Rationale for Adventure
The “Den” is a key method of Cub Scouting – a group of 6 to 8 Scouts of the same grade (age) who do things together, both pure fun and important Adventures from their Handbook. Setting a positive, forward looking tone in the first Den Adventure (meeting) helps set the stage for Cub Scouting fun. This Adventure has three key elements: (1) getting to know the Scouts, (2) getting the Scouts to bond as a Den, and (3) pure fun. And some introduction to (or review of) the Bobcat Rank.

Takeaways for Cub Scouts
• Get to know your fellow Den members and your Den Leaders and Parent Helpers
• Introduction to the Scout Oath and Scout Law (and review, for returning Scouts)
• Look forward to upcoming Den and Pack Adventures.
• Develop the Den’s rules … how we’ll all act when we’re together.
  o By helping decide their own rules, scouts will feel a sense of responsibility.
  o They will feel that the den is “theirs.”
• Every Parent Helps! Many parents are helping with this meeting, not just the Den Leader!
  o And every Scout who sees a Parent helping is proud of that Parent!
• A Scout is friendly, loyal, cheerful.

Preparation and Materials Needed
• Your Pack’s schedule of upcoming Fun Activities
  o If possible, flyers for those events, or photos or video of similar fun at past events
• U.S. flag (or picture of a flag)
• For balloon stomp battle royale: balloons, string
• For the Den History Book, scrapbook pages (attached), plus pencils, crayons and markers.
• Copies of this Meeting Plan for Parents
• Paper or poster to write the Den’s “Code of Conduct” (classroom whiteboard OK too)

YOUR FIRST DEN MEETING
• Be completely organized before the start of the meeting. Ask some others to arrive early to help.
  o If you are new to running meetings like this, it is easier to think of it as several short activities (see the parts of the den meeting section) rather than a single long event.
  o Share this plan with all parents about how the Adventure will go today, and find a role for each.
• Fill in as many names in each activity segment as possible as parents arrive.

• A snack at den meetings is optional, but often welcome. If you do serve a snack, offer fruits or vegetables to set an example of healthy eating. Be aware of any food allergies of den members and communicate these to adult partners who may be assisting with the snacks.

• Plan a “Gathering” activity: something simple and fun for Scouts and Parents to do on arrival:
  o If you gather at a location with access to a playground or gym, this will be very easy.
  o If you gather in a more quiet location, this will need some planning.
  o See our Adventure Plans for Bobcat + Meeting Tips page and follow the links.

• If you have one, wear your adult uniform to all meetings.

Gathering

• Welcome new Scouts and parents. Today will have lots of “getting to know each other” time.
  o Talk with Parents: encourage them to stay and participate … it will mean a lot to their Scouts.
  o Hand out this meeting plan to each and assign each parent to a meeting role.

• Distribute a Family Talent Survey to the parents, asking them to complete it and return it to you today (but not later than the next event). Also ask each about interests, abilities, hobbies, jobs.

• Have a gathering activity (games, puzzles, coloring) 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 at home (a good job for an assistant den leader or a parent helper).

Opening (Den Leader Tip: Recruit a different Parent to Lead Each Part of the Opening)

• Display the U.S. flag and recite the Pledge of Allegiance. (Parent leader(s): ____________)

• Recite the Scout Law. (Parent leader(s): ____________ + ____________)

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

  For a Den with new Scouts, a parent can say “we’re going to repeat the Scout Law, which has 12 points, and since this is our first meeting, I’ll say a word or phrase, and you guys repeat it back:

    (Leader goes first) (Scouts and Parents respond)
    A Scout is … A Scout is
    Trustworthy … Trustworthy
    Loyal … Loyal
    Helpful … Helpful
    Friendly … Friendly
    Courteous … Courteous
    Kind … Kind
    Obedient … Obedient
    Cheerful … Cheerful
    Thrifty … Thrifty
    Brave … Brave
    Clean … Clean
    and Reverent … and Reverent

  (If you want, feel free to add: “Now let’s say it all together: A Scout is trustworthy, loyal, helpful,
friendly, courteous, kind, obedient, cheerful, thrifty, brave, clean, and reverent.”)

