



**Core Value:
Courage**

July

Courage

Space: The New Frontier

Pack Committee

Why Space: The New Frontier for the Core Value Courage. It takes courage to explore a new frontier, to cast aside the comfort of the life we know to go forth and explore our universe. Our Cub Scouts show similar courage in exploring the options and challenges of their advancement in Scouting, which we know will help them grow up strong and courageous as they lead our complicated world and learn more about our universe.

BEFORE THE MEETING

Prepare the meeting room. Have tables set up for den displays. Make sure gathering game materials are in place and recognition items are ready.

GATHERING

As families enter, have a preassigned den hand out a copy of the Planet Quiz (see the end of this meeting plan) to each family. Set out pencils on tables. Explain that each family should work together to find the answers to the quiz. Here is the key.

1. What planet am I? **Mercury**

I am extremely hot and very dry. I am closest to our sun.

I am a small planet. My diameter is half of Earth's.

I am named after the speedy messenger of the ancient Roman gods.

2. What planet am I? **Neptune**

I am the eighth planet from our sun.

I am the fourth-largest planet in diameter.

I was named for the ancient Roman god of the sea.

3. What planet am I? **Saturn**

I am the sixth planet from our sun.

I orbit the sun in 11 of Earth's orbits.

I have thousands of rings made of tiny particles of floating ice circling me.

4. What planet am I? **Venus**

I have been called the "evening star" or "morning star," even though I am a planet.

I am surrounded by thick clouds filled with droplets of sulfur.

I am Earth's sister planet—almost the same size as Earth and the second planet from our sun.





5. What planet am I? **Jupiter**

I have 50 official moons—maybe more.

I am the fifth planet from our sun.

I am named after the king of the ancient Roman gods.

6. What planet am I? **Uranus**

I have a tilted rotation around the sun—my north and south poles are where the equator is on Earth.

I have 27 known moons.

I am the seventh planet from the sun.

7. What planet am I? **Earth**

I am the biggest of all the terrestrial planets. A terrestrial planet is a dense planet found in the inner solar system.

About 30 percent of my surface is covered with land, while about 70 percent is covered by water.

I am the third planet from our sun.

8. What planet am I? **Mars**

Recently, evidence of ice water was found on me.

I used to be called the “red planet” because I appear red when viewed through a telescope.

I am the fourth planet from the sun.

OPENING

The preassigned den presents the flags and leads the Pledge of Allegiance.

Planets Skit

(Cub Scouts enter, each representing a planet).

CUB SCOUT 1, Mercury (enters jumping around): You’d really get a hot foot if you lived on me. The temperature is 950 degrees on Mercury.

CUB SCOUT 2, Venus (enters moving hands as if parting fog): You might think that Venus is lovely as can be, but the 200-mile-thick clouds make it hard to see.

CUB SCOUT 3, Mars (enters wearing red cape over his uniform): From its canals to polar caps, Mars is hard to understand. I’m frozen ice and barren rocks, but I do the best I can.

CUB SCOUT 4, Jupiter (enters strolling with hands behind back): If you like to walk in moonlight, you’d love to live on me. I have not just one moon, but 50 for you to see.

CUB SCOUT 5, Saturn (enters wearing a scientist’s white coat over his uniform): I’m not just surrounded by three rings, as people thought me to be. Saturn has many, many rings that you can see for free.

CUB SCOUT 6, Uranus (enters leaning to one side, tilted): Some think I orbit sideways, looking just like this, but that’s because my poles are where your equator is.



CUB SCOUT 7, Neptune (enter wearing an overcoat over his uniform, shivering): I'm named for King Neptune, who lived under the sea. Old King Neptune would be frozen if he lived on me.

Prayer (Cub Scout or Leader)

"We are grateful to the courageous scientists and astronauts who have expanded our knowledge of the universe. We pray that we, too, will be courageous to explore and expand our knowledge of this new frontier."

Welcome and Introductions

The Cubmaster welcomes families, introduces guests, and thanks those who helped prepare for and plan the meeting.

The Cubmaster asks who learned something new about the planets and whether the opening skit helped them with the answers, and then gives the answers to the Planet quiz.

CUBMASTER: Let's give Den _____, which presented our opening skit, the Apollo cheer. (Count down 10, 9, 8, 7, 6, 5, 4, 3, 2, 1, blast off! Move one hand up like a rocket, gain orbit, and make a fist and move your head around like a satellite, saying, "Beep,beep,beep!")

PROGRAM

Den Demonstrations

Ask each den to show and tell about the things they did during the past month. Give each a cheer after their demonstration.

