



**Core Value:  
Perseverance**



## June

## Perseverance

### Over the Horizon

#### Pack Committee

**Why Over the Horizon for Perseverance.** It is easy for a Cub Scout to become tired and want to quit while out on a hike, but looking forward to seeing what is over the horizon is a goal that may keep him from giving up. Perseverance is sticking with something and not giving up, even if it is difficult. Through participation in activities such as hiking, Cub Scouts learn the importance of perseverance. This month we encourage every Cub Scout to look “Over the Horizon” to his goal as he hikes along the Cub Scout trail.

### BEFORE THE MEETING

Well before Cub Scout families arrive, set up the knot hike, gather and prepackage the advancements to be awarded during the meeting, set up a table with all of the materials for the gathering, and stage den exhibit tables. Assist dens with decorating and setting up their exhibit tables.

As families arrive, direct them to the den exhibit tables so that they may view the boys' accomplishments during the month.

### GATHERING

#### Trail Mix

Have snack-size plastic bags (one for each person), bowls filled with a variety of foods to make trail mix, a spoon or scoop for each bowl, and hand sanitizer. Here are some suggestions for the bowls of foods: dried fruit, shredded coconut, pretzel sticks, small snack crackers, nuts, and coated chocolate candies. Consider making fun names to label your food bowls like “keep on goin’ nuts,” “raisin our hopes raisins,” and “walking stick pretzels.” Have each Cub Scout clean his hands before preparing his own trail mix. Have an adult supervise this station to ensure that spoons or scoops are being properly utilized and that each Cub Scout cleans his hands before starting. Instruct the Cub Scouts to save their mix for the knot hike.

**Note:** If you are going to add nuts to the mix, make sure there are no nut allergies in your pack.

### OPENING

A preassigned den presents the colors and leads the pack in the Pledge of Allegiance.

#### Mountain Trail Opening

A preassigned den performs the following:

CUB SCOUT 1: The mountain trail is a steep trail, rocky, rough, and bare.

ALL: But most trails are steep trails that get you anywhere.

CUB SCOUT 2: The mountain trail is a hard trail with pitfalls left and right.

ALL: But most trails are hard that reach a big height.

CUB SCOUT 3: So over the rocks we scramble.

CUB SCOUT 4: With never a mind to stop!

ALL: And few of us care if it's steep, as we will persevere and gain the mountaintop!

### **Prayer (Cub Scout or Leader)**

"Thank you for the world we live in. Help us to always see its beauty. Help us to be good caretakers of all nature, especially the trails we hike. Help us to always stick with the tasks we start, even when they are difficult."

### **Welcome and Introductions**

The Cubmaster welcomes special guests and any new families to the pack and thanks all who have helped prepare for the pack meeting.

CUBMASTER: Let's recognize our new families, guests, and helpers with the Triumph cheer.

Triumph cheer: "Try, try, try, umph (*make loud grunting noise*), triumph, persevere."

## **PROGRAM**

### **Den Demonstrations**

Ask each den in turn to talk about their adventures during the last month. After each den demonstration or talk, the Cubmaster leads a cheer for that den before calling up the next one.

### **Knot Hike**

Consider taking a short knot hike during this portion of the pack meeting. Plan on stopping at designated points marked with a knot so that each den can perform a skit or song.

Along a path, tie ropes around trees, posts, etc., using different knots. Tell boys in advance which direction to go when they identify a particular knot. Keep the knots simple and be sure to provide a key showing what each knot looks like and explaining its purpose.

CUBMASTER: Now that we are back from our hike, let's all do the Clean Air applause in honor of our perseverance on the hike.

Clean Air applause: Take in as much air as you can through your nose, hold it, then exhale and say, "Ahhhhhhh!"

### **Audience Participation**

#### **Let's Take a Hike**

LEADER (standing before the group): Want to take a hike? Then just say what I say and do what I do. All set? Let's go! Let's pack. (Make a motion of packing things and throwing the pack over your shoulder.) Out, through the door. (Clap your hands sharply to suggest a door slamming.) Down the street. (Clap your hands against your knees in a slow walk tempo.)

Awfully big town! (Continue marching.)

Out in the country at last! (Speed up walking.)

Here's a river and there's the bridge. (Put your arms at your sides in a march tempo, then again on your knees.)

Here's a field. Let's cut across it! (Swish your palms against one another.)

Oats! (Continue swishing.)

No—wheat! (Continue swishing, then switch back to marching.)

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Here's another river. (Stop marching.)

No bridge. We'll have to jump. (Use a fast clapping tempo on your thighs to indicate running, then put both arms up in the air and down again to indicate a wide jump. Keep on marching, hesitate, stop, march, stop. Put a hand on your forehead and look in different directions.)

Oh-oh! Lost! There's a tree. Let's see if we can see anything from it. (Clap fast to indicate running to a tree, then make climbing actions with your arms, cup one hand over your forehead, and look around.)

Still lost! Hey, there's a cave. (Clap fast to indicate running to the cave.)

This side is cold. (Feel the side of the cave.)

This side is wet. (Feel the other side.)

There's a light. (Point with a finger.)

There's another light. (Point with a finger.)

Hey! They're eyes! It's a bear! (Do all the above actions quickly in reverse order to indicate running home.)

Home at last . . . Hooray!

## **RECOGNITION**

This recognition ceremony can be incorporated into the knot hike.

The Cubmaster has a backpack and hiking stick. Inside the backpack are resealable plastic bags that hold the awards to be presented to each den. Either label the bag with a marker or place a different color sheet of paper in each bag for easy identification.

