

# APPENDIX 1

## PARTS OF YOUR MEETING

### GATHERING ACTIVITIES

#### ◆ BADEN-POWELL SAYS

This game is played like Simon Says. The leader is at the front and gives a command to perform an action (i.e. "Stand on your left foot."). If the leader begins the command with "Baden-Powell says," then everyone does the action. If the action is done incorrectly, the Cub Scout is out. If the command does not begin with "Baden-Powell says," and the action is performed, the Cub Scout is out.

#### ◆ CONCENTRATION

Select pairs from a deck of cards depending on the size of the den. Lay the cards out on the top of the table face down. Each player turns over two cards. If they match, the Cub Scout keeps the pair and wins a point. If they do not match, the Cub Scout turns the selected cards face down in the same place, and the game continues to the next player. The Scouts can make their own sets of cards by selecting pictures from magazines to cut in half and mount on card stock.

#### ◆ CRAFT STICK PUZZLES

Give each Scout the same number of craft sticks, laying them side by side to form a square. Each Scout draws a picture covering all the sticks. Once drawn, they trade pieces with another Scout, and try to put the puzzle back together.

#### ◆ HOT OR COLD

Select a player to leave the room while an object is hidden. Select an item to hide in the meeting room. Once the player leaves the room and the item is hidden, the player comes back in and tries to locate the object. The player is given clues to the location by getting directions from the den such as "You're getting hotter" as they move closer, or "You're getting colder" as they move away from it. Signals can also be given by beating on the bottom of an aluminum pie plate with a spoon. As the player nears the item, the drum beats faster and louder; as the player moves farther away, the drum beats slower and softer.

#### ◆ MARBLE GOLF

Create a three-hole marble "golf" course using items such as coins or buttons as the tee boxes and cups as the holes. Place each cup on its side several feet away from its tee box. Each Scout shoots a marble from the tee box toward the hole. The Scout should count the number of shots needed to get to the hole. Once the first hole has been conquered, the Cub Scout moves on to the next hole. The Scout with the lowest score wins. You can make the course harder by putting obstacles in the way.

#### ◆ MILK JUG TOSS

Gather enough milk jugs for each member of the den to have one. Cut the bottom of the milk jug out so that it is large enough to catch a bean bag, ping-pong ball, rolled up sock, or Wiffle ball. Make sure to toss an item that will not hurt if it strikes the player and is soft enough not to break whatever it strikes.



## ◆ ODD OR EVEN

Every player starts with five pennies. They select a number between 0 and 5, and put that number of pennies in one fist. Go to different players and ask, "Odd or even?" If the players guess right, they win a penny. If they guess wrong, they lose a penny. Continue circulating among the players until time is up. (It is acceptable to ask the same player multiple times.)

## ◆ PONG

Create pairs of players, and seat them across from each other with table space between them. Each player has a straw, and each pair of players has a pingpong ball or cotton ball. Put the ball between the two players and say "Go!" The object is to blow the item off the table on your opponent's side.

## ◆ PUZZLE MANIA

Provide one small puzzle for each Scout. Place each puzzle in a plastic bag; however, put some of the pieces in different bags so that Scouts will each have to go to the other Scouts to hunt for the pieces that match their puzzles. To make this more challenging, do not show them the completed puzzle pictures.

## ◆ STOPLIGHT (SIMILAR TO RED LIGHT, GREEN LIGHT)

The caller stands at the front of the room with one green bandanna, one red bandanna, and one yellow bandanna. The other Cub Scouts should be lined up away from the leader. With their back to the players, the leader will hold up one bandanna at a time. The leader should keep the bandannas as hidden as possible to keep the next action a surprise. Red means stop, green means go, and yellow means go slow. The first one to reach the leader becomes the leader and the game begins again.

# OPENING CEREMONIES AND IDEAS

The following guidelines will help the den participate in ceremonies that are well prepared and well received:

- An opening ceremony signals the beginning of the den meeting. It also sets the tone for the meeting. Most opening ceremonies include a flag ceremony, which provides an opportunity to teach youth how to handle and present the U.S. flag in a respectful way. A closing ceremony brings the meeting to a close for the Scouts.
- Know your audience. Keep your openings and closings appropriate for children of Cub Scout age. Simple ones are more effective than long, elaborate ones because children this age have short attention spans.
- Rotate responsibilities among the Cub Scouts in your den for the opening, flag, and even closing ceremonies at your den meeting. When Scouts are involved, it is easier to hold their attention during the meeting.
- Use a variety of ceremonies to hold everyone's interest. Keep track of which ones you use and avoid repeating them meeting after meeting. Variety is as important as length. Den openings and closings should be kept short. Openings should be no longer than two or three minutes. Closings may be a little longer but still should be age-appropriate.
- You may adapt any ceremony to meet your needs. Dens come in many different sizes, and youth come with different skill levels. Younger children may need to have someone read their lines while they perform an action or hold a sign. No ceremony is written in stone. Feel free to make changes to work for you!
- **NOTE:** A prayer can also be added to each opening or closing.



