

The Star of Bethlehem, the Miracle of the Lamp, the Morning Star that enlightened Buddha, the bonfires of Yule: many holiday traditions this month involve lights. Share your holiday traditions with your pack and den: lights on a Christmas tree; candles on a Menorah for Hanukkah or on a Kinara for Kwanzaa. Boys can be stars this month by brightening someone's holiday season with a gift of compassion. As a pack or den, visit a nursing home, preschool, or children's ward and sing holiday favorites. End your outing by sharing cookies that the boys decorated. Help those less fortunate with a service project or toy drive. How about a holiday campfire at your pack meeting? This is a great month to work on the Language and Culture belt loop and pin or the Heritages belt loop and pin.

PACK PLANNING

This month's pack meeting will focus on sharing the light of the holiday as well as the light of Cub Scouting. Dens will explain the basics of some December holidays involving light. Cub Scouts who advance will light up the pack. All families will share the light of this festive time of year.

Appoint the following committees:

Decorations Committee. Create a festive atmosphere featuring candles of Hanukkah, Kwanzaa, and Christmas to celebrate the holiday season. One member can check to make sure that traditions of all pack members are represented. Prepare name tags and Word Search (2 DEC) and have supplies for the Fill Santa's Sack game (3 DEC).

Recognitions Committee. Recognize Cub Scout accomplishments with lights through a meaningful ceremony using electric candles.

Refreshments Committee. Coordinate families sharing holiday cookies at the pack meeting. Be sure families label cookie ingredients that might cause allergic reactions, such as peanuts or chocolate.

Good Turn Committee. Coordinate the Good Turn for America program for this pack meeting. Organize a pack toy drive or other service project.

Cleanup Committee. Remember to leave nothing but memories behind. This is a great time to thank your meeting place custodian.

Some of the purposes of Cub Scouting developed through this month's theme include:

- **Spiritual growth.** Boys learn to respect other people's religious beliefs.
- **Friendly service.** By helping those in need, boys learn that they can make the world better for others.

This theme is designed to promote character development by emphasizing these core values:

- **Faith.** Boys of different backgrounds learn to understand and appreciate those of different faiths.
- **Compassion.** By doing a Good Turn, boys learn compassion for others in need.

PACK MEMBERSHIP HIGHLIGHT

Take your Holiday Lights pack meeting on the road. To share the excitement of Scouting with others during this holiday season, conduct your meeting at a local community center where neighborhood youth gather—perhaps the recipients of your toy drive or other Good Turn project. Invite these youth in to participate in your meeting and recognize them with a special holiday memento. Send them home with a festive invitation that tells how to join Cub Scouting.

Pack Meeting

BEFORE THE MEETING

Set up advancement recognitions and a log with candles. Prepare copies of the Peace in Many Languages Word Search (2 DEC); have pencils, balloons, and bags for game. Set up tables for den displays. Set up tables for cookies and Good Turn contributions, if families are bringing them to the pack meeting.

GATHERING

The pack greeters distribute pencils and the Peace in Many Languages Word Search to pack families to do together. Provide name tags in the shape of a candle for all pack members to wear.

MAIN PART OF THE MEETING

Opening

Perform the Holiday Lights opening (2 DEC) or select another opening ceremony from *Cub Scout Ceremonies for Dens and Packs*.

Prayer

A preselected Cub Scout delivers the Holiday Light prayer (2 DEC).

Icebreaker

Ask those who found all the words for *peace* in the word search to stand. Perform the Rudolph Cheer (3 DEC) in recognition.

Welcome and Introductions

Welcome all Cub Scout families and guests. With the Good Turn Applause

(3 DEC), congratulate dens and families for their service in the community this month. Thank those who brought holiday cookies to share.

Song

The pack song leader leads "Light the Night" (2 DEC) or calls upon a den to lead a song they have prepared.

Den Demonstrations

Dens share information about the service projects they did during the month, lead a song, or present a skit.

Games

Play Fill Santa's Sack (3 DEC).

Recognition

Conduct the Cub Scouts Light the Way advancement ceremony (2 DEC).

Or select a different ceremony from *Cub Scout Ceremonies for Dens and Packs*.

Announcements

The pack committee chair announces: “Next month’s theme is A-MAZE-ing Games. Here’s a riddle to get you thinking. What roars like a Tiger, howls like a Wolf, runs like a Bear, and knows what W-E-B-E-L-O-S means? A Cub Scout! Join us for games and puzzles next

month!” Give the date, time, and location for next month’s pack meeting.

Cubmaster’s Minute

The Cubmaster shares the Lights of the Season Cubmaster’s Minutes (3 DEC). A different thought may be found in *Cub Scout Ceremonies for Dens and Packs*.

Closing

Conduct the New Year of Gold and Blue closing ceremony (3 DEC).

REFRESHMENTS

Encourage pack members to wash their hands and then enjoy the many treats provided by pack members. Show where the garbage receptacles are located, and encourage all pack members to help with cleanup.

