



# Wolf Den Meeting 1

## Bobcat and Your Flag

Achievement 2. Elective 9b. Elective 12e. Character Connection for Honesty.

### Preparation and Materials Needed

- ▶ With pack leaders, confirm who is in your den, and reach out to parents.
  - Either distribute a talent survey or ask about interests, abilities, etc.
- ▶ Materials checklist (add to your den Cub tub of U.S./den flags, paper/pencils, other supplies):
  - Index cards with the Cub Scout Promise printed on one side and Law of the Pack on the other side (make enough for all people attending the meeting). And Pledge of Allegiance if needed.
  - An undecorated den flag (can be part of a sheet of fabric), flag stands, squares of yellow-gold felt (one per boy). Large paper or poster board and markers to write the den's code of conduct.
  - Ballpoint pens, youth scissors, camera, and film
  - Cub Scout Immediate Recognition Emblems and beads

### Before the Meeting

- ▶ Make final preparations with assistance from any assistant den leader or other parent helper, den chief, and/or denner. Organize the space (seating, flags, advancement charts, activity materials, handouts, etc.). If you're snacking, organize space for that and the cleanup.

### Gathering

- ▶ Welcome new and returning Cub Scouts and parents.
- ▶ Get to know parents/engage them in the meeting.
- ▶ Have a gathering activity (games, puzzles, other) that will keep Scouts interested and busy, and that others may join as they arrive. If the den desires, serve a healthy snack during this time.
- ▶ Collect dues, record attendance and any advancement completed over the summer (a good job for an assistant den leader).

### Opening

- ▶ Conduct an indoor or outdoor flag ceremony (**Achievement 2b or 2f**). (*Note: If you don't have a flagpole like at a school, you can still do this, but be sure to plan out in advance where your flag will be posted.*)
  - Choose the first Scout to carry the U.S. flag; he may also be today's denner if you use denners.
  - The second Scout will be next meeting's U.S. flag bearer and will carry the den flag today if you have one (the den flag is probably not yet decorated).
  - The third and fourth boys are the "color guards" marching alongside and assisting.
  - The remaining boys in the den and all adults present form a reviewing line that the color guard passes on the way to the flag stands.
  - The den leader can "call" the flag ceremony at the first few meetings (issue directions and calls to attention, etc.) until the boys learn how to do so.
- ▶ After the flags are posted, have all recite the Pledge of Allegiance.
- ▶ Provide index cards printed with the Cub Scout Promise and Law of the Pack for each person present. After the Pledge, all may read the Cub Scout Promise and Law of the Pack in unison from the index cards. Provide the cards for the first few meetings until the boys can recite the Pledge of Allegiance, the Cub Scout Promise, and the Law of the Pack with confidence. Alternatively, the Promise and Law can be learned in "call and response" fashion, line by line.

### Business Items

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



## Activities

- ▶ **Review** the Bobcat requirements (pages 16–26 of the *Wolf Handbook*):
  - Learn and say the Cub Scout Promise.
  - Say the Law of the Pack and discuss what it means.
  - Tell what Webelos means. (We'll Be Loyal Scouts.)
  - Learn the Cub Scout sign and tell what it means. (Two parts of the Promise: “help other people” and “obey the Law of the Pack,” and it looks like a Wolf’s ears, meaning “I’m ready to listen.”)
  - Show the Cub Scout handshake and tell what it means. (Like the sign, two parts of the Promise.)
  - Say the Cub Scout motto. (Do Your Best.)
  - Learn the Cub Scout salute and tell what it means. (Respect)
  - **Suggestion:** Bobcat relay race:
    - The den divides into two teams, lining up for relay race on one end of room or field, with leaders and/or parent helpers on the other end, to test on the Cub Scout Promise, Law of the Pack, Cub Scout motto, sign, handshake, salute, and meaning of *Webelos*.
    - The first boy on each team walks to the leader, answers the Bobcat-related question, then returns to tag the next Cub Scout.
    - If the Cub Scout can’t answer, he can go back and get help from the other Scouts, then return and answer the question.
- ▶ **Complete** the Character Connection for Honesty.
  - **Know:** Discuss these questions with your family. What is a promise? What does it mean to “keep your word?” What does honesty mean? What does it mean to “do your best?”
  - **Commit:** Discuss these questions with your family. Why is a promise important? Why is it important for people to trust you when you give your word? When might it be difficult to keep your word? List examples.
  - **Practice:** Discuss with family members why it is important to be trustworthy and honest and how you can do your best to be honest when you are doing the activities in Cub Scouting.
- ▶ **Elective 9b** (“Make a gift or toy like one of these and give it to someone.”):
  - Photograph each boy separately (head and shoulders) in his uniform. Alternatively, have the Scouts photograph each other (serious shots and fun shots).
  - This will be used for **Elective 9b** in Den Meeting 5.
- ▶ **Elective 12e** (“Make a stencil pattern.”):
  - Trace each boy’s hand on cardstock (or heavy paper) and make a stencil.
  - Then trace the pattern on a square of yellow-gold felt.
  - Have each boy cut out his handprint and put his name on the back of it.
  - This will be used for your den flag. If you keep the flag in this way, at their Arrow of Light Award ceremony, when the boys are in fifth grade, the handprints can be removed from the den flag and each boy will present his print to his parents.

## Closing

- ▶ Award (or recognize) any advancement completed at this meeting; thank hosts, guests, and helpers.
- ▶ Hand out or send family information letter.
  - ▶ **Home Assignment:** Remind parents to complete **Achievement 8b–e** and read *How to Protect Your Children From Child Abuse: A Parent’s Guide*.

## After the Meeting

- ▶ If you’ve changed the sequence of den meetings, double-check to make sure you will still advance your boys appropriately and check with the Cubmaster to make sure you stay coordinated with the pack.
- ▶ Refreshments: If appropriate
- ▶ Cleanup: Recruit enough help to do a good job. Scouts always leave an area as clean, or cleaner, than they found it.

Following Den Meeting 1, the den leader prints each boy’s name on his felt handprint, using fabric paint. When the paint is dry, the leader may sew the handprints onto the den flag or may choose to have the boys do the sewing at Den Meeting 2.