

Warm weather is a perfect time for outdoor adventure, complete with den hikes in the neighborhood, in a park, or on local trails. As we enjoy our outdoor world, we should strive to take nothing but pictures and leave nothing but footprints. Learn about Leave No Trace frontcountry guidelines and ways we can minimize our impact on the environment. Take a backyard hike and practice the Leave No Trace frontcountry guidelines. Have a contest to see who can take the best wildlife photograph. Earn the Cub Scout Leave No Trace Awareness Award. Do your Good Turn and leave these areas cleaner than you found them. Remember to record your service with Good Turn for America at www.goodturnforamerica.org. The end of the month has all dens moving up the Cub Scout trail. You might want to consider working on the Wildlife Conservation belt loop and pin this month.

PACK PLANNING

If the weather has warmed up, plan an outdoor pack meeting in a local park, along a local trail, or in some other outdoor meeting place. Before the meeting, inspect the area to see whether the location is large enough for your group and safe for all. Make reservations if necessary, and have a “plan B” location secured. Send invitations to Cub Scout families with maps to the location if needed. Arrange transportation for families who may not be able to get to the location on their own. Invite a photographer to display nature photos and teach everyone tricks for snapping great photos. Appoint the following committees:

Location/Site Committee. Secure and inspect the outdoor location. Reserve a “plan B” location in case of inclement weather.

Publicity Committee. Create and distribute invitations with maps, if needed.

Welcoming Committee. Welcome families as they arrive. Create name tags in the shapes of leaves or flowers and distribute. Gather needed materials for the gathering activity, and lead the activity.

Advancement Committee. Help the Cubmaster with advancement ceremonies by creating props and acquiring awards.

Cleanup Committee. Encourage all Cub Scouts, leaders, and families to leave the meeting place better than they found it. Provide garbage bags, gloves, and anything needed to clean up.

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

- **Friendly service.** Cub Scouts practice doing a Good Turn in the outdoors with conservation projects and keeping their world clean.
- **Character development.** Adventures in the outdoors help Cub Scouts learn to be good stewards of the world.

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

- **Responsibility.** Knowledge of nature and their place in it will help Cub Scouts be responsible for keeping the outdoors clean and unspoiled.
- **Compassion.** What would happen if the outdoors were spoiled? What would happen to the animals, the birds, the rivers, the trees, to us? Answering these questions will help Cub Scouts learn empathy and compassion for life around them.

MEMBERSHIP MOMENT

Every month is a good month for recruiting new pack members. May is the perfect time to focus on kindergarteners and new Tiger Cub families. Use your May pack meeting as an opportunity to invite prospective families. Be sure to have special name tags to identify guests so that everyone can recognize them and extend a special effort to make them feel welcome. As your spring recruiting brings in new members, be sure there are engaging activities available for them all summer long.

Pack Meeting

BEFORE THE MEETING

Inspect the meeting area to make sure it is large enough for your group and safe for all. Designate areas for gathering activities, games, and seating. Ensure signage is available to lead families to the meeting place.

GATHERING

The welcoming committee greets pack members as they arrive and gives each person a name tag. Show where the activities begin and share information related to food preparation. Make

Kim's Game available for Cub Scouts and families (2 MAY).

MAIN PART OF THE MEETING

Opening

Cub Scouts and a color guard present The Great Outdoors opening ceremony (2 MAY).

Prayer

Before the meeting, ask a Cub Scout to present the Help Us prayer (3 MAY). Or have a moment of silence so that all participants can reflect and pray as they choose.

Icebreaker

Get everyone warmed up and ready to join in the fun with songs from the *Cub Scout Songbook*. Choose songs that all can participate in such as “Row, Row, Row Your Boat” or “Farmer in the Dell.”

Welcome and Introductions

The Cubmaster gives a brief welcome and introduces new families and special guests, such as a local photographer. The Cubmaster may remind everyone to treat the outdoor meeting area with respect, and give any safety guidelines.

Song

Make your voices ring with the birds as you sing “A-Hiking We Did Go” or “See the Forest” (3 MAY).

Den Demonstrations

Dens can display photos of activities and report on outdoor fun of their den meetings and hikes.

Game

Get Cub Scouts, leaders, moms, dads, sisters, brothers, and even Aunt Edna up to join in the fun of Animal Tag (2 MAY).

Recognition

Show off the boys’ achievements with the Hiking or Take Nothing but Photos advancement ceremony (3 MAY). Or choose a different ceremony from *Cub Scout Ceremonies for Dens and Packs*.