**Talk Time** *(Den Leader Tip: Recruit a Parent to take notes on names and interests, and recruit parents to lead parts of the discussion)*

- *(Parent leader: ______) Have each Scout (and attending parent) introduce themselves and tell something about themselves. “Talk Time” is when we get to know each other.

- *(Parent leader: ______)* Discuss what a den is and how it fits in with a pack. Discuss a den name: “we may have a Den Number, but ... is that enough for our Den?” Let the Cubs pick a (not offensive) name they all agree on, by their rules, with your oversight. [You might finish next time.]
  - Tigers: ... Tiger Sharks, Sabertooth; Terrific, Talented, Transformer, Talkative, Tony, TV, Tent Dwelling, Totally, Tolerant, Tenacious, Tough, Transparent, Tricky, True, Trustworthy, Tumbling, Treasure Hunting, Tremendous.
  - Bears: ... Polar, Breakdancing, Grizzly, Unbearable, Bodacious, Beatnik, Backpacking, Barefoot, Barking, Baseball, Beach, Beastly, Biking, Blazing, Bongo, Boomerang, Bouncing, Brainiac, Brave, Brilliant, Bug Eating, Billy Bob.

- [Maybe highlight that in future Adventures we can also discuss a den yell, and other den identity elements (like a den flag, neckerchief slide, or our own den advancement totem or doodle).]

**Activity 1: Fun Things We’ll Do (and Code of Conduct)** *(Den Leader Tip:)*

Recruit Parents to jump in and lead the “Code of Conduct” chat once kids start talking over each other … it will happen! Use the attached Code of Conduct as a reference

As a transition out of “talk time”, talk about upcoming fun Pack activities scheduled, or that might be scheduled if we get parents to help out, events like camping, hiking, biking, swimming (use events you know you have a chance to do), with highlights on ones that could come soon.

- Ask the Scouts what they would like about these.
- Like for camping, do they like campfires, or cooking marshmallows over a fire.
  - The Scouts will start “talking over each other” which will be … chaos.
  - Let it happen for a bit … but then …
  - *(Parent leader(s): ______ + ______)* interrupt and say “wait a second … if we’re going to be a Den together, and spend a lot of time together … don’t you think we need to have some rules about how we act when we’re together?”
  - Some Scouts will probably have immediate suggestions … like “one person talks at a time” or “if you want to talk, raise your hand”.
  - *(Parent/Leaders: use the attached Code of Conduct for checkpoints, and to ask questions to lead them to other points)*
  - List your rules on a poster or paper or classroom chalkboard/whiteboard.

- Then, after the Code of Conduct is done … Den Leader or another parent can step back in:
  - Congratulations on a great set of Rules … You guys did a great job!
  - Now … let’s follow our Den Rules and keep sharing about the fun Pack activities scheduled.
  - If you have them, share flyers for those events, or photos or video of similar fun at past events
### Activity 2: Introduction to Bobcat Rank (Den Leader Tip: Recruit Parents to Lead – maybe set up “stations” for Scouts to rotate to for each Requirement)

