

Webelos Den Meeting 3

Naturalist Hike

Naturalist activity badge (completion). Webelos badge (partial).



Preparation and Materials Needed

- ▶ Den Meeting 3 continues and completes the Naturalist and Forester activity badges. Check that preparation for Den Meeting 2 has you ready for Den Meeting 3 as well.

Before the Meeting

- ▶ Review After the Meeting at the end of the previous den meeting plan for necessary preparation and materials.
- ▶ 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.
- ▶ If you have background materials for the activity badge, Scouts may be interested in reviewing those.
- ▶ If you're on a field trip, as boys arrive, collect permission slips from parents who are not staying.
- ▶ 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 (rotate planning and leadership to complete **Webelos requirement 6**), with Pledge of Allegiance; maybe recite the Cub Scout Promise or sing a patriotic song; perhaps add a roll call, uniform recognition, or den yell.
- ▶ Since you're on a hike today, have the boys recite the Outdoor Code.
- ▶ If you have a guest, give a formal introduction, including what the guest will do for you.

Business Items

- ▶ Remind the boys of appropriate behavior, including safety considerations, at the site of your visit.
- ▶ Use this time also to discuss participation in upcoming pack meetings or events as needed.
- ▶ Explain that today's meeting is to complete work on the **Naturalist activity badge**.

Activities

- ▶ **Introduce Webelos Badge Requirements** before or during breaks on the hike:
 3. Know and explain the meaning of the Webelos badge.
 4. Point out the three special parts of the Webelos Scout uniform. Tell when to wear the uniform and when not to wear it.
 7. Show that you know and understand the requirements to be a Boy Scout.
 - a. Demonstrate the Scout salute, Scout sign, and Scout handshake. Explain when you would use them.
 - b. Explain the Scout Oath, Scout Law, Scout motto, and Scout slogan.
 - c. Explain and agree to follow the Outdoor Code.
 - **Hint:** Use Scout Oath Charades: Write out each of the following phrases of the Boy Scout Oath on an index card. Give one to each boy and have him act out what it says on the card (you may want to add hints on how to do this under the phrase). The other boys guess what line of the Scout Oath is being demonstrated.
 - On my honor, I will do my best . . . (*Show Boy Scout sign.*)
 - To do my duty to God and my country . . . (*Hold hands like praying, then salute.*)
 - And to obey the Scout Law. (*Count to 12 on fingers.*)
 - To help other people at all times . . . (*Get a chair for the leader and have him/her sit in it.*)
 - To keep myself physically strong . . . (*Do five jumping jacks.*)
 - Mentally awake . . . (*Pretend to read a book.*)
 - And morally straight. (*Stand at attention, with arms straight at side.*)



- ▶ **Naturalist Activity Badge:** Requirements 6, 7 and 9 (*Note: Show these items as much as possible, don't just talk about them.*):
 6. Learn about the bird flyways closest to your home. Find out which birds use these flyways.
 - Go outside to at least *look* for what birds are flying, even if you are not in a flyway!
 7. Learn to identify poisonous plants and venomous reptiles found in your area.
 - Can you find a poisonous plant in the vicinity of your meeting? Show it!
 - If you can't find one today, see if you can find one on the hike next meeting.
 9. Give examples of:
 - a. A producer, a consumer, and a decomposer in the food chain of an ecosystem
 - Take the Scouts outside to find producers, consumers and decomposers.
 - Have them look for evidence of each of these in the neighborhood location.
 - Especially decomposers! Lift any rock, find rotting leaves.
 - For decomposers, you might have an activity where the boys collect insects. Boys won't have any trouble finding insects in either the city or the country, but if they want a particular kind, you may be able to suggest where to look for it and how to catch it.
 - Beetles and crickets: Sink a small jar or can in the ground so that the rim is level with the surface. Pour in about an inch of a sweet mixture, such as two parts molasses and one part water. This gooey mess will attract hordes of insects, which will tumble into the jar and be trapped. They will drown in a short time, so check the trap frequently to catch a live one.
 - Butterflies, moths, and other flying insects: A sweet, slightly fermented pulp of fruits (peaches or apricots) painted on a tree trunk will trap flying insects. Or you can catch them with a net in an empty lot, open field, or public park.
 - Earthworms can often be found in a handful of soil. Clear away any surface debris from a small patch of ground. Force a soup can deep into the earth, scooping up as much soil as you can, and then empty it onto a sheet of paper (white is best). See how many earthworms and insects you have captured.
 - Here are some things the boys might watch for when observing insects:
 - Watch how ants work together to accomplish a task. Make a note of what they do, and which ants perform each of the various duties.
 - Does light or temperature have any effect on the speed of crawling insects?
 - Does the insect prefer one type of food to another? What does it like best?
 - Listen to music-making insects, such as grasshoppers, crickets, and katydids. How many chirps do they make in a minute? Does a temperature change affect the number of chirps per minute?
 - b. One way humans have changed the balance of nature
 - c. How you can help protect the balance of nature
 - You can quiz the Scouts on these two elements as you're looking for decomposing stuff.

Want More Fun Activities?

You might try this wormy experiment to show your den how worms work.

- ▶ Put four to five inches of rich soil in a large glass jar with a half-dozen earthworms.
- ▶ On top of the soil, put an inch of light sand. Sprinkle corn meal on the sand.
- ▶ Wrap black paper around the jar to shut out light. At your next den meeting, take off the paper and see what has happened.
- ▶ The worms will have moved dark soil up into the sand and sand down into the soil.
- ▶ You'll see tunnels along the glass marking their travels. Explain that the worms' tunnels help oxygenate the soil to nurture life and help the soil hold water.

- ▶ **Forester Activity Badge:** Requirements 5 and 6:
 5. Draw a picture showing
 - how water and minerals in the soil help a tree grow
 - how the tree uses sunlight to help it grow
 6. Make a poster showing a tree's growth rings or examine the growth rings of a tree stump. Explain how the rings tell its life history.
- ▶ In the boys' *Webelos Handbooks*, sign the requirements met (and update your records).



Closing

- ▶ Award (or recognize) any advancement completed today (ideally, award the activity badge or belt loop item completed today, and recognize later at the pack meeting); thank hosts, guests, helpers.
- ▶ Closing ceremony (rotate planning and leadership to complete **Webelos requirement 6**): Retire the colors; maybe with the Boy Scout Oath and/or Law, or the Law of the Pack and/or den yell. Den leader may add a den leader's minute comment.

▶ **Home Assignment:** Remind boys that **Athlete 4-7** requirements are due at the next meeting and to read the Travelers chapter in the *Webelos Handbook*.

- ▶ Remind the Webelos Scout who will plan and lead the next meeting's flag ceremony, and remind about home assignments (and include these in any family information letter or e-mail).
- ▶ 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.