

ADVANCE
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DEN & PACK MEETING RESOURCE GUIDE



BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA®



II. Den Meeting

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Introduction to Den Meeting Plans

For each badge of rank, Cub Scouts 2010 is represented by a series of den meeting plans (two den meetings per month) designed to be used in conjunction with the youth handbooks.

Den meeting plans provide the den leader with specific support to organize and conduct den meetings and to communicate with families. This includes detailed instructions for the boys and parents to follow between meetings, where needed.

Den meeting plans are organized such that the required advancements are accomplished throughout the year and the Scout is able to earn the badge of rank with his den.

The den meeting plans are designed, depending on when the school year begins, to satisfy badge of rank requirements in 15 to 18 den meetings, which will typically allow completion by mid-February. Den leaders have the flexibility to extend or condense the number of meetings to meet the needs of their area or den by using the additional den plans provided for each level of program.

After completing the badge of rank, the den continues to meet for the remainder of the school year, working on electives, sports and academic activity belt loops and pins, and the many other supplemental programs that the Cub Scout program provides.

In this section you will find the basic den meeting agenda format, tips on how to run your den meeting, basic guidance on den meeting structure, and organizational tips.

Following the core den meeting plans for your program level, you will find additional den meeting plans. These additional plans are designed to fulfill the following needs:

- Dens that meet year-round or more often than twice per month
- Den leaders who are looking for a structured plan for Academic and Sports belt loops and activity pins, electives, summertime activities, and other den and pack awards

The core den meeting plans are designed to be used **in sequence**. However, for dens meeting more than twice per month, additional den meeting plans may be used to “spread out” the core den meeting plans if the den leader so chooses.



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No Plans in This Sample Guide



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Wolf Den Meeting #1

Achievement 2: Your Flag (*partial*); **Elective 9b:** Make a gift (*partial*);
Elective 12e: Make a stencil pattern

Preparation and Materials Needed

- Bring a U.S. flag; have index cards with the Cub Scout Promise and Law of the Pack printed on one side and the Pledge of Allegiance on the other side (make enough for all people attending the meeting).
- Bring an undecorated den flag (can be part of a sheet of fabric), flag stands, squares of yellow-gold felt (one per boy), ballpoint pens, youth scissors, camera, and film.
- Have snack and napkins set at each boy's place before the boys' arrival.

Before the Meeting

Make final preparations with assistance from the assistant den leader, den chief, and denner. Organize the room (seating, flag, advancement charts, activity materials, etc.).

Gathering

- Snack, collect den dues, and record attendance.
- At this first meeting, develop a den code of conduct. Have each boy tell the den what one rule for good behavior during a den meeting should be. With a little prompting from the den leader, all the rules can be covered. Try to focus on what you want the behavior to be rather describing a negative action. For example: *Only one person speaks at a time. Stay in the meeting room, unless you have permission from the den leader to go elsewhere. Use good, appropriate, and positive manners. Walk in the building unless we are doing an activity requiring otherwise. Leave our meeting room cleaner than we found it.*

Opening

- Conduct an outdoor flag ceremony (**Achievement 2f**).
 - Choose the first boy alphabetically to carry the U.S. flag; he may also serve as your denner if you use the denner system. The second boy will be next meeting's U.S. flag bearer and will carry the den flag today. (The den flag is not yet decorated.) The third and fourth boys are the color guards.
 - The remaining boys in the den and all adults present form a reviewing line that the color guard passes on the way to the flag stands.
 - The den leader can call the flag ceremony at the first few meetings until the boys learn how to do so.

- After the flags are posted, have all recite the Pledge of Allegiance. Provide index cards printed with the Cub Scout Promise and Law of the Pack for each person present. After the Pledge, all may read the Cub Scout Promise and Law of the Pack in unison from the index cards. Provide the cards for the first few meetings until the boys can recite the Pledge of Allegiance, the Cub Scout Promise, and the Law of the Pack with confidence.
- Collect the index cards.

Business Items

Discuss den activities and make announcements.

Activities

- Review the Bobcat requirements: Cub Scout Promise; Law of the Pack; Cub Scout motto, sign, handshake, salute; meaning of *Webelos*.

Suggestion: Start with Bobcat Relay Race. Den divides into two teams, lining up for relay race on one end of room or field, with leaders and/or parent helpers on the other end, to test on the Cub Scout Promise, Law of the Pack, Cub Scout motto, sign, handshake, salute, and meaning of *Webelos*. The first boy on each team walks to the leader, answers the Bobcat-related question, then returns to tag the next Cub Scout. If the Cub Scout can't answer, he can go back and get help, then return and answer the question.