Announcements

The Cubmaster enters, weighed down by a heavy backpack. He pulls some silly things out of it, then opens it and displays a big note that reads: “A-Camping We Will Go!” He invites everyone to get ready for the fun of June’s outdoor activities. Mention plans for upcoming day camps, resident camps, and family camps or pack overnights, perhaps pulling notes from the backpack as

reminders of each event. A brief overview of activities planned to earn the National Summertime Pack Award is helpful. If you have a lot of information to share, hit the highlights and give each family a handout with more details.

Cubmaster’s Minute

Invite everyone to look at the beauty of the world around them as you share The Hills or Givers and Takers (3 MAY).

Closing

The Cubmaster and five Cub Scouts present The Mountain Peak closing ceremony (3 MAY). An alternate closing ceremony may be chosen from *Cub Scout Ceremonies for Dens and Packs*.

Cubmaster Corner

SUMMERTIME ACTIVITIES

Now is the time to verify plans for summertime activities. Remind families of dates of upcoming day camps, resident camps, and family camps. Let families know of your pack plans so they can schedule accordingly. Promote local activities such as parades, historical events, and county and state fairs that dens and families can participate in. Encourage all Cub Scouts to earn the National Summertime Pack Award pin by attending one event each month. The den ribbon is earned by having at least 50 percent of the den members attending each monthly event.

Ceremonies, Games, Songs, Stunts

GAMES

Pass and Touch

Equipment: Nature objects such as leaf, stone, twig, shell, corn, etc.; pencil and paper (optional)

Divide players into groups of six to eight. Form a circle with hands in back. The game leader gives a nature object to one player. The player tries to identify the object by feel, but he does not reveal his answer. The object is then passed from hand to hand around the circle, giving each player a chance to identify it. Once the object has passed all the way around the circle, the game leader chooses one player to name the object. If the person is incorrect, the leader chooses another player to guess. After several items have been passed, see who can repeat or write down the most items correctly.

Kim’s Game

Kim’s Game is a popular observation and memory game. For instructions and three variations, see the *Cub Scout Leader How-To Book*. For a gathering activity,

have several stations set up for boys and families to test their powers of observation. One station could have nature objects to identify by sight or touch. Another station could have Cub Scout gear (hats, patches, handbooks, etc.). Another station could spotlight the “Footprints” theme with a variety of shoes, socks, and pictures of animal tracks. Participants rotate through each station.

Animal Tag

Have the players in a scattered formation. Select an “It.” “It” names an animal, and all the players assume the identity of the animal as they move around. “It” also assumes the identity and tries to tag one of the animals, who becomes “It.” Example: “It” calls “Kangaroo!” and everyone must hop like kangaroos until a tag is made.

Feather Frenzy

Equipment: Craft feathers and paper plates

Divide players into two teams with about six or eight each. Mark a starting

line and a turning line about 20 feet away. Give each team a feather and a paper plate.

On signal, the first person in each team starts fanning the feather toward the turning line, reversing direction upon arrival and returning to the start. Then the next one in line repeats the action, fanning the feather with the paper plate, until everyone has raced. No one can touch the feather at any time.

OPENING CEREMONY: THE GREAT OUTDOORS

CUB SCOUT 1: What’s that up in the sky? A plane? A cloud? An eagle?

CUB SCOUT 2: I’ve seen lots of bugs but never one like this. Have you?

CUB SCOUT 3: That’s a cool bird up in that tree. I wish I knew what kind it is.

CUB SCOUT 4: I wonder if we could take a hike or have a picnic out here.

CUB SCOUT 5: Let’s go ask our den leader or our parents. I’m sure they’ll let us.

CUB SCOUT 6: Boy, Scouting has really opened my eyes to all the fun I can have in the great outdoors!

ALL: Please stand and join us as we salute the flag of the United States. (*Color guard presents and posts flag.*)

PRAYER: HELP US

Thank you, God, for the world we live in. Help us to always see its beauty. Help us to be good caretakers of your creations. Help us to always do our best.

SONG: A-HIKING WE DID GO

Tune: Old MacDonald
Our leaders took us on a hike,
A-hiking we did go.
And on this hike we saw an owl,
A-hiking we did go.
With a “hoo-hoo” here
And a “hoo-hoo” there;
Here a “hoo,” there a “hoo,”
Everywhere a “hoo-hoo”—
Our leaders took us on a hike,
A-hiking we did go.
Cougar—“roar-roar”
Hawk—“kree-eee”
Fox—“yip-yip”
Snake—“sssss-sssss”
Our leaders took us on a hike,
A-hiking we did go.
And on this hike the trail did end,
So we all went home.

