



**Core Value:
Citizenship**

Your Vote Counts

Pack Committee

Why Your Vote Counts for the Core Value Citizenship. Patriotism is an important part of good citizenship. Patriotism is love of and loyalty to our country. It involves honoring the democratic ideals on which this country is based and respecting and obeying its laws. It also involves accepting the responsibilities of good citizenship, such as staying informed about national issues, voting, and volunteering. We don't often think about teaching our Cub Scouts about voting because of their age and the fact that it will be many years before they can vote. We can, however, explain the importance of voting. If we mentor them by our actions, then the responsibility of good citizenship by voting will become more meaningful as they grow.

BEFORE THE MEETING

Construct a voting booth out of cardboard boxes for Cub Scouts to enter and "vote" for the snack they would like to have at the end of this pack meeting (or at next month's pack meeting). Decorate the booth patriotically. See a good sample at http://www.abcteach.com/free/p/project_votingbooth.pdf. Prepare the ballots. You can choose to list the snacks and have Cub Scouts check their favorite one, or you can have them write in their choice. Create a ballot box (a decorated tissue box works) to collect each Cub Scout's ballot for counting later on. A sample can be found at <http://crafts.kaboose.com/ballot-box.html>. Obtain blank white stickers and have Cub Scouts make their own "I Voted" sticker after they have voted. You may also choose to preprint the stickers. Obtain poster board for recording the results of the voting.

Prepare materials for the Stars and Stripes Sticks game. Have baggies to store the game sticks so Cub Scouts can take them home. Copy and print the Stars and Stripes Sticks scoring sheet (one for each Cub Scout or each individual who makes the sticks). (See the instructions and scoring sheet sample on the resource sheet at the end of this meeting plan.)

Prepare a large scroll out of bulletin board paper or poster board. Write the preamble to the Constitution of the United States on the scroll and post it in the meeting room. (See the resources at the end of this meeting plan for the preamble wording.)

GATHERING

As the Cub Scouts enter, the assigned den and its leaders or volunteers help direct Scouts to the voting booth. There, they will vote for the snack they would like to have either at the end of this meeting or at next month's pack meeting. After each Scout votes, have him fold the ballot in half and put it into the ballot box. Then let the Scouts make their own "I Voted" stickers. Or, if the stickers are preprinted, make sure everyone gets a sticker after voting. Have the Scouts then prepare for the Stars and Stripes Sticks game and play until the meeting starts.

OPENING

The preassigned den presents the colors and leads the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Cub Scouts from the same den lead the following.





Good Citizen

CUB SCOUT 1: We'll learn to be good citizens and hopefully we'll see that our laws are made for all of us, so everyone can be free.

CUB SCOUT 2: To do all this, the Cub Scouts need leaders—good ones who are true. That means we need the help of you, and you, and you (*nodding and pointing to the audience*).

CUB SCOUT 3: And now to start this pack meeting off right, in good and proper manner, we'd like you all to rise and sing our own "Star-Spangled Banner."

Song

"The Star-Spangled Banner"
By Francis Scott Key (1814)

Oh, say can you see by the dawn's early light
What so proudly we hailed at the twilight's last gleaming?
Whose broad stripes and bright stars thru the perilous fight,
O'er the ramparts we watched were so gallantly streaming?
And the rocket's red glare, the bombs bursting in air,
Gave proof through the night that our flag was still there.
Oh, say does that star-spangled banner yet wave
O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave?

Prayer (Cub Scout or Leader)

"We bow our heads tonight thankful for the country we live in, the flag we honor, and the freedoms we have as citizens of these United States, such as the freedom to vote for our personal choices. Help us to remember those who have fought for that freedom and continue to keep us free today. Let us hold high their courage for our citizenship and keep them always in our prayers."

Welcome and Introductions

The Cubmaster welcomes everyone to the pack meeting, introduces any special guests, and thanks those who helped prepare for and plan the pack meeting.

The Cubmaster asks if all the Scouts have voted for their choice of snack and explains that all of their votes count as they check which snack received the most votes. The Cubmaster says the results will be posted for all to see on the results poster board. (Have a preassigned adult count the ballots and write the results on the poster board.)

PROGRAM

Den Demonstrations

The Cubmaster asks each den in turn to talk about their adventures during the last month. Call each den to the front and ask in what ways they were good citizens this month at their meetings or have them tell about any field trips they may have taken. After each den demonstration, the Cubmaster leads a cheer for that den before calling up the next den. (Cheers can be found on the resource sheet at the end of this plan.)



Game

Liberty Bell, Eagle, Founding Fathers (a variation of Rock, Paper, Scissors)

Teach everyone the following three characters: Eagle, Liberty Bell, and Founding Fathers.

