

## FIRST FEW CUB SCOUT DEN MEETINGS

The object of the first few den meetings are to:

- 1) Give every Cub Scout an opportunity to earn his first award: the Bobcat Badge
- 2) Complete den organization, get acquainted, and elect boy leaders
- 3) Give leaders and boys an idea of how Cub Scout meetings are conducted.

### GETTING STARTED

Before your first den meeting:

- Purchase and read through the Tiger Handbook.
- Discuss/finalize with your assistant den leader how the den and meetings will be structured.

### Den Adults' Meeting

Meeting with the parents or guardians of boys in your den is a good way to keep them interested and involved in Cub Scouting. You should hold an adults' meeting within the first month after your den starts meeting -the sooner the better. An agenda for this meeting is in the *Cub Scout Leader Book*. During the meeting the goal should be to accomplish the following:

- Den roster
- Den schedule for meetings with dates/times/locations
- Divide up adult responsibilities (i.e. assistant leader, awards, snacks, photographer, etc)
- Discuss and agree upon discipline methods

### Den Code of Conduct

Boys will respond to and respect rules for behavior if they have a part in setting the rules. Before the first den meeting, think about the rules you would like the den to 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 agree on their rules of behavior for meetings, and write them on the large piece of paper. This code of conduct will then be displayed at all den meetings. Ask "What should happen if someone breaks a rule?" and let the boys discuss this. One possibility is that the first time a boy breaks a rule, he is warned, and the second time he must leave the Den Meeting. Share the code of conduct with den parents at your first den adults' meeting.

### Refreshments

If you decide to include refreshments in your den meeting, it is a good idea to find out any allergies, discuss with parents what type of snacks/refreshments should be provided/how snacks will be paid for. Also, set up a rotating schedule so that each Tiger takes a turn providing them. You might use a large metal can with a tight-fitting lid as a "chow basket." It is sent home empty with the boy who will serve as "host" at the next meeting, and he brings it back full. You may want to make a magnetic "cookie monster" that sticks to the can. This can be removed and placed on the refrigerator door when the boy gets home, and will serve as a reminder to bring the full "chow basket" to the next den meeting.

### Uniform

Decide if the boys will be asked to wear their official uniform or the pack t-shirts to den meetings. While on a "Go See It" the boys should wear their official uniforms unless it involves an activity that can ruin the uniform.

### Tiger Handbooks

Ask that each boy's first name is written on the edge of the book (the end where the paper edges are) so everyone can tell at a glance whose book is whose without having to pick it up and open it. Decide if the boys should be asked to bring the handbook to each den meeting.

**“Den Board” and/or Advancement Poster**

Will your den make and utilize a “Den Board”? Will the den leader or boys fill in the Tiger Paws on the Advancement Poster as they move along the Tiger Path?

**IDEAS FOR DEN MEETING # 1****Before the Meeting**

1. Review the meeting’s agenda.
2. Contact/remind snack parent.
3. Set up a den record book; use either Individual Cub Scout Record or Cub Scout Den Record sheets for attendance, dues, and boy information.
4. Arrange for 1 other adult and the den chief to arrive 15 minutes early to assist with set up, to review any meeting items and to demonstrate the Gathering Activity.
5. Get the “den board” or advancement poster, good conduct candle, and meeting supplies set up.

**While Cub Scouts Gather.**

1. Introduce yourself to the scouts and the parents.
  - Direct the Tigers to the den chief.
2. Den chief and adult helper
  - Greet the Tiger, introduce themselves and den chief shows the Tiger how to do the Cub Scout Handshake, and asks the scout to practice with another scout.
  - Each boy makes a name tag.
  - The den chief shows the trick "It Can't Be Done:" First he says that he can jump backward farther than the boys can jump forward if they do exactly as he does. Then he grasps his toes and hops backward a few inches. When the boys assume the same position, they find they cannot even budge.

**Opening.**

1. Ask den chief to gather boys together.
  - Display and explain the Cub Scout Sign. (Den chief can run these or assist leader)
  - Ask the boys to demonstrate the Cub Scout Sign.
  - Explain the Cub Scout salute and when to use it. Have the den give the salute and repeat the Pledge of Allegiance.
  - Review when to salute and how to salute based on what wearing, and which hats to remove.
  - The den leader welcomes and introduces all den members and leaders.

**Business Items.**

1. The den leader *briefly* explains to the Tigers what a den is and what happens at den meetings-the parts of the meeting.
2. Den dues are discussed if the Den operates in that manner.
  - Explain what they are used for and the importance of bringing dues each time.
3. Encourage regular attendance.
4. Explain the good conduct candle and light it.
5. Discuss a “Den Code of Conduct” with the boys.
6. Agree on den rules and write them on a large piece of paper.
  - Ask each boy to sign it with their first name.

**Activities.**

1. Play an “active game” (the boys will be antsy from sitting for a long time)
  - Example: “Cub Scout Salute Race”. Select two teams and line them up with the den chief and den leader (as judges) stationed a short distance in front of each team. The first boy runs to his judge and salutes, then runs back to his team, touches the next member, goes to the end of the line, and the relay continues. The judges are strict and call out the count after each correct salute until one team

wins, having executed ten salutes correctly.

