

YOUR FIRST DEN MEETING

THE FIRST RANK FOR ALL BOYS - BOBCAT

The Bobcat rank is the first badge awarded a new Cub Scout. As a new member, he may work on his Bobcat rank requirements while simultaneously working on his next rank as well. He cannot, however, receive his Tiger, Wolf, Bear, Webelos, or Arrow of Light badge until he has completed Bobcat requirements and earned his Bobcat badge. Boys can normally earn their Bobcat badge within the first month of becoming a new Cub Scout.

You as a leader can help! Practice the requirements with him and the other boys in your den meetings, and encourage them to work on the requirements with their families also. Requirement 7 is a home-based requirement. The requirements are found in each of the youth handbooks and are listed below:

Bobcat Requirements

1. Learn and say the Scout Oath, with help if needed.
2. Learn and say the Scout Law, with help if needed.
3. Show the Cub Scout sign. Tell what it means.
4. Show the Cub Scout handshake. Tell what it means.
5. Say the Cub Scout motto. Tell what it means.
6. Show the Cub Scout salute. Tell what it means.
7. With your parent or guardian, complete the exercises in the pamphlet *How to Protect Your Children from Child Abuse: A Parent's Guide*.

MEETING PLAN

PREPARATION AND MATERIALS NEEDED

Gather the following items to be used in the meeting:

- Poster board and marker for the den code of conduct
- Copies of the “Dos and Don’ts” activity and a pencil for each Scout
- Sign-up sheet for Scouts to bring healthy snacks
- A poster with the Cub Scout Promise and a poster with the Law of the Pack for display
- A small U.S. flag
- Balloons—Using a marker, write the lines of the Scout Oath and the Scout Law. Put each line in a separate balloon, inflate the balloon, and put these in a basket or bag for the “All Mixed Up” game. See the note at the end of the game for numbers greater or less than eight members in a den.

Create a family information letter from you to each Scout family that includes:

- Information about the importance of handbooks and uniforms, where to obtain them, and a reminder for boys to always wear their uniform and bring their handbook to the meeting, etc. You can also mention the uniform guide website: www.BSAuniforms.org— a great place to get you started.
- Days, time, and location of your meetings.
- Weekly home assignment. This week the home assignment should be:
 - Bobcat requirement 1 - Learn to say the Scout Oath.
 - Bobcat requirement 2 - Learn to say the Scout Law.
 - Bobcat requirement 7 - With your parent or guardian, complete the exercises in the booklet *How to Protect Your Children from Child Abuse*; this book is found in the front of each Cub Scout handbook.

Gathering

Recruit one new person to help you with a gathering activity and work with the boys as they arrive to complete the “Do’s and Don’ts” page. You can use the online template at www.scouting.org/cubscouts or create your own. You can find other gathering activities in the *Den Leader Guide* or at www.cubscouts.org.

Do’s and Don’ts

Give each Cub Scout a copy of “Do’s and Don’ts” and a pencil. Remind them that at the den meeting we are all friends. Discuss how people use their bodies to be friends with others. On one side of the page they should list the actions friends do with each part of the body. On the other side they should list the actions friends don’t do with those body parts. **Example:** Mouth—**Friends do** “say hello,” **friends don’t** “call their friends mean names.”

Opening

1. Call the meeting to order by demonstrating the Cub Scout sign. Explain to the boys and parents the meaning of the sign and when to use it.



Cub Scout Sign

The Cub Scout sign is made by raising the right hand straight up high over the head with the palm forward. The first two fingers are wide apart and pointing up as in a V. The two extended fingers stand for the Scout Oath and the Scout Law. They look like the wolf’s ears ready to listen to Akela.

When to Use the Cub Scout Sign

The Cub Scout sign is given when saying the Scout Oath or Scout Law. It is also used by Akela to ask for quiet and attention. Akela in the den is you. When you give this sign, the boys should stop what they are doing and give you their complete attention.

