review the meeting with your leadership team, and assign duties for next week.	Put away equipment, put records in order, and review the meeting with your leadership team, and assign duties for next week.	Put away equipment, put records in order, review the meeting with your leadership team, and assign duties for next week.	Put away equipment, put records in order, review the meeting with your leadership team, and assign duties for next week.

The denner supervises cleaning up after the den meeting.

For more program ideas, read *Boys' Life* and *Scouting* magazines and attend your district's Monthly Adult Leader Roundtable.