

**For All Leaders – November 2015**

**December Theme: Winter Wonderland**

**Point of the Scout Law: Reverent**

**A Scout Is Reverent. How Does “Winter Wonderland” Relate to This Point of the Scout Law?**

As winter comes, it brings with it a wonderland of snow, peace, beauty, and holidays. All of us come from different backgrounds and celebrate many traditions; each of our traditions gives us an identity and a sense of belonging. When we share those traditions and accept others’ traditions, we expand our circle so everyone feels like they belong. Whether we celebrate Christmas, Hanukkah, Kwanzaa, or none of these, sharing valued traditions and holding true to what they stand for will help us understand others. But no matter who we are or how we celebrate, we are all part of a great organization that has taught us to show reverence for others and their beliefs.

**DISCUSSION TOPIC: Den Discipline**

Lead a discussion on the various methods of den discipline that have worked for the participants. Make sure to include:

- Den doodles
- Conduct candles
- Code of conduct

## Tiger Breakout – November 2015

### Tiger Elective Adventures: Sky Is the Limit

1. With your den or adult partner, go outside to observe the night sky. Talk about objects you see or might see.
2. Look at a distant object through a telescope or binoculars. Show how to focus the device you chose.
3. Observe in the sky or select from a book or chart two constellations that are easy to see in the night sky. With your adult partner, find out the names of the stars that make up the constellation and how the constellation got its name. Share what you found with your den.
4. Create and name your own constellation. Share your constellation with your den.
5. Create a homemade constellation.
6. Find out about two different jobs related to astronomy. Share this information with your den.
7. Find out about two astronauts who were Scouts when they were younger. Share what you learned with your den.
8. With your den or family, visit a planetarium, observatory, science museum, astronomy club, or college or high school astronomy teacher. Before you go, write down questions you might want to ask. Share what you learned



## Wolf Breakout – November 2015

### Wolf Elective Adventures: Germs Alive!

1. Wash your hands while singing the “germ song.”
2. Play Germ Magnet with your den. Wash your hands again afterward.
3. Conduct the sneeze demonstration.
4. Conduct the mucus demonstration with your den.
5. Grow a mold culture. Show what formed at a den or pack meeting.
6. Make a clean room chart, and do your chores for at least one week.



## Bear Breakout – November 2015

Bear Required Adventure: Fellowship and Duty to God



Do either requirement 1 OR requirement 2.

1. Earn the religious emblem of your faith.
2. Complete 2a and at least two of requirements 2b–2d.
  - a. Working with a parent or guardian, spiritual advisor, or religious leader, provide service to help a place of worship or spiritual community, school, community organization, or chartered organization that puts into practice your ideals of duty to God and strengthens your fellowship with others.
  - b. Identify a person whose faith and duty to God you admire, and discuss this person with your family.
  - c. Make a list of things you can do to practice your duty to God as you are taught in your home or place of worship or spiritual community. Select two of the items, and practice them for two weeks.
  - d. Attend a religious service, den or pack meeting worship service, or time of family reflection and discussion about your family's beliefs.

## Webelos Breakout – November 2015



Webelos Required Adventure: Duty to God and You

Do either requirement 1 OR requirement 2.

1. Earn the religious emblem of your faith for Webelos Scouts, if you have not already done so.
2. Complete at least three of requirements 2a–2d:
  - a. Help plan, support, or actively participate in a service of worship or reflection. Show reverence during the service.
  - b. Review with your family or den members what you have learned about your duty to God.
  - c. Discuss with your family, family's faith leader, or other trusted adult how planning and participating in a service of worship or reflection helps you live your duty to God.
  - d. List one thing that will bring you closer to doing your duty to God, and practice it for one month. Write down what you will do each day to remind you.

## Arrow of Light Breakout – November 2015

Arrow of Light Required Adventure: Duty to God in Action



Do either requirement 1 OR requirement 2:

1. Earn the religious emblem of your faith for Webelos Scouts, if you have not already done so.
2. Do requirement 2a and any two from requirements 2b–2e:
  - a. With your parent, guardian, or religious or spiritual leader, discuss and make a plan to do two things you think will help you better do your duty to God. Do these things for a month.
  - b. Discuss with your family how the Scout Oath and Scout Law relate to your beliefs about duty to God.
  - c. For at least a month, pray or reverently meditate each day as taught by your family or faith community.
  - d. Read at least two accounts of people in history who have done their duty to God. (This can include family members and ancestors.) List their names and how they showed their duty to God.
  - e. Under the direction of your parent, guardian, or religious or spiritual leader, do an act of service for someone in your family, neighborhood, or community. Talk about your service with your family and your Webelos den leader. Tell your family, den, or den leader how it related to doing your duty to God.

## Cubmaster Breakout – November 2015

### DISCUSSION TOPIC: Maintaining Order

Discuss the importance of having a well-planned, well-organized pack meeting. This aspect alone minimizes many potential behavior issues. During the monthly pack leaders' planning meeting, the next pack meeting will be finalized and planned in detail. Discuss how to solicit additional adult help for activities and tasks. Shared leadership of the pack will benefit everyone by getting other parents involved and creating opportunities for adults to share their skills and interests with the boys.

Planning for den involvement in pack meetings is most important. Each den should have their participation scheduled in advance. The order of their contributions is also essential to share so everyone will be prepared on time. Coordinate all skits and contributions at the pack leaders' meeting so that events are approved in advance and none are duplicated. This meeting is usually held one or two weeks before the pack meeting.

To succeed, remember KISMIF (keep it simple; make it fun)! Highlight some of these discussion points for maintaining order and having fun at a pack meeting:

- Confirm the time and place of the meeting by reserving the location well in advance.
- Emphasize the use of pack meeting plan outlines. Hand out samples, including the Pack Meeting Planning Sheet, [www.scouting.org/filestore/CubScoutMeetingGuide/PDF/Appendix/511-815.pdf](http://www.scouting.org/filestore/CubScoutMeetingGuide/PDF/Appendix/511-815.pdf).
- Assign den responsibilities in advance (room setup, parts of the meeting, cleanup, etc.). All den leaders and Scouts should know their duties ahead of time and come prepared to meet those expectations.
- Timing is everything! Emphasize the importance of starting and ending on time. One hour is a good time limit for a pack meeting. End on time.
- A gathering activity gives families something to do before the meeting starts. This activity ends when the meeting begins.
- Limit time spent on explaining upcoming events. Mention highlights and have detailed handouts available and/or email a newsletter to each family.
- Conduct meaningful opening and closing ceremonies. A Cubmaster's Minute at the closing gives the boys something to ponder.
- Build den and pack spirit with cheers, songs, reports, den activities, and games.
- Talk about setting limits on noise (e.g., singing loudly but no shouting), and make sure rules are explained before playing games. Mention the importance of having an extra game or song prepared.
- Cubmasters must remember that parents, too, need to help with their boy's behavior—it is a shared responsibility at the pack meeting.
- Each boy will accomplish one or two major rank advancements during the program year. The advancement ceremonies are very significant moments, so make them special by planning memorable badge presentations. Also, you may choose to present a parent's pin for each rank, recognizing parental involvement in the advancement process. Make sure all awards are ready in time for the meeting.
- Families will want to take photos as their sons receive awards and recognitions. Take a little extra effort to arrange things in a way that allows a clear and perfect picture of the Cubmaster presenting the award. Establish a specific area at your meeting place for den displays. When skits are performed, have a plan for the manner in which dens will enter and exit. This makes for a smooth show, and everyone looks great!
- Honor the service of pack leaders and parent volunteers with occasional special recognitions. Everyone deserves a "thank you," and boys are proud to see the adults in their lives being recognized and appreciated.
- Refreshments (optional) are usually assigned to pack leadership or a specific den.

- Cleanup should be done by everyone or by a specific den. Always leave the meeting location looking better than you found it.
- Evaluate the meeting with the pack leadership or make arrangements to email comments and suggestions.
- Remind leaders of the next monthly pack leaders' planning meeting. Invite parents.

**ACTIVITY**

If the Cubmasters have not already done so, plan this month's pack meeting or make plans for next month's theme—The Great Race—using the Pack Meeting Planning Sheet (see URL above). Select a Winter Wonderland song and advancement ceremony from the Pack Resource Sheet to use at the pack meetings and practice together. Discuss ways to make the song fun and the ceremony meaningful



## Pack Committee Breakout – November 2015

### DISCUSSION TOPIC: Pack Annual Program Planning

Don't forget: Your pack's annual program plan = satisfied Cub Scouts and families = a lifelong love of Scouting! A common element of strong Cub Scout packs is a good annual pack program that is planned a year in advance and shared with all families in the form of a calendar. The important result of a shared annual program calendar is that your pack will attract more families, and Cub Scouts will stay for a longer time. The planning conference usually takes place in the spring or early summer. Discuss the format well in advance and, a month or two before the conference, have the committee chair and the Cubmaster gather the following information:

- Key school dates
- Community event dates
- Your chartered organization's dates
- Personal dates that may affect pack activities, such as the Cubmaster's anniversary cruise
- District and council dates
- Family Talent Survey sheets collected from all parents
- Last year's pack annual plan, if you have one

To maximize the efficiency of your planning, the following people should attend the conference:

- All pack committee members
- All den leaders
- All pack/den aides and den chiefs (optional)
- Chartered organization representative
- Your unit commissioner (optional)
- Anyone else who might be helpful, including parents

A narrated PowerPoint presentation is also available that can take the pack step by step through the planning process. Download the Pack Annual Program Planning Conference Guide at [www.scouting.org/CubScouts/Leaders/ProgramPlanning.aspx](http://www.scouting.org/CubScouts/Leaders/ProgramPlanning.aspx).

Here's a quick rundown of the steps. Discussion can be as brief or as detailed as needed. Before you start planning, explain to the group the importance of annual program planning, why you are doing it, and the rules for the process:

- First, take the dates you collected and put them into the pack's master calendar—including den meeting dates—either on a hard copy or by plugging the information into an electronic calendar on a computer.
- Before rounding out the master calendar with things the pack leaders want to do, review what the pack did last year. Write what you come up with on a flipchart or dry erase board. Ask questions: *What events went well, and which ones didn't go so well? Did we earn the National Summertime Pack Award? The Journey to Excellence Award? How did we do with den and pack attendance? Did we participate in Cub Scout day camp or family camp? Did we sell popcorn?* Feel free to ask as many questions as needed but don't spend too much time on this, as the key issue is planning the upcoming year. Just use this research to help guide what you might want to keep, replace, or improve.
- Do some brainstorming on activities your pack might want to do in addition to den and pack meetings. These could include a blue and gold banquet, pinewood derby, family picnic, first-aid training, pet show, and so on. Remember the brainstorming rule: Let anyone suggest anything without fear of criticism. Feedback and analysis come later, after all the ideas have been submitted. Once you have a list of things your dens and pack might want to do, start prioritizing the list. Is a particular activity best suited for dens or for the pack as a whole? Could the activity be incorporated into a den or pack meeting? Take a vote

on which activities to include in the den and pack meeting schedules, then add the activities to your calendar.

- By now, the calendar should be taking shape. It should include school and community dates, holidays, den and pack meetings/activities, district and council dates, and notes about personal conflicts with any of the dates. The next step is to assign the person responsible for each event (e.g., “Bob Smith will chair the blue and gold banquet”) as well as den responsibilities at pack meetings.
- If the pack committee is really ambitious, more details can be added about events (e.g., “Bob will send invitations and assignments to each family by January 1,” or “By November 1, get confirmation from the school that we can use the cafeteria”). Remember that good planning and preparation will lead to family satisfaction. Some of this may need to come after your program planning conference if you are choosing activities now and recruiting chairs later. However, for regular activities like the blue and gold banquet, you might already have a commitment from “Bob” by the time the program planning conference happens.
- Almost finished! The final step is to review the annual plan to ensure the pack leaders have captured everything you and your families want to do in the upcoming year. Once everyone is comfortable with the annual plan, publish it and/or email it throughout the pack. Remember that not everyone has an email account, so be sure your distribution reaches all families. That way everyone will feel they are a part of the pack, and they can plan their family calendars with the pack’s calendar in hand. Sharing the annual plan with families could be the most important step in retaining your Scouts and building tenure, so don’t forget this step.
- Annual program planning is an ongoing process. Review the plan each month at your pack leaders’ meeting to make sure you are still on track, to recruit chairs and other assistance, to ensure participation in important meetings, and to make assignments or changes as needed.

A great pack program plan leads to a great pack and den program, which leads to Cub Scouts and their families staying and growing in Scouting.

## **RESOURCES**

- Family Talent Survey Sheet, No. 34362
- *Boys’ Life* Planning Calendar, No. 331-011

The following tools can be downloaded at [www.scouting.org/CubScouts/Leaders/ProgramPlanning.aspx](http://www.scouting.org/CubScouts/Leaders/ProgramPlanning.aspx). they should make it easier to have up-to-date newsletters and calendars ready when you need them.

- Pack calendar templates
- Pack newsletter template
- Pack poster templates (letter and tabloid sizes)

Fill in dates and events in the spaces provided, then save, and print or email. It’s that easy! As soon as you know about an addition or change to pack activities, make that change to the calendar so it will always be up-to-date and print or send.

## **ACTIVITY**

Have pack leaders play a game or craft from the Pack Resource Sheet. Discuss the importance of these hands-on projects for Cub Scouts