



Wolf Den Meeting 10

Birds

Elective 13. Achievement 10. Achievement 11. Character Connection for Cooperation. Character Connection for Faith.

Preparation and Materials Needed

- ▶ For Den Meeting 10, bring a bird-watching chart (see Wolf Den Meeting 10) for each boy, and a book about birds with lots of drawings (ask your public librarian for assistance in identifying a suitable book for second-graders).
- ▶ **Determine if any of the boys is allergic to peanuts.** If no one is allergic to peanuts, then prepare materials for a pinecone bird feeder (one large pinecone per boy, string, jar of peanut butter, birdseed, an 8-by-8-inch cake pan, plastic knives, newspaper to cover the work table, a smock for each boy and adult, and quart-size plastic zipper bags labeled with the name of each boy to hold each completed pinecone bird feeder). Research on the Internet instructions for pinecone bird feeders; instructions are readily available online.
 - If peanut allergies are a problem, then make a bird feeder as shown in the *Wolf Handbook*, page 176, or make one from a recyclable plastic milk jug or two-liter soda bottle.
- ▶ Make up or purchase a birdhouse kit for each boy.
- ▶ Gather some books about birds for loan to boys who do not complete **Elective 13c** at home.

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), especially check handbooks for completion of **Achievements 10 and 11** (home assignments).
- ▶ Assign parents to meeting roles and hand out a meeting plan to each.

Opening

- ▶ Conduct a flag ceremony, indoor (**Achievement 2b**) or outdoor (**Achievement 2f**). Options include:
 - Gather in a line, circle, or square. Pledge of Allegiance; have the Scout leading the ceremony tell what the Pledge means (**Achievement 2a**); Cub Scout Promise or Law of the Pack; lead patriotic song.
 - Rotate leadership of flag ceremonies so each boy has a turn at every role (**Achievement 2b**).

Business Items:

- ▶ **Verify** completion of **Achievements 10a–g** and **11a–d** and **Elective 13c** using the boys' handbooks.
- ▶ **Elective 13c** ("Read a book about birds.") (home assignment):
 - A family member should sign off in the boy's handbook when the requirement is completed.
 - But go ahead and have boys share information that they learned from reading a book about birds.
- ▶ Use this time to discuss participation in coming pack meetings or events, as needed.

Activities

- ▶ **Elective 13a** ("Make a list of all the birds you saw in a week and tell where you saw them (field, forest, marsh, yard, or park).")
 - Go outside now for a hike and to see what birds you can see (or hear, or find evidence of) outside your meeting area as you do these next activities.
 - Consider fun ways to do this. For example, don't just say "Let's go watch birds," but make it a bird safari, and channel your best Animal Planet sense of wonder and danger.
 - Or sing a bird song.



- ▶ **Elective 13d** (“Point out 10 different kinds of birds (five may be from pictures.):”):
 - Show the bird pictures on page 174 of the *Wolf Handbook* and ask the boys which of those they have seen. Ask boys to name at least two more species they have seen.
- ▶ **Elective 13a** (“Make a list of all the birds you saw in a week and tell where you saw them (field, forest, marsh, yard, or park.):”):
 - Distribute a bird-watching chart (at the end of this den meeting plan) to each boy (modify the chart as needed to include local birds), to be completed and returned at the next meeting.
- ▶ Return inside if you like, and do **Elective 13e** (“Feed wild birds and tell which birds you fed.):” by making pinecone bird feeders.
 - Have each person put on a smock. Cover the work table with newspaper.
 - Each boy receives a pinecone and a dull knife.
 - Place two or three bowls of peanut butter on the table.
 - Using the dull knife, each boy spreads peanut butter all over the pinecone.
 - Put birdseed into an 8-by-8-inch pan and roll each peanut butter-coated pinecone in the birdseed.
 - Place each completed bird feeder into a labeled plastic zipper bag.
 - Wash hands. Remove smocks.
 - Remind the boys to hang the bird feeders from a tree or bush when they get home, or do it at the meeting site if you like.
- ▶ **Elective 13f** (“Put out a birdhouse and tell which birds use it.):”):
 - Ask the boys to assemble the birdhouse at home and put it out in their yard or neighborhood and record which birds use it.
 - Ask family members to sign their handbook after they observe which birds use it.
- ▶ **Achievement 10a:** Complete the Character Connection for Cooperation.
 - **Know:** Discuss these questions with your family: What is “cooperation”? Why do people need to cooperate when they are doing things together? Name some ways that you can be helpful and cooperate with others.
 - **Commit:** Discuss with your family what makes it hard to cooperate. How do listening, sharing, and persuading help us cooperate?
 - **Practice:** Practice being cooperative while doing the requirements for Family Fun.
- ▶ **Achievement 10b:** Make a game like one of these. Play it with your family. (Eagle Golf, Beanbag Archery.)
- ▶ **Achievement 10c:** Plan a walk. Go to a park or a wooded area, or visit a zoo or museum with your family.
- ▶ **Achievement 10d:** Read a book or *Boys’ Life* magazine with your family. Take turns reading aloud.
- ▶ **Achievement 10e:** Decide with Akela what you will watch on television or listen to on the radio.
- ▶ **Achievement 10f:** Attend a concert, a play, or other live program with your family.
- ▶ **Achievement 10g:** Have a family Board Game night at home with members of your family.

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.
- ▶ **Home Assignment:** Ask family members to help put out the birdhouse and observe which birds use it (**Elective 13f**). Fill out the bird-sighting chart (**Elective 13a**) to do so.

Boys who have attended all den meetings and completed required home assignments will now qualify for a third yellow Progress Toward Ranks bead to be placed on their Cub Scout Immediate Recognition Emblem (for completing **Achievements 5, 8, and 10**).



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.



Robin



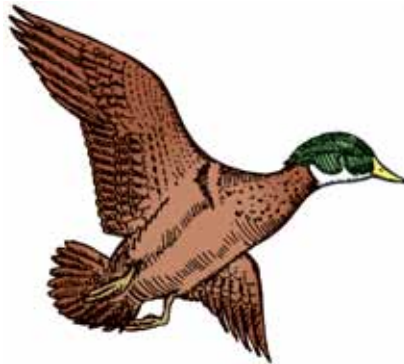
Sparrow



Goose



Seagull



Duck



Goldfinch



Blue jay



Cardinal