- **Achievement 2f:** Participate in an outdoor flag ceremony.
- **Elective 9b:** Photograph each boy separately (head and shoulders) in his uniform. This will be used for **Elective 9b** in den meeting #5.
- **Elective 12e:** Make a stencil pattern. Trace each boy's hand on cardstock (or heavy paper) and make a stencil. Then trace the pattern on a square of yellow-gold felt. Have each boy cut out his handprint and put his name on the back of it. This will be used for your den flag. At their Arrow of Light Award ceremony, when the boys are in fifth grade, the handprints will be removed from the den flag and each boy will present his print to his parents.

Closing

- Closing ceremony—retire the colors.
- Hand out family information letter.

Continued

Wolf Den Meeting #2

Achievement 2: Your Flag (*partial*); **Achievement 1:** Feats of Skill

Preparation and Materials Needed

- Bring a U.S. flag and the den flag; have the Cub Scout Promise and Pledge of Allegiance printed on index cards.
- Bring a baseball or softball and (optional) baseball gloves for boys to play catch.
- Bring a narrow board, 4 to 6 feet long.
- You may wish to have a small poster with the den code of conduct.
- Have the snack in place before the boys arrive.

Before the Meeting

Make final preparations with assistance from the assistant den leader, den chief, and denner. Organize the room (seating, flag, advancement charts, activity materials, etc.).

Gathering

- Snack, collect den dues, record attendance.
- Review code of conduct for den meetings.

Opening

- Conduct flag ceremony. Remember to move through a rotation of the boys so each boy has a turn at every role in the flag ceremony (**Achievement 2b**). Have the Cub Scout leading the ceremony tell what the Pledge of Allegiance means (**Achievement 2a**).
- Continue using the index cards printed with the Cub Scout Promise and Pledge of Allegiance.

Business Items

Discuss den activities and make announcements.

Activities

- **Achievement 2a:** Give the Pledge of Allegiance and tell what it means.
- **Achievements 1a, 1b, 1c, 1d,** and **1e,** and one of the following: **1f, 1g, 1h, 1i, 1j, 1k, or 1l**

Note: If completing **Achievement 1h** or **1i**, review aquatics guidelines in the Guide to Safe Scouting (www.scouting.org/HealthandSafety/GSS). Be sure to follow all of the procedures of Safe Swim Defense when participating in any swimming, boating, or water activity. Safe Swim Defense training is required for any aquatics activity; Safety Afloat training is required for any boating activity. Both of these may be completed online at (www.scouting.org/applications/myscouting).

- *Optional:* Have each boy sew his handprint onto the den flag, using a needle and thread.

Closing

- Retire the colors.
- Hand out family information letter. (A sample family information letter can be found at www.scouting.org/CubScouts/Resources and on the CD in the Resources folder on the main menu.)
- Clean up.

After the Meeting

- For den meeting #3, you will need a U.S. flag, state flag, den flag, football, and flags for flag football, soccer ball, basketball, baseball or softball, and bat.
- Find a location with a flagpole so the boys can practice raising and lowering the U.S. flag.
- Procure indoor space to play flag football, soccer, basketball, and baseball in case the weather does not permit these activities outdoors.
- Print a health habits chart (see Wolf Den Meeting #3) for each boy (**Achievement 3a**, Wolf Handbook page 57).
- Research the meaning of your state flag.
- Prepare permission slips for a trip to a bowling alley at den meeting #4.

Wolf Den Meeting #3

Achievement 2: Your Flag (*partial*); **Achievement 3:** Keep Your Body Healthy (*partial*); **Elective 20:** Sports; Bowling belt loop (*partial*)

Preparation and Materials Needed

- Find a location with a flagpole so the boys can practice raising and lowering the U.S. flag.
- Bring a U.S. flag, your state flag, and the den flag; a football and flags for flag football; soccer ball, basketball, baseball or softball; and bat.
- Research the meaning of your state flag.
- Print a health habits chart (below) for each boy (**Achievement 3a**, Wolf Handbook page 57).
- Procure indoor space to play flag football, soccer, basketball, and baseball in case the weather does not permit these activities outdoors.
- Prepare permission slips for a trip to a bowling alley at den meeting #4.

Before the Meeting

Make final preparations with assistance from the assistant den leader, den chief, and denner. Organize the room (seating, flag, advancement charts, activity materials, etc.).

Gathering

- Snack, collect den dues, record attendance.
- Practice raising and lowering the U.S. flag (**Achievement 2e**).

Opening

- Conduct an outdoor flag ceremony (**Achievement 2f**).

