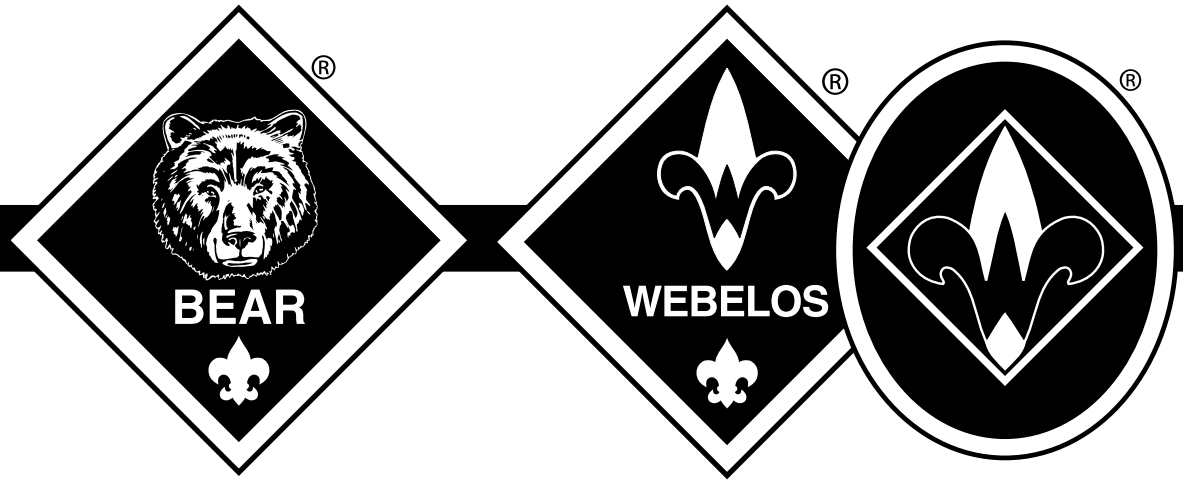


PROGRAM IDEAS FOR YOUR FIRST MONTH OF DEN MEETINGS



BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA®

PROGRAM IDEAS FOR YOUR FIRST MONTH OF DEN MEETINGS

Theme: "Bobcats All"



Use this resource for your first month's meetings if you have all new boys in your den (they haven't earned the Bobcat badge.)

Every boy who joins Cub Scouting 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 boys 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 boys' books.

Tiger Cubs may take longer than one month to complete the Bobcat badge. They should, however, strive to complete requirements for the Tiger Cub Immediate Recognition emblem by the end of the first month.

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

This pamphlet outlines the Tiger Cub, Cub Scout, and Webelos den meetings this month. This month's openings, closing gatherings, and den activities are designed to be simple and fun, using materials you might have around your house. Below are the details on parts of the den meetings outlined on pages 4, 5, and 7.

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 adapt home rules for the den; as they agree on rules, write them on the piece of paper. When they agree on the entire 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.

Conduct Candle

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.

It Can't Be Done

Say that you can jump backward farther than the boys can jump forward if they do exactly as you do. Then grasp your toes and hop backward a few inches. When the boys assume the same position, they'll find they can't budge when they try to jump forward.

Guess Who I Am

Start by saying, "I will answer yes or no to 20 questions while you try to find out who I am." This is a good den game that can 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

Have 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 one cord without letting go of either end. Let the Cub Scout try it, then show him the trick:

First fold your arms over your chest, then lean over and pick up each end of the cord without unfolding your arms. As you straighten up, unfold your arms—still holding the ends of the cord— and, presto, there's the overhand knot!

Clothespins in a Bottle

Place a narrow-mouthed jar upright on the floor. Give each boy, in turn, 10 clothespins. The boy stands over the bottle and, holding each clothespin at eye level, tries to drop them into the bottle.

