

April



**Core Value:  
Faith**

**April**

*Faith*

## My Family Tree

### Pack Committee

**Why My Family Tree for the Core Value Faith.** Faith means having inner strength and confidence based on trust in a higher power. Understanding one's family tree, ancestors, and heritage brings stories to life of the strength and confidence of our family members. It also tells of their belief and trust in a higher power to help bring them safely to the United States. In years past, many immigrants traveled by boat. What faith they had in that boat that would change their lives!

### BEFORE THE MEETING

Gather materials for the recognition ceremony and either of the gathering activity options. Make posters for the opening and make copies of the song "It's a Cub World." Prepare the special dessert chosen from a pack family's ancestors.

Obtain a world map. The bigger the map, the better the visual. However, a computer printout of a world map will do as well. You may be able to find a world map at a teacher-education store, or perhaps a teacher at a nearby school can lend you one. Be sure you have permission to put small stickers (dots or stars) or pushpins on the map.

Coordinate with Webelos dens if den demonstrations are part of your pack meeting.

Find out if your meeting location will allow you to set up a raingutter regatta. This is preferably set up outside, but it can be held inside if your location will allow it. Obtain raingutters to sail the ships down, as well as sawhorses to brace the raingutters, or use a small inflatable pool for ships to travel from points A to B in a race. (Your pack may also wish to purchase an inflatable raingutter regatta raceway from Supply Group.) Raingutter regatta information can be found in the *Cub Scout Leader How-to Book*, chapter 6, "Special Pack Activities" (see page 6-32).

You will need items to make homemade boats (one for each Scout) or you can purchase the raingutter regatta boat kits from your local Scout shop. You may choose to have the boys design their boat masts with a family crest of their own design or with something meaningful to their family on it. Show examples to stir their creative ideas. A family tree also could be used on the mast.

### GATHERING

Have preassigned greeters (these may be members of a den, pack leaders, or parent volunteers) greet Cub Scouts and their families as they arrive. Have the Scouts and their families use a sticker or pushpin to indicate the country on the map where their ancestors come from. There may be more than one country per family. Depending on the size of your pack, you can either limit each family to one country or let them place stickers/pins in all the countries where they may have ancestors.

Almost everyone in the United States has ancestors from other countries and a heritage to share. Some of these families may still have relatives living in another country. This activity will bring awareness for each Scout, and the pack family as a whole, about the pack's heritage within.

Choose one of the following options.

#### ***Raingutter Regatta***

After locating their country on the map, guide Scouts to the boat-making area and have them design masts and decorate boats for a raingutter regatta race to be held during this meeting or on another designated date. (See the resources page at the end of this meeting plan.)

#### ***Passport Game***

After families have located their country on the map, guide them to the passport game area, hand out the passports (one per family), and give instructions to the Scouts and their families. Let them





begin collecting passport signatures for the “Around the World in Five Minutes” activity. (See the resources page at the end of this meeting plan.)

## **OPENING**

Each Scout has the word FAMILY written on poster board or a sheet of paper. Emphasize the letter of the word FAMILY that the Scout is talking about when it’s his turn by making that letter bold (or darker) on his poster.

CUB SCOUT 1: A **FAMILY** is the group of people to whom we belong to and call our own.

CUB SCOUT 2: A **FAMILY** includes our ANCESTORS who came before us.

CUB SCOUT 3: A **FAMILY** gives us MANY things to be proud of in our heritage.

CUB SCOUT 4: A **FAMILY** is INDIVIDUALS who stand together, not alone.

CUB SCOUT 5: A **FAMILY** is a group that can leave a LEGACY together.

CUB SCOUT 6: A **FAMILY** is YOU!

CUBMASTER: Yes, *you*, our pack family! Will you please stand together as we bring in and salute our flag of these United States of America for whom our ancestors crossed land and sea, just for you and me.

The preassigned den brings in the flag and posts the colors. The den then leads the pack family in the pledge of allegiance.

### ***Prayer (Cub Scout or Leader)***

“We give thanks for our ancestors from long ago and all the members of our family tree. We honor the faith they had in coming to the United States, believing that they would have better lives not only for themselves but for their future generations. We also give thanks tonight for our extended family that we have because of Scouting.”

### ***Welcome and Introductions***

The Cubmaster welcomes all to the pack meeting and extends a special welcome to new pack members, families, and special guests. Now is a good time to thank all those who helped prepare for the meeting.