SONG: SEE THE FOREST

Tune: Frère Jacques *Sing as a round. Or for something different, sing through once together. Then divide the group in half. Let one half sing the first verse while the other half sings the second verse simultaneously.*

See the forest, see the forest
Trees so tall, trees so tall.
Tow’ring overhead,
Tow’ring overhead.
I seem small. I seem small.
See the river, see the river
Rushing on, rushing on.
Rumbling and a-tumbling,
Rumbling and a-tumbling.
Here, then gone. Here, then gone.

ADVANCEMENT CEREMONY: TAKE NOTHING BUT PHOTOS

We are often reminded to take nothing but photos and leave nothing but footprints in the great outdoors. This month, ask den leaders to take photos of the boys as they participate in hikes and outdoor den activities. Enlarge the photos and hang them on the wall or on

a large piece of poster board. Near each photo, place a cutout of a camera along with a plastic film canister. Place awards in the film canisters. To present awards, the Cubmaster becomes the roving “wildlife” photographer and aims his camera at the person to be honored. He snaps the boy’s photo and invites the boy to come forward with his family. Ask the boys to tell something about what is pictured in the photo. Remove awards from the film canister and give to parents to present to each boy. Snap more photos of the honorees. If you are using a digital camera, have a printer available so the photos can be printed out and given to the families at the end of the meeting.

ADVANCEMENT CEREMONY: HIKING

On a large sheet of butcher paper, draw a Scouting trail. Mark the trail with a sign for Bobcats, then move down the trail with a sign for Tiger Cubs, then further on for Wolf, Bear, and Webelos Scouts. Add animal tracks for Bobcats, Tiger Cubs, then Wolf and Bear Cub Scouts as you wind down the trail. Webelos tracks can be large W’s or copies of the Webelos badge. Decorate your trail with sketches of trees, bushes, and rocks. Add photos of boys from this month’s den outdoor activities, if desired. Attach awards to cutouts of boots or large paper footprints, and place the cutouts at the appropriate places on the trail. You can add statements to the cutouts such as:

“You put your best foot forward to earn your _____”;

“We’d walk a mile to shout out how proud we are that you’ve earned your _____”;

“You’ve made great strides in Scouting. Congratulations on earning your _____.”

CUBMASTER’S MINUTE: THE HILLS

The hills ahead look hard and steep and high.

Often we behold them with a sigh.

But as we near them, level grows the road.

We find on every slope, with every load,

The climb is not so steep, the top so far;

The hills ahead look harder than they are.

And so it is with troubles, though they may seem great

That men complain and fear and hesitate,
Less difficult the journey than we dreamed.

It never proves as hard as once it seemed.

There never comes a hill, a task, a day,

But as we near it, easier grows the way.

CUBMASTER’S MINUTE: GIVERS AND TAKERS

One of America’s greatest conservationists, Aldo Leopold, said in his book *A Sand County Almanac*: “The Lord giveth and the Lord taketh away, but He is no longer the only one to do so. When some remote ancestor of ours invented the shovel, he became a giver. He could plant a tree. And when the axe was invented, he became a taker; he could chop it down.” Thus each of us possesses the power to create or to destroy. Let’s use this power wisely for the good of our country and all humankind.

CLOSING CEREMONY: THE MOUNTAIN PEAK

CUB SCOUT 1: When we go hiking, the trail may lead us to the top of the mountain, the mountain peak.

CUB SCOUT 2: On the mountain peak, we can see other mountains, the big sky, and towns and cities in the distance.

CUB SCOUT 3: We can see things a little differently from the mountain peak.

CUB SCOUT 4: A Navajo Indian legend says we are better able to understand the sky, sun, and moon from a mountain peak.

CUB SCOUT 5: It takes a great effort to get to the mountain peak, but we also get a great reward.

CUBMASTER: We have done much this month, climbing to our own mountain peaks. Let’s remember these great accomplishments and look at the world a little differently. Good night and good hiking!

APPLAUSES

Mosquito Applause. With one hand, slap yourself on the neck, arms, and legs while saying “Ooo, aah, aah!”

Bear Applause. Growl like a bear, turning a half-turn each time. Make four growls and two complete turns.

CHEER

Cubmaster asks the audience: Is it a four?
Response: No!
Is it a three?
No!
Is it a two?
No!
Is it a one?
Yes! It's One-derful!

TEASER PUZZLE

As I was walking through the forest to the ranger station, I met a ranger with seven assistant rangers. The assistant rangers had seven bags, and in the bags were seven leaves, and the leaves had acorns attached to them. How many things were going to the ranger station?

