



Arrow of Light Den Meeting 12

Sportsman (Soccer belt loop)

Preparation and Materials Needed

- ▶ Read the Sportsman chapter in the *Webelos Handbook*.
- ▶ Identify any parents or other pack resources who are knowledgeable about soccer and could be your activity badge counselor for this meeting. Or you might see if a soccer player or coach can visit your den meeting, or you might do this meeting as a field trip to a soccer game or practice.
 - Be sure any guest speaker knows how long the presentation should run, and that you've confirmed what can or should be covered that would be interesting and fun for the Scouts.
 - Show any guest speaker the Sportsman chapter in the *Webelos Handbook*.
- ▶ If you are doing this as a field trip, inform Scouts and families about when and where to meet.
- ▶ Research the rules of soccer. Check your local library and youth soccer leagues in your area for information and resources. Also see the U.S. Soccer Federation (www.ussoccer.com) and American Youth Soccer Organization (www.soccer.org) Web sites. Go over the information with your Webelos Scouts.
- ▶ Materials checklist (add to your den Cub tub of U.S./den flags, paper/pencils, other supplies):
 - Soccer ball (ideally, more than one).
 - Soccer belt loops.
 - You may want cones and markers if you need to create your own field.

Before the Meeting

- ▶ Review After the Meeting at the end of the previous den meeting plan for necessary preparation and materials.
- ▶ Make final preparations with assistance from any assistant den leader or other parent helper, den chief, and/or denner. Organize the space (seating, flags, advancement charts, activity materials, handouts, etc.). If you're snacking, organize space for that and the cleanup.

Gathering

- ▶ Have a gathering activity (games, puzzles, other) 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.
- ▶ If you have background materials for the activity badge, Scouts may be interested in reviewing those.
- ▶ If you're on a field trip, as boys arrive, collect permission slips from parents who are not staying.
- ▶ Collect dues, record attendance and any advancement completed at home (a good job for an assistant den leader). Assign parents to meeting roles and hand out a meeting plan to each.

Opening

- ▶ Flag ceremony (rotate planning and leadership to complete **Webelos requirement 6**), with Pledge of Allegiance; maybe recite the Cub Scout Promise or sing a patriotic song; perhaps add a roll call, uniform recognition, or den yell.
- ▶ If you have a guest, give a formal introduction, including what the guest will do for you.

Business Items

- ▶ Remind the boys of appropriate behavior, including safety considerations, at the site of your visit.
- ▶ Use this time also to discuss participation in upcoming pack meetings or events as needed.
- ▶ Explain that today's meeting is to work on the **Sportsman activity badge** because we like sports and games, and we want to practice those to develop skills, fitness, and good sportsmanship.

Activities

- ▶ **Sportsman Activity Badge:** Requirements are set out in Arrow of Light Den Meeting 4.
- ▶ Today's activity is to learn and play soccer and earn the **Soccer belt loop**. You can find essential elements about soccer in the *Cub Scout Academics and Sports Program Guide* and rules at www.ussoccer.com and www.soccer.org. Requirements are:
 1. Explain the rules of soccer.
 2. Practice soccer for 30 minutes.
 3. Play a game of soccer.
- ▶ In the boys' *Webelos Handbooks*, sign the requirements met (and update your records).

Closing

- ▶ Award (or recognize) any advancement completed today (ideally, award the activity badge, belt loop or compass item completed today, and recognize later at the pack meeting); thank hosts, guests, helpers.
- ▶ Closing ceremony (rotate planning and leadership to complete **Webelos requirement 6**): Retire the colors; maybe with the Boy Scout Oath and/or Law, or the Law of the Pack and/or den yell. Den leader may add a den leader's minute comment.
- ▶ Remind the Webelos Scout who will plan and lead the next meeting's flag ceremony, and remind about home assignments.
- ▶ Hand out or send family information letter.

- ▶ **Home Assignment:** Tell boys to complete **Communicator 11-14** at home or in school. Remind boys to review the Communicator chapter in their *Webelos Handbook* before the next meeting.

After the Meeting

- ▶ If you've changed the sequence of den meetings, double-check to make sure you will still advance your boys appropriately and check with the Cubmaster to make sure you stay coordinated with the pack.
- ▶ Refreshments: If appropriate
- ▶ Cleanup: Recruit enough help to do a good job. Scouts always leave an area as clean, or cleaner, than they found it.

