



**Core Value:
Compassion**

Core Value of the Month

Compassion: Being kind and considerate, and showing concern for the well-being of others.

Everybody has something valuable to offer and nobody likes being left out. Help your Cub Scouts be aware of the needs of others. Disabled children deal with limitations in their everyday lives.

Pack Planning Meeting

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

Pack Committee

- ▶ Many children have some kind of disability. A disability awareness meeting will help boys understand that some people have special needs different from their own. Through activities, the boys will be able to learn some of the challenges people with special needs might face. Be prepared to answer and explore their questions.
- ▶ Appoint a chairman and recruit members to carry out the various activities. Check with your council to see if they have a professional assigned in this area. If so, that person could be an invaluable resource.
- ▶ Your local hospital or medical center has education programs and could provide instruction and explanation to the Cub Scouts. They also have a variety of other resources available.
- ▶ Ask someone who has a disability to come and talk to the Cub Scouts about their life and their disability: what it is, how it came about, how life is for them, or how it has changed if the person has not always been disabled. The person talking to the Cub Scouts should be briefed that young people of this age have a lively curiosity and imagination, so the questions may be very direct and not questions that adults would feel comfortable asking. Your local Special Olympics office is a good resource.
- ▶ Be sure all pack families know about the activity. Use word of mouth in the den meetings or put an article in the den or pack newsletter announcing the disability awareness pack meeting.
- ▶ Find out whether any guests have special needs.
- ▶ For more information, see the *Cub Scout Leader Book* and *Cub Scout Leader How-To Book*.
- ▶ Make plans for spring recruiting of new Tiger Cubs.

Cubmaster Corner

- ▶ **Cub Scouts With Disabilities.** Not all of your Cub Scouts may be able to participate with the same success. Understanding Cub Scouts with disabilities and adapting activities will provide excitement and adventure for all. Your responsibility as a leader is to help all Cub Scouts find success in *doing their best*.
- ▶ Start implementing plans for upcoming day camps and Cub Scout and Webelos Scout resident camps.
- ▶ Now is the time for final preparations for a pack overnighter campout, directed by an adult who has completed BALOO (Basic Adult Leader Outdoor Orientation) training.

Pack Trainer

- ▶ Lead Unit Leadership Enhancement No. 4, Cub Scout Camping, from the *Cub Scout Leader Book*, to help leaders be aware of camping opportunities approved for Cub Scouts. See the *Cub Scout Leader Book* for detailed outlines, or select a topic that best meets the needs of your pack. Choose a topic for next month.

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.

- ▶ **Disabilities Awareness:** Cub Scouts learn about special needs of children and adults. They volunteer and help someone with special needs as they earn the Disabilities Awareness belt loop and pin.



- ▶ **Kickball:** Kickball is a fun activity for the boys. As they learn to play the game, they can apply their skills to earn the Kickball belt loop and pin.

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

Outing in Scouting

- ▶ **Cub Scouts.** Take a hike in a park and notice all the spring changes—leaves coming out, flowers blooming, and birds building nests.
- ▶ **Webelos Scouts.** Find an outdoor basketball court and play basketball.

Resource Highlight: *Scouting for Youth With Disabilities Manual (No. 34059)*

This publication provides hints and techniques to help youth with challenges to participate in Scouting and enjoy various activities. The categories of disabilities included in the book are learning disability, cognitive disability, developmental disability, physical disability, and emotional and behavioral disorders.



The March Pack Meeting

BEFORE THE MEETING

Arrive early to set up the meeting area and help Cub Scouts set up their displays.

GATHERING

Greeters welcome Cub Scout families and direct them to the den display area. Den chiefs set up games and invite Cub Scouts to participate in the activities.

Pre-Opening

Shoe Hunt

Equipment: blindfolds or use neckerchiefs.

Form teams of five to eight participants. Have each team form a circle, sitting on the floor, legs facing toward the center. Each team member removes his right shoe and places it in the center of the circle. Blindfold players, and a den chief or leader mixes up all the shoes. At a predetermined signal, each team member finds his or her own shoe and puts it on. When all team members have their own shoe on, they can remove the blindfolds.

OPENING

Opening Ceremony

Use the ceremony below, or choose a different opening ceremony from *Cub Scout Ceremonies for Dens and Packs*.