Eagle—Stretch out arms, as if flying, and say “Awe, Awe.”

Liberty Bell—Sway from side to side and say “Ding, ding, ding, dong.”

Founding Fathers—Stand straight and tall with one arm across chest and hand in fist and say “We the people!”

To play the game:

1. Give Cub Scouts plenty of practice by calling out the characters and having them instantly become that character. Offer lots of encouragement for dramatic effort.
2. Form two teams. Each team gathers separately to decide on a character to portray without the other team knowing.
3. Teams then line up facing each other with approximately 4 feet between them.
4. After the leader dramatically announces “1, 2, 3,” each team portrays its character, revealing their identity.
5. Eagle wins over Liberty Bell as the Eagle is not a stationary object and can soar anywhere. Liberty Bell wins over Founding Fathers because the bell is loud. Founding Fathers wins over Eagle because it was the Founding Fathers who made the eagle our national bird.
6. After a round is played, the teams then gather again separately and decide on the next character to portray.
7. Again, the leader calls out “1, 2, 3,” and on 3 the teams act out their character.

Note: A team scores when its character wins over the other team’s character. The first team to reach the predetermined target score (for example, 5 points) wins. Or you could tell the Cub Scouts they will play 10 rounds, the game is for fun, and there will be no scoring.

RECOGNITION

The Preamble in Sign Language

Have an assigned den perform the preamble in sign language as the Cubmaster reads it for the beginning of the advancement ceremony. (Go to the website of the National Center for Constitutional Studies for a sign language key to the preamble, <http://nccs.net/constitution-week/preamble.pdf>.)

The Cubmaster and den will need to practice the preamble together prior to the pack meeting. The scroll with the preamble could be taken from the wall display and held so the audience can follow along. (Make sure the wording is large enough for the audience to see.)

CUBMASTER: We (sign) the People (sign) of the United States (sign), in Order to form (sign) a more perfect Union (sign), establish (sign) Justice (sign), insure (sign) domestic Tranquility (sign), provide (sign) for the common defense (sign), promote the general (sign) Welfare (sign), and secure (sign) the Blessings of Liberty (sign) to ourselves (sign) and our Posterity (sign) , do ordain (sign) and establish (sign) this Constitution (sign) for (sign) the United States (sign) of America (sign).

(The den that signed is then seated.)



CUBMASTER: Our founding fathers of long ago, 1781 I am told, gathered together to write this preamble, or introduction, to the Constitution of the United States. How many of our Scouts here tonight have heard of the U.S. Constitution? Can you tell me what it is? (*Gather two or three responses.*) It is a list of principles for all who are born citizens or choose to become citizens in our country that state we are guaranteed certain rights. The preamble is the very beginning of our Constitution.

We have some new Cub Scouts here tonight who have also started at the very beginning by earning their Bobcat badge. The Bobcat badge, like the Constitution, also has a list of principles for the Cub Scout program that every Cub Scout who joins learns first. We'd like to call forward (call all Cub Scouts who have earned the Bobcat rank) along with their parents or partners to receive their badge. (*Award badges and applaud the new Bobcats.*)

In the preamble to our Constitution, our founding fathers wrote "in order to form a more perfect union." That means that we try to make everything in our country as perfect as possible for all its citizens.

We have Tiger Cub Scouts who have learned about the group or union of people who are citizens in their community. They've learned who helps us when we are in trouble, how to keep themselves and their families healthy, and how we communicate with one another. They've learned that the great outdoors is shared by all people, and they are becoming aware of helping to keep our land perfect and clean while working on their Tiger rank. We'd like to call forward (call all Tiger Cubs who have earned the rank) along with their parents or partners to receive their badge. (*Award badges and applaud the Tiger Cubs.*)

Our founding fathers also wrote "Establish justice," which means we will always want to do what is right and what is fair. It is our responsibility and it is a right for all to expect. Our Wolf Cub Scouts have learned it is right to respect the flag of the United States as they now know how to fold and care for the flag and why we pledge its allegiance. They've learned it is right to continue to be healthy and safe in their home and community. They've learned to be leaders by making fair and good choices. They learned as good citizens we follow the rules and laws of our land. They also learned it is right to continue to build their faith. They have truly learned about their responsibility to help establish justice while working on their Wolf rank. We'd like to call forward (call all Wolves who have earned the rank) and their parents or partners to receive their badge. (*Award badges and applaud the Wolf Scouts.*)

Does anyone know what the founding fathers of our country meant when they wrote "Provide the common defense and Promote the general welfare"? (*Let two or three give their answers.*) Providing for the common defense means that it is our rights as citizens to be protected. And promoting general welfare means that we will always try to take care of each other—our family, our friends, and our fellow citizens.