## CUB SCOUT/WEBELOS SCOUT LIGHT

The den leader asks den members to sit on the floor in a circle and dims the lights. Have a small candle and larger candle, plus matches, on a table. Flashlights or battery-operated candles may be used instead of regular candles and matches.

**DEN CHIEF:** I will light this small candle. It represents the goodwill given by one Cub Scout. See how it shines? The rays from several Cub Scouts make a brighter light. Each Scout lets their light shine by doing their best and helping other people.

**DEN LEADER:** I'll light this large candle. This represents that there is a brighter light that leads us all. Let us always think first of God, second of others, and finally of ourselves.

### ◆ DEN FLAG OPENING

The den forms a tight circle with the den flag in the center. Each member of the den grasps the flagpole with their left hand, makes the Cub Scout sign with their right hand, and says the Scout Oath.

### ◆ DEN YELL OPENING

Give your den yell.

### ◆ HANDSHAKE OPENING

The den leader calls the roll, and each member of the den comes forward and gives the Scout handshake.

### ◆ OPENING/CLOSING SONG CEREMONY

Select a song from the *Cub Scout Songbook* to sing as your opening or closing. You might also select a song related to the adventure to sing as the opening or closing ceremony.

### ◆ OUTDOOR CODE OPENING

**Preparation:** Five Cub Scouts walk in with the U.S. flag.

**CUB SCOUT 1:** *As an American, I will do my best to be clean in my outdoor manners.*

**NARRATOR:** I will treat the outdoors as a heritage. I will take care of it for myself and others. I will keep my trash and garbage out of lakes, streams, fields, woods, and roadways.

**CUB SCOUT 2:** *As an American, I will be careful with fire.*

**NARRATOR:** I will prevent wildfire. I will build my fires only where they are appropriate. When I have finished using fire, I will make sure it is cold-out. I will leave a clean fire ring or remove all evidence of my fire.

**CUB SCOUT 3:** *As an American, I will be considerate in the outdoors.*

**NARRATOR:** I will treat public and private property with respect. I will use low-impact methods of hiking and camping.

**CUB SCOUT 4:** *As an American, I will be conservation minded.*

**NARRATOR:** I will learn how to practice good conservation of soil, waters, forests, minerals, grasslands, wildlife, and energy. I will urge others to do the same.

**CUB SCOUT 5:** *Let us think about these responsibilities as we stand and sing "America the Beautiful."*

### ◆ **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE OPENING**

The den gathers in a semicircle or horseshoe formation. One Cub Scout presents the colors (the U.S. flag) at the open end of the horseshoe. In turn, each Scout steps forward, gives the Cub Scout salute, and steps back. Follow with the Pledge of Allegiance.

### ◆ **ROLL CALL OPENING**

The denner calls roll, and the Cub Scouts respond by naming an item related to the adventure.

### ◆ **SCOUT LAW OPENING**

The den forms a circle, gives the Cub Scout salute, and says the Scout Law. (Webelos Scouts may give the Boy Scout salute.)

### ◆ **SCOUT OATH OPENING**

The Cub Scouts form a large circle. Their parents, guardians, or other caring adults (if present) form an outer circle by standing behind their Scouts. All say the Scout Oath in unison.

### ◆ **SCOUT OATH OR SCOUT LAW MEANING OPENING**

Select a phrase from the Scout Oath or Scout Law, and talk about its meaning.

### ◆ **ROLL CALL OPENING**

(Can be adapted for Wolf or Bear Scouts)

As the den meeting host calls roll, each Tiger team responds with a loud tiger growl.

# FLAG CEREMONIES TO OPEN AND CLOSE DEN MEETINGS

Most den meetings will include the Pledge of Allegiance to the U.S. flag. It is appropriate to have a presentation of the colors and the Pledge of Allegiance at the beginning of the den meeting, with the retirement of the colors at the conclusion. On occasion, you can vary the opening ceremony and not use the flag. Patriotic ceremonies should be meaningful and inspirational. During flag ceremonies, those who are leading the ceremony or holding the flag should be in complete uniform and well groomed.

## ◆ FLAG CEREMONY PLANNING

When you take the time to plan ahead, the Cub Scouts will be prepared for a successful experience.

- When younger Cub Scouts are responsible for a flag ceremony, make sure the flags are not too heavy for the Cub Scouts to carry.
- Check the ceiling height beforehand to determine whether the flags will clear it. If they won't, post the colors before the meeting.
- Rehearse the ceremony. Make sure everyone knows their part and walking route.

## ◆ CREATE YOUR OWN OPENING CEREMONY WITH THE U.S. FLAG

Use the following suggestions to make your ceremony effective:

- Have the color guard post the colors and retreat.
- Post the flag, and then create a slight breeze with an electric fan.
- Shine a flashlight or spotlight on the flag.
- Follow the flag with a flashlight or spotlight while the color guard walks in.
- Use background music.
- Prerecord music and play it, making it louder or softer as your ceremony progresses.
- Use songs that are appropriate for the occasion, such as "The Star-Spangled Banner," "America, the Beautiful," "You're a Grand Old Flag," "God Bless America," seasonal songs, marching songs, or spiritual songs.

