

TIGER Cubs, BSA



RESOURCES  
AND MORE!



# Tiger Introductions

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## Welcome To Tiger Cubs, BSA

Welcome to the wonderful world of Tigers. As a Tiger and his partner, you have joined the Boy Scouts of America in their Cub Scout Program. Tigers is a partner program, designed to assist with building stronger relationships with each other, with the rest of their family, and other members of the Tiger Cub Den.

A Tiger is a boy who is 6 years old or entering first grade. In order to participate in Tigers, the boy must have an adult family member who will work together on all activities. This partner can be a parent, aunt, uncle, grandparent, older brother or sister over the age of eighteen, or even a neighbor. The important requirement of this partner is that they truly care about the Tiger and is committed to his well-being.

## The Tiger Cub program

How does the Tiger program work? This program functions on a casual, relaxed basis. There is no achievement or advancements required. Instead, the Tiger and his partner are expected to just have fun. The program centers around 17 Big Ideas from which the Tiger Cub Den will select one for each month. Each monthly theme or Big Idea consists of three parts, a family activity and two den meetings or activities. Remember, these are only ideas that can be done in any order and can be changed if something better comes along. Tiger Dens are also encouraged to attend the monthly Pack meeting. Generally, Tiger Dens meet from September to May when they will then graduate into Cub Scouting.

Big ideas are found in the BSA Family Activity book which is in the Tiger packet a new Tiger will receive. This book provides suggestions for family activities as well as den activities. Tigers have a motto of "Search, Discover, and Share" and each of these activities follow this concept.

The Tiger Cub program operates on a shared leadership concept. Each boy/adult team assumes the responsibility of hosting one or more Big Ideas.

The host team plans the program and location for meetings and activities. They then inform the rest of the Tiger Den and see that the meeting or activity takes place.

As each Big idea is completed, the Tiger Cub earns a Tiger Track. These iron ons are a form of instant recognition that the Tiger is doing his program. A hint for parents as they attempt to place the prints. ***Never wash the shirt with fabric softener and follow the directions in the Tiger packet carefully.***

Along with the Tiger Tracks, the Tiger can also use the Tiger instant recognition kit. For each set of ideas, the Tiger earns a bead to be worn on a leather totem which slides on his belt. The Tiger Cub is eligible to receive one orange bead for each den activity completed and one white bead for every five family activities completed. Each kit contains five totems, ten vinyl lanyards, fifty orange and fifty white beads. Again, directions are included in the Tiger Instant Recognition kit which can be obtained at your local Council Service Center.

## SEARCH, DISCOVER AND SHARE

The Tiger Cub Den is not left to run their program alone. Each den appoints one of the adult partners to act as Tiger Den Coordinator. The role of this person is to receive communication from the Pack Committee and Den Leader Coach as to upcoming events within the Pack. The Tiger Den Coordinator also reports back to the committee concerns of the Tiger Cub Den. Also available to the Tiger Cub Den is the Tiger Cub Resource Book. This book provides useful hints for all of the seventeen Big Ideas.

The Pack Committee also provides a Tiger Cub Coach for the Tiger Cub Den. This committee person is responsible for organizing the Tiger Cub Den, seeing that the program runs smoothly and assisting with graduation in May. They act as a resource

person for the den and should be in constant contact with the host team each month.

## Tiger Cub uniforms

**Uniforming:** this is a constant question for new members in scouting. Tigers wear the official Tiger t-shirt, an orange t-shirt with Tiger emblem on the left front. The same t-shirt is available for adults. Tiger Cubs may also wear the Tiger Cubs belt and Tiger Cubs hat. A Tiger Cubs neckerchief is available to be worn by the Tiger Cubs Coach. All these items should be available at your local Council Service Center. If not you can order these and more through the BSA Catalog. Should the den choose not to purchase the official t-shirt, they may instead use a white shirt to iron the tiger Cub symbol and paws on. The key word for the den is **uniformity**. Whatever the unit decides should be worn by all members of the den.

## Let's get started

**Getting Started:** Generally, the Pack will hold a Round-up in the fall of the school year to sign up Tiger Cubs and their partners. Following this, the Tiger Cubs coach will contact the tigers to organize them into a den or dens and get a designated Tiger Den Coordinator. Traditionally, the theme for the beginning meeting is the Big Idea #1 Getting to Know you. The Tiger Cubs Coach will run the meeting, thus showing the other Tiger teams how to do this.

