

Take a personalized tour of the U.S.A. by the letters: Austin, Baton Rouge, and Cambridge to Xenia, York, and Zion. Our country contains an endless variety of scenic and historic places. What is special about these places? This month we'll find out by visiting historic places, theme parks, museums, and zoos. Choose a city or an historical site to highlight. Invite a guest speaker who can share something special about the places your Cub Scouts have picked to discover. Use maps or collect tourist brochures to learn more about places to visit. Your local historical society or public library is a great place to get started. Celebrate your blue and gold banquet with local foods from your choices of the ABCs and decorate to highlight your choices. This would be a good month to work on the Citizenship belt loop or pin or the Geography belt loop or pin.

PACK PLANNING

Now is the time to implement the plans for your blue and gold banquet. Put your committees into action so everyone will have a fun night with lots of discoveries about our country.

Setup Committee. This busy committee will unlock doors, set up seating and serving areas for the banquet, set up tables for displays, and work with the decorations committee to decorate the room.

Decorations Committee. This committee will set the mood for our "vacation" by collecting decorations made in den meetings and transporting them to the site. They will place tablecloths, centerpieces, and placemats appropriately and can provide a party favor (neckerchief slide, nut cup) if desired. The committee will set up display areas and hang up posters and other decorations.

Food Committee. This very important committee will coordinate the food needed for the pack. They will serve the food in a safe and efficient manner.

Program Committee. This committee keeps the place hopping by inviting special guests and speakers, helping to prepare and implement the preopening activity and recognition ceremony, providing background music, and helping the Cubmaster as needed with songs, icebreakers, etc.

Cleanup Committee. The cleanup committee sweeps and cleans so the pack meeting site looks better than it did before you came.

Some of the purposes of Cub Scouting developed through this month's theme include:

- **Good citizenship.** Exploring historic places in the United States will help boys develop an appreciation for our country and its history.
- **Character development.** Exploring new and interesting places gives boys new character-building experiences.

This theme is designed to promote character development by emphasizing these core values:

- **Citizenship.** Learning more about the U.S.A., its people, places, and cultures, helps boys understand the greatness and diversity of our country.
- **Courage.** Have you ever been nervous about going to new places or meeting new people? Familiarizing yourself with our country and its people will help you overcome these feelings.

MEMBERSHIP MOMENT

Invite families of Cub Scout-age boys who are not involved in Scouting and families of boys who will be Cub Scouts to the blue and gold banquet. Use this showcase event to get these boys and families excited about joining your pack.

Pack Meeting

BEFORE THE MEETING

Unlock the doors early so the setup and decorations committees can work their magic. Make sure the kitchen and serving space is accessible, safe, and clean. Add to the atmosphere by playing patriotic music in the background as people arrive.

GATHERING

Members of the program committee pass out crayons and explain the Do-It-Yourself Tablecloth activity to families as they enter (2 FEB). Show Cub Scouts and families where to place their

display items, and encourage them to enjoy the displays.

MAIN PART OF THE MEETING

Opening

The Cubmaster, den leader, or den chief leads the USA opening ceremony (2 FEB); or choose a different patriotic ceremony from *Cub Scout Ceremonies for Dens and Packs*.

Prayer

A preselected Cub Scout offers the Our Country prayer (2 FEB).

Welcome and Introductions

The Cubmaster briefly and warmly welcomes Cub Scouts, families, and all special guests to a night of food and fun. Explain the blue and gold food service plan and invite everyone to enjoy their meals.

Icebreaker Song

Once families are generally finished with the meal, announce that it's time for everyone to join in a song. Have everyone stand and move along as the song leader leads "American ABC Rap" (2 FEB). Other choices are "America's for Me" or "The 12 Days of Vacation" (3 FEB).

Den Demonstrations

Denners from each den report on field trips and activities of the month. Dens with skits or songs to share are called forward for their presentation.

Games

Tell boys that this is a stretching evening. Stretch your legs as you run through the ABC Race (3 FEB). Stretch your mind as you try to find cities or states that fit in the American ABC Categories (3 FEB).

Recognition

Happily and proudly present awards with the Meaning of the Blue and Gold advancement ceremony (*Cub Scout Ceremonies for Dens and Packs*). Recognize leaders who have earned awards this year. Thank parents who have helped during the year with a thank-you card or small gift.

Announcements

Announce the date, time, and location of March's pack meeting. The theme will be "When I Grow Up." The topic may be introduced by a parade of

adults in costumes that imply certain vocations. Highlight upcoming items of interest such as training opportunities and camping opportunities.

Cubmaster's Minute

Inspire the group with the Character Cubmaster's Minute (3 FEB).

Closing

End the evening on a patriotic note with the Musical Closing ceremony (3 FEB); or choose a different ceremony from *Cub Scout Ceremonies for Dens and Packs*.