Cubmaster Corner

DISPLAYS AT THE PACK MEETING

Did you know that it is the Cubmaster’s responsibility to ensure that boys who have earned awards receive them at the next pack meeting? Don’t let boys get discouraged by having to wait for recognition. Provide advancement incentives at the pack meeting, such as colorful and exciting, theme-related ceremonies. Encourage displays of den advancement charts and den doodles at pack meetings.

Ceremonies, Games, Songs, Stunts

GATHERING ACTIVITY: PEACE IN MANY LANGUAGES WORD SEARCH

Reproduce and distribute the word search shown here. Instruct family members to find and circle the following words for *peace* in many languages:

Arabic: SALAM	English: PEACE
French: PAIX	Hawaiian: MALUHIA
Hebrew: SHALOM	Hindi: SHANTI
Italian: PACE	Japanese: HEIWA
Latin: PAX	Mandarin: ANPING
Russian: MIR	Spanish: PAZ

R	O	P	A	X	E	S	L
S	H	A	L	O	M	A	S
P	E	N	T	R	A	L	H
A	I	P	A	Z	L	A	A
C	W	I	N	T	U	M	N
E	A	N	A	C	H	A	T
B	S	G	P	A	I	X	I
M	I	R	P	E	A	C	E

OPENING CEREMONY: HOLIDAY LIGHTS

Cub Scouts enter carrying electric (battery-operated) candles. As each lights his candle, he says:

CUB SCOUT 1: This is the season of lights.

CUB SCOUT 2: The days are shorter and the nights are longer, brightened by our holiday lights.

CUB SCOUT 3: Many homes light candles to light the way for Baby Jesus at Christmastime.

CUB SCOUT 4: Many homes light Hanukkah candles to celebrate the Festival of Lights.

CUB SCOUT 5: Many homes light the Kinara to celebrate Kwanzaa.

CUB SCOUT 6: The most brilliant light comes from the spirit of goodwill and peace toward all.

CUB SCOUT 7: Cub Scouts light up the lives of others with their service.

CUB SCOUT 8: Please stand and join us in the Cub Scout Promise.

PRAYER: HOLIDAY LIGHT

A preselected Cub Scout comes forward and says: “Please prepare for prayer according to your custom.” Then he gives the prayer:

Dear God: We give thanks for all who are here with us tonight, and wish those away from us a safe and secure holiday season. May the light of joy in the season be with us throughout this year and next. Amen.

SONG: LIGHT THE NIGHT

Tune: Row, Row, Row Your Boat
Light, light, light the night,

Candles glowing bright.
Giving, sharing, always caring,
Cubs Scouts do what’s right.

ADVANCEMENT CEREMONY: CUB SCOUTS LIGHT THE WAY

Equipment: Log with candles for each rank. See *Cub Scout Ceremonies for Dens and Packs* for ideas.

Boys and their parents come forward to receive recognition. Cubmaster hands the award to parents. Cub Scout lights candle with help of assistant Cubmaster. Cubmaster speaks about each badge as it is presented.

CUBMASTER: The Bobcat badge is symbolized by this light, whose flame glows with the understanding of the Cub Scout Promise and the motto which unite us.

The Tiger Cub badge is symbolized by this light, which is significant because it is earned with the help of an adult partner.

The Wolf badge is symbolized by this light. Our candles glow brighter for this Scout who has grown in his understanding of his family and community.

The Bear badge, its light glowing even brighter, is presented to this Scout in recognition of his achievements at home with his family, in his community, his personal growth, and his citizenship skills.

The Webelos badge is symbolized by this light, which glows with the confidence this Scout has gained in completing his activity badges and understanding of Webelos.

The Arrow of Light Award is the brightest of all, for it glows with the full light of Cub Scouting.

GAMES

Fill Santa's Sack

Divide players into two or more teams. Place the teams at opposite ends of the room. Give each team a scarf of one color (red for one team, green for another, etc.), and a big garbage bag. On the floor in the center of the room, scatter equal numbers of inflated balloons in the teams' colors. On signal, each team runs in and fills their sack with as many balloons of their color as they can in the time allowed. Remind teams that popped balloons do not count.

Unwrap

Equipment: Mittens or thick gloves, bags, wrapped sticks of gum

Form den teams. Give each team a pair of mittens or heavy gloves and a bag containing one wrapped stick of gum for each player. On signal, the first player puts on the gloves, takes a stick of gum from the bag, unwraps it, and puts the gum into his mouth. He puts the wrapper into the bag and gives the mittens or gloves to the next player, who repeats the action. Continue until all have begun chewing. For dens of different sizes, some boys may need to go twice. The first team finished wins.

Christmas Puzzles

Collect old Christmas cards. Cut off card fronts and save. Using a black marker, draw several squiggly lines on the backside (not the picture side) of each card front. Cut card along these lines. Put pieces in a plastic bag. *Hint:* Use a separate bag for each puzzle.

CUBMASTER'S MINUTES

Lights of the Season

We all share a sense of wonder at the lights of the season—the light of peace and hope for the future—whatever our religious beliefs. As we shared our light with others this month, the light spread throughout our community. What a

wonderful example you Cub Scouts have set for everyone. Good night, and Happy New Year.