## ◆ FLAG CEREMONY COMMENTS

Keep in mind the following guidelines:

- When in uniform, stand at attention and salute with your right hand.
- When not in uniform, stand at attention and place your right hand over your heart. You should remove your non-uniform hat.
- When in uniform, with your head covered or uncovered and either indoors or outdoors, stand at attention and salute with your right hand when the U.S. national anthem is played, the colors are raised or lowered, the Pledge of Allegiance is recited, or the U.S. flag passes by in a parade.
- The color guards do not participate in saluting, singing, or saying the Pledge of Allegiance with the group because their job is to guard the flag at all times. They should salute after the U.S. flag is posted.
- The U.S. flag is posted on the left, as you look toward the front.
- Any person can write to their U.S. senator or U.S. representative and, for a reasonable fee, receive a flag that was flown over the U.S. Capitol in Washington, D.C.
- For more information regarding the U.S. flag, refer to the BSA booklet *Your Flag*.
- You can find additional information on the U.S. flag from government websites and from veterans' groups.
- Make sure that you include all youth in your flag ceremonies at different times of the year. Scouts with physical disabilities can proudly act as narrator or even flag bearers when adults see these events as possibilities instead of barriers.
- Sometimes we hear people say the phrase "one nation (pause) under God." When this phrase was added by House Joint Resolution 243 and approved by President Dwight D. Eisenhower on June 14, 1954, it was added without a comma or pause after the word "nation." The correct phrasing is "one nation under God."

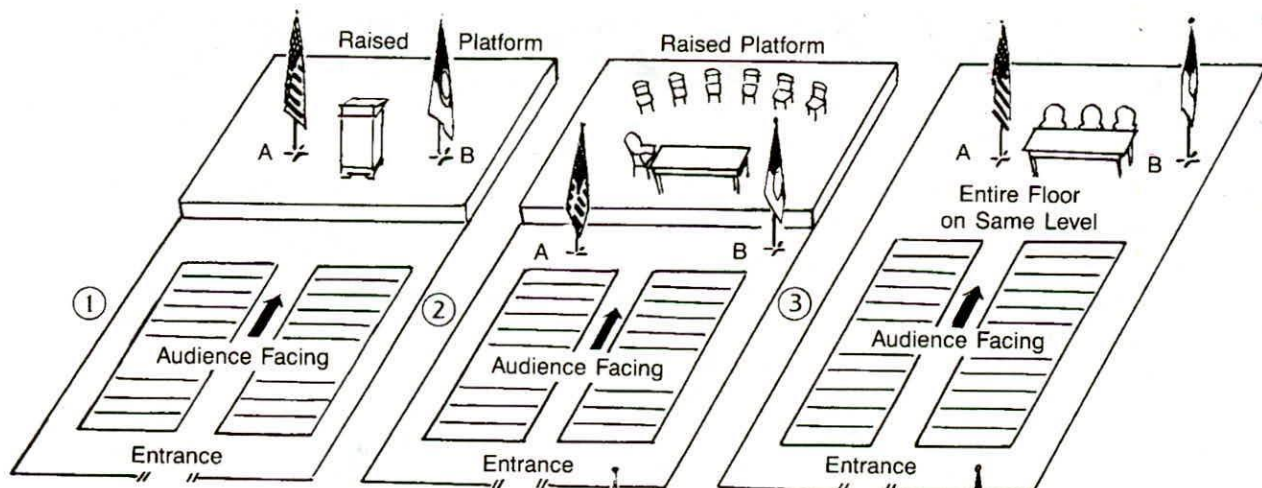
## ◆ STANDARD INDOOR FLAG CEREMONY USING FLAG STANDS

**Preparation:** Put flag stands in place at the front of the room. Looking to the front, the U.S. flag stand is on the left. Flag guards are in the back of the room holding the flags. They have already checked to make sure that the flags fit in the flag holders and that the flags clear the ceiling.