## **PROGRAM**

### ***Den Demonstrations***

The Cubmaster may have a Webelos den do a den demonstration about the activity badge(s) they have worked on this month.

### ***Faith and Our Ancestors***

The Cubmaster takes a few minutes to review the world map activity, showing the countries of the pack family. The Cubmaster may even want to talk to one or two of the Scouts and their families about their ancestral countries. The Cubmaster could ask the following questions while interviewing the Scouts and families.

1. What do you think convinced your ancestors to journey to the United States of America?
2. Do you think your ancestors were brave to travel across the ocean to get here?
3. Do you think they had faith that they would arrive safely?
4. What does faith mean to you?
5. What kind of house do you think your ancestors lived in? Do you think it was like yours?

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6. Do you think your ancestors went to school? What kind of education do you think they had?
7. What kind of jobs do you think your ancestors had?
8. Do you have a family tradition that your ancestors handed down to you?
9. Do you have a favorite meal or recipe that your ancestors once made?

CUBMASTER: Our family tree includes all of our relatives from long ago and those who are still alive. The branches of our tree grow and grow as each new family member is added. Scouting has many branches holding family members as well. We all believe in a faith that gives us strength and confidence each and every day.

### **World Organization of the Scout Movement**

The Cubmaster then may want to discuss the World Organization of the Scout Movement and the World Crest emblem. If the Cubmaster is wearing a Scout uniform with the World Crest emblem, this can be pointed out and shared.

CUBMASTER: In 2011, Scout organizations of 161 countries were members of the World Organization of the Scout Movement. This movement joins us all in Scouting, and we consider all involved to be our family in Scouting.

The World Crest is an emblem of the World Organization of the Scout Movement and is authorized for wear on the uniform of all member associations, including the Boy Scouts of America, as a symbol of membership in a world brotherhood. The BSA donates a small portion of the proceeds from each patch sold to the World Scout Foundation to assist in the development of Scouting's emerging nations.

The World Crest is a Scout emblem that has been worn by an estimated 250 million Scouts since the world Scouting movement was founded in 1919. It is still worn by 30 million Scouts in 216 countries and territories and is one of the world's best-known symbols.

(More information can be found on [www.scouting.org](http://www.scouting.org). Search for "World Organization of the Scout Movement" and "World Crest.")

### **Song**

Give Scouts and their families a copy of this song to sing along. The Cubmaster, assistant Cubmaster, or a preassigned den can lead the audience.

"It's a Cub World" (sung to the tune of "It's a Small World")

*Chorus:*

*It's a Cub world after all.*

*It's a Cub world after all.*

*It's a Cub world after all.*

*It's a Cub Scout World!*

*There are Cubs in England and Italy,*

*There are Cubs in France and Germany.*

*When the Cub flag's unfurled,*

*All around this big world,*

*It's for Cubs like you and me.*

*Chorus*

*There are Bears and Wolves and Webelos,*

*We wear different patches on our clothes.*

*But, I'll tell you, it's true,*

*We all wear gold and blue,*

*In our great big Cub Scout World!*

*Chorus*



*Akela guides us all, you see,  
To learn and do and grow and be.  
And we all meet the test  
'Cause we all do our best  
In our great big Cub Scout World!*

Chorus

### **Cheers**

Wind in the Trees cheer: Everyone raises their arms above their heads and waves them back and forth at different speeds dictated by the cheer.

Gentle breeze (slow and easy)

Steady rush (faster)

Big gust (jerking motion to one side)

Gentle breeze (slow and easy)

Personal cheer: Stomp feet three times, then shout out the den number that did the den demonstration.

### **How Did You Get Here? Skit**

(See the optional skit at the end of this meeting plan.)

Have the narrator introduce the skit by saying, "Transportation played a very important part in the settling of America by our ancestors. How did you get here?"

Any number of Cub Scouts can participate, by assigning each line accordingly.

CUB SCOUT \_\_\_\_: If the Pilgrims came over on the *Mayflower*, how did the Scouts get here?

CUB SCOUT \_\_\_\_: I don't know. How?

CUB SCOUT \_\_\_\_: On Handy Crafts. *(As he says this, a Cub Scout comes on stage with a sample of a handicraft project and a sign identifying it.)*

CUB SCOUT \_\_\_\_: If the Pilgrims came over on the *Mayflower* and Scouts came on Handy Crafts, how did the students get here?