**Review the Bobcat Requirements:** We want to introduce the first Rank Badge you can earn.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Requirement</th>
<th>Description</th>
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| 1. Learn and say the Scout Oath, with help if needed.                       | 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. |
| **(Parent leader(s):)**                                                      |                                                                                                                                             |
| 2. Learn and say the Scout Law, with help if needed.                        | A Scout is:  
trustworthy, loyal, helpful, friendly, courteous, kind, obedient,  
cheerful, thrifty, brave, clean, and reverent. |
| **(Parent leader(s):)**                                                      |                                                                                                                                             |
| 3. Show the Cub Scout sign. Tell what it means.                             | Make the sign with your right hand. Hold your arm straight up.  
The two raised fingers stand for the Scout Oath and the Scout Law.  
The fingers look like the sharp ears of the wolf ready to listen to Akela!  
Remember that Akela means “good leader” to a Cub Scout. Your mother or father or guardian is Akela. So is your Cubmaster or your den leader. |
| **(Parent leader(s):)**                                                      |                                                                                                                                             |
| 4. Show the Cub Scout handshake. Tell what it means.                        | When you shake hands with another Cub Scout, do this: Hold out your right hand just as you always do to shake hands.  
But then put your first two fingers along the inside of the other scout’s wrist.  
This means you help each other to remember and obey the Scout Oath and Scout Law. |
| **(Parent leader(s):)**                                                      |                                                                                                                                             |
| 5. Say the Cub Scout motto. Tell what it means.                             | The Cub Scout motto is “Do Your Best.”  
A motto is a guiding principle and a rule for living. Do Your Best means trying your hardest, not just a little bit. Do your best all the time… in school and at home… when you play a game and help your team. Do your best as you work on your rank adventures! |
| **(Parent leader(s):)**                                                      |                                                                                                                                             |
Hold your first two fingers close together.  
Touch your fingertips to your cap. If you aren’t wearing a cap, touch your right eyebrow.  
You salute the flag to show respect to our country. Always use the Cub Scout salute when you are in your Cub Scout uniform, both indoors and outdoors. |
| **(Parent leader(s):)**                                                      |                                                                                                                                             |
| 7. With your parent or guardian, probably at home                           | [To be Done by Parent or Guardian, probably at home]  
7. With your parent or guardian, complete the exercises in the pamphlet How to Protect Your Children From Child Abuse: A Parent’s Guide. See [http://www.scouting.org/filestore/pdf/100-014_WEB.pdf](http://www.scouting.org/filestore/pdf/100-014_WEB.pdf) |
Activity 3: [OPTION: Den History Book]

(Parent leader(s): ____________ + ____________) To start the Den History Book, start with who is in the Den … so let each Scout start a “history page”.

- Distribute scrapbook pages, plus pencils, crayons and markers. Encourage pictures too.
- This helps you get to know the Scouts and their families.
- Collect all and return to this if you go forward with a Den History.

Activity 4: [OPTION: Balloon Stomp Battle Royale!!]

(Parent leader(s): ____________ + ____________) As a fun game, let’s play “Balloon Stomp Battle Royale”. Let us describe how we’ll play this:

**BALLOON BATTLE ROYAL**

*Activity Level: High*

*Needed: Any number of players, balloons, string*

Arrange Cub Scouts in a large circle, each with an inflated balloon tied to his ankle. On a signal, players try to break all others balloons by stamping on them, while not letting their balloon get broken. When a balloon is broken, that player leaves the game. The game continues until only one player is left.

Closing: perhaps a den leader’s minute, maybe recite the Scout Oath or Scout Law.

- Thank every Parent who helped out.
- [OPTION: to help learn the Cub Scout motto (Do Your Best), end with the Do Your Best Cheer. As a cheer, the den leader asks: “What’s our motto?” and Tiger Cubs and adult partners respond: “Do Your Best!” three times, getting louder each time. What’s our Motto? ➞ Do Your Best!

What’s our Motto? ➞ Do Your Best!!

What’s our Motto? ➞ Do Your Best!!!

After the Meeting

- Thank the Parents again, one on one.
- Get to meet Parents who are picking up their Scouts.
- Clean up as needed.
CODE OF CONDUCT

A code of conduct is a list of behavioral expectations and consequences if the code is broken. Scouts, with the den leader's guidance, usually create it themselves.

- Three or four points will be sufficient, and they should be positive; the words no or don't have no place in a code of conduct. Include a final rule such as “Have fun!”
- Also consider including the 3 R's: Respect for others, Responsibility for yourself and your things, and Reasonable behavior.
- Scouts should sign the code of conduct, and it should be displayed at every den meeting.
- Using the 12 points of the Scout Law can serve as a strong foundation for a code of conduct, and also reinforce the values of Scouting.

IDEAS you might use for a Den “Code of Conduct” (How we’ll treat each other in our Den)

Don’t hand these Ideas out – but use them as a discussion guide to help the scouts come up with their rules. Rules work better if the Scouts agree and believe they had the idea!

Respect others in the Den — fellow Scouts, Leaders, Parents and Guests.
- Help others, be helpful, friendly, courteous and kind!