Shoes

Material: Large poster of the Cub Scout Promise in sign language (See *Webelos Handbook*) so everyone in the audience can see and follow the signing. The boys conducting the ceremony should practice signing ahead of time.

CUB SCOUT 1: S stands for special needs, that we may be aware of the differences in God's children.

CUB SCOUT 2: H stands for helping one another.

CUB SCOUT 3: O stands for obstacles, which we all face.

CUB SCOUT 4: E stands for education, that we will learn respect for all.

CUB SCOUT 5: S stands for sensitivity, awareness of the needs and emotions of others.

CUB SCOUT 6: Everyone, please join me in signing the Cub Scout Promise.

Prayer (Cub Scout or Leader)

"Help us understand and celebrate our differences and show respect for one another."

Welcome and Introductions

The Cubmaster welcomes everyone to the meeting and thanks those who helped set up. Introduce guests and thank them for attending.

PROGRAM

Differences Awareness Trail

Set up a variety of stations where boys can experience various physical challenges. Stations might include where boys:

- ▶ Wear eyeglasses smeared with petroleum jelly to simulate impaired vision.
- ▶ Place cotton in the ears or wear ear protectors to simulate impaired hearing.
- ▶ Tie magazines around the knees to simulate walking difficulties. If available, have boys attempt to use a walker.
- ▶ Are given a copy of the sign language alphabet. Have someone sign different sayings from a Cub Scout handbook.
- ▶ Are given directions to perform a simple task from someone speaking in a foreign language.
- ▶ Are given a copy of the Braille alphabet. From a Braille board made with dots of hot glue on a piece of cardboard, the boys try to "read" different words and phrases.
- ▶ Have two fingers wrapped together to simulate a broken finger, then attempt to tie his shoe.
- ▶ Use a balance board to simulate inner ear problems.
- ▶ Use a pair of crutches or a walker and attempt to negotiate an obstacle course.
- ▶ Use the non-dominant hand and attempt to write his name.
- ▶ Wear heavy work gloves to stimulate difficulty with gripping objects and try to stack pennies.
- ▶ Use only one arm and try to put on and button up a jacket or sweater.



RECOGNITION

Outside the Box

Materials: Snack-size box of caramel-coated popcorn and peanuts that contains a prize inside. Place awards inside the box.

Show the boys the box. Inside you will find a prize. Draw each of the boys' awards from the box. Let the parents present the awards to their sons.

After all the awards have been handed out, say the following. "The label says that the prize is inside. I really think that the prize is on the outside. Why? You receive the prize in life when you go outside of your own box or comfort zone. Sometimes going out of your way for others is the only way to really help others and feel accomplished in what you do. This month we have learned how to help others and be aware of differences in ability. I hope that we will always think of others and how they would feel about the things we say or the actions we do. So thinking 'This is the way we have always done it' doesn't cut it anymore. As Cub Scouts, parents, and a community, we can change the intolerance in the world today."

CLOSING

Announcements

Briefly share plans for any pack, district, or council Cub Scouting events. Use a monthly newsletter to eliminate lengthy details at the pack meeting. This is a good time to verify plans for attending day camp and resident camp. Share date and time of the next month's pack meeting.

Cubmaster's Minute

How many of you had fun today? Well, for many people, activities like these aren't so much fun. They are a necessity every day of their lives. You have had the opportunity to experience some of the challenges that other people face day to day. So now you have an idea of what might be helpful to someone in that situation. But always remember that people who have special needs aren't necessarily incapable. In most ways, they may be just like you. They might not want or require any help. So always ask whether someone wants help; don't assume he or she needs it.

Closing Ceremony

Building Character

CUBMASTER: How do we build character in our Cub Scouts?

LEADER 1: One way is to help them be aware of the differences in God's children. Cub Scouts are likely to have good health, vision, and hearing. Most will also have good physical coordination and mobility. When we ask our Cub Scouts to walk in another's shoes, they learn:

LEADER 2: Awareness

LEADER 3: Tolerance

LEADER 4: Respect

LEADER 5: Understanding

LEADER 6: Kindness to others

CUBMASTER: This is a very big step toward building character. Tonight we came together and learned something about others and about ourselves.

AFTER THE MEETING

- ▶ Refreshments
- ▶ Cleanup