**Personnel:** Narrator and color guard

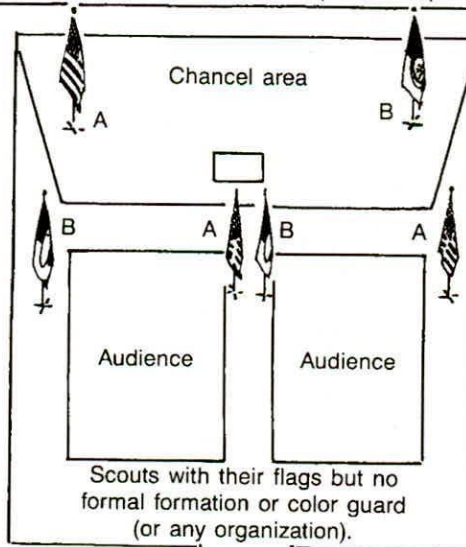
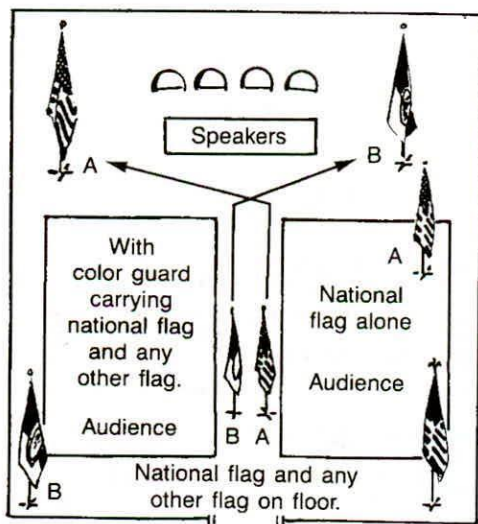
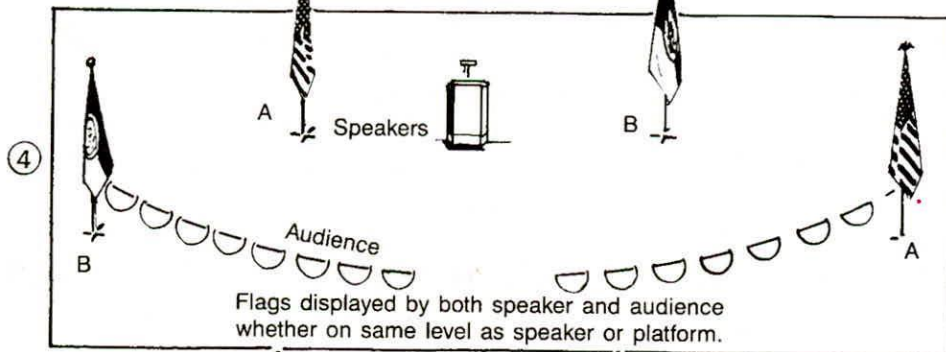
**Materials:** U.S. flag and a den flag if available

NARRATOR WILL CALL:	ACTIONS
<i>Attention. Will Scouts please rise.</i>	(Pause.) The color guard waits in the back of the room for the Scouts to stand and become quiet.
<i>Color guard, advance.</i>	The den flag guards and bearer are on the left, and the U.S. flag guards and bearer are on the right. With the U.S. flag in the lead, they walk in and cross so that the U.S. flag will be on the left side of the room when you look toward the front. The bearers and guards take their positions near the flag stands, facing the audience and holding the flags vertically.
<i>Hand salute.</i>	Everyone, with the exception of the flag bearers and guards, salutes.
<i>Please say with me the Pledge of Allegiance.</i>	All join in.  The bearers and guards stand at attention and continue to hold the flags. The den flag is lowered slightly so that the U.S. flag stands taller. The U.S. flag guards and bearer and den flag guards and bearer do not salute or say the Pledge of Allegiance.
<i>Two.</i>	The den drops its salute. The den flag is raised to its vertical position again.
<i>Color guard, post the colors.</i>	The den flag is placed in its stand. Its guards and bearer step back into place. The U.S. flag is then posted. Its guards and bearer step back into place. The U.S. flag is then posted. The color guards then salute the flag.
<i>Color guard, dismissed.</i>	The U.S. flag guard leads the procession to the back of the room with the narrator following last.



Note: A stands for the national flag, B stands for any other flag.

Diagrams 1-2-3-4 apply to lecture halls, classrooms, club rooms, churches, auditoriums, etc.



## ◆ RETRIEVAL OF COLORS INDOORS

NARRATOR WILL CALL:	ACTIONS
<i>Attention. Will Scouts please rise.</i>	(Pause.) The color guard waits in the back of the room for the audience to rise and become quiet.
<i>Color guard, advance.</i>	The U.S. flag guard and bearer and pack flag guard and bearer walk down the aisle and to the flags. They stand behind the flags, facing the audience.
<i>Color guard, salute.</i>	The guards and bearers salute.
<i>Color guard, retrieve the colors.</i>	The U.S. flag is removed first (just slightly ahead of the den flag).
<i>Hand salute.</i>	Everyone, with the exception of the guards and bearers, salutes. The U.S. flag stays on its "marching right" as the guards and bearers proceed down the aisle to the rear of the room.
<i>Two.</i>	Everyone drops the salute.

## ◆ STANDARD OUTDOOR FLAG CEREMONY USING A FLAGPOLE

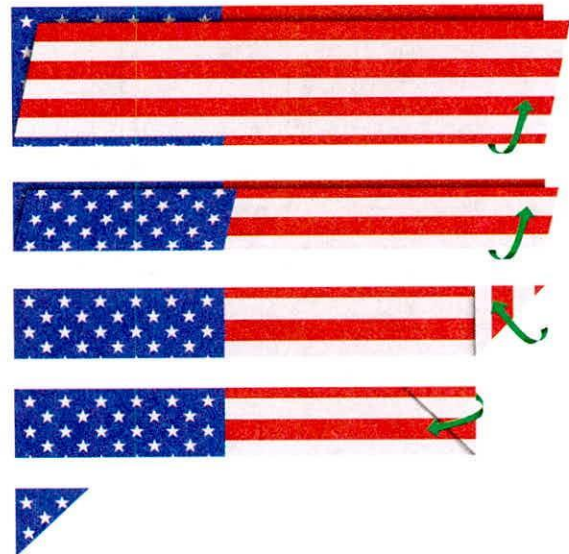
**Preparation:** Check the flag against the rope to make sure the attachments line up before the flag ceremony. It helps to lower the loops to the base of the flagpole so it is ready for the ceremony. Rewind the cord to hold in place.