Stay in Control of Yourself:
- Use good, appropriate, and positive manners.
- Listen when someone else is speaking. Do not interrupt.
- Raise your hand when you want to say something. Wait to be recognized before you speak.
- Respect the space of others. That includes no touching or bothering!

The Cub Scout sign means: Everyone be quiet now.
- When you see the sign go up, just be quiet and put the Cub Scout sign up.

Stay in the meeting space, unless you have permission from the Den leader to go elsewhere.
- Walk –don’t run – in the building (unless we are doing an activity letting you run).

Keep the Meeting Space Clean!
- Keep the room clean during the meeting and after the meeting.
- Everyone helps leave the meeting room better than we found it.

Everyone Has Fun! Parents and Family Too!

The Code of Conduct may be written on a poster to display where you meet.

But: do not post your consequences, because posting the penalties puts a focus on bad behavior (you might announce consequences as First Time: Verbal Warning; Second Time: 5 Minutes “Time Out” from Meeting Activity; Third Time: Parents Notified and may need to leave the meeting too).
Den Scrapbook Page

My Name: ____________________________
(Drawings/Pictures)

My Family (Parents, Brothers, Sisters, etc.):
_____________________________________
_____________________________________
_____________________________________
_____________________________________
_____________________________________

My Pets: _____________________________
_____________________________________
_____________________________________

My Favorite Places: ____________________
_____________________________________
_____________________________________
_____________________________________

My Favorite Things to Eat: ______________
_____________________________________
_____________________________________
_____________________________________

Things I Like to Do With My Family and Friends:
_____________________________________
_____________________________________
_____________________________________
FAMILY TALENT SURVEY SHEET

Each parent or adult family member should fill out a separate sheet and turn it in at this meeting.

Name: _____________________________________________________
Home Phone: _____________ Cell Phone: _____________ Work Phone: _____________
E-mail address _____________________________________________________
Street address _____________________________________________________
City ________________________________________ State _________________ ZIP _____________________

Welcome to the Cub Scout family of our pack. Cub Scouting is a Family Program ... for kids, parents and siblings. To have a successful program, we rely on families willing to help and lead, according to their abilities. We invite you to add your talents and interests so that the best possible program can be developed for your scouts and their friends.

To have a Den, we need Den Leaders, and Den Leaders will need assistants and helpers. Although your help may not be on a full-time basis, whatever you can do will be appreciated – and having everyone help is essential.

Please answer the following as completely as possible:

1. My hobbies are: _____________________, _____________________, _____________________.

2. I can play and/or teach these sports: _____________________, _____________________, _____________________.

3. My job, business, or profession would be of interest to Cub Scouts: _____________________.

4. I am willing to help my scout and the pack as: ☐ Den Leader, ☐ Assistant Den Leader, ☐ Cubmaster, ☐ Assistant Cubmaster, ☐ Pack Committee Member (Administrative Support), ☐ Pack trainer.


6. I can help in these areas (please check applicable boxes for all ranks):

General Activities
☐ Carpentry
☐ Swimming/watercraft safety
☐ Games
☐ Nature
☐ Sports
☐ Outdoor activities
☐ Crafts
☐ Music/songs
☐ Citizenship/flag etiquette
☐ Bookkeeping

Tiger Activity Areas
☐ Nutrition/health
☐ Magic
☐ Biking
☐ Astronomy
☐ First aid

Wolf Activity Areas
☐ Knots
☐ Sign language
☐ Coin collecting
☐ Physics
☐ Math/codes
☐ Collections
☐ Disabilities awareness
☐ Dinosaurs
☐ Compass use
☐ Health
☐ Gardening
☐ Civil service/military

Bear Activity Areas
☐ Pocketknives/wood carving
☐ Camping
☐ Carnival games
☐ Citizenship/flag etiquette
☐ Fishing
☐ American Indian culture
☐ Animal care
☐ Forensics
☐ Physics
☐ Marbles
☐ Robotics
☐ General science

Webelos Activity Areas
☐ Outdoor cooking
☐ First aid
☐ Camping
☐ General science
☐ Disabilities awareness
☐ Survival skills
☐ Geocaching
☐ Geology
☐ Engineering
☐ Home repair
☐ Game design
☐ Wildlife
☐ Plant life
☐ Moviemaking