Holiday Lights

(Cubmaster comes forward with a single candle.) Cub Scouts and families, we look upon this candle and the light that it makes, and it doesn't look like much. Yet think what we have seen tonight: when we consider the light of Scouting, it looks like a lot. Cub Scouting is a way for families to work together, learn together, and have fun together. Cub Scouting is a plan for advancement for boys; they work together, learn together, and have fun together. The light of Cub Scouting is what we bring to our community. Cub Scouting brings Good Turns, food drives, clothing drives, and helping others. You may think that this light (*raises single candle*) isn't very bright, and it isn't very big. But it does represent much, much more. Thank you for all you do for our community, for our pack, and for our Cub Scouts. Good night.

CLOSING CEREMONY: THE NEW YEAR OF GOLD AND BLUE

Ask families to stand and sing together the "New Year of Gold and Blue."

New Year of Gold and Blue

Tune: Auld Lang Syne

Should all our Cub Scouts do their best,
From this year to the new,
We'll have a kind and thoughtful world,
With the help of gold and blue.

CLOSING CEREMONY: YEAR'S END

Materials: Candleholders for eight small candles, one large candle

Setup: Have one tall candle and a ceremony board with eight small candles. The Cubmaster lights all the candles, explaining that five of them represent Bobcat, Tiger Cub, Wolf, Bear, and Webelos ranks. Three candles represent *follows, helps, and gives*, the ideas of the Cub Scout Promise. The large candle is the Spirit of Cub Scouting.

CUBMASTER: Will all Bobcats and their parents please stand? Bobcats, do you promise to do your best and to advance one rank in the coming year? (*Boys reply that they will. The Cubmas-*

ter then extinguishes the Bobcat candle. Repeat for Tiger Cub, Wolf, Bear, and Webelos Scouts.)

CUBMASTER: Three small candles and the large one representing the Spirit of Cub Scouting are still burning. The small candles stand for *follows, helps, and gives*, the key words in the Law of the Pack. Let's repeat the Law of the Pack now. (*Lead Law of the Pack. Extinguish three small candles.*)

CUBMASTER: The Spirit of Cub Scouting still burns here. May it continue to burn brightly in your hearts during the coming year.

APPLAUSES AND CHEERS

Good Turn Applause. Each person pairs up with another person. Applaud using one hand of each person in the pair.

Rudolf Cheer. Use hands to make antlers on your head. Blink eyes, saying, "Blink, blink, blink."

Snow Globe Cheer. Pretend to pick up a good-sized snow globe. Shake it, look at it, and say, "Oooh, aah, pretty!"

Candle Cheer. Say, "Flicker, flicker, flicker."

RUNS-ON

CUB SCOUT 1: (*Enters, somersaulting.*)

CUB SCOUT 2: What are you doing?

CUB SCOUT 1: Good turns!

JOKES

Santa to Mrs. Claus: Why are you giving me an umbrella?

Mrs. Clause: *I hear rain, deer.*

What do you call an old snowman?
Water!

What does Santa do in his garden?
Hoe, Hoe, Hoe!

What do you have in December that's not in any other month?

The letter D.

Why is it always cold at Christmas?
Because it's in Decembrrrr!

What kind of candle burns longer, a red candle or a green candle?

Neither. Candles always burn shorter!

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

If appropriate to your pack membership, perform "The House Where Santa Claus Lives" (*Cub Scout Leader How-To Book*).

ACADEMICS AND SPORTS PROGRAM

Cub Scout Academics

Computers. Winter is a good time for indoor computer fun. Cub Scouts learn by working on the Computer belt loop and pin.

Cub Scout Sports

Ice Skating. Try outdoor winter fun and earn the Ice Skating belt loop as a den or pack activity.

Volleyball. Cub Scouts will enjoy learning the rules and special moves involved in the game of volleyball as an indoor action sport.

FAMILY ACTIVITY

In *Cub Scouting's BSA Family Activity Book* (No. 33012), in the chapter "Learning Duty to God," families are encouraged to explore activities through which Cub Scouts learn more about the teachings of their family's religious faith and beliefs. Observing a holiday of the family's faith and reading text from the appropriate scriptures or sacred writings are examples of the many ideas to help families understand and practice their faith together.

DID YOU KNOW?

Chartered Organization Representative

Each pack has a chartered organization—the support organization that signs your charter renewal and oversees leadership. Your chartered organization can provide opportunities for your pack to perform service projects that benefit the organization and give Scouts opportunities to understand their community. Your liaison to the chartered organization is the chartered organization representative. This person ensures a good relationship between the pack and the organization. When your annual charter is received, invite this person to a meaningful ceremony as you present that document to the representative.

GOOD TURN FOR AMERICA

Many opportunities are available to help families during the holiday season.

- December is the perfect month to contribute canned goods to the local food bank.
- Make holiday decorations for a local assisted-care facility. Bring the decorations to the facility and help to decorate for the holidays.
- Collect used books for a children's hospital or elderly care facility.



BSA RESOURCES HIGHLIGHT

Cub Scouting: The First 75 Years of Doing Our Best (No. 34473).