CUB SCOUT \_\_\_\_: On Scholar Ships. *(A Cub Scout enters, carrying a load of books.)*

CUB SCOUT \_\_\_\_: How did all of the ordinary people get here?

CUB SCOUT \_\_\_\_: On Citizen Ships. *(A Cub Scout enters, carrying a "Don't Forget to Vote" sign.)*

CUB SCOUT \_\_\_\_: I know how the barbers got here.

CUB SCOUT \_\_\_\_: How?

CUB SCOUT \_\_\_\_: On Clipper Ships. *(A Cub Scout enters, dressed as a barber, with a towel and razor.)*

CUB SCOUT \_\_\_\_: How did all the movie stars get here?

CUB SCOUT \_\_\_\_: On a Show Boat. *(A Cub Scout enters, well-dressed, wearing sunglasses.)*

All Cub Scouts end the skit making the noise of a big cruise ship: OHMMMMMM OHMMMMMM

Lead a cheer for the skit performers.

Boat applause: Make the motion of rowing a boat, saying, "Heave-ho." Then sight land and shout, "Land ahoy!"

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## **RECOGNITION**

**CUBMASTER:** Each of us is a combination of our ancestors who make up our family tree. Some of us have blue eyes, some have brown, and others green. Some of us have hair that is red, brown, blond, or black. The color of our eyes or hair can be linked to our parents, our grandparents, and even our great-grandparents.

Each of us has talents and abilities. We may play the piano or draw or play sports well. These talents could have been passed down to us from our ancestors. Maybe we had someone in our family long ago who was a talented musician, artist, or athlete. Even though each of us is different in many ways, we are also very much alike. For example, we all wear the same Cub Scout uniform. We all promise to obey the Law of the Pack and to do our best in our activities.

Tonight we have some boys who have done their best and have earned their Bobcat badge. *(Call boys and parents forward; present badges. In turn, call forward those earning the Wolf, Bear, and Webelos badges.)* These Cub Scouts have done their best, worked together, and developed new interests and skills that will help them be better citizens. If their ancestors were here now, they would be very proud of them. Let's show them how proud we are and give them a round of applause! (Lead applause.)

### ***Round of Applause***

Clap while moving hands in a circular motion.

## **CLOSING**

### ***Cubmaster's Minute***

Choose a window in your pack meeting location where a tree can be seen, or make a poster board/ cardboard tree prop.

**CUBMASTER:** Cub Scouts, do you see that tree over there? Beautiful, isn't it? And you can tell it's strong, too. You can compare that tree to a strong family. The roots are faith in God. The trunk is the parents, and the branches are the children. A poet named Helen Crawford made that comparison in a poem I'd like to read to you. It's called "The Family Tree," and it goes like this:

*There's one thing in God's nature world  
That means a lot to me.  
It symbolizes much of life;  
It is a lovely tree.*

*With roots so deep in God's rich earth,  
It's not disturbed by weather;  
Like families with faith in God  
Who live in peace together.*

*Its trunk, the body strong and firm,  
Like parents anywhere,  
To guide, control, direct, sustain  
The offspring which they bear.*

*The branches, which like children, spread  
In every known direction,  
Until the fruitage of their growth  
Has reached its full perfection.*

*And so a tree appears to me,  
The gem of God's creation  
As it portrays our families,  
Which constitute a nation.*

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Each one of you can do your part to make your family tree stronger and more beautiful. How? By loving all your family members, by obeying your parents, and by doing your fair share of the family's work. It's also important that your family shares and believes in a faith together.

Now I'd like to ask all the Cub Scouts to join in a "Grand Akela Howl" for our families.  
(*On cue from the Cubmaster, all stand and let out a loud wolf howl.*)

### **CLOSING CEREMONY**

Have the pack stand in a circle joining hands and then open up the circle for the preassigned den to retire the colors.

### ***Refreshments***

Serve a favorite dessert from a pack family's ancestors, or some other snack such as apple/cheese slice boats. Use apple wedges with triangular pieces of cheese as masts (attach with a toothpick). Remember to check food allergies on your Scout registration forms. Optional sail: fruit roll snack cut into triangles.