CUBMASTER: Scouts, it is important to be prepared when you go on a hike. It is also important to remember that if you want to get to your goal at the end of the trail, you must stick with it and not give up. Tonight we are going to recognize some of our Cub Scouts who have practiced perseverance in working toward their ranks and awards. Will (Scout's name) come forward with his parent. You have worked very hard to achieve the rank/award of (name of the rank or award). As I pass you the hiking staff representing our journey along the Scouting path, please share with the group something that you had to work hard on to achieve this award. (The Scout speaks then returns the hiking staff to the Cubmaster, who resumes the same process for each den.)

CUBMASTER: Let's recognize all of these Cub Scouts who have shown perseverance in earning their awards with the Hike the Mountain applause.

Hike the Mountain Applause

March in place. Begin with the head erect, shoulders back, and a steady step. As the mountain becomes steeper, slow down the march and bend forward as if straining to continue the hike. At the top, collapse back in your seat, wipe your brow with your sleeve, and sigh, "We made it."



## **CLOSING**

### ***Cubmaster's Minute***

A wise man once noted that, "All sunshine all the time is what makes a desert. Just as rain and snow are necessary for plants to exist, so are they necessary in our lives. We gain strength and the ability to live not from the days when all goes right, but rather, it is from days of adversity and overcoming difficulties that we grow." Cub Scouts, don't be too quick to take the easy trail. It is important to remember that if you give up, you will not succeed at your task. It is only by sticking with something, even when it is difficult, that you can succeed. May you always remember this as you travel the trail to Eagle Scout.

## **CLOSING CEREMONY**

### ***Knocks and Scratches***

Have five boys on stage wearing oversized cardboard feet that have scratches, cuts, bandages, etc., on the top of them. The bottom of each foot has a letter that, when all are put together, spells out "good night." Note: Make sure the boys have the feet on in order to spell "good night" correctly in the direction of the audience.)

(The narrator reads the poem while Cub Scouts stand nearby.)

Our hiking meeting has come to an end. We now have a message to leave with you, dear friend.  
Our many achievements in life make feet tired and weary.  
But if there were nothing to do, our life would be dreary.  
So forget the knocks and scratches, blisters and aches.  
And look over the horizon in order to  
Do your best and persevere at all times.  
That's what success takes!

(As the poem is finished, boys lie down on the stage with their cardboard feet facing the audience and spelling out G-O-O-D N-I-G-H-T.)

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## RESOURCES

### Optional Opening

#### Hiking and the Flag

Equipment: Camping gear and outfits for each participant, one pair of binoculars, American and pack flags

Position the flags in front of the audience. The actors are off to one side and slowly walk through the audience to the front.

CUB SCOUT 1: It sure is nice to be here in the outdoors with all these trees, animals, and fresh air.

CUB SCOUT 2 (looking through binoculars): Hey, I think I see a big red bird up there!

CUB SCOUT 3: Here, let me see. (He takes the binoculars while everyone continues to walk slowly to the front.) It's a huge white bird of some sort.

CUB SCOUT 4 (takes the binoculars while everyone continues to walk slowly to the front.): It's not red or white. It's big and blue, and . . . what's this? It has stars!

CUB SCOUT 5: Here, let me see what you are all talking about. (He looks through the binoculars.)

CUB SCOUT 6: Come on, you guys. (He motions everyone to follow as they walk up to the front.)

It's not a red bird, or even a white bird. What you were looking at is our nation's flag. (He turns to the audience.) Will you please stand and join us in the Pledge of Allegiance?

### Song

"Take Me Out to the Forest"

(Sung to the tune "Take Me Out to the Ball Game")

*Take me out to the forest.*

*Let me hike in the wild.*

*Show me a skunk and a few bear tracks.*

*I won't care if I never come back.*

*But it's look, look, look at your compass.*

*If it rains, then it pours.*

*And it's ouch, slap, sting, and you're bit*

*In the great outdoors!*

### Skit

#### Climb That Mountain

You will need four to eight people dressed in stocking caps, coats, boots, and goggles and carrying pikes.

The skit opens with boys tied together with rope as mountain climbers are. They all talk about how they are going to see the whole world when they reach the top. Finally, the lead climber reaches the very top.

LEAD CLIMBER: We've made it! We're at the top! I see!

OTHERS: Yes, yes.

LEAD CLIMBER: I see, I see.

OTHERS: Yes, yes!

LEAD CLIMBER: I see.

OTHERS: What do you see?

LEAD CLIMBER (with disappointment): The other side.



## Games

### Stop and Spot Game

While hiking, the leader stops and says: "I spot a \_\_\_\_\_ (naming a familiar object)." Everyone in the group who sees the object will raise his hand or sit down. This sharpens observation skills.

### Memory Hike Game

This game is played after a hike or a trip to the zoo or park. During the outing, tell the boys to observe everything very carefully so they can make a list of all that they have seen. Right after the outing, hand out paper and pencils and have the boys make their lists. See who was most observant.

## Types of Hikes

Smell hike: Sniff your way around the block and write down the odors you recognize.

Sound hike: Listen your way around the block and write down the sounds you recognize.

Color hike: Look for objects of a preselected color.

City hike: Look for scraps of nature between cracks in the sidewalk. Look at buildings, carvings, and cornices. A vacant lot can provide a lot of interesting things to see.

Night hike: See how different things look, smell, and sound at night.

String along: Take a piece of string about a yard long on your hike. Every now and then, place the string in a circle on the ground. See how many different things you can find enclosed within the circle. Stretch the string in a line—how many different things touch it?

Baby hike: List all the babies seen (bird, fern, leaf, etc.).