**Personnel:** Narrator and color guard

**Materials:** U.S. flag and a pack flag

Remember that the outdoor program runs like a thread through the Scouting program. When dens and packs are outdoors, ceremonies are appropriate—and important!

- Outside noises from wind and water can make it difficult to hear voices. Keep the group close together and have the speaker face the crowd.
- Plan your flag ceremony carefully. If you do not have a secure flag holder, have the Scouts present the flag and continue to hold it during your flag ceremony. Then have them retreat with the flag. Whether you are inside or outside, give the U.S. flag the same respect and handle it properly.
- Use nature as a backdrop. Look around and choose a location that showcases your event.
- Sweep the area and walkways, looking for loose rocks and tree roots that might trip a child or adult.



NARRATOR WILL CALL:	ACTIONS
<i>Attention. Will the audience please rise.</i>	(Pause while everyone stands and remains quiet.) The color guard waits in the rear for the audience to become quiet.
<i>Color guard, advance.</i>	The U.S. flag guards and bearer walk in and take their positions near the flagpole, facing the audience.
<i>Color guard, prepare to raise the colors.</i>	The line is unwound. The flag is unfolded and attached to the rope.
<i>Hand salute.</i>	Everyone, with the exception of the U.S. flag guards and bearer, salutes.
<i>Color guard, raise the colors.</i>	Then the flag is raised quickly to the top of the pole, and the cord is wound back in place.
<i>Please say with me the Pledge of Allegiance.</i>	The U.S. flag guards and bearer stand at attention. (All join in.) The U.S. flag guards and bearer do not salute or say the Pledge of Allegiance.
<i>Two.</i>	The den drops its salute.
<i>Color guard, salute.</i>	The U.S. flag guards and bearer salute.
<i>Color guard, dismissed.</i>	The color guard retreats to the back of the group.

#### ◆ RETRIEVAL OF COLORS—FLAGPOLE

NARRATOR WILL CALL:	ACTIONS
<i>Attention. Will the audience please rise.</i>	(Pause.) The color guard waits in the rear for the audience to become quiet.
<i>Color guard, advance.</i>	The U.S. flag guards and bearer walk to the flagpole. They stand behind the flag, facing the audience.
<i>Color guard, salute.</i>	The U.S. flag guards and bearer salute.
<i>Color guard, prepare to retrieve the colors.</i>	They unwind the cord and wait.
<i>Hand salute.</i>	Everyone, with the exception of the U.S. flag guards and bearer, salutes. The U.S. flag is quickly lowered.
<i>Two.</i>	As soon as the flag touches the hands of the guard, this command is given. Everyone drops the salute. The U.S. flag guard and bearer remove the flag from the rope and fold it correctly.
<i>Color guard, retreat.</i>	They return to the back of the group.

## TALK TIME SUGGESTIONS

This section of the meeting is set aside to cover the “business items” that need to be covered for den and pack activities in the near future. Some of these items will be covered every meeting, some may only be covered once a year.

It may be handy to have a prepared handout to send home with the Scouts or hand to their parents, especially if it involves logistics—such as meeting somewhere different for a tour or items the Scouts need to bring from home for the next meeting, etc. Communicating with parents and guardians of Cub Scouts can be done several different ways. In the Family Talent Survey, parents and guardians are asked what method of communication they prefer. Some dens or packs use social media sites, while others use text messages.

### ◆ DUES

If your pack uses the dues you collected to fund your den operations, then you will need to come up with a system to collect them regularly and record who has paid and who has not. This is a perfect job for an assistant den leader, if you have one, or it could be taken care of by a parent who is willing to help. You may want to collect something every week or on a monthly basis. Some parents prefer to pay for the entire year so their Scout is taken care of. Decide how much (based on the expenses of providing the program supplies), when you want to collect it, and how it will be recognized; then tell the Scouts’ parents so they are aware of your process.

Obviously, it will be important for you to keep good records of your den purchases and dues collections in case there are any questions. Some packs do not use individual den dues, but instead cover den expenses from the pack budget or sponsoring organization. You will need to find out how your pack handles this.

It may be convenient to collect dues as part of your gathering activity time.

### ◆ ADVANCEMENT

Your Scouts may work on advancement with their parents as well as in your den activities. You may also assign them “Do-at-Home Projects” from time to time—items to finish at home and bring back to show the rest of the den. It may be convenient to record this information during this part of the meeting. An assistant den leader will work well for this duty as well.