Business Items

Discuss den activities and make announcements.

Activities

- **Achievements 2c, 2d, 2e, and 2g**
- **Electives 20h, 20i, 20j, 20k or 20l or 20m**
- Preparation for next week's meeting: Bowling belt loop, requirement 1. Discuss with the boys the rules of courtesy and safety for bowling. They will need to be able to tell you about these rules next week to qualify for the Bowling belt loop.

Pack Meeting Preparation

- Song: "This Land Is Your Land" (*Cub Scout Songbook*)

Closing

- Retire the colors.
- Distribute the health habits chart with this meeting plan to be completed and returned at the next den meeting (**Achievement 3a**).
- Hand out family information letter and permission slips for a trip to a bowling alley. (A sample family information letter can be found at www.scouting.org/CubScouts/Resources and on the CD in the Resources folder on the main menu.)
- Clean up.

After the Meeting

- For den meeting #4, make arrangements with a bowling alley to bring your den. Provide bowling alley staff with a copy of the Bowling belt loop requirements (see the *Cub Scout Academics and Sports Program Guide*, pages 71–72).
- Arrange transportation to the bowling alley.
- Submit a Local Tour Permit Application to your council service center two weeks before this field trip. (The Local Tour Permit Application can be found at www.scouting.org/CubScouts/CubScoutingForms/forms and on the CD in the Resources folder on the main menu.)
- Bring a small U.S. flag.
- Bring stick-on bandages for the boys to use on a "pretend" cut finger.

Wolf Den Meeting #4

Achievement 3: Keep Your Body Healthy (*completion*); **Elective 20g:** Go bowling; Bowling belt loop (*completion*)

Preparation and Materials Needed

- Make arrangements with a bowling alley to bring your den. Provide bowling alley staff with a copy of the Bowling belt loop requirements (see *Cub Scout Academics and Sports Program Guide*).
- Arrange transportation to the bowling alley.
- Submit a Local Tour Permit Application to your council service center two weeks before this field trip. (The Local Tour Permit Application can be found at www.scouting.org/CubScouts/CubScoutingForms/forms and on the CD in the Resources folder on the main menu.)
- Bring a small U.S. flag.
- Bring stick-on bandages for the boys to use on a “pretend” cut finger.

Before the Meeting

Make final preparations with assistance from the assistant den leader, den chief, and denner. Organize the room (seating, flag, advancement charts, activity materials, etc.).

Gathering

- Collect permission slips as boys arrive.
- Snack, collect den dues, record attendance.
- Collect from each boy his health habits chart and verify completion (**Achievement 3a**).

Opening

- Conduct flag ceremony using a small U.S. flag. Remember to move through a rotation of the boys so each boy has a turn at every role in the flag ceremony (Achievement 2b). Have the Cub Scout leading the ceremony tell what the Pledge of Allegiance means (**Achievement 2a**).

Business Items

Discuss den activities and make announcements.

Activities

- **Achievements 3b** and **3c**: Complete the requirements while the boys are awaiting their turn at the bowling alley.

—Let each boy demonstrate to the den leader or a parent helper how to use a stick-on bandage on a pretend cut.

—Give each boy the opportunity to explain to the den leader or parent helper four ways to stop the spread of colds.

- **Elective 20g:** Go bowling (field trip to bowling alley).

- The Bowling belt loop can be earned at the bowling alley.

—At some point during the game, have each boy explain to the den leader or adult partner the rules of courtesy and safety for bowling.

—Have each boy show how to pick out a ball of proper weight and with finger holes that fit his hand.

—Bowl a complete game.

—Explain to boys that they will receive their Bowling belt loop (if the requirements were completed) at the next pack meeting.

Closing

- Perform a Living Circle ceremony (see the *Cub Scout Leader Book*).
- Hand out family information letter. (A sample family information letter can be found at www.scouting.org/CubScouts/Resources and on the CD in the Resources folder on the main menu.)
- Clean up.

After the Meeting

- For den meeting #5, you will need a U.S. flag and the den flag.
- Bring the photographs of the boys that were taken at the first den meeting; bring picture frames to be decorated, paint and brushes or other materials to decorate the frames, and smocks (or old shirts that fit over the boys' uniforms) to protect the boys' uniforms from paint.
- Prepare permission slips for a field trip to a fire station at den meeting #6.



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III. Pack Meeting

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Introduction

Pack meetings. The pack meeting is the culmination of four or five weeks of den activities of all the dens. Dens will participate in the pack meeting by way of ceremonies, award recognition, or other activities. Boys will receive their advancement badges and other recognition items, such as patches for day camp participation, Cub Scout Academics and Sports belt loops and pins, and other awards. Every boy has a chance to be individually recognized. Be sure to recognize parents who have helped during the month, either in the dens or with the pack committee.