For more information about the history of Cub Scouting in America, read this book. Reviewing this book is a good way to prepare for the blue and gold banquet in February.



PACK LEADERS' PLANNING MEETING

Pack leaders meet one or two weeks before the December pack meeting to coordinate all elements of the December meeting and to outline den and pack activities for the January pack meeting.

Create a festive atmosphere featuring candles by asking families to share their holiday candle displays at the pack meeting. Check with your facility to confirm that lighting candles is allowed, or plan to use electric candles.

The refreshments committee will coordinate families sharing holiday cookies at the pack meeting. Be sure families label cookie ingredients that might cause allergic reactions, such as peanuts and chocolate.

The program committee plans the pack Good Turn for America project. Share details with all leaders and families for a great event. Be sure to have pictures and an article to send to your local newspaper.

The pack trainer leads Unit Leadership Enhancement No. 5, Family Involvement (*Cub Scout Leader Book*). You may choose another topic that reflects your pack's current needs. Select a topic for next month. Encourage pack leaders to read and think about the topic before the next meeting.

Next month's theme is "A-MAZE-ing Games." Plan ahead for a pack meeting that appeals to all ages and involves families in the games you choose.

LOOKING AHEAD

As Webelos Scouts begin their transition to Boy Scouts, be sure to plan ahead for a meaningful graduation. It is important to include your local troop.

The blue and gold banquet is two months away. Planning should be under way and the committee in place. Confirm the location for the event.

PACK TRAINER HIGHLIGHTS

With many BSA trainings available online, this is a good time for leaders to catch up on those trainings they have missed. Help leaders learn how to access your council Web site or www.scouting.org to learn more. Encourage all leaders to attend the district Cub Scouting roundtable to see the next month's program in action, receive information about district and council activities, and simply have plenty of fun!

OUTDOOR IDEAS FOR EVERYONE

Tiger Cubs. Build a snowman in the shape of a tiger, or take a walk to see outdoor holiday decorations.

Wolf Cub Scouts. What do animals eat in the winter? Find out by taking a neighborhood hike, or take a bird-watching hike and see winter birds. Are they the same as summer birds? Where did the summer birds go?

Bear Cub Scouts. Take a winter hike and look for animal tracks in the snow, or hike to see where pine trees grow.

Webelos Scouts. Learn to build an igloo, or schedule a trip to gaze at the night sky in winter.

Holiday Lights: Tiger Cub Den Meetings

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

WHEN	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 the equipment needed.				
BEFORE THE MEETING STARTS	Have U.S. flag; gather materials for Coffee Filter Snowflakes (6 DEC) and Craft Stick Lanterns (6 DEC).	Have U.S. flag; gather materials for homemade greeting cards and Holiday Candle Cups (6 DEC). Bring directions for next week's Go See It.	Call the Go See It destination to confirm arrangements, times, fees, etc.	Host team writes a thank-you note to the destination of last week's Go See It.
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	Tiger Cubs make as many Coffee Filter Snowflakes as possible.	Let the Tiger Cubs make homemade greeting cards from construction paper. Collect the cards to share at next week's Go See It.	Take an evening hike around your community to view the holiday lights (<i>Achievement 5G</i>). This hike could be combined with one of these other two suggestions: Take a Go See It to visit a retirement center. Be sure to take some homemade greeting cards and decorations to share (<i>Elective 12</i>). OR Take a Go See It to visit an elderly person and help him or her decorate for the holidays (<i>Elective 10</i>). At the end of the trip, lead a reflecting discussion with boys and adult partners about their outing.	Participate in the monthly pack meeting by conducting the Holiday Candle closing and share information about the den's Go See It. Tiger Cubs and adult partners sign the thank-you note.
OPENING	Say the Pledge of Allegiance. Ask boys to choose a holiday song to sing.	Say the Pledge of Allegiance and then recite the Cub Scout Promise.		
SHARE	Have each Tiger Cub share how he is unique. Point out that no two snowflakes are alike, and neither are any two people.	Have each Tiger Cub share how his family celebrates the holidays (<i>Elective 1</i>). Let them share their pictures.		
DISCOVER	Make Craft Stick Lanterns. Review the Food Guide Pyramid (<i>Achievement 3D</i>) in preparation for the many holiday foods served at this time of year.	Make Holiday Candle Cups (6 DEC). Play Dizzy (<i>Cub Scout Leader How-To Book</i>) and other physical fitness activities (chapter 3).		
SEARCH	Have each Tiger Cub bring a picture of his family at the holidays to share next week.	Hand out information about next week's Go See It.		
CLOSING	Talk about how holiday lights are important in each faith. Talk about why faith is important and how it relates to a Scout's duty to God.	Practice the Holiday Candle closing for the pack meeting.		
This week'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 Tiger Cub Den Advancement Report for the pack leaders' meeting.	Den leader mails thank-you note.
ADULT PARTNER RECORDS ADVANCEMENT ACTIVITIES DONE DURING THE DEN MEETING IN THE TIGER CUB'S HANDBOOK.				