You will need to have a method to record this advancement. The BSA has colorful wall advancement charts that can be used to keep track of each of your Scouts’ adventures. Using colored pencils or a signature to designate a requirement as completed can work well with this type of chart. You may also choose to use Scoutbook, which is an online tool to help you track advancement digitally instead of filling out advancement reports. You can learn more at Scoutbook.com. You can learn more about digital tracking at my.scouting.org. There are also paper pages available from BSA and other sources to assemble a binder and mark off individual requirements.

However you decide to track advancement, it is an important part of your den leader job. Figure out a method that works for you, and go for it!

If Cub Scouts have completed an advancement item with their family or at school, have them give a short report to the rest of the den, so they can see that all advancement does not have to happen in the den meetings.

This may also work well in the gathering activity time if you have help and the activity will not be interrupted.



## ◆ OUTINGS OR TOURS

Traveling with Cub Scouts and their families can be a lot of fun! It can also create opportunities for confusion and misdirection. To keep the experience positive for all families in the den and yourself, be sure to communicate—and communicate often—with everyone.

Preparing a printed or electronic handout, flier, or brochure to give to the families with *ALL* the information needed will save you a lot of headaches. Depending on the trip, you may have a few items to pass along or a couple of pages. Here are some samples:



### Den 1 TV Station Tour!

Den 1 and their families will be touring TV station KCUB next Wednesday, May 14. We will be meeting at Tamkin School at our regular meeting time, 6:30 p.m., and then carpooling to the station together. The tour is free, but we will be stopping for ice cream at Dairy Village on the way home. Cones can be purchased for \$2, and of course, their full menu will also be available.

The station needs to know an approximate head count, so please contact me by Friday, May 9, with the number of family members attending. You can reach me by email at [dljanet@email.com](mailto:dljanet@email.com), or call 702-555-0111.

This should be a very interesting trip, and the Scouts will be completing our current adventure with this trip. Hope to see you all there!

DL Janet



### Flaming Arrow Den Spring Campout

ALOHA! The Flaming Arrow Webelos den will be holding our Spring Campout next month at the Rocky Willows Scout Camp near Random Lakes on June 10-12. The theme this year is "Hawaiian Luau"!

Cost for this event is \$15 per person, which will include all meals, supplies, and a cool patch! Webelos Scouts and their parents are invited to attend (no siblings on this trip). The fee is due on June 6 at the pack meeting.

We will meet at the camp. The physical address of the camp is 342 Scout Camp Drive [city, state, and zip code]. Attached is a map. The trip is about 20 miles and will take about 30 minutes.

Attached to this sheet is a gear list that each person will need. We have access to camping gear if you need to borrow sleeping bags or tents for your group. The weather is always a little cooler at the camp, so be sure to pack warm clothes.

We will be holding a planning meeting at 6:30 p.m. on May 20 at Spohn Elementary. Everyone planning on attending should be there. All of your questions will be answered!

The Webelos Scouts had a great time on this event in the fall, and are looking forward to another exciting weekend!

Any questions? Email [camperbob@email.com](mailto:camperbob@email.com), or call 702-555-0112.

Always be sure to provide all the important information you can, including:

- Dates
- Location (include physical address)
- Cost
- Transportation method
- Items needed
- A contact person

Try to put yourself in the place of new parents, and give them all the information they need to feel welcome and ready! Asking the new parents from last year what information they would have liked to have known early will help you identify information to include.

Here is a good extended version of a trip planner from the BALOO (Basic Adult Leader Outdoor Orientation) training. While you may not need to fill in all the blanks, it may help you uncover some holes in your planning.

# Cub Scout Outdoor Program Checklist

Date(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Location \_\_\_\_\_

☐ BSA facility

☐ Council-approved non-BSA facility

## I. Administration

☐ *Guide to Safe Scouting* reviewed

☐ Camp reservation made

☐ Parent permission slips

☐ Camp deposit/fee paid

☐ Health forms

☐ Local requirements

☐ Insurance

☐ Licenses and permits  
(fishing, boat, campfire, parking, etc.)

## II. Leadership

Event leader \_\_\_\_\_ Phone (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Assistant \_\_\_\_\_ Phone (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Program leader \_\_\_\_\_ Phone (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Assistant \_\_\_\_\_ Phone (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

## III. Transportation

Driver	No. of seat belts	Driver License No.	Auto Insurance Yes/No
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____

Equipment hauled by \_\_\_\_\_

## IV. Location

☐ Maps prepared \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Assembly location \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Departure time \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Camp arrival time \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Camp departure time \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Anticipated return time \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Stops en route (meal Y/N) \_\_\_\_\_

V. Equipment

☐ Personal equipment lists

☐ Program equipment

☐ Group

☐ Emergency

VI. Feeding

☐ Menu planned by \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Who buys food? \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Fuel supplied by \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Duty roster by \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Food storage \_\_\_\_\_

VII. Sanitation

☐ Special camp requirements \_\_\_\_\_

VIII. Safety

☐ Ranger contact

Phone (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Nearest medical facility