Cubmaster Corner

FAMILY INVOLVEMENT

The blue and gold banquet is one of the most popular pack nights of the year. This is a great time to encourage family involvement. Ask families to bring photos or souvenirs from places they have visited to use as displays. Throughout the evening, ask selected families to share briefly an experience they had visiting an American ABC. Be sure to ask in advance, and give a time limit of two to three minutes. (You don't want a travelogue or a video exhibit!)

Ceremonies, Games, Songs, Stunts

GATHERING ACTIVITY: DO-IT-YOURSELF TABLECLOTHS

Materials: Paper on a roll, crayons or markers; prizes, if desired

Cover tables with white butcher paper. Divide each table into four to six sections. At the center of each section, write a large alphabet letter. Challenge each table to come up with as many names of American towns, cities, states, counties, attractions, etc., as they can think of that begin with the letters on their table. They write their answers on the paper with crayons or markers. Prizes can be awarded for participation, longest list, most unique items, etc.

Variation: Make placemats with large alphabet letters in the center. Each individual can play as above.

MAP PUZZLES

Before the meeting, create map puzzles by gluing old maps to cardboard backing, then cutting them into puzzle pieces with a razor knife. Give each family a puzzle to put together.

OPENING CEREMONY: USA

Equipment: Cards (made of poster board) with large letters *U*, *S*, and *A* on

the fronts; corresponding phrases (see below) on the backs

Setup: Post the U.S. flag at the front of the room before the meeting. Three boys holding the cards are seated in a line at the front of the room with the cards on their laps.

NARRATOR: Our country's name expresses the principles that we hold sacred as citizens of the United States of America.

CUB SCOUT 1 (*stands and holds up card*): "U" is for united. We are a country of citizens united under one government and dedicated to the cause of freedom and peace.

CUB SCOUT 2 (*stands and holds up card*): "S" is for states. Our country is a union of 50 states. We are proud of our individual histories, but we come together to defend what is right.

CUB SCOUT 3 (*stands and holds up card*): "A" is for America—a land of promise filled with opportunity and beauty. America is a patchwork quilt of cultures and a stronghold of religious liberty.

NARRATOR: Would the audience please stand and join us as we recite the Pledge of Allegiance.

PRAYER: OUR COUNTRY

As we gather together as a pack family, we are thankful for the beauty of our country and the freedoms we enjoy. Help us to keep our country strong.

ICEBREAKER: AMERICAN ABC RAP

Do this as a repeat-after-me with a rhythmic chant.

Albuquerque, Baltimore,
Chattanooga, Denver;
Eugene, Flagstaff, and Gastonia;
A, B, C, D, E, F, G;
American, American
A-B-Cs!
Honolulu, Irving, and Juneau;
Kansas City, Lansing, Manchester;
New Orleans, Omaha, Pensacola;
H, I, J, K, L, M, N, O, P;
American, American
A-B-Cs!
Quincy, Reno, San Francisco;
Trenton, Utica, and Vancouver;
Wheeling, Xenia, Yorktown, Zion;
Q, R, S, T, U, V,
W, X, Y, and Z!
American, American
A-B-Cs!

SONGS

America's for Me

Tune: Do, Re, Me
America, so far and wide,
America is so much fun.
It's the place where I can hike,
Ride my bike, and play and run.
Many places I can see;
Places I just love to be;
I feel safe and I feel free,
Because America's for me!

The 12 Days of Vacation

Tune: Twelve Days of Christmas
On the first day of vacation,
My family went to see
Barges on the Miss-is-sip-pi!
2nd—the Gateway Arch
3rd—California Redwoods
4th—Mount Rushmore
5th—Five Great Lakes
6th—Empire State Building
7th—Seattle's Space Needle
8th—Yellowstone Park
9th—Mount McKinley
10th—Liberty Bell
11th—Grand Canyon
12th—O-kee-fen-o-kee

GAMES

ABC Race

Materials: For each player, one soda straw and one large letter (A, B, C, etc.) cut from tissue paper

Give each player a straw and a letter. Divide the players into teams and line each team up in a single-file relay line. The first player in each line draws his breath through the straw to hold the letter against the end of the straw. Then he runs to a goal line and deposits the letter on a chair or the floor. He runs back and tags the next player. The first team to get all its letters to the finish line is the winner. If a letter is dropped en route, the player must stop and pick it up using the suction method—no hands!

American ABC Categories

This can be done as an after-the-meal table activity.

Players sit in a circle. Establish a rhythm by slapping legs, clapping hands, and then snapping fingers two times. Players may speak only when fingers are being snapped. The leader begins the game as everyone slaps, claps, and snaps by saying:

Slap, clap, snap "American" *snap*

Slap, clap, snap "ABCs" *snap*

Slap, clap, snap "D" *snap*

Slap, clap, snap "Denver" *snap*

The person to the left of the leader then names (on the next snap) a state, county, city, village, or landmark that begins with *D*. Continue until an answer is repeated or a player cannot think of a locale starting with that letter. The person to the left of that player then becomes the leader and names a new letter.

Statue of Liberty Tag

Show boys a picture of the Statue of Liberty. Divide boys into teams and split the teams in half. Place half of each team on opposite sides of the room. The first boy on the first side throws a beanbag to his first teammate on the other side, who holds the bag upright in a Statue of Liberty stance until the thrower has run up and tagged him. Then he in turn throws the bag to the second player on his team on the other side of the room, who holds the bag in the Statue of Liberty stance until he is tagged, etc., until all have had a turn. The thrower moves to the end of the line after he has tagged his teammate. The first team with players in reversed position wins.

CUBMASTER'S MINUTE: CHARACTER

Abraham Lincoln said: "Character is like a tree, and reputation like its shadow. The shadow is what we think of it, the tree is the real thing." Are you strong and rooted like the tree, or are you movable and changing like the shadow? All the things you learn as a Cub Scout help you to be strong and rooted like the tree so you can have good character and be the real thing.

CLOSING CEREMONY: A QUESTION

CUBMASTER: I asked myself a question. "What does it mean to be an American?" Being an American means I have a multitude of freedoms:

CUB SCOUT 1: Freedom to think and to say what I think.

CUB SCOUT 2: Freedom to worship as I please.

CUB SCOUT 3: Freedom to move ahead.

CUB SCOUT 4: Freedom to try, and freedom to fail.

CUB SCOUT 5: Freedom to stand up straight and look the world in the eye.

CUB SCOUT 6: Freedom from want and freedom from fear.

CUBMASTER: These freedoms are not my doing. They were here long before I was born. Our forebears fought to win them. We have four guarantees that they will remain: the Declaration of Independence, the Constitution, our fellow Americans, and me. No one could ask for more.

CLOSING CEREMONY: MUSICAL CLOSING

Personnel: Color guard, song leader, person to play the music/recording

Material: Patriotic song recording, something to play it on

Choose a favorite patriotic song such as "America," "America the Beautiful," or "God Bless America." Lead the group in singing the song as the flag is retrieved.

CHEERS

Blue and Gold Cheer. Divide the room in half. When you point to one half, they yell "Blue." When you point to the other half, they yell "Gold." When you point up, everyone stands and yells "Cub Scouts." Keep pointing side to side, increasing the tempo until you reach the big finish with "Cub Scouts."

My Home. Insert the name of your town or state in the blank. Do the lines together, or do four separate cheers.

Wherever I roam, ___ is my home!

Wherever I rest, ___ is the best!

From coast to coast, ___ is the most!

From east to west, ___ is the best!

RUN-ONS

I just visited a state that has 2,000 pounds of dirty laundry. It's called *Washing-ton*.

My family is going to the smartest state in the country—Alabama. It's so smart it has four A's and one B!

CUB SCOUT 1: Thank you for the tour of this great city. Have you lived here all your life?

CUB SCOUT 2: Not yet!

Knock, knock.

Who's there?

Wooden shoe.

Wooden shoe who?

Wooden shoe like to visit _____?

CUB SCOUT 1: Why aren't you going to the blue and gold banquet?

CUB SCOUT 2: Well, the invitation said 5 to 7, but I'm 10.

CUB SCOUT 1: What is the definition of *vacation*?

CUB SCOUT 2: It's when you spend thousands of dollars to see what rain looks like in another part of the country!

Blue and Gold Banquet

- Be sure your chartered organization representative is invited to your blue and gold banquet.
- The committee will want to communicate all food and beverage plans to the pack members.
- A contribution to the World Friendship Fund can be taken during the

banquet to help supply Scouting aid to countries establishing a Scouting presence.

- See the *Cub Scout Leader How-To Book* for ideas to recognize the adult leadership of the pack.

February Pack Program Page: American ABCs

ACADEMICS AND SPORTS PROGRAM

Cub Scout Academics

Geography. Boys can earn the Geography belt loop and pin as they learn about scenic and historic places throughout our country.

Cub Scout Sports

Roller Skating. If your Cub Scouts aren't into outdoor winter sports, then earning the Roller Skating belt loop and pin would be a fun activity for them.

FAMILY ACTIVITY

Citizenship is enjoying the rights and participating in the responsibilities that you have in your country. Patriotism is the willingness to preserve, protect, defend, and respect those rights and responsibilities. Being a good citizen is part of being patriotic. Parents can work on the "Learning Through Fun and Adventure—Being Patriotic" section of *Cub Scouting's BSA Family Activity Book* while earning the BSA Family Award. Sing a song; visit a historic site—all fun for the family.

DID YOU KNOW?

Tour Permits

This is a good time to remind all leaders about the BSA policies for trips and outings and tour permits. To receive an approved tour permit for your outing or activity, "at least one registered adult who has completed BSA Youth Protection training must be present at all events and activities that require a tour permit" (Local Tour Permit Application, No. 34426).

GOOD TURN FOR AMERICA

Food banks are at a low this time of year, having been through the holidays. A pack food drive could help.



Remind all Cub Scouts and their families that your pack will do a canned-food drive for the pack meeting this month. Be sure to record your service hours at www.goodturnforamerica.org.

BSA RESOURCES HIGHLIGHT

Cub Scout Leader How-To Book (No. 33832). Review this book for everything related to providing a fun banquet, exciting derbies, and unique activities. There's even

a chapter devoted to organizing your pack campout. Once you explore this resource, you'll use it again and again.



PACK LEADERS' PLANNING MEETING

Pack leaders meet about one week before the pack meeting to review final details for this month's meeting and to review plans for March's meeting.

Evaluate January's pack meeting.

Verify plans for this month's activities. Make sure all needed materials will be available and that people with assignments will be available to fulfill their responsibilities. Make sure all the reservations for the blue and gold banquet are settled, and that they are communicated to the members.

Take time during the planning meeting to review the policies in chapter 8 of the *Cub Scout Leader Book*. There are helpful hints for planning den and pack excursions in chapter 32 of the book.

Plan March's pack meeting and make assignments. The theme is "When I Grow Up," making it a good month to hold your pack's Space Derby. Be sure a space derby track is reserved and confirmed as quickly as possible.

The pack trainer conducts Unit Leadership Enhancement No. 4, Cub Scout Camping. Review the many camping opportunities that are available for Cub Scouts in your district and council. The *Cub Scout Leader Book* has guidelines to lead this discussion. Choose a topic for next month.

LOOKING AHEAD

Share information about local summer day camps and resident camps, events that will help meet requirements for the National Summertime Pack Award for your pack, as well as the Cub Scout Outdoor Activity Award for individual Scouts. Review the current requirements to ensure that all boys have a chance to earn these awards.

PACK TRAINER HIGHLIGHT

Find out when Youth Protection, Health and Safety, Safety Afloat, and Safe Swim Defense are being offered and inform your pack leaders so they can be properly trained for your summer activities. Youth Protection, Safe Swim Defense, and Safety Afloat may be completed online at <http://olc.scouting.org>. Review the tally of training for all leaders and suggest additional training opportunities.

OUTDOOR IDEAS FOR EVERYONE

Tiger Cubs. Go outside and watch the weather (*Achievement 5F*).

Wolf Cub Scouts. Go fishing; in colder climates, go ice fishing (*Electives 19b-c*).

Bear Cub Scouts. Visit an historical place of interest in or near your town or city (*Achievement 3d*).

Webelos Scouts. Take a trip to a place that interests you by car, bus, boat, train, or airplane.

American ABCs: Tiger Cub Den Meetings

Each Tiger Cub and his adult partner should attend all meetings as a team.
Dens may meet in the evening or on weekends.

WHEN	FIRST WEEK	SECOND WEEK	THIRD WEEK	FOURTH WEEK
The Tiger Cub den leader shares leadership with a Tiger Cub adult partner. This team should review plans before each meeting and check the equipment needed.				
BEFORE THE MEETING STARTS	Have an atlas and maps of your state. Have supplies for the U.S. State Decorations (6 FEB).	Have supplies to make the Patriotic Surprise (<i>Elective 25</i>) and American ABC place cards (6 FEB)..	Call the Go See It destination to confirm arrangements, times, fees, etc.	Host team writes a thank-you note to the destination of last week's Go See It.
Den leader may collect dues. Den leader checks boys' books for completed advancement requirements and records them on Den Advancement Chart. Boys record own advancement on den doodle, if den has one.				
GATHERING	Play Find an ABC (6 FEB).	Make place cards for the blue and gold banquet (10 FEB).	Take a Go See It to a train station (<i>Elective 41</i>) OR Take a Go See It to a bus station, airport, or boat dock. At the end of the trip, lead a reflecting discussion with boys and adult partners about their outing.	Participate in the monthly pack meeting by sharing information about the den's Go See It. Tiger Cubs and adult partners sign the thank-you note.
OPENING	Sing "America" (<i>Cub Scout Songbook</i>).	Have a U.S. flag in place. Boys march in and circle around the flag, salute, and say the Pledge of Allegiance.		
SHARE	Share information about the pack meeting and the birthday of Cub Scouting. Ask Tiger Cubs to share ways their family celebrates (<i>Elective 1</i>).	Lead the Citizenship Character Connection (6 FEB).		
DISCOVER	Make United States decorations for the blue and gold banquet tables (<i>Elective 2</i>).	Make Patriotic Surprise (<i>Elective 25</i>). Play Tiger in the Cage (6 FEB).		
SEARCH	Lead a discussion on the geography of the United States and how people travel from state to state. Ask Tiger Cubs what they would like to visit of available destinations in your area.	Finalize the plans for the Go See It for next week.		
CLOSING	Form a line in front of the flag. Each boy in turn steps forward and salutes the flag. Get the name of each family member or guest who will be attending the banquet.	Give the den yell.		
This week's shared leadership team reviews the meeting. The den leader should meet briefly with the Tiger Cub and adult partner who will share leadership at the next den meeting.				
AFTER THE MEETING	Den leader files local tour permit with local council service center for Go See It outing.	Talk to Tiger Cub team in charge of the next month. Offer resources or ideas as needed.	Den leader fills out Tiger Cub Den Advancement Report for the pack leaders' meeting.	Den leader mails thank-you note.
ADULT PARTNER RECORDS ADVANCEMENT ACTIVITIES DONE DURING THE DEN MEETING IN THE TIGER CUB'S HANDBOOK.				

Tiger Cub Den Activities

Advancement possibilities highlighted in this month's meeting plans: Electives 1, 2, 25, 41.

ABC ... one, two, three ... America's the best for you and me. A month of planning for decorations for the blue and gold banquet always makes for fun as the birthday party for Scouting draws near. Boys will explore the ABCs of cities and states of our country. At home, Tiger Cubs will enjoy learning about family interactions and conversations by doing *Achievement 4F* at home and helping in the kitchen (*Elective 24*). Follow this with learning about dental care (*Elective 46*), and Tiger Cubs will be set for good health to come.

U.S. STATE DECORATIONS

Materials: Empty cottage cheese or sour cream cartons, construction paper, craft foam sheets, glue pens (or glue and loose glitter)

Draw or copy the outline of your state (or a state of your choosing) on a craft foam sheet (approximately 2 inches wide). Make a total of three cutouts.



Turn a cottage cheese carton upside down so the open top is on the surface of the table. Cut a strip of construction paper wide enough to wrap around the outside of the carton. A regular cottage cheese carton will use a strip of paper 3 inches by 12 inches. Write the name of your state in glitter glue; include the year it became a state of the union. Glue in place around the outside surface of the carton.

On the top of the carton (the top as it is now), glue all three state cutouts so that they form a triangle and sit edge to edge.

GAMES

Find an ABC

Materials: Maps, atlas, reference books

Have Tiger Cubs and their adult partners use the maps and atlas to locate a city or stream that starts with the letter the den leader shouts out.

Tiger in the Cage

A good outdoor game!

All players except one form a tight circle by holding hands. The extra player is the tiger, who stands inside the circle. The tiger tries to get out of the circle

by dodging under the players' arms or by forcing his way out with his body. He may not punch or use his hands to break the grip of players in the circle. When he does break through, the others try to tag him. The successful chaser becomes the next tiger in the cage.

POSTMARK COLLECTION

Have Tiger Cubs save postmarks from their household mail and bring them to the den meeting each week. Glue the postmarks onto sheets of construction paper, one sheet for each letter of the alphabet. See how many different places the den can collect. Display the collection at the blue and gold banquet.

CHARACTER CONNECTION: CITIZENSHIP

- We are all citizens of the United States of America. What do you think that means? ... You're right, it means that we help our country, we help other people in our country, and we respect the flag. (*Have adult partners share their thoughts about citizenship.*)
- How do you think we can show that we are good citizens? What are some things you've seen other people do to show good citizenship?
- Can you do any of those things in the week ahead?



PLACEMAT

Materials: Construction paper, glue, pictures, clear adhesive paper

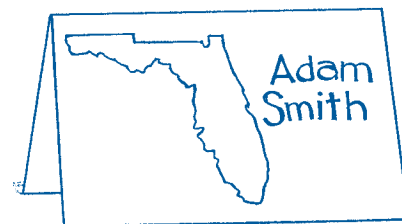


Boys cut out pictures of states' scenery, the countryside, or landmarks and glue to construction paper. Cover with clear contact paper to make waterproof for service as a banquet placemat.

AMERICAN ABCs PLACE CARDS

Materials: Tagboard or cardstock

Create place cards for all family members who will attend the pack's blue and gold banquet.



Draw the shape of the state the boys are studying on the front lower half of a 3-by-5-inch card turned sideways. Add the person's name. Fold the card in half and place on the table in front of each person's location for the banquet.

SONG: ACROSS THE USA

Tune: Row, Row, Row Your Boat
May be sung as a round.
All across the USA,
Everywhere you go,
Cub Scouts always do their best,
As Akela they follow.

American ABCs: Wolf Den Meetings

Dens may meet after school, in the evening, or on weekends.
Review theme pages before planning den meetings.

WHEN	FIRST WEEK	SECOND WEEK	THIRD WEEK	FOURTH WEEK
Den leader, den chief, and denner review plans before each meeting and check equipment needed.				
BEFORE THE MEETING STARTS	Have materials for the banquet invitations. Have U.S. flag. Print out a copy of the "Which State" activity for each boy (8 FEB).	Have several U.S. flags that are not on poles. Have supplies for napkin rings (8 FEB).	Call the destination of your outing to confirm arrangements, times, fees, etc.	Denner writes thank-you to last week's destination. Have materials to make Apple Pie Snacks (8 FEB).
Den leader collects dues.				
WHILE CUB SCOUTS GATHER	Do the American ABCs "Which State" activity. On a nice day, this can be done outside to start the meeting.	Collect permission slips. Den chief and assistant den leader demonstrate how to fold the flag (<i>Achievement 2g</i>).	Collect permission slips.	Boys sign thank-you note or card. Boys start the apple pies.
OPENING	Stand in a square formation around the flag pole. Follow the illustration for the second ceremony in <i>Achievement 2b</i> .	Any boy who has not led a flag ceremony takes the lead for the opening. Follow with roll call in which each boy tries to name a state that starts with the same letter (or sound) as his first name.	Remind boys that the history of your community is precious and that they should not touch objects or wander off pathways.	Denner leads the Cub Scout Promise
Den leader checks boys' handbooks for completed achievements and electives and records them on Den Advancement Chart. Boys record own advancement on den doodle, if den has one.				
BUSINESS ITEMS	Give the answers to the ABCs activity. Discuss the American ABCs theme and the blue and gold banquet plans. Explain that each boy should learn about your state flag and will be invited to share during the next den meetings.	Boys share information about your state flag (<i>Achievement 2d</i>).	Visit a local site that is important in the history of your community and state (<i>Achievement 4f</i>).	Practice how to fold the flag for the demonstration at the pack meeting. Any boy who has not yet done so shares what he learned about the state flag (<i>Achievement 2d</i>).
ACTIVITY	Prepare invitations for the blue and gold banquet (8 FEB).	Make napkin rings (8 FEB).	At the end of the trip, lead a reflecting discussion with boys about their outing.	While folding the flag and sharing about the state flag, bake pies. Wash hands, denner leads a prayer, eat, and enjoy!
CLOSING	Form a straight line and conduct the den yell. Send home permission slips for outing on THIRD WEEK.	Have a moment of respect for those service people who have fought to keep our country of ABCs safe and secure.		Cub Scouts say the Law of the Pack.
Denner supervises putting away equipment. Den leader, den chief, and denner review the meeting and check details for the next meeting.				
AFTER THE MEETING	Den leader files local tour permit with council service center for outing planned for THIRD WEEK.		Den leader fills out advancement report for the pack leaders' meeting.	Den leader mails thank-you note.
ENCOURAGE FAMILIES TO RECORD ADVANCEMENT ACTIVITIES DONE DURING THE DEN MEETINGS IN THE CUB SCOUT'S HANDBOOK.				

Wolf Den Activities

Advancement possibilities highlighted in this month's meeting plans: Achievements 2g, 4f; Elective 12e.

Blue and gold ... red, white, and blue ... What is it about colors that makes us take notice? This month all colors will be important as Cub Scouts prepare for the blue and gold celebration of the birthday of Scouting while learning about the unique features of the states of our country. Creating invitations will involve learning how to make and use a stencil. Give these invitations to family, friends, teachers, and other local people who would enjoy finding out more about the pack. The trip this month will be to visit a site in your area that is involved in its history.

Encourage Cub Scout families to work on additional achievements and electives that support this theme, such as:

- *Achievement 4f*, Know Your Home and Community: A quick review of the tasks to do when leaving the home is always a good activity.
- *Achievement 8c*, Cooking and Eating: Your area of the country may have specialty dishes or famous regional fare. Take this opportunity to share that information with the Cub Scouts.
- *Elective 12f*, Be an Artist: Cub Scouts can make a poster to display and add to the fun at the blue and gold banquet.

BANQUET INVITATIONS

(Elective 12e)

Materials: Thick paper such as cardstock (or a 3-by-5-inch index card), map of your state or the United States (smaller than 3 by 5 inches), copy paper or tracing paper (or tissue paper such as that used for wrapping gifts), construction paper

Create a stencil: Boys choose a state of the United States (or use the entire map). Draw a freehand outline of the state, use tracing paper to trace from a map or book, or produce a computer-printed outline. Cut around the state's outline.

Place that cutout piece of paper onto a 3-by-5-inch card and trace around the outline. Cut out from the inside of the tracing. This leaves "negative space." Place the 3-by-5-inch card onto the construction paper to be used for the outside of the invitation. Paint or color through the "hole" in the card. You have created and used a stencil!

When the cover is dry, finish the invitation by writing the details about the blue and gold banquet inside the folded construction paper.

BIRTHDAYS

We celebrate the birthday of Scouting this month. In February we also celebrate the birthdays of Presidents Washington and Lincoln. Be sure to make a note of the birthday of every boy in your den. To an 8-year-old, this is an important date; you will want to recognize this milestone. Don't miss a chance to make him feel special.

AMERICAN ABCS "WHICH STATE"

Materials: Have a handout for each boy as follows.

You may reproduce or provide a U.S. map for easy reference; or ask boys to fill in the blanks, and then provide maps when they have answered as many as they know.

1. Name a state that begins with A. _____
2. What is the state at the top on the right? (northeast) _____
3. Name a state next to a lake. _____
4. Name a state that is almost square. _____
5. What is a state with a river in it? _____
6. Name a state that has a North and a South. _____
7. Name a state that begins with C. _____
8. Name a state that begins with New. _____
9. Find a state that begins with W. _____

Possible answers:

1. Alabama, Arizona, Arkansas
2. Maine
3. Minnesota, Wisconsin, Michigan, Ohio, Pennsylvania, New York
4. Wyoming, Colorado, New Mexico, etc.
5. All states have rivers.
6. North and South Carolina, North and South Dakota
7. California, Colorado, Connecticut
8. New Mexico, New Jersey, New York, New Hampshire
9. Washington, Wyoming, Wisconsin, West Virginia

APPLE PIE SNACKS

Materials: Frozen pie dough, canned apple pie mix, cooking spray; cupcake tins
Spray cupcake tins with cooking spray. Unroll the pie dough and cut into

circles 4 inches and 2 inches in diameter. Boys tap the 4-inch circles of dough into the cupcake tins. Add several tablespoons of filling. Place a 2-inch circle of dough on top of the filling.

To personalize, boys may poke vent holes in the top in different shapes, or forming their initials, before baking the pies.

Bake at 375 degrees, 10 to 15 minutes, until golden brown.

GAME: AMERICAN ABCS RELAY

This game will benefit from the den chief and assistant den leader working together to ensure there are no repeats.

Divide the den into two teams. The first boy on each team runs from the mutual starting line to the den chief. There he touches the den chief and shouts out the name of a state. When the den chief nods, he returns to the starting line and tags the next boy in line. Each boy must name a state not already called. The first team to be finished wins.

AMERICAN PRAYER

Dear God, thank you for America, where we can enjoy Cub Scouting and our den. Amen.

NAPKIN RINGS

Cut 1-inch rings from empty paper towel or tissue paper rolls. Cover each ring with construction paper. Put an appropriate design on the ring such as the state outline, the state flag, or the U.S. flag.

American ABCs: Bear Den Meetings

Dens may meet after school, in the evening, or on weekends.
Review theme pages before planning den meetings.

WHEN	FIRST WEEK	SECOND WEEK	THIRD WEEK	FOURTH WEEK
Den leader, den chief, and denner review plans before each meeting and check equipment needed.				
BEFORE THE MEETING STARTS	Have U.S. flag and index cards for activity. Have rope, tape player, and music for Crossing the Mississippi. Make copies of state shapes; have supplies for State Neckerchief Slide (10 FEB).	Have U.S. flag and posters for America the Beautiful opening. Have copies of Travel the USA and materials for American Heritage Scrapbook (10 FEB).	Call the destination of your outing to confirm arrangements, times, fees, etc.	Denner writes thank-you to last week's destination. Have materials for American Heritage game, ingredients for ABC Pancakes (10 FEB), and U.S. flag.
Den leader collects dues.				
WHILE CUB SCOUTS GATHER	Play Crossing the Mississippi (10 FEB).	Boys work on Travel the USA (10 FEB).	Collect permission slips.	Boys sign thank-you note or card. Play American Heritage (10 FEB).
OPENING	Boys form a horseshoe; the den chief leads the Pledge of Allegiance.	Conduct America the Beautiful opening.		Boys form a Living Circle and say the Cub Scout Promise.
Den leader checks boys' handbooks for completed achievements and electives and records them on Den Advancement Chart. Boys record own advancement on den doodle, if den has one.				
BUSINESS ITEMS	Discuss the pack meeting activities this month and how the den would like to contribute. Choose a state the den would like to highlight. Show the United States map and point out your state (<i>Elective 23</i>).	Have the boys put together an American Heritage scrapbook. Ask each boy to write what he thinks makes America special, to include in the den's scrapbook.	Take a field trip to a local place of historical interest (<i>Achievement 3d</i>). At the end of the trip, lead a reflecting discussion with boys about their outing.	Practice the den contribution for the blue and gold banquet.
ACTIVITY	Make State Neckerchief Slides (10 FEB). Play American ABCs (10 FEB).	Make blue and gold banquet invitations (10 FEB).		Make ABC Pancakes. Use your favorite pancake recipe; pour batter onto a hot griddle in the shape of letters or the country or state.
CLOSING	Boys form a Living Circle and say the Law of the Pack. Send home permission slips for outing on THIRD WEEK.	Have the den perform the grand howl in honor of the assistant den leader.		Boys face the U.S. flag. In turn, they step forward, salute, and step back. Then ask them to observe a moment of respect.
Denner supervises putting away equipment. Den leader, den chief, and denner review the meeting and check details for the next meeting.				
AFTER THE MEETING	Den leader files local tour permit with council service center for outing planned for THIRD WEEK.		Den leader fills out advancement report for the pack leaders' meeting.	Den leader mails thank-you note.
ENCOURAGE FAMILIES TO RECORD ADVANCEMENT ACTIVITIES DONE DURING THE DEN MEETINGS IN THE CUB SCOUT'S HANDBOOK.				

Bear Den Activities

Advancement possibilities highlighted in this month's meeting plans: Achievement 3d; Electives 23a, 23b.

North, South, East, West—USA is the very best. This month the den can “travel” across the United States. Cub Scouts will learn about other states and areas through maps, games, and foods. Use a large map of the United States and do activities from *Elective 23* as the boys find their city and state on the map.

Encourage Cub Scout families to work on additional achievements and electives that support this theme, such as:

- *Achievement 3*, What Makes America Special: As Cub Scouts investigate and discover interesting things about states, they discover another thing that makes our country special.
- *Elective 2f*, Weather: Watching the daily weather report on TV will help give boys a sense of U.S. geography.
- *Elective 23*, Maps: Boys discover this month where their place in the country is and what makes it special.

GAMES

Crossing the Mississippi

Materials: Two 10-foot pieces of string or rope, a tape player, and music

Use the string to form the winding banks of a river about 3 feet wide. Tell the boys that when the music starts they are to “wade” across the river back and forth until the music stops. When it stops, anyone who is in the river must sit out for two turns. They must also mark down each time they get caught in the river. The boy who gets caught the least is the winner.

American ABCs

Write the alphabet on index cards, one letter per card. Shuffle them well. Divide the den into teams. Provide each team with a U.S. map. The leader reads a letter on an index card; each boy looks for a place on the map whose name starts with that letter.

American Heritage

Make posters of well-known buildings or symbols and put them up around the room. Number each poster. Give each player a piece of paper that has all of the poster numbers. Ask players to identify each poster and write the proper name by its corresponding number on the sheet of paper.

Suggestions: American flag, White House, Lincoln Memorial, Statue of Liberty, Mt. Rushmore, etc.

What State Are You?

Hang a sign in the meeting room that says “What State Are You?” Prepare at least 21 3-by-5-inch cards with the name of a state on each one. The boys are given a choice of three cards as they arrive. They choose one of the three and represent that state.

To play: The boy with the card gives hints to the other boys about what state he represents. The boy who guesses correctly gets to go next.

STATE NECKERCHIEF SLIDE

Using sheets of craft foam, cut out the shape of the state the boys are investigating. Attach a ring of foam to the back for the neckerchief to slide through.

OPENING: AMERICA THE BEAUTIFUL

Prepare signs with pictures or letters (or both), as follows:

A	and/or	Photo of a field of grain waving in the wind
M	and/or	Photo of a mountain
E	and/or	A newspaper
R	and/or	Photo of plains
I	and/or	Photo of George Washington, Abraham Lincoln, or John F. Kennedy
C	and/or	Photo of people in a city
A	and/or	Photo of a pretty scene that is clearly American

On the back of each sign, put the words that the boys read aloud:

A is for Amber waves of grain.

M is for Mountains majestic.

E is for Everyone's freedom.

R is for Rich, fertile plains.

I is for “I love my country.”

C is for the Country of the free.

A is for America the beautiful.

Ask the audience to join in singing “America, the Beautiful.”

AMERICAN HERITAGE SCRAPBOOK

(*Achievement 3a*)



Decorate the cover of a large logbook or scrapbook. Have each boy write what he thinks makes America special. Include photos of den trips, the boys' essays on “What Makes America Special” post-cards, or other mementos showing America's beauty or historic events.

TRAVEL THE USA

Unscramble these words that you might encounter when traveling across the U.S.A.

DARGN ONACYN	ONELOWSELYT
YESMOETI	NADYDLESNI
LOODYHOLW	ASL GAVSE
NNAITOGSWH CD	CROYK TUMAONINS
TAERG SKAESL	WAIHAI
RIANAGA LALSF	NTOMU MHOUSRER

Answers: Grand Canyon, Yellowstone, Yosemite, Disneyland, Hollywood, Las Vegas, Washington DC, Rocky Mountains, Great Lakes, Hawaii, Niagara Falls, Mount Rushmore

BLUE AND GOLD BANQUET INVITATION

Print out the location, time, and responsibilities information to share with parents. Add to a folded-over piece of paper with a drawing by boys of a state or the outline of the United States.

SNACK: ABC PANCAKES

Use your favorite pancake recipe. Pour batter onto a hot griddle in the shape of letters or the country or states.