Newspaper Softball



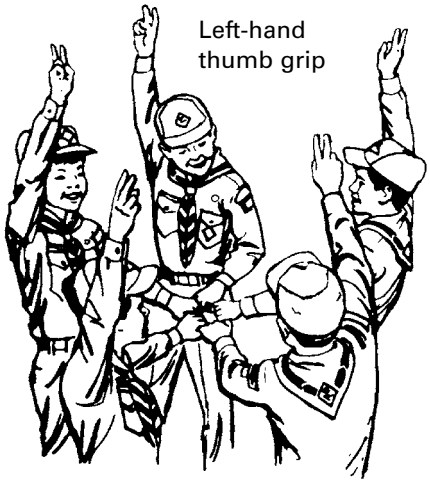
Divide your den into two teams. Place a can on either side of "home plate" and balance a rolled newspaper across the tops of the cans. The first "batter" stands behind the newspaper and kicks it with his instep, and the game is on. All the rules of softball are followed except for the method of putting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

The Living Circle

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

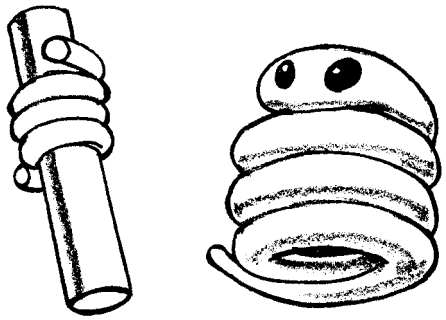
To form a Living Circle, Cub Scouts and leaders face inward in a close circle. With the right hand, each person gives the Cub Scout sign. They turn slightly to the right and extend left hands into the circle. Each thumb in the circle is pointed to the right, and each person grasps the thumb of the person on his left, making a complete Living Circle handclasp. The promise, Law of the Pack, or motto can then be repeated.

Living Circle



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 ¾-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.

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.

Spatter Print



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

Spread newspaper over your working area.

Place the object on construction paper and secure it with the pins.

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.

When the paint has dried, remove the object from the construction paper.

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

"Bobcats All" Tiger Cub Den Meetings

Each Tiger Cub and his adult partner should attend all meetings as a team.
Dens may meet in the evenings or on weekends.

	FIRST WEEK	SECOND WEEK	THIRD WEEK	FOURTH WEEK
	The Tiger Cub den leader shares leadership with a Tiger Cub adult partner. This team should review plans before each meeting and check equipment needed.			
BEFORE THE MEETING STARTS	Gather crayons, pencils, paper, and leaves for leaf rubbings (Requirement 5a). Have a U.S. flag, clothespins, and a bottle.	Have *Cub Scout Program Helps* and the *Cub Scout Songbook* available as resources. Have supplies for Clay Snake Slide.	Call the Go See It destination to confirm arrangements, times, fees, etc.	
	Den leader may collect dues. Den leader checks boys' books for completed advancement requirements and records them on Den Advancement Chart. Boys record own advancement on den doodle, if den has one.			
GATHERING	Lead Tiger Cubs and adult partners in playing Clothespins in a Bottle.	Lead Tiger Cubs and adult partners in playing It Can't Be Done.	For the den's monthly Go See It theme, take a den hike with an emphasis on observing animals and birds that live in your neighborhood or geographic area (Requirement 5G). At the end of the trip, lead a reflecting discussion with boys and adult partners about their outing.	Tiger Cubs and adult partners participate in the monthly pack meeting with a song or skit and information about the den's Go See It theme. Present Tiger Cub Immediate Recognition Emblems to those boys who have completed the requirements.
OPENING	Teach new Tiger Cubs and adult partners the Cub Scout salute. Say the Pledge of Allegiance in repeat-after-me fashion.	Teach Tiger Cubs the Cub Scout sign. Explain how it is also used to maintain order in the den. Tiger Cubs and adult partners give the Cub Scout sign and repeat the Cub Scout Promise in repeat-after-me fashion.		
SHARE	Each Tiger Cub introduces his adult partner, explains their relationship, and tells about something fun that they like to do together.	Each boy tells what his favorite animal is and why.		
DISCOVER	Explain the monthly theme. With a crayon or colored pencil and a piece of paper, make a leaf rubbing (Requirement 5D)	Tiger Cubs and adult partners practice a song or skit to share at the monthly pack meeting. Make Clay Snake Slides.		
SEARCH	Plan a Go See It to fulfill Requirement 5G.	Finalize plans for next week's den hike.		
CLOSING	Teach new Tiger Cubs the Cub Scout motto, "Do your best." Have everyone repeat it together, followed by a big tiger r-o-a-r.	Tiger Cubs and adult partners give the Cub Scout sign and repeat the Law of the Pack in repeat-after-me fashion.		
	This month's shared leadership team reviews the meeting. The den leader should meet briefly with the Tiger Cub and adult partner who will share leadership at the next den meeting.			
AFTER THE MEETING	Den leader files local tour permit with local council service center for Go See it outing.	Talk to Tiger Cub team in charge of the next month. Offer resources or ideas as needed.	Den leader fills out Den Advancement Report for the pack leader's meeting.	
	CHECK WITH YOUR PACK TRAINER OR CUBMASTER FOR ROUNDTABLE DATES AND OTHER TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES.			