Answer: Just one thing—me. I met the ranger on the way, I did not pass him.

May Pack Program Page: Leave Nothing but Footprints

ACADEMICS AND SPORTS PROGRAM

Cub Scout Academics

Wildlife Conservation. Boys can earn the Wildlife Conservation belt loop and pin as they learn how to protect wildlife and conserve natural resources.

Cub Scout Sports

Baseball. It's time to get the boys outdoors. There's no better way than to help them earn the Baseball belt loop and pin by playing that all-American pastime.

FAMILY ACTIVITY

Learning Duty to God. The focus of this month's theme is nature and the wonders around us. This section of *Cub Scouting's BSA Family Activity Book* encourages many ways to explore a family's emphasis on duty to God. To fulfill this requirement, Cub Scouts may make a poster of the things God created.

Encourage all families to participate and earn the BSA Family Award. Complete descriptions of the requirements are found in *Cub Scouting's BSA Family Activity Book*.

DID YOU KNOW?

World Conservation Award

Each program level (Wolf, Bear, Webelos) has its own specific requirements to earn the World Conservation Award. (Tiger Cubs are not eligible.) Besides achievements and electives to complete, a service project is required.

GOOD TURN FOR AMERICA

Participate in a Leave No Trace-related ser-



vice project as a den or pack and record your service hours online at www.goodturnforamerica.org.

BSA RESOURCES HIGHLIGHT

National Summertime Pack Award (No. 33748). The purpose of the National Summertime Pack Award is to encourage packs to provide year-round Scouting. Packs may qualify for the award by planning and conducting three pack activities—one each in June, July, and August. The pack receives a National Summertime Pack Award certificate and a streamer for the pack flag. Pins are awarded to boys who attend all three summertime pack activities. Dens can earn a ribbon if half of the members attend each monthly event. See the *Cub Scout Leader Book* for the National Summertime Pack Award application and requirements.



PACK LEADERS' PLANNING MEETING

The pack leaders meet one or two weeks before the May pack meeting to check final details and outline den and pack activities for the June pack meeting.

Because all dens and the pack meeting in particular will be moving out-of-doors to take advantage of the season, consider the impact photography can have. Perhaps your pack has an amateur or professional photographer. Check the Family Talent Survey sheets.

Prepare for June activities. Review chapter 33, "Cub Scout Camping," in the *Cub Scout Leader Book*.

Verify that outdoor locations for summer pack meetings are secured.

The pack trainer leads Unit Leadership Enhancement No. 14, Program Evaluation. This is a good time to evaluate the events of the year, identify the events families enjoyed the most and those that could be repeated. Keep this information for use in the pack's annual planning conference held in the summer. Discussion information is found in the *Cub Scout Leader Book*, chapter 28. Choose a topic for discussion for next month's meeting.

LOOKING AHEAD

Recruiting is starting for Tiger Cub families. Be sure an effective plan is in place for meaningful activities for these new Cub Scouts.

The annual pack program planning meeting should be scheduled and all pack members notified.

PACK TRAINER HIGHLIGHT

New members, new parents—new learning opportunities. Be sure all new pack families are aware of the training opportunities in your area.

OUTDOOR IDEAS FOR EVERYONE

Tiger Cubs. Tiger Cubs and adult partners can take a "color hike" around the neighborhood, trying to see how many different colors they can discover.

Wolf Cub Scouts. Take a hike with a special lookout for traces of footprints of animals or humans.

Bear Cub Scouts. Take an "alphabet hike," trying to find something that starts with each letter of the alphabet.

Webelos Scouts. Hold a den fishing derby.