During the first meeting, the Tiger Cubs Coach will talk about how to run a meeting, help the den to make a decision on uniforming, and discuss the program and the recognitions. If there is time, the group can make a craft, play a game or even have a snack. This is the time to make a calendar of the upcoming months and decide which Big Ideas will be used. Telephone numbers should be shared to promote communication within the den and upcoming Pack events which pertain to Tigers should be announced.

## Graduation (before you know it!)

**Graduation:** Tiger Cubs can graduate into the pack, usually in May, using a Tiger Cub Ceremony in the Resource book and using ideas from Big Idea #17. Packs will list the graduates as they would any other

scout moving up to the next rank in advancements. Tiger graduates show their participation by wearing the Tiger Cub patch on their right pocket of the blue Cub Scout Uniform and wearing an orange backed #1 service star centered above the left pocket. Also available is the Tiger Cubs Graduation Certificate to be awarded to both the tiger and his partner.

## A glossary of terms

**Tigers:** The first level of Cub Scouting, for those boys seven years old or entering first grade. Tigers meet as a group with their adult partner twice a month, as well as joining the Pack for scheduled activities.

**Tiger Den Coordinator:** This is an individual who as a member of the Pack Committee has been given the responsibility to recruit, assist and maintain a supportive line of communication with the Tiger Den.

**Den Meetings:** Boys meet in DENS of various sizes. Boys in second and third grade meet for the Wolf and Bear levels of Cub Scouting while those in fourth and fifth grades meet in Webelos Dens. Dens usually meet once a week and take place at the best time for both boys and Den Leaders. Dues are collected at den meetings. The amount a Cub will pay is decided by the Den and Pack leaders. The number of dens depends on the number of boys in the Pack.

# HAVE FUN !!!!!

**Pack Meetings:** One or more dens make up the Pack. Most packs have at least two dens-some have many more, one for each level in Cub Scouting. The Pack meets during the last week of the theme period. The Pack Meeting provides ways for Cub Scouts to receive the awards and recognitions they have earned. This is also the forum where Cub Scouts can show what they have learned. New boys and their families are introduced and announcements are made about upcoming events. Pack Meeting usually lasts no longer than 1 1/2 hours. All scouts are asked to help with clean-up after Pack Meetings.

**Themes:** Cub Scouts follow a program that is focused on a central idea. The idea is used as a

THEME for the crafts, skits, or activities for the den meetings that month. National Scout Headquarters publishes a booklet for the den and pack leaders called 'Program Helps' to give ideas for various crafts and activities on these nationally selected themes. THESE THEMES ARE SIMILAR TO THE TIGER'S MONTHLY BIG IDEAS.

**Cubmaster:** This is the Registered Cub Scout Volunteer within the Pack who runs the monthly Pack meetings with the help of other leaders. His/her duties and responsibilities are many, but he/she is the guiding hand behind the work of other pack leaders and the program advisor to the pack committee.

**Pack Committee:** To make sure that the Pack has a successful and quality program for Boys is the responsibility of the Pack Committee. This group is comprised of adult volunteers from the Pack. They meet monthly to discuss monthly themes, Pack Budget, special events and any other items pertinent to the Cub Scout Program. This group establishes the working rules for the Pack. The Pack Committee has an elected Committee Chairperson who is the spokesman for the group. Pack Committee meetings are open to any and all interested adults and input is welcome.

**Den Leader Coach:** This person is a registered Adult Volunteer who uses past Den Leader experience to guide, assist and support the Den Leaders in the Pack. He/she establishes new dens, recruits den leaders, encourages Cub Scout Training, provides program suggestions and meets monthly with Den Leaders to make plans for the Pack Meeting. A member of the Pack Committee, the Den Leader Coach is the liaison between the Den Leaders and the Committee.

**Den Chief:** An older Boy Scout who assist Dens and Den Leaders with the Cub Scout Program. There is usually one Den Chief per Den and is assigned by the Pack Committee or Cubmaster in conference with the Den Leader Coach. The Den Chief assists scouts through the Cub Scout Program by attending and working in weekly Den Meetings. He assists in advancement and encourages boys to continue into Boy Scouts. A role model, this Boy Scout is expected to set a good example in attitude and in uniforming.

## responsibilities of the monthly tiger team

Each month a different Tiger Team takes on the responsibility for planning and conducting the den meeting(s). Here is a quick (suggested) list of the responsibilities of the monthly Tiger Team.