Phone (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Nearest town

☐ Police number \_\_\_\_\_

☐ First aid/CPR-trained leaders \_\_\_\_\_

IX. Program

☐ Program planned

☐ Special program equipment needed

Item(s) \_\_\_\_\_ Provided by \_\_\_\_\_

Item(s) \_\_\_\_\_ Provided by \_\_\_\_\_

Item(s) \_\_\_\_\_ Provided by \_\_\_\_\_

Item(s) \_\_\_\_\_ Provided by \_\_\_\_\_

Item(s) \_\_\_\_\_ Provided by \_\_\_\_\_

Item(s) \_\_\_\_\_ Provided by \_\_\_\_\_

Item(s) \_\_\_\_\_ Provided by \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Rainy day activities planned

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

## ◆ COMMUNICATING THE PACK AND DEN CALENDAR TO PARENTS

Your pack will be holding some special events that may require additional help or more time to prepare than normal meetings. Some of these events might be:

**Blue and Gold Banquet:** Inviting other family members

**Pinewood Derby/Raingutter Regatta:** Distributing kits, holding workshops to help build the racers, running the race

**Pack Campouts:** Providing important information, gear needed, who can attend, what events will be happening, etc.

**Bridging Ceremonies:** Possible change in location, special guests invited, special ceremonies and inspiration

**Holiday Parties or Other Celebrations:** Preparing decorations, songs, skits, treats

Additional events provide by the council or district such as:

- District pinewood derby
- Fun days at the park/ballgame/zoo/trail or other special "Scout only" events
- Day camp/resident camp/overnighters

These all need to be promoted at the den level so your Scouts can take advantage of the opportunities. You should be able to find out about them at roundtable or by talking to your unit commissioner.

## ◆ CUB SHARING TIME

Periodically, it is a good idea to let the Scouts share what's happening in their lives—something fun they did with their families, a good thing that happened at school, a fun game they've learned, or a new toy or Scout gear they have acquired. Set up some ground rules, such as:

- Time limit per Scout, perhaps only one Scout per meeting
- Only positive, fun things—nothing derogatory or hurtful
- Props—do you want it to turn into "show and tell"?
- Topic—defined by you (favorite pet, favorite game, etc.), or let them decide
- Related to the Scout Oath or Scout Law—how they helped other people or did their best that week

It may be helpful to screen the first couple you do for the year, just to make sure they get off on the right track. This can be a lot of fun for you and the Scouts, and provide some insight for you into their lives.

## ◆ DENNER INVESTITURE

A denner is a member of your den who has been given special responsibilities for your group for a fixed period of time, usually a month. They will be given some jobs to do at the meeting, such as:

- Setting up games for the Gathering activity and then picking them up afterwards
- Preparing a simple snack for the group, if you use one as part of your plan
- Setting up craft or activity items for the activity portion of the meeting
- General cleanup after the meeting
- Leading Opening and Closing ceremonies
- Keeping track of attendance records
- Other duties as the occasion arises

Talk Time is a great time to award the denner cord to your denner. The denner wears a denner cord over the left shoulder. The cord is removed at the end of the month, and presented to the new denner for the period of service. This responsibility mirrors leadership tasks the Scout will need for rank advancement in the troop when they get older. You should have specific tasks designated for the denner to do, and praise them when they are done, especially when they are done without being asked.



## ◆ MEETING INFORMATION

Use a small portion of this time to tell the den what is going to happen. Are you:

- Starting work on a new adventure?
- Finishing up one you've already started?
- Working on skills and projects for an upcoming pack event?
- Playing a new game?
- Learning a new skill?
- Preparing thank-you notes for people who have helped them out recently?

Set the stage for another exciting meeting! This will let them know what they're doing AND it will show their parents that you have a plan and are working it! Be sure to include the reason for the activities in that night's meeting.

## ◆ GROUNDWORK FOR FUTURE ADVANCEMENT

If part of next month's adventure requires some homework that might take a little time to complete, let them know a few weeks early and keep reminding them—and their parents! This is probably a good time to send a flier or other announcement home so the parents have all the details on what is needed.

# CLOSING CEREMONIES

## ◆ CUB SCOUT CIRCLE CLOSING

Form the den in a circle. Each member of the den places a left arm around the shoulder of the person on the left and a right arm around the shoulder of the person on the right.

**Den leader or den chief:** *Now may the Great Master of all Scouts be with us until we meet again.*

## ◆ FLAG FOLDING CLOSING

Have three Scouts fold the flag while the other members of the den stand respectfully in a semicircle.

## ◆ FRIENDSHIP CIRCLE CLOSING

Den leaders and members form a friendship circle. Cross arms with right arm over left and grasp the hands of people on each side. They then sing a closing song.

## ◆ HANDSHAKE CLOSING

Have the members of the den form a circle and pass the Scout handshake from one to another around the circle until it reaches the person who started it. As each Scout receives the handshake, they silently make a wish and pledge to do their best.