In each month's pack planning pages, there are suggestions for topics for the pack leaders' planning meeting. All leaders—den leaders, assistant den leaders, Cubmasters and assistants, and all committee members—are invited to this monthly meeting. Make the meeting fun as well as informative.

During the monthly pack leaders' planning meeting, you will finalize the upcoming pack meeting and will plan in detail the next month's pack meeting. This meeting is usually held one or two weeks before the pack meeting.

Plan your meetings. Plan using the meeting plan outlines. Solicit additional adult help for activities and tasks. Shared leadership of the pack benefits everyone by getting other parents involved and creating opportunities for adults to share their skills and interests with boys.

Planning for den involvement in pack meetings is most important. Each den should have their participation scheduled in advance. The

order of their contribution is important to share as well: for instance, if a den has props for their activity/event, knowing when they are "up next" will give them time to get ready. Coordinate all skits and contributions at the pack leaders' meeting so that events are approved in advance and are not duplicated.

Ceremonies. Each boy will accomplish one or two major rank advancements during the program year. Each of these is a very special and significant moment. Make these moments special by planning badge presentations. Also, you may choose to present the parents' pin representing each rank to recognize parental involvement in the advancement process.

Staging Events. Events at your pack meetings add to the fun and memories. Families will be taking many pictures of their son receiving his awards and recognitions. Take a little extra effort to arrange things in a way that will allow a clear shot for the perfect picture of the Cubmaster presenting the award. Provide a consistent area at your meeting place where the den displays are placed. When den skits are performed, have a plan for the manner in which dens will enter and exit. This makes for a smooth show and everyone looks great!

Recognize Your Volunteers. Occasional recognition of the pack leadership and parental involvement in activities will be welcomed by all. Everyone deserves a thank-you, and boys will proudly see the adults in their lives being recognized and appreciated.

September

Core Value: Cooperation

Pack Planning

Plan a pack open house. Invite a special guest.

Membership Committee. Coordinate plans for the pack adults' meeting and activities for all boys and siblings to enjoy. Be sure calendars of pack events for the year are ready to distribute.

Recognition Committee. Prepare advancement recognitions and organize the showcase for current dens and new-boy programs.

Membership Moment. Have boys invite someone to the pack meeting who was unable to attend your fall recruiting event. Present each family with an application form and information, such as your pack calendar, for the coming year.

Cubmaster Corner

Many Types of Families. Cub Scouting is a program for boys, yes. It's also a program for the family. Cubmasters need to be aware that a boy's family might not have one mom and one dad. Families may be more oriented to the custodial parent, grandparent, or foster parents. Everyone will appreciate your being aware of the family makeup of boys in the pack and formulating appropriate ways of parental involvement in recognition ceremonies.

Pack Meeting

Before the Meeting

- Plan to set up with plenty of time to spare so you can start the meeting on time. Include in your setup a table for displaying boys' collections.
- Display Cub Scouting literature for any new parents or prospective Cub Scout families to review.
- Assign a den or several pack leaders to serve as a welcoming committee. Pay special attention to new members of the pack to make them feel comfortable and welcome. Provide name tags. Encourage all adult pack members to complete Family Talent Survey forms.

Gathering

As families arrive, direct Cub Scouts to the display of den projects. A second area away from the displays can be set up for an easy-joiner game.

Opening

Have a pre-assigned den present the colors and lead the Pledge of Allegiance. Or, select a different ceremony from *Cub Scout Ceremonies for Dens and Packs*, No. 33212C.

Prayer (Optional)

A preselected Cub Scout comes forward.

Welcome and Introductions

The Cubmaster welcomes everyone to the September pack meeting. Introduce the current pack leaders with a brief explanation of their roles. Explain the plans for the pack adults' meeting.

Pack Adults' Meeting

Parents and adults are taken to a separate room (if possible) and given an orientation to Cub Scouting and an overview of the pack's plans and needs for the coming year.

Cub Scout Activities

During the pack adults' meeting, engage the Cub Scouts in making neckerchief slides or other suggested activities.

Den Demonstrations

Cub Scouts show the neckerchief slides they made to parents. Encourage dens to contribute or share games, songs, or information from their den meetings. Reports reviewing Cub Scout resident camp and Cub Scout day camp experiences may precede the awarding of National Summertime Pack Award pins.

Program/Recognition

Welcome new Tiger Cubs and their adult partners using the ceremony below or one from *Cub Scout Ceremonies for Dens and Packs*, No. 33212C.