Our Bear Cub Scouts have learned how we are protected and how we take care of one another as they worked on their Bear rank. They learned about citizens, both from our past and present, who in our country have shown great faith and caring in trying to keep us safe. They learned what makes America special and how we are all caring for wildlife and our planet. They learned about law enforcement and how police keep us safe and how within our family we care for each other and keep each other safe. They learned how the rules of games and rules in building items are there for our safety as they continue to make good choices and show leadership. We'd like to call up (call all Bears who have earned the rank) and their parents or partners to receive their badge. (*Award badges and applaud the Bear Cubs.*)



What do you suppose “Secure the Blessings of Liberty to ourselves and our Posterity” means? *(Let two or three give their answers.)* Liberty as it was written here means that we as citizens have a freedom of choice in our country, just like you had the freedom to choose and the right to vote earlier in our meeting tonight for your favorite snack. Our founding fathers wanted to make sure that we adults have, as citizens, the freedom to vote for our choices and that our children, like you, and someday your children who may be born in or become citizens of our land will continue to have that same freedom when you are older that we have today.

Our Webelos Scouts have spent many months continuing to learn about how to make our country better, what is right and fair, and how to help one another and keep themselves and others safe. They have also learned how to care for our land and wildlife and that the choices they make matter not only in today’s world but for the world of future generations. They have continued to grow in their faith and have learned many new skills that will help them become young men who are leaders, caring for all things and always willing to help fellow citizens. We’d like to call forward (call Webelos Scouts who have earned the rank) and their parents or partners to receive their badge. *(Award badges and applaud the Webelos Scouts.)*

Our founding fathers gathered together to write the preamble to the Constitution of the United States. Congratulations to all the Scouts who have earned their rank badge tonight and exemplify the meaning of the preamble.

CLOSING

Cubmaster’s Minute

America Promises

America promises us freedom to worship, to learn, to assemble, and to debate any issue. It is a land where we welcome people from other countries to come and find a home. Where there is work to do, where we can express and vote for our opinions, and where we are free to come and go as we please. Cub Scouts, someday you’ll be old enough to exercise your right to vote in our town, our state, and our country. Not all countries allow their citizens that same freedom. Let us all remember these freedoms and do our best to be good citizens each and every day!

Announcements

Announce any upcoming dates or events the pack will be having or participating in with the district or council. Announce the winner of the favorite snack vote by sharing the tally poster board.

Closing Ceremony

I Will Use

Have five Cub Scouts repeat the following lines from cards.

CUB SCOUT 1: This is our country! I will use my eyes to see the beauty of this land.

CUB SCOUT 2: I will use my ears to hear its sounds.

CUB SCOUT 3: I will use my mind to think what I can do to make it more beautiful.

CUB SCOUT 4: I will use my hands to serve it and care for it.

CUB SCOUT 5: And, with my heart, I will honor it.

The preassigned den retires the colors.



RESOURCES

Stars and Stripes Sticks Game

Materials needed: Three craft sticks or tongue depressors for each participant, red and blue markers, scoring sheet



Directions

1. Mark two sticks on one side with the stars design. Leave the other side blank. Mark one stick with the striped design, leaving the other side blank.
2. To play, hold the sticks in your hand, and then drop them on the ground.
3. Count your score according to the number of points for each stick combination.
4. Decide ahead of time how many points wins the game (for example, 50 points).
5. The game can be played by one player, two players, or in teams.

Scoring Combinations

Stick Combinations	Points
2 stars sticks and 1 blank stick	6 points
2 blank sticks and 1 star stick	6 points
All stars and stripes sticks	4 points
All blank sticks	4 points
All other combinations	0 points

Preamble to the U.S. Constitution

We the People of the United States, in Order to form a more perfect Union, establish Justice, insure domestic Tranquility, provide for the common defense, promote the general Welfare, and secure the Blessings of Liberty to ourselves and our Posterity, do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America.

Cheers

Constitution cheer: We the people, APPROVE!

America cheer: A-M-E-R-I-C-A, Cub Scouts, Cub Scouts, USA!

Liberty Bell cheer: Ding, ding, ding, dong! Let freedom ring!

Blue and Gold cheer: Divide everyone into two groups, one "blue" and the other "gold." When you hold up a blue object, the blue group says "Oooh!" When you hold up a gold object, the gold group says "Ahhh!"

Eagle cheer: Have Cub Scouts lock their thumbs together, flutter their fingers like wings, and say, "Cree, cree, cree!"

Variation to the Eagle cheer: First be sure everyone has plenty of room. Spread arms way out to the sides and flap them as if gaining altitude. Pretend to soar, bending at the waist and moving the upper torso while saying "Cree, cree, cree!"