



Supplemental Bear Den Meeting R

Let's Go Camping

Elective 25a.

Preparation and Materials Needed

- ▶ Ideally, invite a Boy Scout to your den meeting. Have him teach the boys how to put up a tent and lay a fire. Ask him to wear his uniform and explain to the boys what his insignia represent.
- ▶ If not, have one or more parents who are knowledgeable about camping attend and bring their camping gear.
- ▶ Determine if you can light a campfire in the location of your meeting (consider whether you can bring a portable outdoor fireplace).
- ▶ Materials checklist (add to your den Cub tub of U.S./den flags, paper/pencils, other supplies):
 - Ask the Boy Scout to bring the following or bring it yourself:
 - One or more tents, backpacks
 - Logs, kindling, tinder, matches
 - Water bucket

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

- ▶ **Elective 25a:** Learn about the 10 essential items you need for a hike or campout. Assemble your own kit of essential items. Explain why each item is essential.
 - Some of your Scouts will be able to discuss this and help teach the others.
 - Allow everyone to touch and hold the gear.
- ▶ If you have a fireplace and permission, have the Boy Scout or leader demonstrate how to lay a fire.

Want More Fun Activities?

OK, you've laid out a fire: Have a campfire!

- ▶ Got s'mores? Could do hot dogs, too.
- ▶ Time for some campfire songs, stories, and skits.
- ▶ If someone has brought backpacking gear, and backpacking stoves, let everyone see how these work by making some trail food.

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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.