INDUCTING THE NEW FAMILY

Equipment: Wolf, Bear, Webelos, and Boy Scout handbooks; two blue, two yellow, and one white candle; cardboard letters C, U, B, and S

Personnel: Den chiefs, den leaders, or committee members for the voices

Cubmaster: "Friends, we welcome you to our ceremony for new Cub Scout families. Before you burn five candles; two are blue, two are gold, and the center one is white. In front of the colored candles are the letters C, U, B, S. These four letters spell 'Cubs,' but each letter by itself stands for something."

Voice 1: "The
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Continued

September Pack Meeting Tips and Best Practices

Academics and Sports Program Cub Scout Academics: Collecting

Cub Scout Sports

Soccer. Soccer is a great fall activity for Cub Scouts. As they learn to play the game, they can apply their skills to earn the Soccer belt loop and pin.

Did You Know?

Family Involvement. Cub Scouts need good pack leaders. They also need family support. Cub Scouting is a family program. Families can be involved by:

- Working with their Cub Scout on advancement at home
- Providing ways for their Cub Scout to earn money for den dues
- Helping at den meetings when needed, providing transportation
- Attending pack meetings
- Presenting advancement awards to their Cub Scout at pack meetings

Leaders understand that it is the responsibility of the parents and family to teach their children. Leaders should encourage family involvement throughout a Cub Scout's advancement.

Good Turn for America. As noted in the *Boy Scout Handbook*: "To people who know about Scouting, the daily Good Turn is one of the finest features of our movement." Encourage your Cub Scouts to Do A Good Turn each day. Cub Scouts can Do a Good Turn by:

- Collecting litter
- Salvaging used books for setting up libraries for children or adults in a residential situation
- Collecting coats and mittens to donate to a homeless shelter before the colder weather ahead
- Any other activity that helps another person

Outing in Scouting. Make sure to plan your outings around advancement. At least two weeks before any field trip, a local tour permit application should be filed with the council service center. A permission slip (informed consent agreement) should also be secured from the parent or guardian of each Cub Scout.

BSA Resources Highlight. National Web site: www.scouting.org.

Adult leaders, families, and Cub Scouts will find answers to their questions at the national Boy Scouts of America Web site. Families learn what their role is, get answers to frequently asked questions, and learn the correct placement of insignia. Leaders find program support and information, including downloadable forms. This is also the place to hear Cubcasts with ideas on using the monthly theme and updated program ideas for a well-run den and pack.

Pack Leaders' Planning Meeting. Pack leaders meet a week or two before the pack meeting to finalize plans for upcoming meetings. The following are suggestions to be developed for September in preparation for October's pack meeting.

- Review the pack adults' meeting information from the *Cub Scout Leader Book*. Share preparation assignments among leaders.
- Have a newsletter and/or calendars for distribution.
- Be sure the paperwork for the National Summertime Pack Award has been submitted in a timely manner so the award can be presented this month to the boys who have earned it and the ribbon award added to the pack flag.
- Conduct Unit Leadership Enhancement No. 9, Pack Budget Plan, to prepare for a year of fiscally sound Cub Scouting activities. Or choose a different topic that best meets your pack's needs. See the current *Cub Scout Leader Book* for detailed outlines. Select a topic for next month's discussion.

Looking Ahead. Webelos Scouts need interaction with local Boy Scout troops. See that Webelos den leaders maintain contact with one or more nearby troops so that Webelos Scouts may visit troop meetings and activities and make an informed selection of which troop to join.

Pack Trainer Highlights. Be sure all records for returning leaders are up to date. If there is a change of position, remind leaders to be trained in their current positions. Be prepared with the dates of local Cub Scout Leader Position-Specific Training courses in your district. Emphasize that training is an ongoing and essential part of Cub Scout leadership. Prepare a list of additional training opportunities: pow wow, University of Scouting, leader roundtables, Basic Adult Leader Outdoor Orientation (BALOO), Outdoor Leader Skills for Webelos Leaders, and Wood Badge.

Special: Membership Preparations

- Be sure key leadership positions are filled. Be prepared to present information at the pack meeting to encourage new members to take meaningful roles.
- Recruit a newsletter editor. Provide information to pack families through the newsletter and refer to that information during announcements at the pack meetings.
- Recruit a leader to fill the pack trainer position.
- Have plenty of membership applications available at this month's meeting to follow up on your successful recruiting event.
- Follow up on Family Talent Survey sheets completed by pack members. This tool will provide resource information on all pack adults.

IV. Resources, Forms, and Applications

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