Tiger Cub Den Activities

Advancement possibilities highlighted in this month's meeting plans: Achievements 3D, 5G; Electives 1, 2, 10, 12.

Be sure to take the time this month to share in the wonder of holiday lights with your Tiger Cub. Let him help decorate the home with lights (*Achievement 1F*). Use this time of year as an opportunity to talk about your family's faith and to visit with a religious leader (*Elective 8*). Together, think of ways your family can help other people (*Electives 10 and 11*). Boys can share their holiday with others by creating cards to distribute on the Go See It this month; fold construction paper or cardstock in half, draw pictures on the cover, and write greetings inside.

HOLIDAY CANDLE CUPS

(Elective 2)

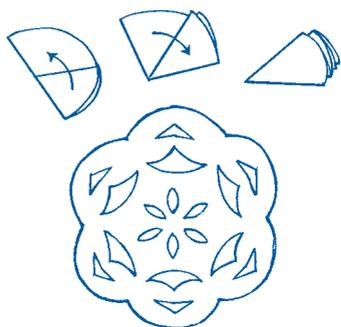
Materials: Small glass candleholder or glass baby food jar, colored tissue paper, warm water, white school glue, foam brushes, small votive candle or tea light

Tear tissue paper into small pieces. Make a decoupage solution by combining equal parts of warm water and white glue to create a milky paste. Brush the surface of the glass with the decoupage solution. Apply pieces of tissue paper onto the glass, being sure to overlap the edges of the pieces. Continue around the entire candleholder until it is completely covered. Once it is covered, brush on a final coat of decoupage solution to seal down the edges of the tissue paper.

Use tissue paper colors that reflect the Tiger Cub family holiday celebration: For Christmas, use red and green tissue paper. For Hanukkah, use blue and white paper. For Kwanzaa, use black, red, and green.

COFFEE FILTER SNOWFLAKES

(Elective 2)



Materials: Coffee filters, scissors

Fold a coffee filter in half. Fold the half circle into thirds to form a pie-wedge shape. Cut shapes into the edges of the filter. Be careful not to cut all the way through to the opposite side of the filter. Open the filter to see your unique snowflake.

TABLE PROTECTOR

(Elective 2)

Materials: Clear self-adhesive paper, red and green construction paper, scissors, pen, bowl or plate to trace around, pennies to trace around, holly leaf pattern, green marker or crayon

Use pennies to trace three or four circles in red construction paper. Cut out the circles. Use holly leaf pattern to trace eight to 10 leaves in green construction paper. Cut out the leaves. Use green marker or crayon to add a center spine to the leaves. Peel the backing off a piece of adhesive paper; place the paper sticky side up on the table. Arrange holly leaves from the center outward; press them onto the adhesive. Place the red circles (holly berries) at the center of the design. Peel the backing off another piece of contact paper and stick it onto the paper with the holly leaves (the two sticky sides should be facing each other). Use a bowl or plate to trace a circle on the back of the contact paper "sandwich." Cut out the circle. Use under candles to protect tables from dripping wax, or make smaller circles to use as holiday coasters.

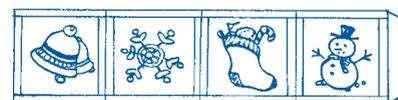
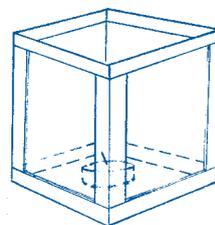
Extra idea: Instead of construction paper, use silk or dried, pressed leaves to create the design.

CRAFT STICK LANTERNS

(Elective 2)

Materials: Craft sticks, wax paper, craft glue, tea light or small votive candle in a holder, vellum stickers in holiday designs (found in the scrapbooking section of most craft stores), scissors, ruler

Each Tiger Cub needs a piece of wax paper that is 6 inches by 24 inches. Starting in one corner of the paper, glue four craft sticks onto the wax paper to form a box. Repeat to make three more boxes. Each box should be as close as



possible to the previous box. Decorate each pane with a sticker or two. Vellum stickers will allow the light to shine through. Trim the wax paper along the top and bottom. On the side, leave a half-inch of paper to form a flap to glue. Fold the wax paper into a box, and glue the flap to secure the shape. Place a tea light or small votive candle inside.

Extra idea: Instead of stickers, you can use glitter glue (glue with glitter already mixed in) to draw designs in each pane.

CLOSING CEREMONY: HOLIDAY CANDLE

Extinguish the room lights and have each Tiger Cub and his adult partner hold a single candle.

DEN LEADER: This is the season of lights. It is the time when the days are shorter and the nights are long. But somehow the world seems brighter. Thousands of homes have candles to light the way for the Christ Child. Other thousands have candles burning to commemorate the miracle of the oils of Hanukkah. Thousands more will be lighting the candles to celebrate the seven principles of Kwanzaa. Even the stars in the winter sky seem brighter. The most brilliant glow comes from the spirit of goodwill that you live all year-round in the Cub Scout Promise and the Law of the Pack.

Holiday Lights: Wolf Den Meetings

Dens may meet after school, in the evening, or on weekends.
Review theme pages before planning den meetings.

