



## Supplemental Bear Den Meeting A

### Maps

Elective 23. Map and Compass Belt Loop.

### Preparation and Materials Needed

- ▶ Materials checklist (add to your den Cub tub of U.S./den flags, paper/pencils, other supplies):
  - Bring a United States map showing time zones, a state map, and one or more local maps.
  - The more maps and types of maps you have, the better, including really old maps that say “here be dragons” or that show weird shapes of the continents.
  - A globe would be great too.
  - Bring a compass, paper, and pencils. And magnets. All metal straight needles (to become a compass needle), corks (to float needles), bowls (to float the cork and needle). Tape measure.
  - Bring Map and Compass belt loops (for those who have not yet earned).
  - If doing a treasure hunt, candy or treat for a treasure, and treasure maps.

### 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.

### 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.

### Business Items

- ▶ Use this time to discuss participation in coming pack meetings or pack events, as needed.

### Activities

- ▶ If needed, complete **Achievement 5b**: Build a birdhouse using the BSA birdhouse kits.
  - Paint and decorate, as desired.
  - Ideally, install the birdhouses in an approved location or send them home (as the Cub Scouts desire).
  - To continue the den meeting, go to a park or other safe place.
- ▶ **Elective 23**: Maps, requirements **23a–e**:
  - a. Look up your state on a U.S. map. What other states touch its borders?
  - b. Find your city or town on a map of your state. How far do you live from the state capital?
  - c. In which time zone do you live? How many time zones are there in the U.S.?
  - e. Mark a map showing the way to a place you would like to visit that is at least 50 miles from your home.
    - For **Elective 23a–c**, roll out your maps and have the Scouts locate the items.
      - Divide up into small groups and have them rotate through the three requirements.
    - For **Elective 23d** (Make a map showing the route from your home to your school or den meeting place.), depending on how complicated the route and neighborhood, they might draw from scratch on a blank paper (which would likely tie into the “Draw a map of your neighborhood” belt loop requirement).



- ▶ Map and Compass belt loop requirements:
  1. Show how to orient a map. Find three landmarks on the map.
  2. Explain how a compass works.
  3. Draw a map of your neighborhood. Label the streets and plot the route you take to get to a place that you often visit
    - For “Explain how a compass works,” start with the magnets.
      - One side of a magnet will attract another magnet only if it is the correct side.
      - Magnetism is just an invisible force of nature that can only be demonstrated.
      - Earth is a magnet: the planet itself generates magnetism just like it had a giant bar magnet inside. Under the crust of the earth, there are giant swirling pools of liquid iron metal.
      - Because the iron is so hot and moving so fast, it generates magnetism.
    - For “Draw a map of your neighborhood,” have the Scouts draw a map of the neighborhood where they are meeting, so that they are drawing what they all see around them, and you can compare it to what you see. Have attending adults do this too!
      - You might ask them to draw it both as a street map and as a topographic map, if you have interesting terrain.
      - Be sure to have them show landmarks on the map.
      - Have them show where north is, and put a north arrow on the map. Use the compass!
  - While possibly done as a Tiger and/or a Wolf, there is no reason you could not do a more difficult treasure hunt for the Bears using a more complex map, with a need to use compass bearings.
    - See Tiger Cub Den Meeting 6 in this guide for that treasure hunt, which you can now upgrade with use of the compass, bearings, and distances to be stepped off.

### Want More Fun Activities?

Without something like a treasure hunt, this meeting will need some fun, like a dose of Building Muscles or games, or pull something from your den’s emergency fun box.

### 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.

### 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.