2. The assistant den leader serves refreshments.
  - While the boys are enjoying them, the assistant leader explains the refreshments plan so that each boy will know when it will be his turn, what to bring, and that he will act as host (Elective 25).
  - Den Leader: show everyone the Bobcat requirements in the *Tiger Handbook*. Urge each boy to start learning them with his parents. Tell them about the induction ceremony planned for September Pack Meeting.

### **Closing.**

1. Den chief or den leader use the Cub Scout Sign and gather boys into a circle.
2. Show/explain/ everyone repeat the Law of the Pack.
3. Teach boys to form the "Living Circle"
  - Stand in a circle, make the Cub Scout sign and repeat the Law of the Pack.
4. Den Leader blows out the good conduct candle to announce the end of the meeting.
5. Den leader asks 1 - 2 specific parents and 1 -2 specific Tigers to assist with any clean-up.
6. Den chief could have a quiet/low action activity ready to occupy the Tigers while the parents assist with clean-up or speak with the den leader.
  - "Tell it Like it Isn't"/ "Telephone"
  - Teach a simple magic trick

### **After the Meeting.**

1. Den leader meets with den chief to review how den chief did and discuss anything coming up.
2. Den leader checks to make sure the den records are in order.
3. At this point the den and assistant leaders review the meeting, pointing out how it might be improved, and discuss and assign duties for the next meeting.
4. Email parents to remind them to review the Bobcat Badge requirements with their scout(s), and to specifically cover Bobcat Requirement # 8 at home.
5. Discuss/delegate/finalize any "Go See It" details, and makes sure info gets to all den families and den chief.

## **DEN MEETING NO. 2**

### **Before the Meeting**

1. Review this meeting's agenda.
2. Contact and discuss with the den chief his responsibilities.
3. Contact and remind the snack parent.
4. Set up supplies to make the den flag, get out roll call book and conduct candle.
5. Make sure the "Den Code of Conduct" is displayed in a visible location.

### **While Cub Scouts Gather**

1. Den Leader
  - Check books for achievements and record them on the advancement chart.
2. Assistant den leader
  - Explain to den chief the Gathering Activity and/or den events for the meeting.
  - Delegate "Den Flag prep" responsibilities to a couple parents who will work on this during gathering and opening time.
3. Den chief: Gathering Activity
  - Have a bottle or jar with a 2-inch mouth and 10 clothespins ready for the gathering period.
  - Place the bottle or jar upright on the floor.
  - Give each boy in turn the 10 clothespins. Have him stand over the bottle and holding each clothespin at eye level, try to drop each pin into the bottle. Keep score.

**Opening.**

1. Cub Scout Sign up, gather boys together, have "Den Board" or Law of the Pack poster ready/visible.
2. Den chief to lead Tigers
  - In the Pledge of Allegiance and the Law of the Pack.

**Business Items**

1. Elect or announce who the month's denner and assistant denner are.
2. With den chief's assistance have the denner light the Conduct Candle, and assistant denner conducts the call roll.
3. Collect dues.
4. Briefly discuss the meeting's activity: make a den flag.

**Activities.**

1. Share the "Cub Scout Motto" w/the Tigers
  - Tell what it means/how it applies to them at all times
  - Repeat it all together
2. Briefly discuss a den flag and its importance to den unity and identity.
3. Demonstrate what the boys will be creating, and remind them to "Do their best".
4. Den chief or adult demonstrates how to mix colors (Elective 15).
5. Can have them each sew a button onto something that will go on the flag (Elective 18) or send it home as "home den work"
6. Every parent should be assisting at this point, works well for adults to assist a boy other than their own.
7. When some Tigers finish before others:
  - Den chief: asks the boys to stand in a circle and practice the Cub Scout handshake, passing it around the circle. Each boy gives his name and favorite outdoor activity when his turn comes to shake hands.

**Closing.**

1. Den chief use the Cub Scout Sign and gather boys into a circle.
2. Show/explain/ the "Cub Scout Promise" and everyone recite it together.
3. Denner blows out the good conduct candle to announce the end of the meeting.
4. Den leader asks for 1- 2 specific parents and 1 -2 specific Tigers to assist with any clean-up.
5. Den chief has a quiet/low action activity ready to occupy the Tigers while the parents assist with clean-up or speak with the den leader.

**After the Meeting.**

1. Den leader meets with den chief to review how den chief did and discuss anything coming up.
2. Den leader checks to make sure the den records are in order.
3. At this point den and assistant leaders review the meeting, pointing out how it might be improved, and discuss and assign duties for the next meeting.
4. Email parents to remind them to review any unfinished Bobcat Badge requirements with their scout(s), and to specifically cover Bobcat Requirement # 8 at home.
5. Discuss/delegate/finalize any "Go See It" details, and ensures the info gets to all den families and the den chief.

***REMEMBER***

**Tailor your meetings to your boys. Get to know the boys and understand the dynamics of the group and alter your meetings to fit the den's "personality"!!!!**

**K.I.S.M.I.F: Keep it simple, make it fun!!!!!!!!!!**

**You cannot do the job alone...every parent should be assisting...set it up so everyone is involved from the start and excited to come back to the next activity or meeting!**