WHEN	FIRST WEEK	SECOND WEEK	THIRD WEEK	FOURTH WEEK
Den leader, den chief, and denner review plans before each meeting and check equipment needed.				
BEFORE THE MEETING STARTS	Have materials for Reindeer Names Unscramble, Ring the Reindeer Relay, and Rudolph Sandwiches (8 DEC).	Have materials for Icicle Hunt game and supplies for Holiday Smells From Far Away cards (8 DEC). Have supplies for holiday treats of your choosing.	Call the destination of your outing to confirm arrangements, times, fees, etc.	Denner writes thank-you to last week's destination. Have flashlight for The Star closing, supplies for Edible Snowmen, and cardboard boxes for Indoor Sled Race (8 DEC).
Den leader collects dues.				
WHILE CUB SCOUTS GATHER	Play Reindeer Names Unscramble (8 DEC).	Collect permission slips. Den chief leads Icicle Hunt (8 DEC).	Collect permission slips.	Boys sign thank-you note or card. Den chief helps boys make Edible Snowmen.
OPENING	Sing "Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer."	Denner leads the den in the Pledge of Allegiance (<i>Achievement 2a</i>). Boys answer roll by saying one of their favorite things about the holidays. (Avoid "presents" as an answer.)		Denner leads the den in the Cub Scout Promise.
Den leader checks boys' handbooks for completed achievements and electives and records them on Den Advancement Chart. Boys record own advancement on den doodle, if den has one.				
BUSINESS ITEMS	Discuss Holiday Lights theme and discuss plans for holiday pack party.	Practice the den's contribution for the pack meeting.	Visit a local retirement center and sing holiday songs for the residents. OR Visit a local display of outdoor lights. At the end of the trip, lead a reflecting discussion with boys about their outing.	Check den's preparations for holiday pack party.
ACTIVITY	Play Ring the Reindeer Relay (8 DEC). Make Rudolph Sandwiches (8 DEC).	Make Holiday Smells From Far Away cards (8 DEC). Review the Food Pyramid (<i>Achievement 8a</i>). Prepare holiday treats in the den.		Boys share their holiday traditions and tell what they feel is a duty to God. Play Indoor Sled Race (8 DEC). Enjoy Edible Snowmen made earlier.
CLOSING	Form a Living Circle. Observe a moment of reverence for the many celebrations of the month. Send home permission slips for outing on THIRD WEEK.	Divide den into three groups and sing "Holiday Greetings" (8 DEC) as a round.		Den leader recites The Star closing ceremony (8 DEC).
Denner supervises putting away equipment. Den leader, den chief, and denner review the meeting and check details for the next meeting.				
AFTER THE MEETING	Den leader files local tour permit with council service center for outing planned for THIRD WEEK.		Den leader fills out Den Advancement Report for the pack leaders' meeting.	Den leader mails thank-you note.
ENCOURAGE FAMILIES TO RECORD ADVANCEMENT ACTIVITIES DONE DURING THE DEN MEETINGS IN THE CUB SCOUT'S HANDBOOK.				

Wolf Den Activities

Advancement possibilities highlighted in this month's meeting plans: Achievements 2a, 8a.

The season of lights is the season to share the many beliefs of the world. Encourage boys to share their family's beliefs related to duty to God with each other in the den meeting, and then share again at home with family members. This month the den will share fun parts of different holiday traditions from different religions.

Encourage Cub Scout families to work on additional achievements and electives that support this theme, such as:

- *Elective 9, Let's Have a Party:* Cub Scouts may help with a party at home or in the den.
- *Elective 13, Birds:* Decorate an outdoor tree with food for birds.
- *Elective 17, Tie It Right:* Boys can practice their gift-wrapping skills.

REINDEER NAMES UNSCRAMBLE

Unscramble Santa's reindeer names:

ZNETILB	PDIUC
XINVE	HSREAD
MOTEC	CANDRE
DULOHPR	DDNORE
CRNEARP	

Answers:

Blitzen, Cupid, Vixen, Dasher, Comet, Dancer, Rudolph, Donner, Prancer

GAMES

Ring the Reindeer Relay

Divide players into teams. Choose one player from each team to be the Reindeer. He sits on the floor, his back to the team, and holds his arms straight up. (These are his "antlers.") Remaining team members line up about 4 feet behind the "Reindeer." Give each player two paper-plate rings. On signal, each player in turn tosses his rings onto the Reindeer's antlers. The team with the most rings on the antlers is the winner.

Icicle Hunt

Cut pieces of colored yarn or string into different lengths. Hide the "icicles" (yarn) around the room and have the Cub Scouts search for them. The winner is the one whose strings form the longest icicle when laid end to end, not the Cub Scout who collects the most.

Indoor Sled Race

Use large cardboard boxes to create "sleds." Divide the boys into teams and have a relay race. Each team member takes a turn as a rider in the sled. The other team members must push or pull the person in the sled to a line marked

across the room and back to the start. Another team member gets into the sled, and the team does the same thing. Keep playing until one team has pushed all its members across the room and back to the start line.