Leave Nothing but Footprints: 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	Prepare cookie dough and gather supplies for Feet Cookies; have materials for Pinecone Toss and paper, markers, and crayons for Leave No Trace posters (6 MAY).	Have a U.S. flag in place. Collect materials for Trash Can neckerchief slides (6 MAY) and bags and gloves for the Cleanup Treasure Hunt (<i>Elective 33</i>).	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	Meet outside and play Pinecone Toss (6 MAY).	Make Trash Can neckerchief slides (6 MAY).		
OPENING	Den leader says the Conservation Pledge (6 MAY) as Tiger Cubs repeat line-by-line.	Say the Pledge of Allegiance and the Cub Scout motto.		
SHARE	Introduce the Leave No Trace frontcountry guidelines to the Tiger Cubs. Review information in the <i>Cub Scout Leader Book</i> . Start Feet Cookies (6 MAY).	Have the boys talk about what they can do to help keep their neighborhood clean.	Take a Go See It to a place that recycles paper, plastic, glass, or aluminum products (<i>Elective 47</i>) OR Take a Go See It to a park or nature preserve, go for a walk, and practice Leave No Trace frontcountry principles (one of three outings toward earning the Leave No Trace Award).	Participate in the monthly pack meeting by sharing the Leave No Trace posters and any photos taken, which can be displayed at the meeting. Also share information about the den's Go See It. Tiger Cubs and adult partners sign the thank-you note.
DISCOVER	Make a Leave No Trace poster (6 MAY). Boys draw illustrations of Leave No Trace frontcountry guidelines.	Go outside and do the Cleanup Treasure Hunt (<i>Elective 33</i>) at your den meeting place, a local school, or a nearby park.		
SEARCH	While snacking on Feet Cookies, discuss details for the Go See It.	Finalize plans for your Go See It. Talk about what the boys might see on the outing and the importance of paying attention and following the rules.	At the end of the trip, lead a reflecting discussion with boys and adult partners about their outing.	
CLOSING	Recite the Cub Scout Promise and say good-bye with a Cub Scout handshake.	Take the Leave No Trace pledge and recite the Cub Scout motto.		
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 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: Electives 35, 47.

This month as the Tiger Cubs enjoy the great outdoors, they will learn how to take care of the open spaces, woodlands, and parks where they play. They will learn the Conservation Pledge and study the Leave No Trace frontcountry guidelines. Then they'll make a Leave No Trace poster (a requirement for the Leave No Trace Awareness Award). A game of Pinecone Toss will get them outside playing a game that uses recycled containers and cones provided by nature. Tiger Cubs and their adult partners will talk about the ways they can help their community stay clean everyday, and then they'll go out and enjoy a game of Cleanup Treasure Hunt (*Elective 33*). A trip to a recycling facility will show the Tiger Cubs what they can recycle and what happens to the items they recycle (*Elective 47*). The activities this month will help boys realize the responsibilities they have to their environment and for the future of the open spaces they enjoy.

GAME: PINECONE TOSS

(*Elective 35*)

Materials: Pinecones (fir cones, large nuts, or cone-sized fruit can be substituted); empty, clean plastic containers (such as for cottage cheese or large-size yogurt)

Have Tiger Cubs and adult partners line up in separate lines with the two lines facing each other about 2 feet apart. Each boy in the line has a cone; he tosses it to his adult partner in the other line, who catches it in the plastic container. After a successful toss and catch, each member of the pair takes a step backward, and the cone is tossed again. The teams can toss as many times as it takes to be successful, but the quicker they are successful the quicker they will move back. You can put a time limit on the game, or set a distance apart as the goal line.

TRASH CAN NECKERCHIEF SLIDE

Materials: Scraps of aluminum foil, paper wrappers off of cans, bits of cardboard boxes (such as cereal boxes), drinking straws, and other bits of things that might eventually go into the trash; medicine cup, small pill bottle, or film canister for trash can; a quarter of a chenille stem for each slide; small hole-punch; low-temperature glue gun (to be used by adult partners)



Punch two holes about an inch apart about halfway down the container you are using for the trash can. Thread the piece of chenille stem through the holes and twist it so that it will fit snugly over a neckerchief as a slide. Put some glue inside the trash can; add "trash," affixing with more glue as needed. Attach lid to the container's side, using low-temp glue gun. If a light-colored can is used, an indelible marker can be used to write *TRASH* on the trash can.

LEAVE NO TRACE POSTER

(*Requirement for Cub Scouting's Leave No Trace Awareness Award*)

Materials: Paper, markers, crayons, colored pencils

Tiger Cubs draw their interpretation of one part of the Cub Scout Leave No Trace Pledge, using the drawing instruments of their choice. Tape the posters together with colorful tape to make a quiltlike display at the pack meeting.

Alternative: Have fabric squares boys can draw on using waterproof markers. Have an adult sew the pieces together. The finished banner could be used as a den flag.

Conservation Pledge:

Cub Scout Leave No Trace Pledge

I promise to practice the Leave No Trace frontcountry guidelines wherever I go:

1. Plan ahead.
2. Stick to trails.
3. Manage your pet.
4. Leave what you find.
5. Respect other visitors.
6. Trash your trash.

STEPPING STONES

Materials: Quickset concrete; broken pieces of glass, pottery, stones, marbles, shells, or other durable, decorative trea-

sures; form for shaping the stepping stone (empty, shaped candy boxes, large ice-cream bucket lids, large foam food containers, etc.)