- Plan, run, and organize your month's Tiger Cub meetings.
- Remind Tigers and their partners of any Pack activities scheduled during your month.
- Attend or designate someone to attend the Pack Committee Meeting. Share this information with the other Tiger Partners.
- Attend or designate someone to attend the Pack's Den Leaders meeting. Verify this date with the Tiger Cub Coach.
- Phone the names of participants of the monthly meeting to the Tiger Cub Coach two days prior to the Pack Meeting. This allows for the tiger paws to be separated for presentation at the Pack Meeting.
- Represent your den at the monthly Pack Meeting when called upon by the Cubmaster.
- Maintain records and collect any moneys due to the Pack for Fundraisers started within your month.
- Pass on the Tiger Cub Notebook, including the Tiger Cub Resource Book and any other Tiger equipment or supplies, to the next month's Tiger Team.

## Tiger cub big ideas

1. Getting to Know You
2. Family Entertainment
3. Discover Nature and Energy
4. Prepare for Emergencies
5. Know Your Family
6. Know Your Community
7. Helping Others
8. Go See It
9. Getting there
10. something Special All Your Own
11. Making your Family Special
12. Make Your Own
13. Caring For Your Home and Household
14. Family Games, Trick and Puzzles
15. Fitness and Sports
16. Tell it Like it Is
17. Cub Scouting Here We Come

## Den meeting format

During the first meeting of the Tiger Den, the Tiger Den Coach should go over the format for Tiger Den meetings. Hopefully it is used when they go over Big Idea #1 with the den. The parts of the meeting are:

1. OPENING
2. SHARING
3. DISCOVERING
4. SEARCHING
5. CLOSING

The opening can be as simple as saying the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag. Other openings can include saying the Tiger Promise, a poem centered on the Big Idea of the month, a song, or even a reading. Try to always open with a pledge as this reinforces the BSA principles of 'Duty to Country.'

Searching, Discovering and Sharing can be combined as the main part of the meeting or activity. Always include in your "sharing" part of the meeting any information concerning upcoming Pack activities.

Closings are a time of reflection. Again they can be simple and short. It could be just a time to thank everyone for coming and their participation in the day's activity. Closings are the time to remind the den of the next meeting time and place and mentioning who will be responsible for that meeting. Another item for closings could be the rewarding of the instant recognition beads for completing a Big Idea. Whatever the den uses as a closing, make it a "FUN" special moment. We want the teams to continue in Tigers.





# Big idea 1: Getting to know you

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## general

This Big idea is the first theme of the Tiger Den. Boy Scouts of America wants the Tiger Den to become a team and the best way to guarantee it's success is for everyone to get to know one another. The Tiger and his partner will also become a team as they run their designated monthly theme. Using this Big Idea, allows them to also get to know one another better.

This is the one theme that is done by the Tiger Cub Coach with the group to show them how to run a meeting when it becomes their turn. The group then continues with this theme for the month. Family Activities are encouraged to strengthen the Tiger/partner bond.

**The First Meeting:** The Tiger Cub Coach will need to be prepared for this one. He/she should have the list of names of both Tigers and his partner and activities planned. These should be copied out so that each team has a copy to facilitate communication within the den. The coach will also need to have an agenda with specific items to be discussed. He/she should have the Tiger Den Notebook ready to be passed on. This should include the roster of the Tiger Den, a list of the Pack's leadership with telephone numbers, a Pack Calendar of Events, the Tiger Cub Resource book and a monthly list for sign-up.

The Tiger Cub Coach should also have a simple craft for the Tiger Teams to complete. Boys love making things, and this gives them something to take home and show off to their friends. This craft has a twofold purpose; to give the tiger Team something of which to remember their first meeting and to show others what fun Tiger Cubs can be. Remember, when his friends see how much fun the Tiger is having, they also will want to join.

**Gathering Activity:** As the Tiger Teams arrive, have a simple puzzle for the tiger to put together. This could be just a picture of the Tiger logo glued to card stock, cut apart and placed in an envelope. Try to have one for each tiger. While the boys are putting the puzzle together, check with the Tiger Partner for the correct

spelling of names and that you have correct addresses and telephone number. If they have not received their Tiger Packets, now is the time to distribute them.

**Opening:** Begin the program with the reciting of the Pledge of Allegiance to the US Flag. Following this, the Tiger Cub Coach introduces his/herself and explains their role. He/she can then explain the Tiger Cub motto or pledge.

**Searching/Discovering/Sharing:** This is the time of information sharing. Start this session with having each boy introduce his partner, explain their relationship, and share his ideas of a favorite food or dessert. This can be a fun time, leading to lots of smiles as the partner finds out what his/her favorite actually is in the boy's eyes.