"Bobcats All" Wolf and Bear Cub Scout Den Meetings

For your first meeting you will need to have the *Cub Scout Leader Book,* the *Wolf Handbook* or *Bear Handbook*, and the *Cub Scout Leader How-To Book.* These items are available through your pack or the local council service center.

	FIRST WEEK	SECOND WEEK	THIRD WEEK	FOURTH WEEK
BEFORE THE MEETING STARTS	Review the meeting plans, set up a den record book (*Cub Scout Leader 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. 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.
Collect dues, record attendance, check boys' books for completed achievements, etc				
WHILE CUB SCOUTS GATHER	Have a parent or the first boy to arrive lead the "It Can't Be Done" trick.	Play "Guess Who I Am."	Provide each boy with a cord or rope about three feet long for the Magic Knot Trick.	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 (*Cub Scout Leader Book*). 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 (*Cub Scout Leader How-To Book).*	Elect the denner and assistant denner by secret ballot (*Cub Scout Leader Book)*. 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 Clay Snake Slides.	Play Laundry Grab Bag.	Review the meaning of *Webelos* and the *Arrow of Light.* Make Spatter Prints. Practice the den yell.
CLOSING	Remind the boys of coming meetings and to work on their Bobcat requirements at home. Form a Living Circle, then extinguish the Conduct Candle.	After reminders, have the boys form a line and repeat the Cub Scout Promise, then extinguish the Conduct Candle.	Close with the boys sitting in a circle as you tell them the meaning of the Cub Scout motto. Extinguish 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, 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.	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 Cub Scout roundtable.

"Bobcats All" Webelos Den Meetings

Sportsman Activity Badge

For your first meeting you will need to have the *Webelos Leader Guide, Cub Scout Leader Book, Webelos Handbook* and the *Cub Scout Leader How-To Book.* These items are available through your pack or the local council service center. Review the ideas below to prepare for your first month's den meetings.

First Month

Welcome to the Webelos (We'll be Loyal Scouts) den! As a new Webelos leader, you and your Webelos Scouts are probably anxious to get started on the activity badges in the *Webelos Handbook.* 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 20 Webelos activity badges. For these first two months we will work on Sportsman.

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 *Cub Scout Program Helps,* you will find that there is a pattern involved in earning the activity badges that leads toward earning the Webelos Scout 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

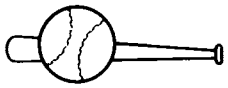
If your Webelos Scouts are in the fifth grade (or are 10 years old) it is not too early to contact a Boy Scout troop and begin the process of preparing your Webelos Scouts to become Boy Scouts. Your *Cub Scout Leader Book* and *Webelos Leader Guide* can help with ideas.

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 Guide* 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 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.

Forehead Squeeze Relay

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.

Balloon Battle Royal

Activity level: **High**

Needed: **Any number of players, balloons, string**

Arrange Webelos 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.

"Bobcats All" Webelos Den Meetings

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.
Brief business period-roll call, collect dues, and conduct uniform inspection.				
GATHERING (Keep early arrivals busy.)	Have a parent, or the first boy to arrive lead the "It Can't Be Done" trick.	Play Guess Who I Am.	Play Balloon Battle Royal.	Let the boys try their hand at the Clothespin Game.
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 (*Cub Scout Leader Book*). 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 Scout skills)	Discuss Sportsman requirements. Discuss the importance of teamwork and cooperation in sports. Play Forehead Squeeze Relay (*How To Book*). 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 signal. (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.
PREPARATION (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 (*Cub Scout Leader How-To Book).* Discuss a name for your den.	Elect the denner and assistant denner by secret ballot (*Cub Scout Leader Book)*. 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 extinguish the Conduct Candle.	After reminders, have the boys form a line and repeat the Cub Scout Promise, then extinguish the Conduct Candle.	Close with the boys sitting in a circle as you tell them the meaning of the Cub Scout motto. Extinguish 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, 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.	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 Cub Scout roundtable.

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