HOLIDAY SMELLS FROM FAR AWAY CARDS

Materials: Stamps, construction paper, medium-grade sandpaper, holiday cookie cutter, pencil, scissors, ground cinnamon, glue, markers, envelope

Fold a piece of construction paper in half to form a card. Trace cookie cutter onto sandpaper and cut out shape. Sprinkle cinnamon on the sandpaper, and rub in with your finger. Shake off the excess spice. Glue the cookie shape onto the front of the card. Write your holiday message inside and mail to someone special.

KWANZAA LIGHT

Materials: One tissue paper roll per boy; black, red, and green construction paper; orange or yellow tissue paper; glue; scissors

Cover cardboard tube with glue; then cover with any one of the colors of construction paper. Cut a 10-inch square of tissue paper and place candy, nuts, or a small prize in the middle of the square. Gather the tissue up around the prize and push it into the tube so that the ends of the tissue paper are sticking out. The tissue paper is the candle flame.

SONG: HOLIDAY GREETINGS

Tune: Frère Jacques Christmas greetings, Kwanzaa greetings, Hanukkah—it's that time.
Holidays are super,
Presents super-duper;
Candles glow, candles glow.

CLOSING CEREMONY: THE STAR

This ceremony is done with all lights turned off. Have a bright flashlight, and on the flashlight lens have a disk of dark paper with a star cut out of the center of the disk. Shine the light on a white surface and it will make the star shape.

DEN LEADER: As we look upon the star tonight, let us each renew in our hearts this wish: "... and on Earth, peace, goodwill to men."

SNACKS

Rudolph Sandwiches

Cut a peanut butter and jelly sandwich crossways into a triangle. Decorate it as a reindeer, using two raisins for eyes, five or six raisins for the mouth, broken pretzel bits for antlers, and a bright half-cherry for the nose. Now you have Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer, ready to eat.

As with all treats offered during a Cub Scouting activity, be aware of any potential food allergies any boys might have.

Edible Snowmen

Ingredients: Large marshmallows, licorice strip, pretzels, raisins, candy corn; toothpick

Stack marshmallows on a toothpick. Add a licorice strip for a scarf. Insert pretzels for arms, raisins for buttons, and candy corn for nose. Make and then eat!

Holiday Lights: Bear Den Meetings

Dens may meet after school, in the evening, or on weekends.
Review theme pages before planning den meetings.

WHEN	FIRST WEEK	SECOND WEEK	THIRD WEEK	FOURTH WEEK
Den leader, den chief, and denner review plans before each meeting and check equipment needed.				
BEFORE THE MEETING STARTS	Have materials for Christmas Light Bulb Slide and Candy Cane Candles (10 DEC), and balls for Lights in the Sky (10 DEC).	This meeting is held in a place where the boys can participate in cookie making. Have supplies for baking cookies and for Candle Lighting Relay (10 DEC).	Call the destination of your outing to confirm arrangements, times, fees, etc.	Denner writes thank-you to last week's destination. Have supplies for Put Out the Light (10 DEC).
Den leader collects dues.				
WHILE CUB SCOUTS GATHER	Where weather permits, start the meeting outside to play Lights in the Sky (10 DEC).	Collect permission slips. Play Candle Lighting Relay (10 DEC).	Collect permission slips. Review field trip rules, which may be different from the usual because this is an outdoor trip and likely to be held in the evening.	Boys sign thank-you note or card. Play Put Out the Light (10 DEC).
OPENING	Welcome any new den members. Denner leads the boys in the Cub Scout Promise.	Form a semicircle around the flag. Say the Pledge of Allegiance.		Denner leads the Law of the Pack. Follow with a flag ceremony (<i>Achievement 3f</i>) by any boy who has not yet led the ceremony.
Den leader checks boys' handbooks for completed achievements and electives and records them on Den Advancement Chart. Boys record own advancement on den doodle, if den has one.				
BUSINESS ITEMS	Explain the Holiday Lights theme. Share information about a tradition in another country (10 DEC).	Share information about the tradition of Hanukkah and the festival of lights.	Attend a local festival of lights or festival of trees	Share information you have researched about India's tradition of Diwali, which means rows and rows of lights.
ACTIVITY	Make Candy Cane Candles (<i>Elective 9</i>) for display at this month's pack meeting. Cub Scouts can take the candles to a retirement center or give them to their family as a gift.	Have the boys bake and decorate seasonal cookies for the upcoming pack meeting (<i>Achievement 9a</i>). While the cookies are baking, discuss Junk Foods (<i>Achievement 9d</i>).	OR Visit a Christmas tree farm OR	Play an organized game with the den (<i>Achievement 15b</i>). Practice the holiday song the Cub Scouts will sing at the pack meeting.
CLOSING	Practice a song to sing at the pack meeting. Announce the location of next week's cookie-baking meeting. Send home permission slips for outing on THIRD WEEK.	Cub Scouts form a Living Circle and do the grand howl in honor of the assistant den leader.	Attend an outside holiday celebration. At the end of the trip, lead a reflecting discussion with boys about their outing.	As this is the end-of-the-year meeting, close with each boy expressing something he has enjoyed about Cub Scouts since the beginning of the school year.
Denner supervises putting away equipment. Den leader, den chief, and denner review the meeting and check details for the next meeting.				
AFTER THE MEETING	Den leader files local tour permit with council service center for outing planned for THIRD WEEK.		Den leader fills out Den Advancement Report for the pack leaders' meeting.	Den leader mails thank-you note.
ENCOURAGE FAMILIES TO RECORD ADVANCEMENT ACTIVITIES DONE DURING THE DEN MEETINGS IN THE CUB SCOUT'S HANDBOOK.				