2. Show the Cub Scouts how to do the Cub Scout salute. Then have them salute the flag of the United States of America and recite the Pledge of Allegiance. *Note: You might need to have the words displayed on a poster. Please ask any parents present to participate in the pledge with the Cub Scouts.*

Cub Scout Salute



A salute is a way to show respect. We salute our flag to show respect for our country.

For the Cub Scout salute, use your right hand. Hold your fingers as you do for the Cub Scout sign. Keep the two straight fingers close together. Touch the tips of those fingers to your cap. If you are not wearing a cap, touch your right eyebrow.

3. Learn the Cub Scout motto: Do Your Best. You can do this as a cheer. The den leader will ask, “What’s our motto?” and the Cub Scouts will respond, “Do ... Your ... Best!” three times, getting louder each time.

Cub Scout Motto

Do Your Best.

Talk Time

Carry out any business items for your den.

Talk about what the Cub Scout Motto means. Ask them what they think it means. End the discussion with this statement.

“A motto is a guiding principle and a rule of living. Do Your Best means to try your hardest, not just a little bit. Do your best all of the time. Do your best in school and at home. Do your best when you play a game and help your team. Do your best as you work through your rank adventures!”

Activities

1. Have the Scouts play the People Bingo game to get to know each other. *A copy of the People Bingo game board is attached.*
2. Review what the Cub Scouts discussed in the opening exercise of Do's and Don'ts. Together as a den, create your own den code of conduct.
3. Teach the Scouts and parents the Scout Oath and the Scout Law.

Scout Oath (or Promise)

On my honor I will do my best
To do my duty to God and my country
and to obey the Scout Law;
To help other people at all times;
To keep myself physically strong,
mentally awake, and morally straight.

Scout Law

A Scout is trustworthy, loyal, helpful, friendly, courteous, kind, obedient, cheerful, thrifty, brave, clean, and reverent.

4. Play the "All Mixed-Up Game." **Instructions attached.**

Closing

1. Have the Cub Scouts form a circle. Teach them how to do the Cub Scout handshake. Have them shake their neighbor's hand.



2. Remind the parents to help their Scout and of any upcoming dates.
3. Have Cub Scouts sign up to prepare and bring a healthy snack to the upcoming den meetings.
4. Tell the Cub Scouts the importance of keeping your meeting space clean and have them help clean up the room.
5. THANK everyone for attending.

People BINGO

Find a different person to sign his or her name in each box.

When you get all of the boxes signed, call out BINGO

I have a pet.	I was born in _____(month).	I play baseball.	I have a pool.
My shoes have no laces.	I have curly hair.	My name has more than seven letters.	I was at a different school last year.
My favorite food is pizza.	I was born in another state.	I have been to the zoo.	I write with my left hand.
I know the principal's name.	I speak another language.	I walk to school.	I have read a chapter book.
I have a summer birthday.	I like vegetables.	I know how to swim.	I have traveled to another country.

All Mixed Up Game

Write out the Scout Oath. Cut each line into a strip and insert each one into a separate balloon. You should have six balloons, each with a strip inside. Blow up the balloons and place them in a large basket or bag. Divide the Cub Scouts into two teams and line them up next to each other with the basket of balloons between them.

Mark a starting and finish line. Each boy will select a balloon, run to the finish line, sit on the balloon to pop it, retrieve the paper inside, then run back to his team and tag the next Scout to go. Once all of the balloons have been popped, the den leader calls "Fix!" and the Cub Scouts then work together to get themselves into the correct order for the Scout Oath. Have each Scout read his line, then have them all can recite together.

Note: If you have more than six boys in your den, include lines from the Cub Scout motto in separate balloons. If you have fewer than six, either have the Scouts go twice or have others fill in.

On my honor I will do my best

To do my duty to God and my country

and to obey the Scout Law;

To help other people at all times;

To keep myself physically strong,
mentally awake, and morally straight.