Mix concrete as directed on bag. Pour into form and smooth out. Each boy can make an imprint of his foot (make sure boys wash their feet well with soap and water when done). Use glass, pebbles, shells, marbles, or other items to decorate around the footprint. Put the stone in a location where it will not be moved for 48 hours, or until set and cured (check bag to see how long the manufacture suggests that it cure). When stone has cured, pop it out of the mold and set it outside to enjoy.

SNACK: FEET COOKIES

Materials: Your favorite sugar-cookie dough (homemade or store-bought), egg-shaped cookie cutter, frosting (optional)



Roll out cookie dough and cut out egg shapes. Transfer to cookie sheet. Make toes by rolling various-size balls (big-toe to pinkie-toe size) of cookie dough and flatten slightly. Arrange so they look like toes and attach to big end of egg shape. Bake according to recipe directions. If you wish, frost with a thin layer of icing (thin icing with a little water and brush on with a pastry brush while cookie is still warm).

Leave Nothing but Footprints: 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 supplies to make Worm Farm (8 MAY).	Have supplies for Milk Carton Bird Feeder (8 MAY); have supplies for Arrowhead Necklace (8 MAY).	Call the destination of your outing to confirm arrangements, times, fees, etc.	Denner writes thank-you to last week's destination. Have supplies to make bottle terrariums (<i>Elective 15</i>).
Den leader collects dues.				
WHILE CUB SCOUTS GATHER	Fish posters or activities often are available from your state's department of Natural Resources. Use them to help boys draw, color, and identify fish in your area (<i>Elective 19a</i>).	Collect permission slips. Den chief helps boys make an Arrowhead Necklace (8 MAY).	Collect permission slips.	Boys sign thank-you note or card. Den chief leads a discussion about the rules of safe fishing (<i>Elective 19d</i>). A worksheet that boys complete as they discuss may be helpful.
OPENING	Welcome any new den members and current members. Denner leads the boys in the Pledge of Allegiance.	Cub Scouts give each other the Cub Scout handshake while saying the Cub Scout motto.		Boys circle around the flag and join in as the denner leads 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	Explain the Leave Nothing but Footprints theme. Have boys contribute to the decision about which outing to take.	Read a book about birds. Cub Scouts share names of the birds they saw during the last week (<i>Elective 13</i>).	Possible outings include: Participate in a nearby migratory bird day festival or bird walk	Practice singing "The Fishing Song" (8 MAY). Review how the den will present its contribution to the pack this month.
ACTIVITY	Make Worm Farms so that Cub Scouts will have an ample supply of worms for fishing. Be sure to tell them how to care for the farm and keep it moistened. Point out that worms help the environment by composting.	Make a Milk Carton Bird Feeder (<i>Elective 13e</i>). Discuss what type of birds the boys would like to attract and what type of birdseed they should put in their feeders. Encourage boys to watch birds this week.	OR Visit a nearby park to possibly plant flowers, weed gardens, or perform other services	Make bottle terrariums and plant easy-to-grow plants in them. You can either use fast-growing seeds or bring some small plants to place inside (<i>Elective 15</i>). Discuss with the boys how to take care of their plants.
CLOSING	Practice "The Fishing Song" (8 MAY). Gather in a circle and ask each boy to say something he is thankful for. Send home permission slips for outing on THIRD WEEK.	Do the "Our World" Den Leader's Minute (8 MAY).	OR Visit a nursery, nature center, or fish hatchery. Plan to take photographs during the outing, which can be displayed at the pack meeting. At the end of the trip, lead a reflecting discussion with boys about their outing.	Practice your den yell or make up a new one.
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 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: Electives 13, 15, 19.

Step lightly! Boys learn about the out-of-doors and our environment. Learning starts with growing their own plants and providing for wildlife. Cub Scouts will make bird feeders and then be encouraged to watch out for our feathered friends. They will create terrariums where they can watch their plants grow. Visit a complementary site such as a park or sanctuary, and add to the wildlife experience by helping with a conservation project. Leave only footprints, and Cub Scouts will create great memories.

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

- *Achievement 5e, Tools for Fixing and Building:* Learn about the many tools that are used.
- *Achievement 7, Your Living World:* Boys can discuss with their families how the world gets dirty and how they can prevent this from happening.
- *Elective 7, Foot Power:* Change your footprints by creating a new way to go from one place to another. This elective shows boys how.