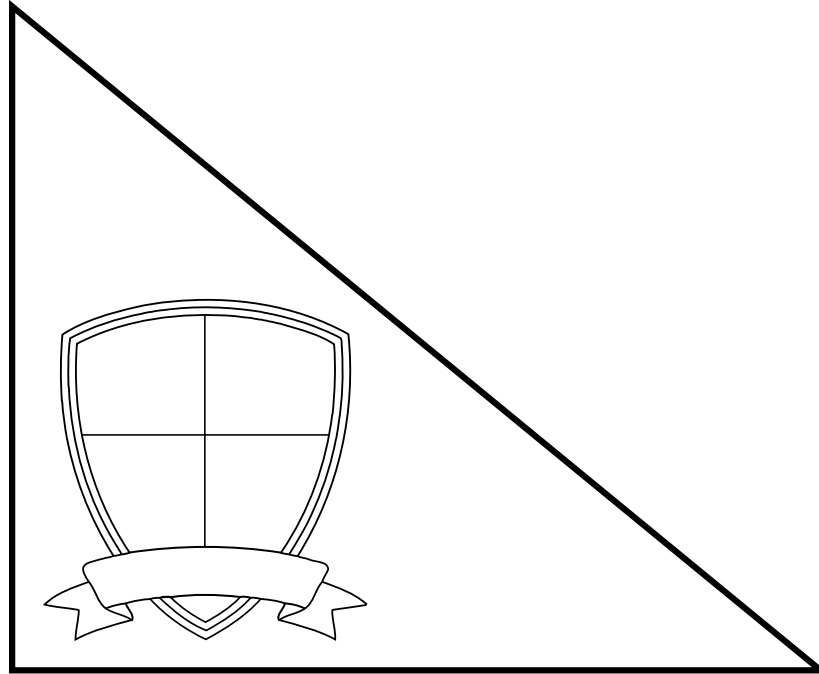


## RESOURCES

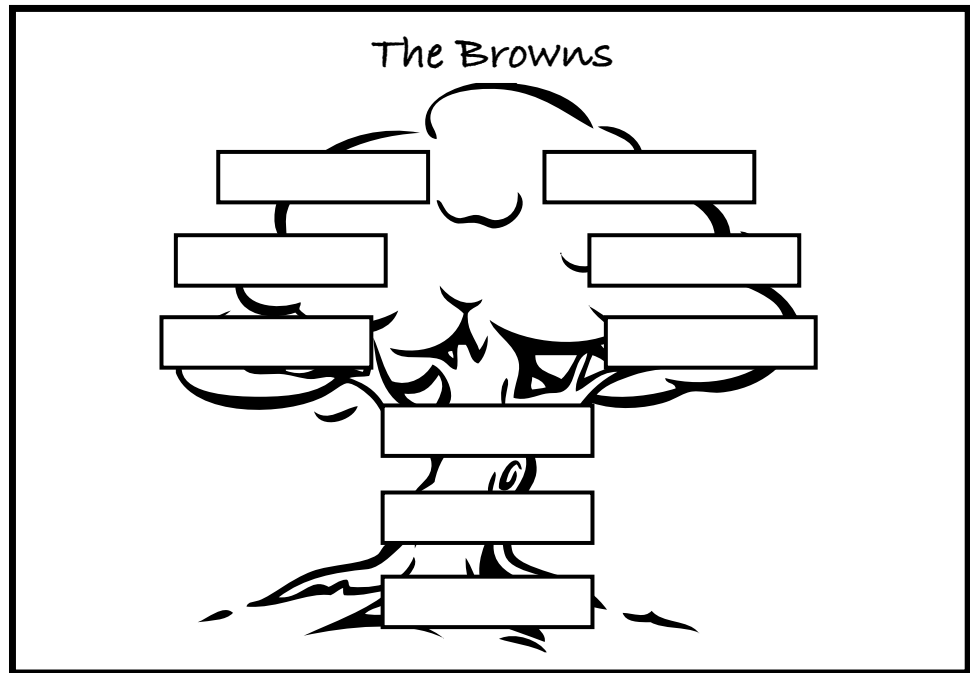
### Raingutter Regatta

For ideas on how to make sailboats for the regatta from a variety of household items, including milk cartons, soap bar boxes, egg cartons, plastic foam, or paper cups, see <http://www.create-kids-crafts.com/sailboat-crafts-for-kids.html>.

To download a family crest template, see <http://www.4crests.com/coat-of-arms-template.html>.



*Triangular mast sample*



*Rectangular mast sample*



### **Around the World in Five Minutes**

This optional gathering activity can be used in place of the raingutter regatta.

Materials: One passport cover and two or three passport pages stapled and folded into a booklet. Each of the passport pages should be divided into four squares. (Make one booklet per family.)

LEADER: Have you ever heard the saying, “It’s a small world”? What does that mean? Usually, folks say this when two people have been to the same place or know the same people in a faraway location, reminding us that the world really isn’t as big as it seems at first. Let’s have some fun with the idea of our small world by playing a game where we get to travel the world through the experiences of our fellow Scouts and their families. I’ll pass out a Cub Scout passport to each family, and in the next five minutes, I want you to talk to as many other families in the room as possible who have been to another country or a special place in the United States with their family that your family also may have visited.

Ask each person you meet where they’ve been and ask them to tell you something interesting they saw or learned. When they’re finished “taking you to that country or place,” have them sign their last name and write the name of the country in one of the squares of the passport. No fair using the same country or place twice. On your mark, get set, travel!

(Give five minutes for passport signing to take place. Give a few extra minutes if it looks like people are still going.)

LEADER: Now, count up the number of countries or places you’ve visited by counting the number of boxes with signatures. Who has five? How about 10? Awesome! (*Keep going until you find the Scout with the most signatures. Have a prize or treat to recognize him.*)

### **Optional Skit: The True Hardship of Our Ancestors**

Have boys hold pictures pertaining to their lines (with lines written on back). They may even choose to be in costume or have props instead of pictures for this skit.

CUB SCOUT 1: O Ancestors! O Ancestors!  
Your courage we admire.  
Not for the reasons history gives  
Do you our awe inspire!

CUB SCOUT 2: It’s hard for us to understand  
And know what it was like  
You didn’t have the things we have  
A car, a plane, a bike!

CUB SCOUT 3: We heard you crossed the mountains,  
Through forests thin and thick  
In only covered wagons  
Now, that was a trick!

CUB SCOUT 4: We heard how then you had no roads,  
No highways lined with pines;  
One questions we must ask you  
What’d you do with all the signs?

CUB SCOUT 5: Then we read about your meals  
Of wild bear ... there’s a stopper!  
The one thing we can say is this,  
Your family was quite a shopper!

CUB SCOUT 6: It’s true you had no phones, no gas,  
No lights, no cars about  
And that’s one thing you didn’t have  
That we couldn’t do without!



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CUB SCOUT 7: But one thing does amaze us  
When we read about your deeds,  
You made it through your travels  
Minus something each man needs!

CUB SCOUT 8: O Ancestors! O Ancestors!  
We salute you, long and hard!  
You went across this whole wide land  
Without a debit or credit card!

### **Cheers**

Family cheer: All sing while swaying back and forth: "We are family. We are family!"

### **Applauses**

Fan applause: Pretend to open up a fan and fan your face with it and say, "Fannntastic!"

Holland Windmill applause: Hold both arms out straight at shoulder level. Standing on one foot (or both feet), spin around while rotating arms in a circle. Make a loud whoosh noise like wind.

### **Run-Ons**

CUB SCOUT: Mom just got on me for eating with my fingers.

DAD: Well, you know it isn't very clean.

CUB SCOUT: Then why do they call it "finger food"?

### **Jokes**

Scout, holding a can of vegetable shortening, runs up to the front of the meeting and shouts, "I have it, I have it! My leader told me we were studying ancient Greece this month. This is the oldest grease I could find!"

What has nothing left but a nose when it loses an eye? Noise!

What is the tallest building in my town? The library—it has lots of stories.

What can a person wear that is never out of style? A smile.

### **Optional Audience Participation Song**

"Family Trees" (sung to the tune of "Head, Shoulders, Knees, and Toes")

*Leaves, branches, trunk and roots,  
Trunk and roots,  
Leaves, branches, trunk and roots,  
Trunk and roots,  
We're studying our family groups.  
Leaves, branches, trunk and roots.*

After everyone has mastered the words, sing it faster. Then add the following actions.

LEAVES: point to head

BRANCHES: point to shoulders

TRUNK: point to waist

ROOTS: point to legs

STUDYING: put hands together as if reading a book

FAMILY GROUPS: arms spread out wide