



BEFORE THE MEETING

Well before Cub Scout families arrive, set up the outdoor nature hunt. Set out the advancements to be awarded during the pack meeting at a predetermined location.

GATHERING

Greeters should arrive at the outing location early and be prepared to answer any questions that may arise. Direct families and guests to the area set aside for the preopening activity.

Preopening Activity Outdoor Nature Hunt

Make up a list like the one below for each boy. Boys can hunt in pairs. The winner is the pair that finds the most before the meeting begins or within a limited amount of time.

1. Something alive that flies
2. A cup of wet sand
3. Two different flowers
4. A bird nest
5. Five maple leaves (*or leaves of a tree that is common in your area*)
6. Three fist-sized rocks
7. Five ants
8. A dandelion
9. (*Add more from what is commonly found in your area.*)

OPENING

Opening Ceremony

A simple opening with a den leading the Cub Scout Promise is appropriate before the pack hike. Or you can find alternate ceremonies in *Cub Scout Ceremonies for Dens and Packs*.

Prayer (Cub Scout or Leader)

"We give thanks to the adults in our lives who help us to have the courage to do the right things as Cub Scouts should."

Welcome and Introductions

Welcome the Cub Scouts, parents, and leaders to the pack meeting/hike. Make sure all special guests are introduced and welcomed. Thank the dens and leaders who helped setting up for the meeting.

PROGRAM

Before starting on your hike, review the *Guide to Safe Scouting* so that your outing will be the best that Scouting can offer!

Hiking Tips

- ▶ Avoid heavily traveled roads.
- ▶ Walk with the Cub Scout leader first in line, and the den chief or an adult at the end.
- ▶ Keep the hike speed consistent with the short steps of boys. Slower walkers can be in the front of the line so they won't lag behind.
- ▶ Be sure to bring extra water for boys to reduce the possibility of dehydration.
- ▶ Stop frequently for rests. Use the time to talk about nature or play quiet games. A snack is a good pick-me-up.
- ▶ Encourage boys to see, not just look.
- ▶ Encourage boys to be quiet and to listen. Noise will scare away creatures in the woods.

Make your hike something extra special. See the *Cub Scout Leader How-To Book* for other suggestions.

- ▶ **Obstacle Course Hike.** Pick a trail that will include boys being able to climb a tree, walk a log, go through a fence, chin themselves on tree branches, etc. Be careful not to destroy any property or to trespass.
- ▶ **Once Around the Block.** Hikers go once around the block (or a short distance) and then test their observation skills. Who saw the most round things? What kinds of trees did boys see? What did boys see that was orange?
- ▶ **Come to Your Senses.** While hiking, stop often to see, hear, feel, and smell things along the way. Feeling is a special delight; touch the bark of trees, moss, and flower petals.
- ▶ **Penny Hike.** At the junction of each trail, road, street, etc., the denner or den chief flips a coin to determine the direction of travel. Heads, go right; tails, go left. Be sure to take a map.
- ▶ **Homes Hike.** Look for animal homes, such as spider webs, nests, and holes. (Don't disturb them! Don't put your hand in a place you can't see, either.)



Den Demonstrations

During the hike, stop periodically for den demonstrations. Dens can share skits or songs. They can also tell about the experience of other hikes they have taken.

RECOGNITION

Hiking Shoes

Materials: Six different sizes of hiking shoes, one for each rank. Awards are inside the shoes. Use imagination in selecting shoes that fit the level of the award.

Have ceremony team divide up the parts. Den leaders might read the part for their dens.

Bobcat—(*Hold up shoe*) These boys are taking their first steps in Cub Scouting, enjoying new friends and new experiences. (*Call boys and parents forward and present awards.*)

Tiger Cub—(*Hold up shoe*) These boys are learning a lot in Cub Scouting with their family, at the den, and on their Go See It trips. (*Call boys and parents forward and present awards.*)

Wolf—(*Hold up shoe*) These boys are a little older. Understanding Cub Scouting allows for more growth and movement toward higher goals. (*Call boys and parents forward and present awards.*)

Bear—(*Hold up shoe*) These boys are taking bigger steps to understand family, self, respect for others, and duty to God. (*Call boys and parents forward and present awards.*)

Webelos—(*Hold up shoe*) Now, these boys are learning to do things on their own, expanding their knowledge and taking steps to become Boy Scouts. (*Call boys and parents forward and present awards.*)

Arrow of Light—(*Hold up shoe*) Soon we will have boys take the biggest and longest steps available in Cub Scouting. They will have achieved the highest award of Cub Scouting, the Arrow of Light. They will need to demonstrate continued growth and understanding as they prepare to move forward to Boy Scouting.

Congratulations to all the boys who have advanced or received awards.

CLOSING

Announcements

Make announcements extra brief this month. Highlight dates and times that are in the pack newsletter. Share plans for the next pack meeting and activities so families can be reminded to attend.

Cubmaster's Minute

When we begin to feel that life is hard and the task before us is more than we can handle, stop and remember those who forged the trails before us. They left for a life in the unknown. They didn't know what lay ahead of them, but with courage they moved on. They hiked over mountains and through dry hot deserts, just to name a few of their difficulties. But they drew upon their faith, and their courage and determination to get the job done.

Remember: It takes courage to accomplish our goals in life, even when it seems as if they can't be done. It worked for our forefathers—it can work for you!

Closing Ceremony

I Went Hiking

CUB SCOUT 1: I went hiking, I took a walking stick.

CUB SCOUT 2: I went hiking, I took a camera.

CUB SCOUT 3: I went hiking, I took some water.

CUB SCOUT 4: I went hiking, I took a snack.

CUB SCOUT 5: I went hiking and enjoyed the journey.

CUB SCOUT 6: I went hiking, not a piece did I take.

CUB SCOUT 7: I went hiking, not a piece did I leave.

AFTER THE MEETING

- ▶ Refreshments
- ▶ Cleanup