Next the Tiger Cub Coach begins her information sharing. He/she will cover the basics of the Tiger program, assist the Den in choosing a Tiger Cub Coordinator, and discuss the contents of the Tiger packets. Uniforming is then discussed and the den is encouraged to make a decision. Set a time limit for the Tigers to have their uniforms. When discussing the uniform, it helps if the coach has examples.

The Tiger Cub Coach will want to discuss how a meeting works. He/she will discuss the assignment of Teams to take a monthly theme and encourages the Teams to sign-up and helping them to choose their monthly themes. Den activities can be suggested and the coach will review Pack Policy concerning 'field trips.'

At this point, the Tigers are getting restless and need some activity. One such activity that will last them the entire year is the making of a Tiger Tales Scrapbook. Explain that this book is to be used to put their thoughts and momentos of their year in Tigers into. The scrapbook can be just prepunched typing paper placed in either a orange three-prong folder or covered with orange construction paper. The Tiger then can decorate his scrapbook in whatever manner he desires. He may have his partner letter the scrapbook for him. Have plenty of Tiger stickers, crayons, markers and other

decorations for the Tiger to use.

Closing: The Tiger Cub Coach uses this time to remind the Tiger Group that they are now a Den and of any upcoming Pack events, especially the first Pack meeting. He/she then closes the meeting with the Tiger Cub Promise.

## meeting ideas

1. Make a Den totem to place on top of the Tiger Den Flag
2. Have everyone make a name tag necklaces.
3. Make a Tiger Cub magnet---using an orange milk jug lid, cover edge with black tape or yarn, glue a magnetic strip to the back.
4. Set up a monthly meeting poster. Decorate it with Tiger pictures. Have everyone fill in their assigned months. Post at Den meetings.
5. Discuss what you would like to do and see as a Tiger.
6. Have the partner draw a picture of his/herself with their Tiger doing a favorite activity. Have the Tiger color and place in his scrapbook.





# Big idea 2: Family entertainment

## general

There is a little part in every Tiger this is a natural 'ham.' Bringing the family together while having fun is the goal of Tigers. This big idea allows the den to explore the various avenues with which each family has fun. Do they play games? Do they go to the movies? Do they have musical talent? Does the family enjoy making crafts together? All these are forms of entertainment and the Tiger will love sharing his family's skill for fun.

This is not a complex Big Idea. It is actually very simple---to encourage the family to have fun together.

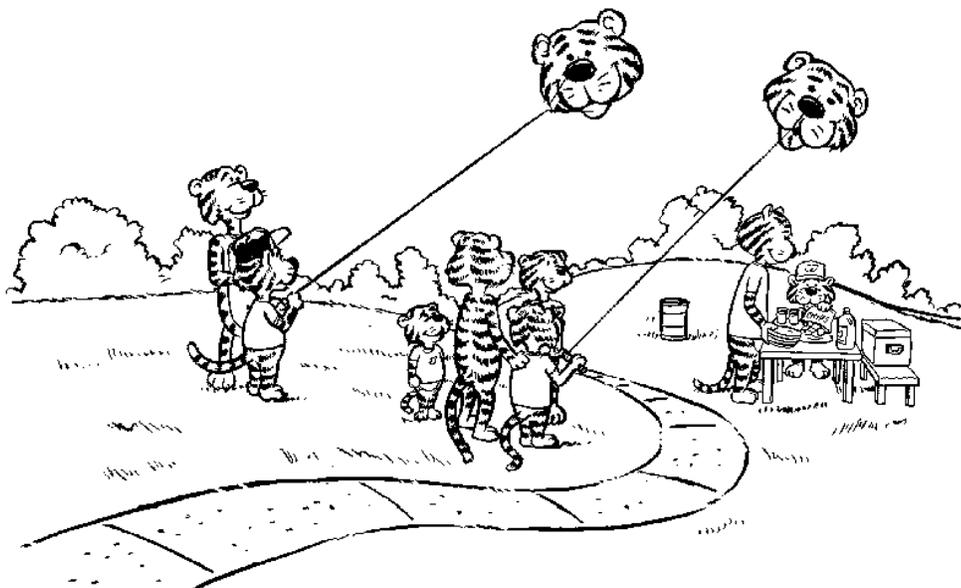
## meeting ideas

1. Make homemade instruments and play along while adults sing some Cub Scout songs. Maybe even make up your own for your Tiger Den.
2. List out your favorite TV shows. Find out how many favorites the teams have in common.
3. Make and share your family's favorite snack.

4. Discuss your favorite vacation or travels. Mark the areas on the map.
5. Play a favorite family game. Keep in mind any safety issues if playing an action sport. Include the partners in the game.