BE KIND TO BIRDS

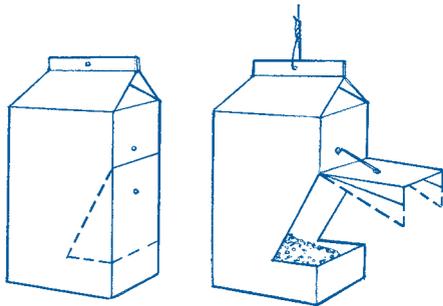
(Elective 13)

13b. Bring different nesting materials to your meeting and discuss with Cub Scouts what kinds of materials different birds use. Boys can set out nesting materials for the birds. Have them report what the birds took.

13c. Read a book about birds to your Cub Scouts. The local school or public librarian will have suggestions for books boys will respond to. Also bring in field guides to show what birds are in your area. Boys will get to see how to use a field guide and how it is organized.

13d. Take a walk outside to observe birds. Help the boys identify them. Have magazines that the boys can go through to identify additional birds.

13e. Have your Cub Scouts build a Milk Carton Bird Feeder and talk about what kinds of seeds benefit the birds in your area. Instructions are found in the *Cub Scout Leader How-To Book*.



Troop Tie-in

Learning about plants and animals in your area is a good opportunity to have your den chief shine. This task reinforces training he has received. This may also be a good opportunity to coordinate with your local troop to solicit a Boy Scout's help in familiarizing boys with local plants and animals.

DEN YELLS ARE FUN

An alternate den yell for everyone:

United we stand,
Divided we fall.
Den _____
Is the best of all.

WORM FARM

Materials: Container such as large bucket or plastic box, noncolored newspaper torn in 1-inch strips, small screened wire, fruit and vegetable scraps, piece of burlap, earthworms (may be found at bait shops)

Create a bed of materials for worms to digest by layering shredded newspaper, handfuls of soil, and table scraps (lettuce, eggshells, and coffee grounds work nicely). Cover with more layers of newspaper. An 8-inch layer of material is a good start. Place a piece of burlap on top to keep the light out and the soil moist.

What happens? The worms eat through the material you prepared in the bucket. The by-product is an enriched soil you can use in your garden. You are also finding a good use for kitchen waste as you recycle.

DEN LEADER'S MINUTE: OUR WORLD

Cub Scouts, we have learned about our world. We know that it is important to take care of the Earth and preserve it for you and for your children. As you leave, think about ways that you can help take care of the world around you. Think about how you want it to be as you grow older. Think about how you can do things to make that happen.

SONG: THE FISHING SONG

Tune: Frère Jacques

Fishing's fun, fishing's fun.
Do your best, do your best.
Tossing out your line,
Sit behind your pole—
Fish do the rest, fish do the rest.

ARROWHEAD NECKLACE

Materials: Plastic arrowhead, cording, pony beads, scissors

Fold cording in half and push the folded end through the hole in the top of your arrowhead. Bring the two loose ends up and through the folded end and pull tight to hold the arrowhead in place. Add beads to each side. Tie an overhand knot to keep the beads from sliding off. Knot the ends together and wear as a necklace.

Leave Nothing but Footprints: 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 items for Nature Check Kim's Game (10 MAY) and supplies for food-chain posters.	Have U.S. flag. Have supplies for Sponge Relay game (10 MAY) and for making Trail Mix (10 MAY).	Call the destination of your outing to confirm arrangements, times, fees, etc.	Denner writes thank-you to last week's destination. Have supplies for playing Outdoor Essentials game (10 MAY). Have an outdoor net set up and supplies for badminton or volleyball.
Den leader collects dues.				
WHILE CUB SCOUTS GATHER	Play Nature Check Kim's Game (8 MAY).	Collect permission slips. Make Trail Mix (10 MAY).	Collect permission slips.	Boys sign thank-you note or card. Start the meeting outside and play the Outdoor Essentials game (10 MAY).
OPENING	Denner leads the Cub Scout Promise.	Sing "America" (<i>Cub Scout Songbook</i>).		Gather in a semicircle around the flag, salute, and recite the Pledge of Allegiance.
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 this month's theme. Talk to the boys about the outing in two weeks. Review what items need to be taken on the hike.	Review the rules of safe hiking. Explain the buddy system (<i>Elective 25</i>). Discuss hints for taking good photographs.		Have each boy write an article about the hike taken last week (<i>Achievement 18g</i>). Include the steps taken to practice Leave No Trace guidelines. Assemble photographs to show at the pack meeting.
ACTIVITY	Den chief conducts uniform inspection (10 MAY). Make food-chain posters for Wildlife Conservation belt loop. Play Bear in the Pit (<i>Cub Scout Leader How-To Book</i>).	Work on the Wildlife Conservation belt loop (10 MAY). Play Sponge Relay (10 MAY). Review requirements for Cub Scouting's Leave No Trace Awareness Award (<i>Elective 25j</i>).	Take a nature hike with your den. Take photographs to share at the pack meeting (<i>Elective 11</i>). At the end of the trip, lead a reflecting discussion with boys about their outing.	
CLOSING	Form a Living Circle and say the Cub Scout motto. Send home permission slips for outing on THIRD WEEK.	Den chief leads the grand howl.		Ask boys for a moment of reverence to think about the wonders of nature and the higher power to protect it.
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.	Find out if each boy has a camera to use on the nature hike. Explain that inexpensive single-use cameras are available at most supermarkets, etc.	Den leader fills out 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 9e, 18g; Elective 25.