## ◆ LEADER'S MINUTE CLOSING

This is a closing inspirational thought. It can be a brief story about the Scout Oath, the Scout Law, the motto, or something patriotic. It could reflect ideals such as being kind to animals and people, showing sportsmanlike behavior, or participating in school activities. It is told without moralizing.

## ◆ LIVING CIRCLE CLOSING

Based on an American Indian custom, the living circle may be used alone or as a part of another ceremony. It reminds a Cub Scout of the friendships made in Cub Scouting.

Cub Scouts and leaders stand in a close circle, facing inward and slightly to the right. With their right hands, they make the Cub Scout sign. With their left hands, they reach into the center of the circle. Each thumb is pointed to the right, and each person grasps the thumb of the person on their left, making a complete Living Circle with the handclasps. The Cub Scout motto can then be repeated. One version is to pump joined hands up and down seven times as all say, "Akela! We'll—do—our—best!" You can also use the Scout Oath, the Cub Scout motto, or your own personal words in place of this chant.

## ◆ MOUNTAIN CLIMBING CLOSING THOUGHT

Ask the Cub Scouts in your den to sit in a circle.

**Den leader:** *Picture a very high mountain. It is beautiful but very dangerous. It has slippery glaciers and high rocky places you can climb only with special equipment and with help from other people. Mountain climbers depend on each other. They must be able to trust their friends at the other end of the rope. When you pick your friends, think about whether this is a person you could trust at the end of that rope. Let's have a moment of silence as we think about the good friends we have chosen.*

## ◆ MY FLAG CLOSING

Right before the ending, the den leader asks the Cub Scouts to write a sentence about what the U.S. flag means to them. For the closing ceremony, read the statements.

## ◆ PATRIOTIC SONG CLOSING

Den members form a circle around the U.S. flag. Everyone salutes and sings "America," "God Bless America," or another patriotic song. (See the *Cub Scout Songbook* for ideas.)

## ◆ SQUARE KNOT CLOSING

Give each Cub Scout in your den a 3-foot section of rope. Have them tie their ropes together with square knots to form a complete circle. They all lean back carefully to form a taut circle.

**Den leader:** *You are part of a group of close friends, held together by the square knot—a symbol of friendship.*

## ◆ WE MEET AS CUB SCOUTS CLOSING

Have the Cub Scouts in your den form a circle.

**Den leader:** *We meet as Cub Scouts, we part as friends, as now we leave, our meeting ends. Let this circle be a token of friendship, as Akela guides us home.*

# DEN OUTINGS

Excursions and field trips provide some of the most exciting parts of Scouting. Cub Scouts enjoy many outdoor experiences as they participate in the variety of activities that can be held outside, such as field trips, hikes, nature and conservation experiences, and outdoor games.

## ◆ OUTINGS

Children this age enjoy visiting museums, business establishments, parks, and other attractions. Here are some suggestions:

**How Things Are Made:** Visit manufacturing plants such as aircraft, automotive, appliance, or electronic manufacturers; chemical, paper, plastic, paint, furniture, or toy plants; and handicrafts or other small-craft industries.

**How Your Community Runs:** Visit power, water, and sewage plants; a gas company; police and fire stations; city hall; municipal buildings; the county jail; a telephone company; the post office; the Red Cross; hospitals; newspaper plants; and radio, television, and weather stations.

**How Your Community Is Fed:** Visit truck and dairy farms, flour mills, and bakeries; food processing, canning, or bottling plants; stockyards and meat or poultry packing houses; a fish hatchery; beverage, candy, and ice-cream companies; markets; and food distributors.

**Learn About Your Culture and Heritage:** Visit art galleries, museums, and memorials; celebrated old homes, monuments, and other historic sites; places of worship; civic centers; important local buildings; summer theaters and band concerts; and local historical celebrations.

When these field trips are coordinated with the Cub Scouting adventures, they can help bring learning to life by allowing Cub Scouts to experience firsthand the things they have been learning about.

## ◆ HIKES

A hike is a journey on foot, usually with a purpose, a route, and a destination. All ranks in Cub Scouting will have several opportunities for taking hikes related to specific adventure requirements. See the Outdoor Appendix for more information on hikes.

## ◆ PLANNING DEN OUTINGS AND EXCURSIONS

When planning a trip or excursion for your den or pack, keep the following guidelines in mind:

- Make sure that all activities are age-appropriate. Especially for pack excursions, which include Cub Scouts of various ages, make sure there's something that appeals to everyone.
- While it's OK to include some activities just for the fun of it, make sure the featured event is relevant to the values of Scouting and has educational value.
- Refer to the *Guide to Safe Scouting*, No. 34416, to ensure that all activities are conducted in a safe manner. The online version, which will always be the most current, can be found by visiting [www.scouting.org](http://www.scouting.org) and selecting "Guide to Safe Scouting" from the site menu.
- Be sure to file the proper forms and permits. An activity consent form should be signed by the parent or guardian of every Cub Scout, even if the parent or guardian is attending. The form can be accessed at [www.scouting.org](http://www.scouting.org).