

# May 2008 Monthly Theme: "Leaf It To Cubs"

Cub Scouts will learn about the wonders of nature's gift to us, a tree! Learn to identify poison oak, poison ivy and various trees by their shape and leaf design. Try leaf rubbing, leaf prints, making a leaf collage, preserving leaves with wax paper or making a leaf collection from fallen leaves. Make a leaf boat and race it at a den or pack meeting. Participate in a tree planting or your local Arbor Day activities. Either adopt a tree or plant one and watch it grow. Research how trees are used to help us in our daily lives. Field trips can be to a lumberyard, nature center, forest preserve or local park. Earn the Collecting belt loop and pin.

Webelos Activity Badges: First year, Outdoorsman; Second year, Artist

## Core Values

**TREE-MENDOUS** opportunities for Cub Scouts to learn about the importance of trees. It's good to see that the National BSA office didn't **LEAF** this theme out for this year. If you **STICK** with this theme, Cub Scouts will **BRANCH** out and learn many different ways trees benefit all of us. This theme Forest Through the Trees, might **STUMP** you, but you can gain **ROOTS** on this theme by just a small amount of research.

Trees benefit everything and everyone for many reasons. Tree products are used in building our homes. Trees provide shelter for birds and other animals. Trees keep our homes cooler and our air cleaner. Trees feed insects, birds, squirrels, and Cub Scouts and their families. Just how good are those pancakes without maple syrup?

Those are just a few of the practical ideas about trees. How about the fun stuff we did as kids around trees. Did you ever sit under the shade of a tree talking to a friend and exploring everything that lived on the ground at the base of the tree? Or even picking apples or cherries and having your harvest made into a tasty treat is fun. And how about Hide and Seek. Big trees come in mighty handy during this game. Trees give us more than we realize.

## CHARACTER CONNECTIONS FROM PROGRAM HELPS

Remember - Know, Commit, Practice.

\*Perseverance - Cub Scouts will learn to stand steadfast in the face of discouragement, just like the trees that stand tall through the adversity of storms and wind.

\*Respect - Learning about the outdoors involves learning about and practicing respect for our environment.

## QUOTES

"Remember the lesson we learn from the tree - To give to others more than we receive." - Lord Robert Baden-Powell

"I like trees because they seem more resigned to the way they have to live than other things do." - Willa Cather

"He who plants a tree, plants a hope." - Lucy Larcom

"The true meaning of life is to plant trees, under whose shade you do not expect to sit." - Nelson Henderson

"No shade tree? Blame not the sun, but yourself." - Chinese Proverb

"If you think in terms of a year, plant a seed; if in terms of ten years, plant trees; if in terms of 100 years, teach the people." - Confucius

## The Trouble Tree

The carpenter I hired to help me restore an old farmhouse had just finished a rough first day on the job. A flat tire made him lose an hour of work, his electric saw quit, and now his ancient pickup truck refused to start.

While I drove him home, he sat in stony silence. On arriving, he invited me in to meet his family. As we walked toward the front door, he paused briefly at a small tree, touching tips of the branches with both hands.

When opening the door, he underwent an amazing transformation. His tanned face was wreathed in smiles and he hugged his two small children and gave his wife a kiss.

Afterward he walked me to the car. We passed the tree and my curiosity got the better of me. I asked him about what I had seen him do earlier. Oh, that's my trouble tree," he replied. "I know I can't help having

troubles on the job, but one thing's for sure, troubles don't belong in the house with my wife and the children. So I just hang them up on the tree every night when I come home. Then in the morning I pick them up again."

"Funny thing is," he smiled, "when I come out in the morning to pick 'em up, there ain't nearly as many as I remember hanging up the night before.

## Theme Related Material

### WEATHER WIZARDRY

Here are some amazing signs from trees to help you forecast the weather.

How fast is the wind blowing? The leaves of a broadleaf can tell you.

- Leaves with slight movement - 1 to 4 mph
- Leaves and branches moving - 6 to 12 mph
- Entire tree moving - 12 to 18 mph
- Back of leaves seen on most of the tree - 20 - 35 mph
- Tree moving violently, back of leaves seen, some leaves being blown off - 40 to 45 mph

### DID YOU KNOW?

If a tree's leaves look like needles it's a conifer. Most conifers are evergreen since they do not lose all their leaves at once. Pines, firs, cedars and spruces are conifers.

If a tree's leaves are flat and broad they are broadleaf or deciduous. Broadleaf trees shed their leaves annually. They may bear flowers, fruit or nuts. Oaks, maples, birches and sycamores are broadleaf trees.

You can use fall leaf colors to help identify trees:

Fall leaf color key:

- Oaks red or brown
- Hickories golden bronze
- Pecans yellow
- Maples red to orange

Look at the trees in your area. What colors do their leaves turn?

## Pack Admin Helps

### Leader Ideas

1. **\*\*\*Always\*\*\*** have more prepared than you need. Make a lesson plan for your meeting, then add one or two items, just in case. This is much like having a Plan B, but a plan B may not be sufficient if the boys finish everything you had planned and there's still 15 minutes before the parents arrive. You do **\*not\*** want to be running around the house trying to figure what to do next. You haven't really known fear until you've had this experience. :^)

2. "You must build it before they come". When planning a craft project, it is a good idea to build one first. You'll find out if the glue works well with the felt or not. You may find out that the wood for the birdhouses, or tool boxes is going to split. You'll definitely find out how long it takes to do, which will help you plan meetings. It'll be something to show the boys, so they'll put the piece with the hole for the bird to come in at the top of the house, and they will know what the project is supposed to look like when finished.

3. Expect a level of behavior, and get it. The boys will try to have "more fun" than you'd like, and your job is to make sure they have fun during the game, not during your talking or presenting. **\*USE\*** the good conduct candle, the "Signs Up," and definitely start every sentence you want them to answer with "Now raise your hand, who knows..." Because it may seem restrictive and strict, but it's tried and true, and it'll save your sanity.

4. Communicate, communicate, communicate - with the parents. We only have the boys for 4 and 1/2 years. And the program changes dramatically, and subtly during that time. Each year the parents will need to understand the workings of the program, what they need to do to help their son earn the badge, and arrow points. And it'll help you as they grow to get the help you need running the meetings, going Webelos camping, and crossing the boys over to more fun in Boy Scouts.

### Craft--Bird Call

Take a piece of close grained hardwood, a dowel rod from the hardwood store will do fine, about two inches long. You will also need a 'chunky' eye screw purchased at the same hardware store. Drill a hole slightly smaller than the screw threads, in the end of the block, and turn the screw eye into it. Unscrew the eye, put some powdered resin ( purchase a pitcher's resin bag at the sports store) in the hole. As you twist the screw eye back and forth in the hole, very slowly, you will make a chirp-chirp or trill in loud.

With practice, this simple device will produce an astounding variety of bird noises. If you wish, paint or decorate the bird call with marking pen designs or your own initials or other means of identification.

### Donations to a Bird's Nest

Everyone needs a home, including the birds that fly around your neighborhood. Here is a way to help them find materials for building their nests.

#### Materials:

- Strips of string, fabric and yarn
- Wire hanger

Piece of wide mesh material such as an orange or potato bag from the grocery store

Bend your wire hanger into a square or rectangular shape

Attach the mesh material to it. If you use a potato sack, simply drape the bag over the hanger. If you use other material, tie it on with string or glue into place.

Loosely weave yarn, fabric strips and string through mesh

In early spring, hang your nest building helper in a tree near your window. Watch as the neighborhood birds flock to it to choose the materials they need.

Take a neighborhood walk after your hanger has been emptied. See how many nests you can find that contain your material scraps. Remember that a bird's nest is its home, so be careful not to trespass.

## Collecting Animals Tracks

When you're hiking across fields, along streams or in the woods, watch for animal tracks. Footprints that have been marked clearly in the dirt or mud can be easily preserved.

With a small brush carefully clean any loose dirt from the tracks.

Select a tin can that will fit over the track with some space to spare around the edge. You can also use a cardboard or metal band held together with a paper clip or clothespin to form a collar.

Coat the inside of the can with a heavy coat of Vaseline. You would also do this with the collar.

Fill a small paper cup 1/3 to 1/2 full of water. Add enough plaster to the water to absorb most of the water. Mix. It should be a thin cream.

Put can or collar around track, then pour the plaster mixture onto the track about 1" deep.

Do not touch or move the cast until you are sure it is completely dry. It will take 1/2 to 1 hour. Remove the plaster cast from the can or collar and label it.

(Another way to study animal tracks is to use molds to make casts. Check with your local Natural History to see if they have molds available.)

## Friendship Stick

It is exciting to learn about animals, birds, insects, flowers, trees, soil, weather, water, and stars. Nature is everywhere all the time; in cities, in the woods, and in the fields, in the winter, spring, summer and fall. Nature is not confined by time and place, it is everywhere. The following craft idea will help you, the Cub Scout Leader, explore nature with your den.

The friendship stick is made of green wood and is a symbol of friendship. It is curved to fit the curve of the earth, symbolizing that friendship can grow just as the trees in the forest grow. The green circle at the bottom is for Faith in God and one another. It is the first ring on the stick because it is the basis of a happy, meaningful life.

The next four circles represent the races of the world—red, yellow, white and black. They stand close together indicating that all people are equal. Every person is capable of being a loyal friend.

The green of Hope is above the races. This is the hope of the future—that everywhere people will try to overcome any difference of opinion and human failing.