Bear Cub Scouts enjoy active fun and being outdoors. This is the month to promote outdoor adventure and get a glimpse of conservation. Combine a nature hike with learning about photography. Each boy will benefit from bringing a camera to take pictures. Perhaps a parent is an amateur photographer and willing to give boys some instruction. Put the photos on poster board for display at the pack meeting—add captions for even more fun.

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

- *Achievement 7*, Law Enforcement Is a Big Job: Cub Scouts can learn to make casts of their footprints and shoeprints.
- *Achievement 10*, Family Fun: Boys can make a bootjack during a family fun night—no more footprints on the carpet!
- *Elective 1*, Space: Footprints on the moon! The Space elective gives boys the opportunity to discover fun facts about our natural satellite, the moon.

GAMES

Nature Check Kim's Game

Materials: A tray with natural items such as pinecones, acorns, moss, shells, milkweed pods, or other things that are found in nature around your area

To play: Cub Scouts look at the items for about one minute. Then cover the tray and see how many items the players can list.

Sponge Relay

(*Achievement 15b*)

Materials: Sponges (two for each team), buckets of water, bowls

Divide the den into two teams. The boys at the front of the row hold the bucket full of water and sponges. The boys at the end of the row hold the bowl. The first boy takes a wet sponge out of the bucket and hands it to the next boy, and so on, until the sponge reaches the last boy in his row. He squeezes the water out of the sponge into the bowl. With the dry sponge, he races to the front and puts it back into the bucket. Play continues until the water is all gone or five minutes is up. The team with the most water in their bowl at the end of the time is the winner.

Outdoor Essentials

(*Elective 25*)

Materials: Empty backpack, the 10 essentials as outlined in *Elective 25*, paper and pencil for each Cub Scout

The den chief and assistant den leader play a tossing game: the den chief holds up an object, then tosses it to the assistant den leader. As he does so, the assistant den leader puts it into an empty backpack and talks about why that object is an important part of the

10 essentials for hiking and camping. Continue through all items.

Next, have the boys try to remember the items that went into the backpack and write those down.

Foot Race

In bare feet, boys try to inch forward by alternately opening and curling their toes. See who can travel 12 inches this way.



Awards Awareness

Den leaders, make sure your Cub Scouts are introduced to these awards:

- Cub Scout Outdoor Program Award
- National Summertime Pack Award
- World Conservation Award
- Cub Scouting's Leave No Trace Awareness Award

Families should be made aware of the requirements to earn these awards.

SNACK: TRAIL MIX

(*Achievement 9e*)

Ingredients: Raisins, peanuts, granola, dried fruit

This trail mix is often called "GORP" (Good Old Raisins and Peanuts). Place

the ingredients into a large bowl and mix with a spoon. Spoon into plastic sealing bags for use on the hike next week. Additional items that can be used: dried apple pieces, dried blueberries, cashews, marshmallows, chocolate chips.

NOTE: Be sure none of your Cub Scouts has allergies to peanuts or any other of the ingredients.

WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BELT LOOP

Several items toward this recognition can be accomplished in the den meeting:

- Create a poster-board display. Boys make a poster that shows and explains the food chain. Describe to the den what happens if the food chain becomes broken or damaged.
- Review what natural resources are and why it's important to protect and conserve them.
- Learn about an endangered species. Boys can then make a report to the den that includes a picture, information about how the species became endangered, and what is being done to save it.

UNIFORM INSPECTION

The *Cub Scout Leader Book* has uniform inspection sheets in the appendix. Encourage boys to review the uniform pages in the inside covers of their handbooks.

As the den chief and assistant den leader conduct the inspection:

- Praise neatness.
- Praise those who have their badge of rank in the proper position.
- Suggest that extra pins and patches be placed on the patch vest.