Bear Den Activities

Advancement possibilities highlighted in this month's meeting plans: Achievements 3f, 9a, 9d, 15b; Elective 9.

Light up your Cub Scout meetings with lessons on holiday lights in other countries and our own country. Many books are available from the library, and information can be found online. Candy Cane Candles made in the den meeting will make welcome gifts; each Cub Scout can say "I made it all by myself!" when a family member opens the box. It will be a keepsake for many years to come.

Encourage Cub Scout families to work on additional achievements and electives that support this theme, such as:

- *Achievement 2*, Emblems of Faith: Have your Cub Scout work on the religious emblem of his faith.
- *Achievement 9c*, What's Cooking? With school vacations, this is a good time for boys to help with preparing and serving meals at home.
- *Elective 11*, Photography: Encourage your Cub Scout to capture the holidays by taking photographs of the lights and people around him.

BAKING COOKIES

(*Achievement 9a*)

Materials: Premade cookie dough, icing of different colors, cookie cutters of different holiday shapes, sprinkles and other fun items to put on cookies

Use the recipe in the *Bear Handbook* or your favorite recipe. Have the Cub Scouts help make and bake the cookies. Decorate with icing and sprinkles.

CANDY CANE CANDLES

(*Elective 9*)

This is an easy project that is quick to make. It will last for a while, but make sure no one eats the candy canes on the candle.

Materials: One small, round candle per Scout; candy canes the same height as the candle; white craft glue; red or green ribbon

Glue candy canes all around the candle. Tie a ribbon around the candle, and finish with a bow.

CHRISTMAS LIGHT BULB SLIDE

Materials: Large buttons or cutouts shaped like holiday lights, ½-inch PVC pipe, glue

Glue the light-shaped button to the PVC pipe for an easy neckerchief slide.

Holiday buttons and trinkets are found in many shapes this time of year. Add a length of PVC pipe, and *voilà!* Instant neckerchief slide.

GAMES

Lights in the Sky

(*Achievement 15b*)

Materials: Three or four soft, mid-sized balls, preferably of different colors
Have players stand in a close circle.

Toss one ball across the circle, from player to player, until each person has caught and thrown the ball once. After your pattern of tossing and catching is established, repeat several times until each player knows to whom he tosses the ball and who will be tossing to him. To help everyone remember the pattern, you might have players call out names as they throw.

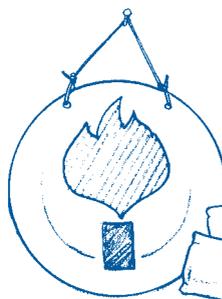
Once everyone is comfortable with the sequence, add another ball to the circle, following the same pattern. Then try adding a third and a fourth ball. You will find that the visual effect is striking. Because the four balls are being tossed and caught almost constantly, it will look like your group has achieved a huge, complicated, juggling maneuver.

Note: For added nighttime "holiday lights" fun, play with illuminated or glow-in-the-dark balls.

Put Out the Light

Materials: Paper plate, construction paper, yellow tissue paper, small beanbags, string

Create the target by cutting a flame shape in a paper plate. A 2-inch strip of construction paper makes the base of the candle. Lightly tape yellow tissue paper to the back of the paper plate over the flame-shaped opening. Hang the target.



Cut out flame shape.
Tape yellow tissue paper to the back.

To play, boys throw a small beanbag at the "flame." If the beanbag breaks the tissue-paper flame and goes through (putting out the light), the player gets a point.

Candle Lighting Relay

Materials: Empty tissue paper rolls, wads of yellow paper

Preparation: Line up empty tissue rolls on opposite side of room from starting line, one roll per boy.

Form the boys into teams. The first boy in each team takes his "light" (wad of yellow paper), runs to a "candle" (tissue roll), and inserts the wadded paper into the top of the roll. He then runs back and tags the next boy, who repeats the action. The winner is the first team with all their candles lit and with all team members returned to the starting line.

Tradition: Hanukkah

Hanukkah, also known as the Festival of Lights or Festival of Rededication, is an eight-day Jewish holiday that starts on the 25th day of Kislev (the third month of the Jewish calendar), which may be in December, late November, or (rarely) early January. Candles are lit during the Hanukkah celebration: one the first night, two the second, and so on until a special eight-branched candelabrum is completely filled.

Tradition: Switzerland

Holiday Lights

In Switzerland, bell ringing is a tradition to call people to their religious ceremonies and services. At the conclusion, hot chocolate is a favored treat.