Thus the four races are bound by faith and hope, the path leading toward a central goal signifying the attachment of this unity.

The Cross and Star of David are symbols of the way for all races to come together and work for world peace.

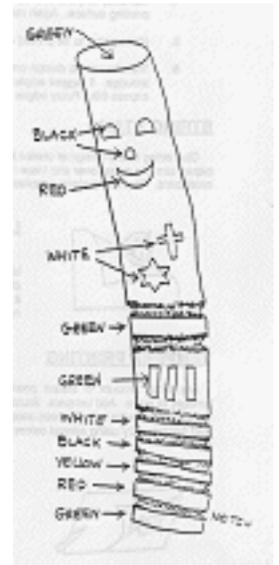
The smiling face is the result of Friendship based on Faith, Hope and Unity. To be greeted by the smiling face of a friend is one of the greatest joys which can be experienced.

The face is crowned with green of the forest, symbolizing the wonderful outdoors, and the friendships developed therein.

A friendship stick must be carved by the giver. It shows time, thought and effort.

Prepare a friendship stick for each boy in the den. When you present the sticks, read the symbolism to them.

Then furnish each boy with a green stick, uncarved, and ask him to carve his own story in the stick. He can paint the symbols which he feels are appropriate to the story. When he is finished, he can show his stick to the den and tell what the symbols represent.



## Adopt A Tree Project

Make friends with a tree. This is a long-term activity and can be an individual or den project.

Select a tree that appeals to you. It should be near your home so there can be daily contact, finding out what is going on in, under, and around the tree. Select more than one tree to compare the action in each type of tree.

With notebook in hand, visit the adopted tree.

Describe the tree as it is right now, today.

Look at its physical characteristics (size, leaf shape, bark color and other features).

Look to see whether it is alive. How can you tell?

Look to see if it appears to be asleep (dormant) or awake. How can you tell?

Listen to find out if it makes any sounds.

Smell to find out whether it has an odor. Do different parts of the tree smell different - like bark, new leaves? Does it have a different smell at a different time of the year?

Think about how the tree got where it is and how new trees might come to join it.

Think about what other living things might need this tree for survival.

Think about what things the tree might need for its own survival.

**Warning: Do not taste any part of the tree**

Repeat visits throughout the year and compare observations.

Look to see how the tree has changed.

Look to see what ways the tree remains the same

Think and talk about what the tree might look like the next time you visit

Are there any animals calling your tree "home?"

Have you seen any bird nests?

Did the leaves turn colors before falling

Have you shared your tree with a friend?

Write a poem about your tree. Sketch a picture.

Keep your notebook and come back to the tree in years to come. It will be hard to say farewell.

### Baloo

During the Adopt the Tree program, take pictures of your scouts by their trees, perhaps during the changes in the seasons. The scouts can then compare how they change also during the seasons: spring, new blossoming; summer, fresh start; fall, showing all their colors, winter; gaining strength through the cold weather.

## Celebrate (A Late) Arbor Day

### Activity Ideas

- Plant a tree as part of an Arbor Day ceremony at school, a nearby park or along a city street.
- Establish an area of plantings to attract birds or butterflies at the school or other nearby site.
- Inventory trees which grow in your schoolyard, neighborhood, local park or nearby open space.
- Adopt a tree, study it, maintain a diary of changes and observations.
- Promote a community awareness campaign (posters, newspapers, articles, bumper stickers, etc.) to stem consumer demand for wood products from rainforests
- Construct and place boxes for birds and mammals which use cavities for nesting or roosting.
- Create a bird feeding station in the schoolyard or at home
- Hold a special assembly to commemorate trees and wildlife as part of Arbor Day.
- Contact the nearest Forest District Office to discuss local and state forest resource issues.
- Link Arbor Day Earth Lesson to an Earth Project to create a Schoolyard Sanctuary.

## LEAF IDENTIFICATION RELAY

Set up two tables with about eight different tree leaves that have been previously introduced to your Cub Scouts. Make two sets of labels by writing the name of each leaf on two pieces of paper. Place one set of labels at each table. Divide your Cub Scouts into two teams. On signal, the first player for each team rushes to his leaf display, selects a piece of paper and places it on the correct leaf. Play continues in relay style. When all the leaves have been identified, the leader checks them. The leader may award a point for each correct identification or may request that play continue until the leaves are correctly identified. Variation: If this is the group's first experience with leaf identification, omit the relay style and use a team effort to identify the leaves. Move into a relay game later.

## PETRIFIED WOOD

Cubs are scattered on the playing surface. Two are chosen to be "chasers." One is chosen to be the "good woodsman." When a Cub is touched by either of the chasers, he becomes "petrified" and must freeze in place. When the good woodsman touches a petrified boy, the boy is free to run again. (Play a few minutes then trade roles so everyone gets a chance to be chasers or the good woodsman.)

## LEAF BLOWER

Have the Cub Scouts get into two teams. Each Cub Scout will need a leaf and will need his own straw. As a relay, each boy will blow their leaf across a table. The first team that has all of its players successfully blow their leaves to the other side of the table wins. This could also be a team effort and a chance for some cooperation.

## WHY TREES?

Equipment: a list of animals that depend on trees e.g. aphid, beetle, raccoon, opossum, spider, grey squirrel, blue jay, caterpillar, owl, butterfly, etc.

Playing the game:

1. Can any of the Cub Scouts name an animal that lives in a tree? If they can, they can be that animal. If they are unable to do so, give them an animal to be using the list.
2. About six children are 'trees', standing apart. All 'creatures' go and stand by a 'tree' of their choice.
3. When you shout 'Switch', all creatures have to switch trees. The Cub Scouts are only allowed to breathe when they are at a 'tree', and must hold their breath while running between trees.
4. The game is made more difficult as the woodcutter (you!) removes trees, forcing the children to hold their breath for longer between widely spaced trees. Finally, when all the 'creatures' are clustered around the last remaining tree, ask 'why do we need trees?' The Cub Scouts will probably answer 'to breathe!'

## CAN YOU HEAR THE HEARTBEAT?

If you listen carefully with a stethoscope, you can hear the "heartbeat" of a tree. Find a thin-barked tree more than 6 inches in diameter and place your stethoscope against its trunk. Be very quiet. Move the stethoscope around until you can hear the crackling, gurgling sound of sap flowing up to the branches.

## NATURE "KIM'S GAME"

This is a memory game. Previous to the game, place several items (depending on the age group) on a table and cover with a sheet. Since our theme is trees this month you could include several kinds of leaves, acorns, bark, branch, blade of grass, binoculars, etc. When the game starts, explain to the boys that they will have so many minutes (and you can determine the time) to look at the table of items. After that time period, you will cover

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the items and they will need to quickly write down as many things that they can remember. You can make this a competition between boys, between pairs of boys, or even just a den activity to see if among all the boys, they can remember all of the items.

### **MORE GAMES AND ACTIVITIES**

From the Cub Scout Leader How-To Book:

-Know Your Leaf (hiking game) - page 4-4

-Fun with Trees - pages 4-9 to 4-12

## **PROJECTS**

### **LEAF BOOKMARK**

Materials: Clear contact paper cut to a 7" x 4" rectangle, a variety of small leaves (clover, wild strawberry, small ferns)

Directions: With the protective backing still in place, fold the contact paper in half lengthwise so it is two inches wide. Plan the arrangement of your leaves on your paper. Once you have decided how you will place your leaves, peel off the protective paper. Lay your leaves in your chosen arrangement on one half of the sticky side of the contact sheet.

When you are ready, fold over the other half of the paper with sticky sides together, sealing the leaves inbetween the two halves. Press carefully from the crease to the edge to seal it well and remove any bubbles. Punch a hole in the top of the book mark and string a length of cord, ribbon or yarn through the hole. You may press the bookmark (covered with a thin cloth or piece of paper) with a low temperature iron to eliminate any air bubbles around the leaves and give it a nice edge or crease. Trim the edges if needed.

### **LEAF SUN PRINTS**

Make amazing white on blue prints with your favorite leaves. Just place leaves, ferns, flowers, shells, or whatever you choose, the photosensitive paper and place in the sun. Remove the objects after a couple of minutes and rinse the paper to "fix" it. Congratulations, you've made a permanent piece of sun art!

How does it work?

The sun print paper is coated with light-sensitive chemicals, which react to light waves and particles when exposed to light. When you place objects on the paper, they block the light and turn white while the paper around them remains blue. Water stops the process and fixes your images on the paper.



### **A NEW TWIST FOR LEAF PRINTS**

Would you like to make leaf prints with your Scouts but need to catch their attention with a little dazzle? Use metallic acrylic paints like gold, silver, bronze or copper. Apply a light layer of paint to the vein side of a leaf using a sponge brush or roller. Place the painted side down on a piece of black paper and press carefully without moving the leaf. You may lift and reapply the leaf in another location to get a more subdued image. A background of dark construction paper or cardstock printed with metallic colors will make the images really stand out. The Scout can cut them to use as cards or make a twig frame to complete the project. These make very nice, inexpensive gifts.

## PUZZLE TREE

Materials: Yellow and brown construction paper, old jigsaw puzzle pieces, scissors, glue

-Cut a tree shape from the brown construction paper. Glue the tree on the yellow paper.

-Glue the puzzle pieces on the tree for leaves. If your puzzle pieces have lots of red, orange, and brown color on them you can make an autumn tree and glue some of the pieces at the base of the tree, to make leaves on the ground. Pink pieces mixed with light green pieces make pretty spring trees. Green pieces are just right for a summer tree. Why not make all three to show the different trees during the changing seasons?

Hint: If your puzzle pieces are not the right color for the tree just turn them over and paint them the color you want.

## NATURE MOBILE

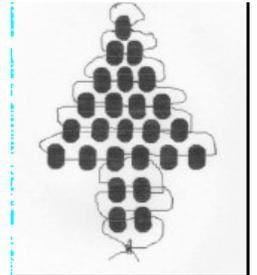
Materials: 2 sticks, twine and nature elements like barks, leaves, seeds, pods, feathers, twigs and shells

Cross and tie sticks together with twine for the top of the mobile. Tie a length of twine from the center top of the mobile for a hanger. Tie nature elements onto the mobile with twine. Balance the weight of the items so the mobile hangs evenly. Two or more elements can be tied on the same piece of twine.

## BEADED TREE

Materials: String, cord, or plastic lacing, 21 green pony beads, 4 brown pony beads

Directions: Fold a length of cord in half. Start with one green bead and put both ends of the cord through the hole. For the second row, add two beads, putting both ends of the cord through both beads. Continue as shown in the diagram. Secure with a knot.



## LEAF PEOPLE

Arrange leaves on the sheet of paper to make bodies for leaf people. Glue the leaves in place. Add a head, legs, and arms with markers. (Some smaller leaves may be used for hats, boots, etc).

Use your imagination to make creatures from outer space, characters from favorite TV show or replicas of people you know.



## LEAF BURSTS

Materials: Newspaper, paper, paintbrushes, tempera paints, container with water, rags, fresh green leaves

Instructions:

1. Cover table with newspaper.

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2. Place paper on newspaper.

3. Put leaf on paper.

(Hint: Hold the leaf still with one hand and use the other had to pain on the leaf, brushing in an outward direction).

4. Move leaf to another part of the paper and repeat painting.

5. Use another leaf to create more leaf burst designs.

Or... you could also...

-Staple painted leaves to finished leaf burst design.

-Use cut shapes and patterns (other than leaves) to create "pattern bursts".

-Use chalk instead of paint. Rub or brush chalk marks with tissue.

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## SLIDES

### Woodland Slide

Find a fallen branch with a 1 1/2 to 2" diameter. The wood should not be rotten or so old that the bark is peeling. Cut sections about 1/2" thick (many slides can be made from one stick)

Pick leaves small enough to fit on the piece of wood. New, smaller leaves at the end of branches are best.

The leaves must be dried. Place them flat between two sheets of paper and put a large book on top. Allow them to dry for 3 or 4 days.

Sand the cut end of the branch smooth. Then stain it or leave it natural. Fasten a wood, metal or leather loop to the back with strong glue.

Glue the leaf on the wood with white glue. When it is dry, coat the entire slide with clear varnish.

## Sliced Slides

**Materials:** Standard slide materials (except no backing needed), 1 to 1-1/2 inch diameter tree branch that's already dead and dry, and that isn't rotten, Sandpaper Polyurethane and sponge "paint brushes"

Precut 3/8- to 1/2-inch thick "slanted" slices of the branch. Give each boy a slice and sandpaper to smooth off the cut surface. (If bark is intact, that's good; otherwise, they should peel that off also.) Polyurethane the front surface of the slice. Attach slide ring.

## Fire Safety Tie Slide

**Materials:**

Popsicle stick or tongue depressor

Plaster of paris

red paint

leather strip

Mix the plaster of paris until it is a thick consistency. Dip the stick into the mixture. Be sure that just the tip of the stick is covered. Let the plaster dry - it should dry quickly. Paint the plaster red except for the tip. It should resemble a wooden match. Write on the stick "Fire Safety" or something similar. Attach the piece of leather with glue for a loop for the neckerchief.

## Keep America Beautiful

The audience is told that a tree will be planted and through the magic of Cub Scouting, will grow and blossom. Two teams of four are chosen and each team selects a captain. The captains are given signs to wear which say "sapling". Each captain stands in the middle of his team. Others on the team are handed a paper sack containing a roll of scotch tape, 20 or 30 green construction paper, a bird nest, and a few small real branches. At the signal to "go" each team begins to make their "sapling" grow by handing him the branches to hold and taping the contents of the bag to him. First team to finish is the winner.

## Outdoor Nature Hunt

Make up a list such as the one below for each boy. Boys can hunt in pairs in your backyard or in the park. See which pair can find the most within a limited amount of time.

Something alive that flies

A cup of wet sand

A worm

A cup of pink water

Five maple leaves

Three rocks at least two inches in diameter

A piece of string

A dandelion

## That's My Leaf

Each boy takes a leaf from the same kind of tree and looks at it carefully for one minute. Then put all the leaves in a pile and stir them up together. Can you find your one-of-a-kind leaf? What makes it special -- different from all the other leaves? Press the leaf carefully. Send pressed leaves to one of a kind friends, and tell them how they are like the leaves.

## Outdoor Bowling

For pins use 10 plastic two-liter soda bottles filled half full of water to give them weight. For a pin-setting rack, cut an equilateral triangle with 30 inch sides from a piece of scrap plywood, place the pins on it and draw circles around their bottoms to make it easy to reset them properly. To bowl, use a soccer ball or basketball from a distance of about 18 feet. Score as in real bowling.

## One Leaf Trail

A trail is laid using one kind of leaf as a marker, letting the stem point in the direction to be followed. At the end of the trail, the players hunt for the tree whose leaves were used.

## Tiger Cubs

### Big Idea #17 - Cub Scouting, Here We Come

#### Change Box

**Equipment:** Multiple refrigerator boxes with one side of the box cut out on each. The boxes are then connected with the first box and the last box having two sides cut out, forming a tunnel

**Personnel:** Adult volunteer can be put in the box to make shaking and funny noises, Cubmaster, adult volunteer.

The Tigers form a line at one end of the box with their partner waiting for them at the other.

**CM:** You have done well following your motto of SEARCH, DISCOVER, and SHARE. You have made your parents, your den leader, and your Pack proud. Now is the time that we recognize you for your efforts and welcome you as you progress on the Cub Scout Trail. Now go through this tunnel as your last journey as a Tiger and reap the recognition of your labors.

The boys go through the box one at a time. Inside an adult volunteer stops them and presents them with their Tiger Cub patch which they display as they come out the other side.

#### Four Candles and a Neckerchief

This short ceremony is designed to graduate a boy and adult from Tiger Cubs into Cub Scouting.

**Personnel:** Cubmaster, group coach (organizer), den leader, Tiger Cubs and their Adult partners

**Equipment:** Four large candle, a table, a Cub Scout neckerchief for each boy

**Arrangement:** Three candles are placed along the front of the table; the fourth candle is raised and centered behind them. The room is darkened. The Cubmaster recites this ceremony to the boys and their adult partners with assistance from the group organizer and the Den Leader.

**Cubmaster:** (Calls boys and adults forward.) For the past few months you and your family have explored all sorts of new and exciting things and places. You have taken each part of the Tiger Cub Motto, Search, Discover, Share, and used it in your home, school, and neighborhood. (Lights first candle on left.)

You and your adult partner have searched in your home and community for new activities that have shown you how people work together and have fun together. (Lights middle candle.)

You and your adult partner have discovered that by doing things together with friends and family you feel you are part of a great family, community, and country. (Lights third candle.)

In Cub Scouting your family is an important as it is throughout your entire Scouting experience. Support in earning each badge comes from your family as well as from your den leader. Your parents will help you each step of the way.

[Boy's name] and [adult's name], on behalf of Pack [number], I'd like to welcome you. [Group coaches (organizer's) name] will bring your den leader, [den leader's name], forward to present your Cub Scout

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neckerchief and welcome you into the den. (The den leader presents the neckerchief to the adult who puts it around the boy's neck.)

### Tiger Induction Ceremony

**Personnel:** Bobcat candidates, his parents (family guardian), Cubmaster, Den leaders, and the boys of his new den.

**Props:** Each boy in the den is to have a tom-tom

**Setting:** Candidate and parents in front row or standing to one side of semicircle. Boys in den sit in semicircle to one side of the Cubmaster with the Den Leaders on either end accompanied by a Webelos. The boys each have a tom-tom.

While the boys beat the tom-toms to an Indian rhythm, the den leaders recite:

Come, come, come, come to the council fire to light the fire of your desire. Akela, Akela.

**Cubmaster:** Would the Webelos bring the parents and Bobcat candidate (s). forward? (Candidate and parents are brought to a position next to the Cubmaster)

**Cubmaster:** During the past year in the Tiger Cub program, you have prepared for today. Remember the motto: "Search, Discover, Share". And the Promise: "I promise to love God, my country, and to learn about the world."

The Cub Scout colors are blue and gold. They have a special meaning. BLUE stands for truth, spirituality, steadfast loyalty, and the sky above. GOLD stands for warm sunlight, good cheer and happiness.

Your family and I, and all those who will influence you as leaders, will represent Akela. We would like to present you with the Tiger Cub patch, which is to be worn on the right shirt pocket of your Cub Scout uniform.

Now, with your parents, you are to enter the Cub Scout program. You and your family will find many new adventures along the Cub Scout trail.

Parents, remember to always guide your Cub Scout. May the Great Spirit always be by your side. Seek to help him follow the Cub Scout Motto: "Do Your Best", and to respect and appreciate all the things around him.

With these things in mind, we would like to welcome you to Pack \_\_\_\_\_.

### Tom-Tom

#### Materials:

- Any size Empty coffee can with the lid
- Construction paper, glue & scissors.
- Paint, paint brushes
- Sticks from trees
- String, leather, feathers, beads
- Any bits of scrap material you might have.
- Drum sticks or wooden dowels

#### Directions:

Either paint the coffee can or cover the can with construction paper. Leave lid on the coffee can as this will be the drum head. If construction paper is used for outside on the coffee, you can paint or draw designs and creatures. When paint is dry, embellish your drum (using glue) with any of the scrap material.

### Trail to Cub Scouting

**Personnel:** Cubmaster, Tiger Coordinator, Wolf Scout, Bear Scout, First Year Webelos Scout, Second Year Webelos Scout, Tigers and parents

**Equipment:** Each Tiger should wear his Blue Cub Scout shirt under his Tiger Cub shirt.

- The parent with each Tiger Cub should have a Wolf neckerchief and slide.

## May 2008: "Leaf It To Cubs"

- The pack should have the Tiger Graduation patch and certificate for each Tiger Cub.
- Three candles on left - two orange, one black
- Three candles on right - two blue, one gold
- One white candle in the middle (*This candle should be lit before the ceremony starts.*)
- Pieces of orange, black, blue and gold construction paper cut out to be "paws". The paws should be placed in order and fairly close together and getting further apart and harder to follow as the continue. The paws should be taped to the floor so that the scouts will not slide on them. Each piece should have a word printed on it (*in order*) - Search, Discover, Share, Sign, Handshake, Salute, Motto, Promise, Law, Bobcat, Wolf, Bear, Webelos, Arrow of Light.

**Arrangement:** In using this ceremony please use the designation that is appropriate to ALL the Tiger Cubs in your pack. i.e. - use of the word parent may/may not be appropriate, etc.

**Cubmaster:** Tonight we honor our Tiger Cubs. Will the Tiger Cubs and their Adult Partners please come forward.

**Tiger Leader:** For the past few months you and your family have explored all sorts of new and exciting things and places as Tiger Cubs. You have taken part in the Tiger Cub Motto and used it in your home, school and neighborhood.

This white candle (*already lighted*) represents the spirit of scouting, the ideals that you have begun to live this year.

*(Light first Orange Candle)*

You and your adult partner have searched out in your community new activities which have shown you how people work together and have fun together.

*(Light Black Candle)*

You and your adult partner have discovered that by doing things together with friends and family you feel a sense of being part of a great family, community and country.

*(Light Second Orange Candle)*

The things you have searched out and discovered have been shared with your family, friends and fellow Tiger Cubs, which let them learn about you and the things you saw and did.

Now it is time to move along the scouting trail. You will notice that you have already started on the trail. This part of the trail will be easy for you to pass. But there is much in front of you. It is a trail that you will follow as you learn along with Akela. You will learn the Cub Scout Sign, Handshake, Salute, Motto, Promise, and Law. You will master the skills of a Bobcat, Wolf, Bear, and Webelos. And you will see the meaning of Cub Scouting with the Arrow of Light.

The trail is not an easy one. It will be easy to stumble. It will get more difficult as you go further on the trail. Do not expect to be able to be perfect on the trail tonight - it will take four years for you to gain the ability to follow the trail easily.

As you follow this trail in Cub Scouting you will experience new things much as you did as a Tiger Cub.

*(Light first Blue Candle)*

You will learn that about purity in living by following the Cub Scout Promise and the Law of the Pack

*(Light Gold Candle)*

You will learn about the unknown, the fear and the doubts, and how the Cub Scout Motto will take these away.

*(Light second Blue Candle)*

You will learn knowledge, joy and confidence and how being a Cub Scout helps you to grow as a person.

You are now ready to continue on the trail of Cub Scouting. It is not a trail that you can or will follow alone. Your family will be at your side at all times throughout your scouting experience. Support will also come from all members of this Pack. You will notice that there are members of the Pack along the trail you will follow tonight. There are Wolf Cubs, Bear Cubs, Webelos Scouts, the Cubmaster and other adult leaders. These people are there to help you at every step of the way on the trail. They are there to welcome you to the Pack.

## May 2008: "Leaf It To Cubs"

As you progress on the trail your family will help you grow into the uniform of Cub Scouting, which you will wear along the rest of the trail. Continue on along the trail, and ask those other Cub Scouts along the trail for help as you may need it - they will help you.

I ask that as your name is called that you and your family start on the trail. Please stop when the trail gets difficult. *(This should be about the Law or salute or motto - Let the adult partners who will walk with the scouts know this ahead of time so they can stop their scout at this point and take their Tiger shirt off so they can continue on the trail in their blue Cub Scout shirt)*

You will be given help to prepare you to continue along the trail.

*(as each Scout completes the trail... )*

**Cubmaster:** (Scouts First Name), I would like to Welcome you to the Pack. I am proud that you have completed your Tiger Cub experience and present you with this certificate and this patch that you can wear on your Cub Scout uniform to show this accomplishment. I welcome you to the Pack with the neckerchief of the Wolf Cub. Wear it as you continue on your scouting trail.

(Adult partner will help the Cubmaster place the neckerchief around the scouts neck)

## The Pack Meeting

### Gathering Activities

#### String Maze

You will need for each player (or Team):

A different colored ball of sting or yarn

A pencil

A prize

**Preparation:** Tie the prize to the end of the string. Hide the prize somewhere in the room. Unwind the ball of string completely, passing over, under and around table legs, furniture and other objects in the room. Tie a pencil on the remaining end of the string. Repeat this with each ball of string, don't worry about crossing the strings; this will add to the fun.

To play: Give each boy (or team - could be a den) a pencil and tell him there is a prize at the end of the string. Have them wind the string around the pencil as the work their way around the room to find the prize.

#### What Am I?

For a fun pre-opening activity, prepare as many "tags" as you will have people for the meeting. On each tag write a tree type. (Make them common names.) Obviously, repeats are allowed.

As people arrive, have the "Welcoming Den" tape a tag on the back of each person. Each person talks to other people to get ideas about what kind of tree name is written on his tag *without anyone actually saying the tree name!*

#### Forest

Write the letters F-O-R-E-S-T down the left-hand side of a page and give out copies of it with the instructions to find people whose first names begin with the different letters. See how many people in the Pack can fill out the whole sheet.

## Opening Ceremonies

### OPENING CEREMONY

Introduce this ceremony by reminding each Scout that trees provide us with many useful things. Point out that trees can be useful, but also that they should be cherished and protected for their natural beauty and shade.

Each boy should draw a picture based on his assigned line (see below), then read the line in turn.

**Scout 1:** "What do I see when I see a tree?"

Oranges and apples and peaches to eat."

**Scout 2:** What do I see when I see a tree?"

A pinewood derby car made by Dad and me."

**Scout 3:** What do I see when I see a tree?"

The paper for books in the library?"

**Scout 4:** What do I see when I see a tree?"

The walls of the home of my family."

**Scout 5:** What do I see when I see a tree?"

The hull of Pilgrim ships sailing across the sea."

**Scout 6:** What do I see when I see a tree?"

The staff of our flag, that flies so free."

**CM:** "In honor of our flag that flies so free, would you please join us in the Pledge of Allegiance."

### Opening Ceremony

**Preparation:** Make signs with the pictures of the following trees or if you are really lucky and have these trees in your back yard; carefully cut a small twig from each one (enough so you can tell there are different kinds of trees). Sugar Maple, White Ash, Red Cedar, Long Leaf Pine, Douglas Fir, Aspen, and White Birch.

This is a Sugar Maple; it gives us maple syrup.

This tree is a White Ash, it is used to make baseball bats.

You get pencils from this tree, it is a Red Cedar.

Turpentine is a product from the Long Leaf Pine.

The most important lumber is the Douglas Fir.

Spools are made from this White Birch.

This is an Aspen tree, it is used to make matches. Don't use matches near it or other trees, you need to protect the trees in our forests. We need to learn conservation of all our natural resources.

Let's pledge allegiance to our great country and all its natural resources.

### N-A-T-U-R-E

**Materials:** 6 Cub Scouts 6 pieces of paper with the letters spelling NATURE printed in them. Each Cub Scout holds up his letter and reads his lines (glue to back of letter card). You can have the boys prepare these cards with pictures or fancy lettering.

**N-** Stands for your NAME; be proud of it. As you advance from Bobcat to Arrow of Light, you will add new honors to your name. Everything you do affects your good name and your family.

**A-** Is for ATTITUDE. Attitude affects your spirit. Cub Scouts know that, just as sunshine is essential for life, being cheerful and playing fair help a den grow and make scouting fun.

**T-** Is for TASK. Each Cub Scout works hard at each job.

**U-** Is for USEFULNESS. Your place in life depends on learning a lot and then using what you learn.

## May 2008: "Leaf It To Cubs"

**R-** Means you're **READY**. Just as squirrels gather food for the future, so Cub Scouts work hard and advance getting ready to be Boy Scouts.

**E-** Stands for **ENERGY**. As the bee is always busy, Cub Scouts keep active giving goodwill.

**NATURE** - God's way of telling us He cares. Let us always be grateful for His gifts and His guidance

## CUB SCOUT TREES

**Cubmaster:** As a tree grows, it gets larger and stronger, adding rings to its base each year. So do Cub Scouts.

With each activity the Cub scouts grow in character and become stronger citizens. They learn to serve family, God and country. Their branches will spread and touch many lives. The things they learn will help them to help themselves and others too.

(7 cubs with letters printed on cardboard cutouts repeat the following each in turn)

**C** - Stands for Cub Scouts.

**U** - United in having fun.

**B** - Being the best we can be.

**T** - Training to be Boy Scouts.

**R** - Ready to learn, ready to play, ready to help others.

**E** - Is for the Extra effort it takes to go faster and do more than an ordinary person. A Cub Scout is not an ordinary person. He is a Scout!

**E** - Is for Earning our Ranks until we obtain the Arrow of Light. We want to be the best and in Cub Scouts The Arrow of Light is the best!!

**Cubmaster:** May each of the boys here become a strong, useful, and fun "Cubtree".

## TREE - OPENING

Introduce this ceremony by reminding each Scout that trees provide us with many useful things. Point out that trees can be useful, but also that they should be cherished and protected for their natural beauty and shade.

Each boy should draw a picture based on his assigned line (see below) and then read the line in turn.

**Cub Scout #1:** "What do I see when I see a tree? Oranges and apples and peaches to eat."

**Cub Scout #2:** "What do I see when I see a tree? A pinewood derby car made by Dad and me."

**Cub Scout #3:** "What do I see when I see a tree? The paper for books in the library."

**Cub Scout #4:** What do I see when I see a tree? The walls of the home of my family."

**Cub Scout #5:** What do I see when I see a tree? The hull of ships sailing across the sea."

**Cub Scout #6:** What do I see when I see a tree? The staff of our flag that flies so free."

**Cubmaster:** In honor of our flag that flies so free, would you please join use in the Pledge of Allegiance.

## Stories and Audience Participations

### The Three Trees

Big Tree-----Plunk

Middle Sized Tree-----Plink

Baby Tree-----Pink

Babbling Brook-----Gurgle, Gurgle

Rabbit-----Clippety clip

Hunters-----Bugle call

Gun-----Bang

## May 2008: "Leaf It To Cubs"

Once upon a time in the deep, dark woods there stood three **TREES**, the **BIG TREE**, the **MIDDLE Tree** and the wee **BABY Tree**--and through the **TREES** ran a **BABBLING BROOK** and hopped the little **RABBIT**.

One day a group of **HUNTERS** came into the forest where stood the three trees--the **BIG TREE**, **THE MIDDLE SIZED TREE** and the little **BABY TREE**--and through the trees ran the **BABBLING BROOK** and hopped the little **RABBIT**.

As the **HUNTERS** wandered through the forest, in which stood the three trees--the **BIG TREE**, the **MIDDLE SIZED TREE** and the little **BABY TREE** --and through the **trees** ran the **BABBLING BROOK** and hopped the little **RABBIT**--one of the **HUNTERS** spied the little **RABBIT**. He raised his gun at the little **RABBIT**, and sadness reigned in the forest, in which stood the three trees-- the **BIG TREE**, the **MIDDLE SIZED TREE** and the little **BABY TREE**--and through the trees ran the **BABBLING BROOK**, but no longer the little **RABBIT**.

The **BIG TREE**, the **MIDDLE SIZED TREE** and the little **BABY TREE** were all very sad. Even the **BABBLING BROOK** was sad. But all of a sudden out from the thicket hopped the little **RABBIT**. The **HUNTER'S GUN** had missed.

And once again happiness reigned in the forest where the three trees - the **BIG TREE**, the **MIDDLE SIZED TREE** and the **LITTLE BABY TREE** --and through the trees ran the **BABBLING BROOK** and hopped the little **RABBIT**.

## The Happy Hikers

Before you just start using this as it's presented, make sure you try it at home and check the time it takes to run all the way through it. If it takes too long, just cut out some of the scenery!

**Narrator:** We're going on a hike. Just do what I do and listen carefully. (Begin walking in place)

Here we go on a hike through the woods and over the mountains. Come along with me. (Smile, wave to group, and hike in place)

We're coming to a steep hill. (Bend over as if climbing)

Now we're on top. What a lovely view! (Shade eyes and look around)

Now, we'll have to go down. (Move hand like going down a roller coaster and say "swoosh")

Boy, we're out of breath. (Breathe heavily)

Now, we're passing through a meadow. (Hike in place)

What's that I see? (Stop, look to one side)

It's a rabbit! And a meadowlark. (Look up)

And a bumble bee! (Run swiftly in place, waving arms as if fighting off a bee)

We're happy hikers. (Hike in place)

We're happy because of the beautiful mountains we see. (Shade eyes and smile)

And because of all that clean fresh air we are breathing. (Breathe heavily) and especially because we got away from the buzzing bee. (Smile, turn head to look behind you and wave "bye" to bee)

Now we're getting tired. (Slow pace, walk droopily)

There's what we need! (Point)

A cool refreshing drink from the river. (Pick up pace, kneel down and scoop water to mouth)

Ahhh, how refreshing. Let's be on our way, (Hike in place)

Now let's try to jump over the river without getting our feet wet. (Take big step, get feet wet, shake them off)

Oh, well, don't feel too bad about not making it. That was a wide river. At least we have cool toes. (Shake feet again)

We'd better stop for lunch. (Stop, reach in pocket, bring out sandwich, start eating, take handkerchief from pocket, wipe mouth, replace handkerchief, resume hiking in place)

Ummmm, that feels better. Look, there's a lovely lake. (Point)

## May 2008: "Leaf It To Cubs"

Let's swim across. (Swim strokes)  
That was great! (Resume hiking in place)  
Look at that crooked trail ahead. (Point)  
It's nothing but twists and turns. (Continue hiking -- twisting and turning)  
I'm glad that's over. I was getting dizzy. (Stagger)  
Looks like we have come to the end of the trail. (Stop)  
What do we do now? Are you tired? (Shake head YES!)  
So am I. (Sit down, wipe brow.)

## Advancement Ceremonies

### Ceremony Ideas

Cut a branch from a tree and "plant" in a bucket or pot, hang the awards from the tree.  
Give each boy a neckerchief slide made from a slice of a tree with each award.

### Webelos Activity Pin Ceremony

**Purpose:** To recognize a Webelos who has earned an activity pin.

**Props:** Poster made of Webelos colors with activity pins and cards attached.

Tonight we have the privilege of recognizing Webelos Scouts that have earned an activity pin since their last Pack meeting. As you can see from our Pack's Webelos colors, that \_\_\_\_ Scouts have earned their pins.

Would Webelos Scout/s \_\_\_\_ (Name/Names) \_\_\_\_\_ and his/their parents please come forward? \_\_\_\_ (Name of the 1<sup>st</sup> Scout) \_\_\_\_ I have shown that you have earned the \_\_\_\_ (name activity pin) \_\_\_\_\_ pin, would you like to share one thing that you did to earn this pin? I would like to give this to your parent/s and ask that they pin it to your colors.

Poster: Enlarged the metal part of the Webelos colors.

### This Little Tree is a Symbol

**Personnel:** Cubmaster, Den Leaders, advancing Cub Scouts, Webelos and parents.

**Equipment:** A three foot high tree with several branches, set tree in a can of mortar; green paper leaves (made with thin wire frame with wire frame sticking out) with Cub Scouts' names, awards, badges, and arrow points.

**Cubmaster:** This little tree is a symbol of the natural beauty of our land. The tree also represents Cub Scouting. It takes a long time for a beautiful tree to grow. In the same way, a Cub Scout spends a lot of time and effort in advancing from rank to rank. So do his parents who help him. Today we will see how much prettier this Cub Scouting tree will be when we put some leaves on it. Each of these leaves represents the time and effort put into their advancement work by our Cub Scout and parents. (Call forward boys and their parents who are receiving wolf badges and arrow points, give them their awards and have them put one leaf on the tree for each award they receive. Award Bear badges and arrow points and have those boys also put leaves on the tree. After all the awards are presented and leaves added to the tree, the Cubmaster resumes speaking.) Each of you has helped nurture this tree. Just as trees endure for many years, so the values you have gained from working on achievements, electives and Webelos activity pins will last you a lifetime. May you always stand strong and tall like a tree--and be a beautiful resource for our land.

### What Do We Plant

**Props:** Make a large tree from cardboard, or paint one on an appliance box. For each award to be given, cut out a green paper leaf. Write the Cub's name on the leaf and tape on his awards. Arrange the leaves on a table beside the tree.

## May 2008: "Leaf It To Cubs"

### Cubmaster:

What do we plant when we plant a tree?  
We plant a ship, which will cross the sea.  
We plant the mast to carry the sail.  
We plant the planks to withstand the gale,  
The keels, the keelson, the beam, and knee.  
We plant a ship when we plant a tree.

What do we plant when we plant a tree?  
We plant the house for you and me.  
We plant the rafters, the shingles, the floors,  
We plant the studding, the lath, and doors.  
The beams and siding are all parts we need.  
We plant a house when we plant a tree.

What do we plant when we plant a tree?  
A thousand things that we daily see.  
The paper for books from which we learn,  
Tools to help us do a good turn.  
The wood for a Pinewood Derby car,  
For model planes that we fly so far.  
We plant the staff for the flag of the free,  
Yes, we plant all these when we plant a tree.

But what do we plant when we plant a lad?  
With the help of his mother and his dad.  
We plant a Cub who'll become a Scout,  
We plant ideas that will round him out,  
The skills, the games, the joy to be had.  
We plant a Scout when we plant a lad.

Cubmaster calls forward boys and parents at this time. As awards are given, each boy tapes his leaf onto the tree branches.

You have all helped make this tree more beautiful. It is a part of you. Just as Mother Nature's trees endure for many years, the things you have learned from your achievements and badges will last you a lifetime. May you always stand straight and tall like a tree, and be a worthy resource of our country.

What do we plant when we plant a lad?  
We plant a Scout when we plant a lad.

Congratulations to all of you.

## TREE ADVANCEMENT

Materials needed: Picture of a giant Redwood tree. Artificial tree with cutout leaves.

Awards are attached to leaves.

Cubmaster: The tallest and biggest trees all began as little seedlings. It takes many years for them to grow from seedlings into giants. Each of you Cub Scouts are like these trees for you are growing into great men. (Take awards off tree, mentioning positive benefits of trees: i.e., strong, sturdy, enduring, etc).

## WHAT DO WE PLANT?

Props: Make a large tree from cardboard, or paint one on an appliance box. For each award to be given, cut out a green paper leaf. Write the Cub's name on the leaf and tape on his awards. Arrange the leaves on a table beside the tree.

Cubmaster:

What do we plant when we plant a tree?

We plant a ship, which will cross the sea.

We plant the mast to carry the sail.

We plant the planks to withstand the gale.

The keels, the keelson, the beam, and knee,

We plant a ship when we plant a tree.

What do we plant when we plant a tree?

We plant the house for you and me.

We plant the rafters, the shingles, the floors;

We plant the studding, the lath, and doors.

The beams and siding are all parts we need.

We plant a house when we plant a tree.

What do we plant when we plant a tree?

A thousand things that we daily see,

The paper for books from which we learn,

Tools to help us do a good turn.

The wood for a Pinewood Derby car,

For model planes that we fly so far.

We plant the staff for the flag of the free,

Yes, we plant all these when we plant a tree.

But what do we plant when we plant a lad?

With the help of his mother and his dad,

We plant a Cub who'll become a Scout;

We plant ideas that will round him out,

The skills, the games, the joy to be had.

We plant a Scout when we plant a lad.

[The Cubmaster calls forward boys and parents at this time. As awards are given, each boy tapes his leaf onto the tree branches.]

Cubmaster:

You have all helped make this tree more beautiful. It is a part of you. Just as Mother Nature's trees endure for many years, the things you have learned from your achievements and badges will last you a lifetime. May you always stand straight and tall like a tree, and be a worthy resource for our country.

What do we plant when we plant a lad?

We plant a Scout when we plant a lad.

Congratulations to all of you!

## Den Chief Service Award

**Personnel:** Cubmaster, den chief receiving award, Scoutmasters den leader, and Cub Scouts from den chief's den, Assistant Cubmaster.

**Equipment:** Service award cord.

Cubmaster, Scoutmaster, den leaders, and Cub Scouts are arranged in a semicircle with the den chief in its center in front of the room. The Assistant Cubmaster narrates.

## May 2008: "Leaf It To Cubs"

**Assistant Cubmaster:** The den chief service award recognizes den chiefs who lead and serve their dens for at least 1 year. This award emphasizes your key role within Boy Scouting and compliments you for your important service. It is you, the den chief, who brings the fun of Boy Scouting to Cub Scouts and who brings eager Webelos Scouts into your troop. You have helped the Cub Scouts in you den to the best of your ability. You have encouraged, guided, and protected them in all den and pack activities. You have shown them by example what a Boy Scout can be. You have been prompt and dependable and have cooperated with your leaders in carrying out the den program. In addition to all this you have advanced in rank in Boy Scouting and have earned additional merit badges, we of Pack \_\_\_\_\_ thank and congratulate you for your part in making us the best pack in the (name) council. Scoutmaster (name), do you wish to say anything at this time? Cubmaster (name), do you have any other comments? Leaders of the den (number) do you have anything to add? Cub Scouts from Den (number), would any of you like to say anything?

(Name), at this time we would like you den leader to place your new service cord on your left shoulder. Would you all join me in congratulating this den chief?

## Songs

### **Take Me Out To The Forest**

(Take Me Out To The Ballgame)

Take me out to the forest.

Let me hike in the wild.

Show me a skunk and a few bear tracks.

I won't care if I never come back.

But it's look, look, at your compass.

If it rains, then it pours and your wet.

And it's ouch, slap, sting and you're bit

In the great outdoors.

### **The Tree Toad**

(tune: Auld Lang Syne)

A tree toad loved a fair she toad

That lived up in a tree.

She was a fair three-toed tree toad,

But a two-toed tree toad was he.

The two-toed tree toad tried to win

The she toad's friendly nod;

For the two-toed tree toad loved the ground

That the three-toed tree toad trod.

Now three-toed tree toads have no care

For two-toed tree toad love.

But the two-toed tree toad fain would share

A tree home up above.

In vain the two-toes tree toad tried;

He could not please her whim.

In her tree toad bower with her veto power,

The she toad vetoed him.

## Song of my Shoes

(Tune: Battle Hymn of the Republic)

My shoes have seen the glory of the growing of a Scout.  
My shoes have been in water steppin' in and steppin' out.  
My shoes have hiked through forest to the top of the mount;  
My shoes are wearing out!

Chorus

Groovy, Radical, and Awesome (repeat 3x)  
My shoes are wearing out!

My shoes have seen the bottom of the dirty fishy creek,  
My shoes have been all covered with the gooey, muddy cake,  
My shoes have seen the some old socks for seven days this week,  
My shoes do really stink!

Chorus

My shoes are torn and tattered climbing fences packed in rust,  
My shoes are stained and spattered with some yucky insect guts,  
My shoes are oozing slime and fill my Mom with disgust,  
My shoes have bit the dust!

Chorus

## HIKING

(Tune: Caisson Song)

Over hill, over dale,  
We will hit the forest trail,  
As the Cub Scouts go hiking along.  
In and out, all around,  
You will never see us frown,  
As the Cub Scouts go hiking along.  
And it's Hi! Hi! Hee!  
The Cub Scouts are for me,  
Shout our name and shout it strong.  
For where 'er we go,  
You will always know  
That the Cub Scouts go hiking along.

May 2008: "Leaf It To Cubs"

## OUT IN THE FOREST

(Tune: Rock-a-Bye Baby)

Out in the forest, under the trees,  
See the Scouts trekking, inspecting leaves.  
This tree's familiar, this one is not,  
Don't touch that ivy, you'll get some spots!  
The trees here are useful to wildlife and birds,  
They give them a home and food for the herd.

## CALAMINE LOTION

(Tune: My Bonnie Lies Over the Ocean)

My body needs calamine lotion.  
My body's as sore as can be.  
The flowers I picked for my Granny  
Turned out to be poison ivy!  
Don't touch, don't touch  
You'll get a rash from ivy, ivy.  
Don't touch, don't touch  
Don't touch the leaves of three.

## Skits

### Planning for the Future

Setting: An old man is digging in his garden. Beside him on the ground is a young sapling tree, which he is preparing to plant. Two men come up to him, stop, and watch what he is doing.

Man #1: What kind of tree are you planting old man:

Old Man: (Stops digging and wipes his brow) It is an apple tree.

Man #2: (astonished) AN APPLE TREE? Well, how old are you?

Old Man: I'm 90 years old.

Man #1: You're 90 years old! And your planting a tree that will not give fruit for many years?

Old Man: Why not?

Man #2: Well, you'll probably not be around when that tree finally bears fruit.

Old Man: Tell me, did either of you eat any apples when you were little boys?

Both: Of course we did. Why?

Old Man: Then tell me this - who planted the trees that you got those apples from?

Man #2: Well it must have been, HMMM?

Man #1: I don't know.

Old Man: You see, someone planted the trees before you were born for you to enjoy and now I'm doing the same for those who come after me. How else can I repay those who planted trees before I was born?

Man #1: You are a very wise man.

Man #2: And we have been very foolish.

Old Man: Thank you, and remember that what we do for our land today will be around for many years from now. So make sure you leave something that you will be proud of in the future.

## Smokey the Bear

Props:

Ranger hat (campaign hat)

3 large (3-lb) coffee cans

Medium size rock

Pencil

Paper clip

Soda straw

Large glass of water

Back pack

Some twigs

Some newspapers

When the actors assigned to the following actions hear their words, they do the actions described.

ACTOR	CUE	ACTION
Narrator	SMOKEY	Tip ranger hat
CUB 1	BIG TREE	Drop rock into can
CUB 2	MEDIUM SIZED TREE	Drop pencil into can
CUB 3	BABY TREE	Drop paper clip into can
CUB 4	BABBLING BROOK	Blows through straw into glass of water
CUB 5	CAMPER	Follows directions in story
CUB 6	FIRE	Crumples new sheet of newspaper each time

### Narrator:

Once upon a time in the deep, dark woods, there stood three trees—the **Big Tree**, the **Middle Sized Tree**, and the **Baby Tree**. And through the forest ran the **Babbling Brook**. The **Camper** [lays a fire with twigs] carelessly started a **Fire** without clearing the ground for ten feet around it and when the **Camper** left the campsite [picks up backpack and leaves], he didn't make sure the **Fire** was "dead out." The next day, the **Fire** started to burn again. The animals heard the sound of **Fire** and could smell smoke and their eyes began to burn. A bear cub's eyes smarted so much that he couldn't see where his mother was, so he did what he was taught when danger came—he climbed the **Biggest Tree** he could find. I am that bear cub.

The **Fire** roared by and it burned the **Baby Tree** [actor sinks to the ground] and it burned the **Medium Sized Tree** [actor sinks to the ground], and it just singed the **Big Tree** that had me, the bear cub, in it. After the **Fire** had gone by, I was found all singed and scared, by a forest ranger. The ranger helped heal my burns and he named me **Smokey** to remind all **Campers** [enter with backpack] to be careful with **Fire** and to protect the **Big Trees**, the **Medium Sized Trees**, and the **Baby Trees**, so that we may enjoy these forests that have **Babbling Brooks** flowing through them. Remember what **Smokey Bear** says: "Only you can prevent forest **Fires**!"

### Did You See That

**Stanley**, in a strong European accent: "Hello there, I am Arthur Stanley Livingstone, the world famous ornithoptitologist! (That means I watch birds, you know.) And this is my nephew and assistant, Todd. Say hello Todd."

**Todd**, not really paying attention: "H'lo"

## May 2008: "Leaf It To Cubs"

**Stanley** "We are here today on location in the midst of the African rain forest, and we should see some very rare birds indeed! I can hardly contain myself. Right Todd?"

**Todd:** "Oh. Uh, yeah."

**Stanley:** slowly, carefully stalks along, looking around, listening for the slightest peep. Todd shuffles after him. Stanley, turning around, staring with wide open eyes for a second, then jumping up and down "Did you see that! Did you see that!"

**Todd:** "Er, what"

**Stanley:** "You mean you missed it?"

**Todd:** pauses a second, then admits it "uh, yeah"

**Stanley:** "Well! My word, Todd, that was a very rare bird, the Oohweeoo-plit-plit-plit-awaah. And you missed it. It's named after it's call, you know."

**Todd:** "Mmm, what's it sound like?"

**Stanley:**, after a suspenseful pause "peep!" Stanley continues his slow stalking and looking around, Todd follows after him.

**Stanley:** stopping and looking up wide-eyed. Todd actually walks into him. "Did you see that! Did you see that!"

**Todd:** "Er, um, well"

**Stanley:** somewhat cross "Well?"

**Todd:** "No."

**Stanley:** after a long sigh "Now that, my dear boy, was an Ooh-aah bird. Have you heard of the ooh-aah bird?"

**Todd:** "No"

**Stanley:** "The Ooh-ahh bird, Todd, is a three-pound bird that lays a four-pound egg." Pantomiming the egg-laying process "Ooooooooooooh .. ahhhhhhhhhh!!!"

Stanley and Todd continue their pacing about the stage

**Stanley:** turning around and yelling at Todd "Did you see that! Did you see that!"

**Todd,** deciding to be clever "Er, um, ah, yes! Yes, I did see that!"

**Stanley:** "Then why in the blazes did you step in it?"

## PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE

Setting: An old man is digging in his garden. Beside him on the ground is a young sapling tree, which he is preparing to plant. Two men come up to him, stop, and watch what he is doing.

**Man #1:** What kind of tree are you planting old man:

**Old Man:** (Stops digging and wipes his brow) It is an apple tree.

**Man #2:** (astonished) AN APPLE TREE? Well, how old are you?

**Old Man:** I'm 90 years old.

**Man #1:** You're 90 years old! And you're planting a tree that will not give fruit for many years?

**Old Man:** Why not?

**Man #2:** Well, you'll probably not be around when that tree finally bears fruit.

**Old Man:** Tell me, did either of you eat any apples when you were little boys?

**Both:** Of course we did. Why?

**Old Man:** Then tell me this - who planted the trees that you got those apples from?

**Man #2:** Well it must have been, HMMM?

**Man #1:** I don't know.

**Old Man:** You see, someone planted the trees before you were born for you to enjoy and now I'm doing the same for those who come after me. How else can I repay those who planted trees before I was born?

**Man #1:** You are a very wise man.

**Man #2:** And we have been very foolish.

## May 2008: "Leaf It To Cubs"

Old Man: Thank you, and remember that what we do for our land today will be around for many years from now. So make sure you leave something that you will be proud of in the future.

### THE HIGHEST TREE CLIMBER IN THE WORLD.

Cast: Two friends and The Highest Climber...

Setting: At a campfire

Tree climber is hidden in the woods and is able to ruffle a bush or tree.

Cub Scout #1: You know, they say there's this really good tree climber trying out for the Olympics. I wonder if he's practicing around here.

Cub Scout #2: Call out and see!

Cub Scout #1: Hey! Tree Climber! Are you around here?

Climber: Yep!

Cub Scout #2: Are you practicing?

Climber: Yep!

Cub Scout #1: How high are you?

Climber: Oh, not high. About 100 feet.

Cub Scout #2: Wow! Can you go higher?

Climber: Yep! (Ruffles tree.) Now I'm at about 200 feet.

Cub Scout #1: Fantastic! Can you go higher?

Climber: Yep! (Ruffles tree.) Now I'm at about 275 feet.

Cub Scout #2: Neato! Can you go higher?

Climber: Yep! (Ruffles tree.) Now I'm at about 325 feet.

Cub Scout #1: Great! Can you go higher?

Climber: Yep! (Ruffles tree.) Now I'm at about 400 feet.

Cub Scout #2: Gee! I'm amazed!

Cub Scout #1: Excuse me, sir, but I have a book here that says that the highest tree in the world is only 360 feet high!

Climber: Ahhhhhh!!!!!! (Thump!)

### TALKING TREES

Cast: 4 boys dressed as lumberjacks, the rest of the den dressed as trees.

The trees are on stage with 2 lumberjacks hidden behind their costumes. 2 lumberjacks stroll onto the set.

1st boy: Sometimes I wish I were Paul Bunyan. Then maybe this job wouldn't be so hard.

2nd boy: I know what you mean. But if we don't get to work soon we're going to be in big trouble!

1st boy: Ok let's get busy. How about this tree? (points to a tree)

Tree: Oh no, don't chop me.

1st boy: Did you hear that?

2nd boy: I did! I can't believe my ears. And no one else in the camp will either.

1st boy: I can't chop down a talking tree.

2nd boy: And you can't tell anyone either. They'll think you've gone crazy.

1st boy: Ok then let's try a different tree.

2nd boy: (pointing to the next tree) How about this one?

Tree: Oh you don't want me, I'm all full of termites!

1st : Oh MY did you hear that? Another talking tree!

2nd boy: Yeah I did! And we ought to be grateful. Our boss would be upset with us if we came back with a tree full of termites!!

1st boy: Ok let's try another one.

2nd boy: How about this one:

## May 2008: "Leaf It To Cubs"

Tree: It's no use boys. We all talk over here.

1st boy: Golly! Another talking tree! This gives me the creepers!

2nd boy: Me too! Let's get outta here!

(They run off stage. The other two boys come out from behind the trees.)

3rd boy: Well that takes care of them! They won't be coming back to our part of the woods again!

4th boy: Yeah. Let's get to work. We'll get in trouble if we don't get to work!

## THE BEST TREE CONTEST

Cast: 5 trees and a judge. An apple tree. An almond tree, A redwood tree (use the tallest boy in the den), an evergreen tree, and the smallest Cub Scout with a couple of twigs hanging out of his uniform.

Apple tree: I know I'm going to win the best tree contest. After all, I'm the best tree because I have yummy fruit. Can't make applesauce or apple pie without fruit!!

Almond tree: I'm the best tree because I have nuts. Almonds are full of potassium and protein. Nuts are used in all kinds of candies, cookies, salads and even main dishes!

Redwood tree: I'm the best tree because I grow straight and tall. I provide lots of shade and lumber. I'm the biggest and tallest tree in the world!

Evergreen tree: I'm the best tree because I stay green all year round. I make a great Christmas tree!

Apple tree: Who is that over there?

Almond tree: Oh I think he's just one of the workers.

Redwood tree: No way he could be one of the contestants.

Evergreen tree: He's too small.

Apple tree: He's too scrawny.

Evergreen tree: He doesn't do anything.

All: Shhh guys, here comes the judge.

Judge: (looks around. Looks up and down and circles every tree thoughtfully writing on a tablet taking notes. Then:) I have made my decision!

All: (A flurry of excitement as they are all nervous and chat with each other wondering if it could be them)

Judge: And ..... the winner is -- (And the judge puts the sash or ribbon on the little boy tree.)

Apple tree: Excuse me judge, I don't understand. Why did you pick him? He doesn't have fruit.

Nut Tree: He doesn't produce almonds.

Redwood Tree: He's small and won't provide enough lumber to make a house!

Evergreen Tree: Yeah? He couldn't even be a Christmas tree. I don't understand why he won.

(They all murmur)

Judge: Shhhhhhhh!!! (harshly) Can't you see? More than bearing fruit, he's a little small... but... He'll grow strong and useful to everyone. This tree (pointing and standing him up proudly)...is the future!!

Stunts and Applauses

**What flower does everyone wear year round?**

Tulips.

**When is a baseball player like a spider?**

When he catches a fly.

**Why is a dog's tail like the heart of a tree?**

Because it is furthest from the bark.

**What kind of bird is present at every meal?**

A Swallow

**What tree will keep you warm.**

Fir.

## May 2008: "Leaf It To Cubs"

**Woodchopper's Applause-** Shout, "Chop, chop, chop, timber.

(Need: one person, the M.C. a handful of leaves)

(As the M.C. is talking, the man runs in, skipping and tossing the leaves one by one into the air. The sillier his actions, the better.)

**M.C.:** What are you doing?

**Man:** I'm leafing!

**What's the difference between an oak tree and a tight shoe?**

One makes acorns, the other makes corn ache.

**What tree does everyone carry with them?**

Palm.

## Applauses

**Lumberjack Applause:** Swing ax as if chopping down a big tree and say "Chop, chop, chop." Then stop, stand back raising hand to mouth to form megaphone, and shout "Timmm-berrrr!"

**Paul Bunyan Applause:** Make motions as if sawing down a tree. Meanwhile alternately blowing out and sucking in air with a "Shhh" sound. After a few of these you have cut through the tree. Stand back, and with your hand alongside your mouth, yell "Timberrrrr!"

**Rainstorm Applause:** Start by gently patting hands on knees alternately to simulate rain falling. Increase the noise by switching to hand clapping as the storm reaches its height. With a hand signal, everyone shouts "Boom!" to represent thunder. Gradually decrease the hand clapping back to patting the knees as the storm subsides.

**Big Rain Applause:** Tap fingers together very quickly.

**Tree Cheer**

While reaching arms both above your head, yell, "Tree-mendous!!", "Tree-mendous!!" "Tree-mendous!!"

**Paul Bunyan Cheer**

Make motions as if sawing down a tree, meanwhile alternately blowing out and sucking in air with a "Shhh" sound. After a few of these you have cut through the tree. Stand back, and with your hand alongside your mouth, yell "Timberrrrr!"

## JOKES/RUN ONS

**I'm Leafing!**

Both Cub Scouts are walking along. Cub Scout #1 is skipping and tossing the leaves one by one into the air.

Cub Scout #2: What are you doing?

Cub Scout #1: I'm leafing!

**Knock, Knock**

Knock, knock.

Who's there?

Artie.

Artie who?

Artie trees green?

**Warm Trees**

What tree will keep you warm?

Answer: Fir.

**Beavers**

Cub Scout #1: What did the beaver say to the tree?

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Cub Scout #2: I don't know, what?

Cub Scout #1: It's been nice gnawing you.

### **Oak Tree**

Cub Scout #1: Why did hundreds of people flock to the base of that oak tree?

Cub Scout #2: Why?

Cub Scout #1: It has a scenic root.

### **Pecks On Trees**

Cub Scout #1: What is green and pecks on trees?

Cub Scout #2: Woody Wood Pickle

### **Swimming**

What did the tree wear to the pool party?

Answer: Swimming trunks!

### **Lost?**

Why did the tree get lost in the woods?

Answer: It took the wrong root.

### **I'm Nuts!**

Someone comes running across the stage yelling and screaming "Help! Help! They're after me!" To which someone responds "Who's after you? And why?" The reply, "The squirrels! They think I'm nuts!"

### **Higher Than A Tree**

Cub #1: I'm a great jumper.

Cub #2: I can jump, too. I bet I can jump higher than that tree.

Cub #1: This I've got to see.

Cub #2: (Makes a small hop.)

Cub #1: That's higher than the tree??

Cub #2: Sure. That tree can't jump at all.

## Closing Ceremonies

### **Nature and the Good Visitor**

**Committee Chairman:** Our pack meeting tonight brought us all together to think about nature. We can enjoy the great outdoors but we must think of others who will follow us. Wherever you go in the great wide world of nature,

### **Walk Through The Woods**

When you walk through the woods, I want you to see,  
The floating gold of a bumblebee  
Rivers of sunlight, pools of shade  
Toadstools sleeping in a mossy jade.  
A cobweb net with a catch of dew.  
Treetop cones against an azure blue.  
Dancing flowers, bright green flies  
Birds to put rainbows in your eyes.

When you walk through the woods, I want you to hear,  
A million sounds in your little ear.  
The scratch and battle of wind tressed trees  
A rush as a timid chipmunk flees  
The cry of a hawk from the distant sky

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The burr of the leaves when a breeze rolls by  
Brooks that mumble, stones that ring  
And birds to teach your heart to sing.

When you walk through the woods, I want you to feel  
That not we nor man could make this real  
Could paint the throb of a butterfly's wing  
Could teach the woodthrush how to sing  
Could give the wonders of earth and sky  
There's something greater than you or I  
When you walk through the woods and the birches nod  
Son, meet a friend of mine, named God.

## God Gives Us the World

**Leader:** The founder of Scouting, Lord Baden-Powell, once said, "God has given us a world to live in that is full of beauties and wonders and He has given us not only eyes to see them but minds to understand them, if we only have the sense to look at them in that light."

With Spring well under way and Summer fast approaching, we will be spending more time in and enjoying the great outdoors once again. As we do this, let us in a true Scouting spirit, live up to our Outdoor Code:

**Cubs 1-4:** As an American, I will do my best to:

**Cub 1:** Be clean in my outdoor manners. I will treat the outdoors as a heritage to be improved for our greater enjoyment. I will keep my trash and garbage out of America's waterways, fields, woods, and roadways.

**Cub 2:** Be careful with fire. I will build my fire in a safe place and be sure it is dead out before I leave.

**Cub 3:** Be considerate in the outdoors. I will treat public and private property with respect. I will remember that use of the outdoors is a privilege I can lose by abuse.

**Cub 4:** Be conservation-minded. I will learn to practice good conservation of soil, water, forests, minerals, grasslands, and wildlife. And I will urge others to do the same. I will use sportsman-like methods in all my outdoor activities.

## My Backyard

**Cub 1:** My backyard is a wondrous place  
I can stake a claim for a thinking space.

**Cub 2:** I can pitch a tent and sleep in the rain,  
Or listen to the whistle of a far away train.

**Cub 3:** I can throw a ball to Mother of Dad,  
Or just be alone when I get mad.

**Cub 4:** I can plant a garden or climb a tree,  
Or get my dog, Ralph, to chase after me.

**Cub 5:** Sometimes we even have den meetings there,  
I've finished my Wolf and started my Bear!

**Cub 6:** Yeah, the backyard's the place where I run,  
When I really want to have some fun.

## A Poem for Closing

Let's be quiet as we go

## May 2008: "Leaf It To Cubs"

In earnest thought of what we owe  
To those who all about us make  
The Scouting movement, let us take.

With gratitude what they bestow,  
And for the men who long ago  
Started this movement we help grow,  
Lest we their vision should forsake,  
Let us be quiet as we go.

For all the Scouting good we know,  
Things, thoughts, but most the spirit's glow,  
Strong, straight, and mentally awake,  
For country, God, and other's sake  
Let us be quiet as we go.

### A Tree is a Good Scout

**Personnel:** 6 Cubs and a narrator

**Equipment:** Each Cub hold a picture or drawing of a tree with his section of text on the back.

**Cub 1:** Did you ever pause to think about how helpful a tree is?

**Cub 2:** It provides a nesting place for birds, shade from the sun, and protection from the rain.

**Cub 3:** It discards it's dead branches, thus providing wood for building fires and for cooking food.

**Cub 4:** A tree adds beauty to the countryside and to camping areas.

**Cub 5:** We must admit that a tree gives a lot more than it receives.

**Cub 6:** We can learn a lesson from the tree , by doing our best to always be helpful to others and by putting our fellow Scouts first and ourselves second.

**Narrator:** Remember the lesson we learn from the tree - To give to others more than we receive.

## Cubmaster's Minutes

### CUBMASTER'S MINUTE

Did you ever stop to think about how helpful a tree is? It provides a nesting place for birds, shade from the sun and protection from the rain. A tree discards its dead branches providing wood for fires and cooking. Trees add beauty to the countryside and help keep our air clean.

We must admit that a tree gives a lot more than it receives.

And what about us? When we do our best, when we are helpful to others, when we put other people first, we are practicing what we have learned from the tree. This is one lesson I know you will remember - to give to others more than we receive...just like the tree.

### STICKING TOGETHER

Gather two small sticks for each boy in your den. When the boys are seated, give each of them one stick and ask him to break it. Say: "It was easy to break a single stick, but I have tied these sticks in a bundle." (Pass it around and invite the boys to try to break the bundle as they did with the single stick.) Say: "When our den sticks together and works as a team, we will be stronger than each of us alone."

## The Redwood Tree

The Giant Sequoia trees that grow in the California Sierra Nevada Mountains are the largest living things on earth. They are also the oldest, some of them as much as 2,000 years old. What is the secret to their great age? One of their secrets is their strong, yet soft, outer bark that protects them from disease and from forest fires. No other tree in the forest has this type of bark. We can take a valuable lesson from the Giant Sequoias, because like them, we will have to face many kinds of challenges during our lifetimes. There are disease forces in the world that seek to undo our moral and spiritual values, and there are fires that threaten to burn away our confidence and well-being. Will we survive? We will if we have developed character that is both strong and soft: strong enough to stand against violence and injustice, yet soft enough to assist others who need a helping hand. When you think of the Giant Sequoia standing proudly over all the other trees of the forest, remember its secret and know that it can be your secret too.

## THE CONSERVATION PLEDGE

(Boys can repeat this after the Cubmaster says each line)

I give my pledge as an American to save and faithfully protect the natural resources of my country, its soil, its forests, waters and wildlife.

## THE OUTDOOR CODE

As an American, I will do my best to  
Be clean in my outdoor manners,  
Be careful with fire,  
Be considerate in the outdoors, and  
Be conservation-minded.