



Bear Den Meeting 4

Law Enforcement Is a Big Job

Achievement 7.

Preparation and Materials Needed

- ▶ For Den Meeting 4, if you'll take a field trip to a police station.
 - Make arrangements for a field trip to your local police station.
 - Ask if fingerprints can be taken during the visit.
 - If law enforcement cannot take fingerprints, then bring a nontoxic inkpad and paper for fingerprinting.
- ▶ Alternatively, ask a police officer, sheriff, or other law enforcement personnel to come to your den meeting. If so, ask if they can bring any tools for fingerprinting, or lifting fingerprints. Also, they could talk about bike safety to follow up this activity.
 - **Note:** Police departments often have community officers available for these visits.
- ▶ Materials checklist (add to your den Cub tub of U.S./den flags, paper/pencils, other supplies), if law enforcement personnel do not bring these:
 - Fingerprinting gear: nontoxic inkpad and paper. And clear cellophane tape.
 - If doing plaster casts, bring plaster, shoeboxes, bucket, and an old shoe.
 - Remind the boys to bring their *Bear Handbook*, No. 33451 (every week, but this one especially for the fingerprints that go in the handbook).
 - Cleaning supplies for inky fingers.

Before the Meeting

- ▶ 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.
- ▶ 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.
- ▶ If you're on a field trip, as boys arrive, collect permission slips from parents who are not staying.

Opening

- ▶ Flag ceremony (indoor or outdoor; rotate roles to complete **Achievement 3f**) with Pledge of Allegiance; the Cub Scout Promise or a patriotic song (of other opening).
- ▶ Consider a roll call, uniform inspection, or den yell.
- ▶ If you are unable to complete **Achievements 3h** and **3i** at an earlier den meeting, the police station probably has an outdoor flagpole.
- ▶ Introduce police officer to the den.

Business Items

- ▶ Remind all of appropriate behavior at the police station or during the event.
- ▶ Use this time to discuss participation in coming pack meetings or events, as needed.

Activities

- ▶ **Achievement 7b** ("Visit your local sheriff's office or police station, or talk with a law enforcement officer visiting your den or pack to discuss crime prevention."):
 - Ideally, visit your local police station or sheriff's office. Or have an officer visit your meeting.
 - Have the law enforcement officer discuss crime prevention, including the following *Bear Handbook* achievements.
- ▶ **Achievement 7c** ("Help with crime prevention for your home."):
 - Discuss ways this can be done (locking doors and windows, lighting, neighborhood watch).
 - If you are meeting in your usual place, inspect the building where your den is meeting: windows that close and lock, doors with deadbolt locks, other safety items.



- ▶ **Achievement 7d** (“Be sure you know where to get help in your neighborhood.”):
 - Discuss the importance of knowing who adult family members consider trusted neighbors.
 - Complete the phone number list in the *Bear Handbook* (or put the names in the handbook, and assign Scouts to look up the numbers later at home).

- ▶ **Achievement 7e** (“Learn the phone numbers to use in an emergency. Post them by each phone in your home.”):
 - Have an officer discuss the numbers to call in an emergency.
 - Generally this will be 911. If there is no 911 service, discuss what numbers to call.
 - Discuss when you should and when you should not call 911.
 - **Suggestion:** Do practice calls on a phone, preferably a real phone with all listening in on a speakerphone option if you have it on the receiving phone.

- ▶ **Achievement 7f** (“Know what you can do to help law enforcement.”):
 - Have an officer discuss what the boys can do to help law enforcement.
 - A key point is to not put yourself in danger. Simply gather information and then tell an adult or call the police.
 - Get the facts:
 - Where is it happening? Where did it happen? What is happening? What happened? What did you see?
 - Who is doing it? Can you describe (a) how many, (b) what clothes they are wearing or other identifying marks or traits (hair color, height, size), (c) car license number, color, style.
 - You might do a “recall skit” to practice this (the officer may be able to help with this):
 - A couple people “act out” an incident, wearing special clothing items to be identified later, maybe someone even wearing a license plate with a number on it to see if anyone remembers it.
 - Everyone watches, and then Scouts interview the witnesses to see if they got the facts right about who did what, what they were wearing, what the license plate read, and other details.

- ▶ **Achievement 7a** (“Practice one way police gather evidence: by taking fingerprints, or taking shoeprints, or taking tire track casts.”):
 - Ideally, have the officer help the Scouts take fingerprints. Ask to have the boys’ fingerprints imprinted in their *Bear Handbooks* at page 65.
 - Alternatively, use ink pad and paper to take Scout fingerprints. Have them compare prints.
 - Or do tape-lift fingerprints using clear cellophane tape:
 - First make the finger(s) to be printed dirty by rubbing it against pencil lead, a charcoal drawing stick, a charcoal briquette, or even against black ink newspaper photos.
 - Next, place the sticky side of the cellophane tape against the dirty fingers one at a time and then stick the tape to a piece of white paper or cardboard.
 - Label each strip to indicate which finger/thumb and hand it is from.
 - Fingerprints produced by clear tape lifts are mirror-image reversals of fingerprints produced using ink and paper.
 - Look at the tape-lift fingerprints through a magnifying glass and you will see very fine friction ridge detail, including very exact ridge shapes and pore structure that is often not recorded by ink or electronic fingerprint recording methods (especially when recording detail from small fingers).
 - If you record your own fingerprints using tape, you can use a magnifying glass to determine your own fingerprint patterns.

Want More Fun Activities?

You might make a plaster cast. You can do it inside with plaster, shoeboxes, bucket, and an old shoe:

- ▶ Put about an inch of sand in a shoe box. Step into the sand, making a clear impression.
- ▶ Fill the shoeprint with plaster of Paris; let harden. This makes a negative cast of the shoe.

Den Meeting 4



Closing

- ▶ Award (or recognize) any advancement completed at this meeting; thank hosts, guests, and helpers.
- ▶ Closing ceremony: Retire the colors (fold and return the flag), or have a den leader's minute with a Living Circle, or the Law of the Pack and den yell (or other ceremony).
- ▶ Hand out or send family information letter.

▶ Home Assignment:

- Ask parents to complete **Achievement 7c-e** at home with boys using the attached form. Have boys return the form at the next den meeting.
- Ask parents to work with their sons on **Achievements 1a** and **1b: Ways We Worship**

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.

Law Enforcement Is a Big Job: Pages 64–71 of the *Bear Handbook*

Take-home items to be completed at home:

7c. Help with crime prevention for your home. With an adult in your family, check to be sure you have tight, strong locks on your doors and windows.

7d. Be sure you know where to get help in your neighborhood. List places you can get help in neighborhood (officials, neighbors, others).

7e. Learn phone numbers to use in an emergency and post them by each phone in your home. List the numbers you've put by your phone:

