



**Core Value:
Faith**

Core Value of the Month

Faith: Having inner strength and confidence based on our trust in God.

Baden-Powell, the founder of Scouting, believed that reverence and duty to God should be an important part of the Scouting movement, and for every Scout and Scouter. With family guidance, Cub Scouts will develop in their own faith.

Pack Planning Meeting

Pack leaders meet one or two weeks before the pack meeting to finalize plans for April and develop plans for the May pack meeting.

Pack Committee

- ▶ Finalize plans for the pack campfire. Make sure all necessary arrangements have been made and the families know about the location if different from the normal meeting place. Make a “plan B” location for inclement weather.
- ▶ A well run, positive campfire is a memory forever. This month’s pack meeting centers on a campfire showcasing the contributions of the Cub Scouts in the pack. All campfires start with safety and preplanning.
 - Safety: Select a group of parents or leaders to check and secure any local permits required for an open campfire and to be responsible for building and tending the fire pit area.
 - Program: Den leaders work together to coordinate the program with the use of the campfire program planner. They will verify the placement in the program with each den and help maintain a smoothly flowing program. A designated individual will be screening all material to be performed at the campfire to make certain that it is appropriate. If there is a special guest speaker or storyteller, this group will confirm their attendance and contribution. See the *Cub Scout Leader How-To Book* for ideas for a campfire program.
 - After the main campfire program, the cooling embers will be an enticement for special food treats, such as traditional s’mores.
- ▶ Consider inviting a Boy Scout troop or Venturing crew to build and tend the fire.
- ▶ Review plans for the May pack meeting.

Cubmaster Corner

- ▶ **Positive Values:** As the Cubmaster, you will want to reinforce the positive values of the Boy Scouts of America in this month’s campfire program. All materials used in the campfire program must be prescreened and all material presented at any time to Cub Scouts should:
 - Be positive.
 - Be inspirational.
 - Be age-appropriate.
 - Avoid any social or sensitive issues.
 - Encourage citizenship.
- ▶ Start working on your Webelos leadership for next year.
 - Outdoor Leader Skills for Webelos Leaders training is important for next year’s Webelos den leaders. Check with the pack trainer to find out about the next opportunity.
 - Start talking to your Bear den leaders about their ongoing leadership and “stepping up” to be a Webelos den leader.
- ▶ Start building relationships that will support your bridging responsibilities for your Webelos Scouts; Webelos Scouts need interaction with local Boy Scout troops. See that Webelos den leaders maintain contact with one or more nearby troops so that Webelos Scouts may visit troop meetings and activities, and make an informed selection of which troop to join.

Pack Trainer

- ▶ April is National Child Abuse Prevention Month. The Boy Scouts of America has designated April as Youth Protection Month for councils and units.
 - A training inventory should be made to ensure that all registered unit leaders have taken Youth Protection training. Other interested adults may also take this very important training.
 - Youth Protection training is available online at www.scouting.org or on a DVD called *Youth Protection Guidelines: Training for Volunteer Leaders and Parents*, No. 36121.
- ▶ Determine the number of leaders who have completed BALOO training. Encourage several leaders to complete this orientation.



- ▶ Make plans to carpool to the next Cub Scout leader roundtable.
- ▶ Conduct Unit Leadership Enhancement No. 15, Youth Protection. Leaders should understand that this Unit Leadership Enhancement does not take the place of Youth Protection training. Choose another Unit Leadership Enhancement if desired. Select a topic for next month that meets your pack's need. See the *Cub Scout Leader Book* for detailed outlines.

Program Highlights

Academics and Sports

The Cub Scout Academics and Sports program is a great way to help fulfill the aims of Scouting—building character, developing citizenship, and encouraging mental and physical fitness. This month you might feature these belt loops and pins.

- ▶ **Reading and Writing:** Libraries are places of opportunity, sources of learning, and a gold mine of books, magazines, movies, CDs, and activities for school-age children. Encourage all Cub Scouts to obtain a library card. Boys can also keep a diary of their Cub Scout experiences as they work on earning the Reading and Writing belt loop and pin.
- ▶ **Skateboarding:** Boys will learn and demonstrate the safety rules for using a skateboard as they work towards earning the Skateboarding belt loop and pin.

See the *Cub Scout Academics and Sports Program Guide* for more information.

Outing in Scouting

- ▶ **Cub Scouts.** Get out and enjoy the spring weather! Make kites and fly them.
- ▶ **Webelos Scouts.** Play an outdoor game such as softball or soccer.

Resource Highlight: Religious Emblem Award

To encourage members to grow stronger in their faith, religious groups have developed religious emblem programs. The Boy Scouts of America has approved these programs and allows the emblems to be worn on the official uniform. The various religious groups administer the programs.

Once earned, the award is generally presented by the church or religious group but may also be presented by the Scout unit at an event such as a pack meeting. This award may be earned as a youth, or presented to an adult who is nominated.

For each faith, a specific set of requirements is published and is established by the religious faith and not by the BSA.



The April Pack Meeting

Faith

BEFORE THE MEETING

The committee responsible for the campfire should arrive early to set up. They should be prepared with a “plan B” in case of inclement weather, such as using an artificial campfire in a building or shelter.

GATHERING

Greeters should meet the families in the parking lot and direct them to the campfire area.

The preopening activity at the campfire area starts as soon as the first Cub Scout enters. Sing some well-known songs and let each den stand and do its den yell or cheer. This encourages other boys to move swiftly to the fire area.

OPENING

Opening Ceremony

Props: Real or artificial campfire, seven candles.

Personnel: Narrator and seven Cub Scouts. As each boy reads his part, either he or a leader lights one candle.

NARRATOR: Welcome to our Cub Scout campfire. Let us draw from this campfire the secrets of Cub Scouting and the spirit of brotherhood.

CUB SCOUT 1: In this light we see new chances to be helpful and to do our best.

CUB SCOUT 2: From its warmth we strengthen the bonds of fellowship and learn how to get along with others.

CUB SCOUT 3: From the stones that ring the fire and keep its power in check, we learn how we can curb our tempers and become good citizens.

CUB SCOUT 4: From the smoke that rises out of the fire, we learn to lift our eyes upward and worship God.

CUB SCOUT 5: The spark that started this fire reminds us that little Good Turns can lead to greater deeds.

CUB SCOUT 6: Just as the fire needs fuel to burn brightly, so do we need the care and love of our parents to shine brightly.

CUB SCOUT 7: In its leaping flames, we see the fun of Cub Scouting and the joy of life.

Prayer (Cub Scout or Leader)

“Thank you for the fun and fellowship we will share here tonight. Help us to have faith, and follow the good examples of our Cub Scout leaders.”

Welcome and Introductions

The Cubmaster welcomes everyone to the pack meeting and campfire. Recognize any new families and introduce guests. Give announcements pertaining to next month’s meeting or events scheduled before the next pack meeting.

Review campfire safety rules (never shine flashlights in performers’ eyes; stay away from the fire during and after the performance). Refer to *Cub Scout Leader How-To Book* for specific safety tips to share.

Enthusiastically introduce the master of ceremonies, or if it is the Cubmaster, announce, “This fire is laid; let’s start the blaze and let the show begin!”

PROGRAM

Follow the campfire program planning sheet. Each den has a part in the campfire program, performing songs, stunts, skits, etc.

Be sure each den knows when it is performing and always have the next act waiting “backstage.”

The program will go smoothly if everyone knows the plan. Follow each performance with an appropriate, positive recognition, usually a cheer.

RECOGNITION

Use the ceremony below or you may choose an alternative from *Cub Scout Ceremonies for Dens and Packs*.



Dimming Campfire

Equipment: Electric campfire with dimmer switch, which Akela may operate unseen. Start with it dim.

AKELA: Tonight we have gathered at the ceremonial campfire to hear an ancient tale. It was once believed that a campfire had great magic. Of course it cooks our food, lights our way, and wards off wild animals, but the magic of this pack council fire is that it can light up our future! But only when we approach it after making a great accomplishment.

Will (read names) and their parents please stand? See how the fire burns only dimly when there are no advancing Scouts nearby? Now please come forward and join me at the fire's side. See how it has begun to burn brighter now!

The fire tells us that you have been busy this month and have earned the following awards. You have worked hard to be worthy, so the fire has given us a sign that you will continue to find great joy and success in Cub Scouting. You will soon be on your way to earning the next rank in Scouting. The fire tells us you will do so!

I now dismiss you to your seats, and watch the fire as you leave its side! (Repeat as many times as needed for awards.)

Religious Award Presentation Ceremony

Equipment: A large replica of the religious emblem square knot (can be made with purple felt and rope painted silver).

Ladies, gentlemen, leaders, and Cub Scouts, we have just concluded our pack's awards ceremony where we have honored those Cub Scouts who have demonstrated achievement by earning awards. Tonight, we also want to recognize a Cub Scout who has demonstrated his commitment to the Cub Scout Promise.

Dim lights and light a candle in front of a large replica of the religious emblem square knot.

Cub Scout _____, please escort your parents to the front of the room and then turn to face the pack.

We are very proud of _____. For the past ___ months he has worked with both his family and his religious advisor to learn more about his religious faith and his duty to God. After much hard work and personal growth, he has received the right to wear the religious emblem of his faith on his uniform and was presented with a medal by his religious advisor. Like all Scouts who have received a religious award, he may now wear Scouting's universal religious award square knot, and may continue to wear it on his Boy Scout uniform and adult uniform.

We now take great pleasure in presenting the religious emblem square knot to his parents in recognition of the role they have and will continue to play in his religious growth. Mr. and Mrs. _____, will you present your son with the religious emblem square knot?

_____, we know you will wear this square knot centered over your left pocket with pride. Congratulations on your accomplishment. You have lived the Cub Scout promise well. Please escort your parents back to their seats.

Almost every religious body in the United States has a religious emblem program open to Cub Scouts, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, 4-H, and Campfire Incorporated. We encourage all Scouts to consider participating in this program. If any other boys in this pack are interested in working toward the religious award of their own faith, please see _____ (Awards Chairman) at the end of this meeting. He/she has information on the emblems and will make it available to you.

CLOSING

Announcements

All announcements are made at the beginning of the campfire so the mood and flow of the campfire will not be interrupted by announcements near the end. The Cubmaster needs to remind the pack of next month's pack meeting and any upcoming events.

April



Closing Ceremony

Have this ceremony performed by leaders and parents.

PARENT 1: As parents, we want to show our sons the wonders of the world. In the eyes of a child, there are not just eight wonders of the world but eight million. We want him to be able to look at the stars, sunrise, and sunset, and feel their beauty.

PARENT 2: We want them to see a world of love, laughter, and compassion.

PARENT 3: We want them to build strength within themselves of strong character and sensitivity to the needs of others.

PARENT 4: We want them to be the best they can be.

PARENT 5: Unfortunately, no one can wave a magic wand so that they will receive these things. We as leaders and parents must set the example to show the guidance so they may see the way to accomplish all of these things. This is the magic; our example and guidance.

PARENT 6: So as we leave, let's be aware of our actions and how loudly they speak to our youth.

Cubmaster's Minute

In Scouting we use a compass to show us the way and a flashlight to light our path. In life we all need a strong moral compass and a way in which to light our trail through life. Cub Scouting can provide that moral compass and the faith to light our way. Parents and leaders should keep this in mind at all times when guiding young Cub Scouts. Thank you to all our leaders and parents.

AFTER THE MEETING

- ▶ Refreshments
- ▶ Cleanup