Audience Participation: Astronaut Story

Divide the audience into five sections. Assign each section one of the parts below. Every time a section hears the narrator say its assigned word, that section stands and shouts its part.

ASTRONAUT: "Hello from Earth!"

SPACESHIP: "Vroom!"

SATURN: "See my rings!"

JUPITER: "See my moons!"

MARTIAN: "Eeek! Eeek!"

Once there was a courageous ASTRONAUT who was sent out in his SPACESHIP to explore the galaxy. The first planet the ASTRONAUT landed on was Mars. When the ASTRONAUT landed his SPACESHIP, he saw a MARTIAN. The ASTRONAUT held up two fingers as a sign of peace and said, "Greetings from Earth!" but all the MARTIAN said was, "Eeek! Eeek!"

After thinking about what the MARTIAN words could mean, the ASTRONAUT decided to return to his SPACESHIP and try another planet. He looked on his solar system map and found JUPITER and SATURN. He said, "JUPITER looks about right, and it's a little bigger." The ASTRONAUT started his SPACESHIP and headed for JUPITER. Every so often he wondered what the MARTIAN had said to him.

Soon the ASTRONAUT arrived on JUPITER and started searching for signs of life. He searched all over JUPITER, but found nothing. He marveled at the beautiful moons of JUPITER, but climbed aboard his SPACESHIP and headed toward SATURN. Arriving on SATURN, the ASTRONAUT said, "This sure is different from Mars and JUPITER!" He again searched for signs of life, but found no evidence of life on SATURN. However, floating in the rings of SATURN he found an odd-looking device labeled "MARTIAN translator."

The ASTRONAUT jumped into his SPACESHIP and headed back to Mars to find the MARTIAN. He landed his SPACESHIP and found the MARTIAN. Holding his MARTIAN translator from SATURN, the ASTRONAUT held up two fingers as a sign of peace, and once again said,



“Greetings from Earth!” Again the MARTIAN said, “Eeek! Eeek!” Out of the translator was heard, “Do Your Best!”

Cubmaster: Let’s give Den _____ the space explorer applause. (Point toward the sky and say, “You’re out of this world!”)

RECOGNITION

Flight Through Space

Prepare a ceremony poster board resembling a chart of the sun and planets with the Boy Scout symbol on the sun and Cub Scout ranks on the planets. For other recognitions, such as Cub Scout Sports and Academics belt loops and pins, use shooting stars. Use a small silver cardboard rocket for each Scout receiving a rank advancement. Hang each badge or pin below the rocket with tape.

Call each Cub Scout to the front with his parents to receive his recognition.

CUBMASTER: We are proud of the courage you have shown in taking another flight forward in the Cub Scout galaxy. *(Present the award to his parents to give to the Scout and move his rocket to the appropriate rank or award.)* Your parents present this recognition to you because they have acted as launch control for your flight of achievement.

After all awards have been presented, say, “Let’s give these Scouts and families the rocket cheer—ZZZZZZZZOOOOOOOOOOOMMMMMM!”

CLOSING

Cubmaster’s Minute

History changed on October 4, 1957, when the Soviet Union successfully launched Sputnik I. The world’s first artificial satellite was about the size of a beach ball. That launch opened the door to new political, military, technological, and scientific developments. For thousands of years, humans had dreamed and imagined what the universe might be like beyond our planet Earth. Today, we know more than ever before, through the courage of those who dreamed about space. With courage and support from your family, you boys can make your dreams come true as well in this new frontier. Good night—dream well, Scouts!

CLOSING CEREMONY

The preassigned den retires the flags.

Optional Closing Activities

This might be a great time to hold a space derby for the pack. Be sure to provide space derby kits a month ahead so Scouts can make their spaceships.

Cheers

Satellite cheer: Move your hand and arm around your head in a circle, opening and closing the hand while saying, “GLEEP, GLEEP, GLEEP!”

Saturn cheer: “Ring! Ring! Ring! That rings true!”

Venus cheer: “Morning star, evening star, you’re a star to us!”

Run Ons

CUB SCOUT 1: What kind of music do astronauts play?

CUB SCOUT 2: Nep-tunes!

CUB SCOUT 1: What do you call a space wizard?

CUB SCOUT 2: A flying sorcerer!



Planet Quiz

Work together as a family to find the answers to the following questions.

1. What planet am I? _____

I am extremely hot and very dry. I am closest to our sun.

I am a small planet. My diameter is half of Earth's.

I am named after the speedy messenger of the ancient Roman gods.

2. What planet am I? _____

I am the eighth planet from our sun.

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