## places to go things to do

1. Go caroling as a Tiger Den or with the Pack.
2. Hold a talent show.
3. Put on a play or puppet show. Make your own puppets.
4. Attend a school play or concert. Discuss what you liked best.
5. Go kite flying. Make your own Tiger kites at an earlier meeting
6. Include the entire families in any of these ideas or come up with one of your own.
7. Learn and sing a Tiger song at Pack meeting.





# Big idea 3: Discover nature and energy

## general

The world is a big place. Because of his age, the Tiger's world is limited to his immediate surroundings. Not that he doesn't know that the world is round, but rather his development limits his appreciation to what concerns him immediately. The goal of this Big Idea is to help the tiger develop an appreciation of the world around him and an awe for its Creator. This Big Idea can help the Tiger to explore energy conservation and to see how one energy source relates to another.

Boy Scouts of America has joined the nation in being conservation conscious. They have extended this to all levels of scouting. This Big Idea is centered on that concept. Here the Tiger Den has the opportunity to reinforce personal values about the environment and energy. Tigers can explore recycling, learn about energy use and its production, and nature and humanity's impact on it. In doing this Big Idea, we need to keep in mind that these are first grade boys. In other words, Keep it Simple.

Inevitably, the question will arise during the meetings as to how the world came about. This is time to explore each team member's spirituality. Remember that everyone has their own ideas, no one is wrong and acceptance is the key here. It is not the goal of scouting to explain the creation, nor to push one's ideas on another. BSA wants the Tiger Dens to just accept that those ideas do exist.

## Meeting ideas

The Tiger Team that takes on this Big Idea can use any number of scenarios. They can start the meeting with a world globe—boys love spinning them. As an opening, point out an approximate location of your meeting place and explain its relation to the rest of the world. Believe me the Tiger's eyes will be as big as saucers. Now you can split off on several different

tangents. You can discuss weather and how losing the ozone layer affects it. Even possibly plan a trip to a weather station or television studio to discuss weather.

The Tiger Team may wish to discuss nature itself and its impact on the world. Here is the time to bring in conservation and recycling.

Visit a recycling plant or local trash site. Learn what is done with our nation's trash and what you as a family can do to help. You may wish to discuss the water we drink and visit a water plant in your community to learn how it is made safe to drink.

Don't forget our four legged friends when doing this Big Idea. Humans are not the only living things on this planet. Each Tiger Team can draw his favorite animal and share with the group as to what makes this his favorite. A trip idea would then be to go to a nature center or zoo to see these animals.

Whatever you do for this meeting, try to close with a statement concerning the age of our planet. It has been here for thousands of years, and with careful management will continue for just as many more.

## Places to go things to do

1. Go on a short guided hike at a local nature center. Nixon Park is a favorite in York County.
2. Design and conduct a nature scavenger hunt. Show samples of the 3-5 items on the list.
3. Visit your local water treatment plant. What makes the water safe to drink?
4. Visit a planetarium. Learn about those stars in the sky. Discuss the aerospace program and how close we are to living up there.
5. Go fishing. Release your fish when you are done.
6. If possible, visit a trash-to-energy plant.



# Big idea 4: Prepare for emergencies

## general

The motto for the Boy Scouts of America is “Be Prepared.” BSA tries to incorporate their ideals into all levels of their scouting program. This Big Idea makes use of this motto to help Tigers learn what to do in case of emergencies when there is no adult present. These are activities that will help the Tiger to help others.

Understand that in the expanding world of the Tiger, there will be times when he is not under the protection of a parent or other adult family member. The lessons learned in this big Idea will enable him to cope and will strengthen his self-esteem and self-confidence. Unfortunately in today’s society, emergencies are not limited to natural disasters. This is the Big Idea to use to discuss with the Tiger how to react to strangers and persons whose motives are questionable., something every Tiger should know how to handle.

## meeting ideas

The challenge for the Tiger Team is to make this a fun activity and not a “Doom and Gloom” meeting. Tigers get excited when discussing disasters and love to tell the biggest tale. After the opening, get the tigers to share with the Den a disaster or emergency story. Find out how many heroes your den has. This can lead into a what would you do/what should you do discussion. Encourage the adult partners to point out any home emergency preparations they have in each scenario. Another excellent idea is the Hug A Tree concept as described in the Tiger Cub Resource Book.

Next in the meeting would be an activity time. Remember that Tigers get very bored quickly when

they have to sit for long periods of time, even when they are involved with the discussion. You could do a game or make a craft, depending on the time of the year and the weather outside.

Closing can be a recap of what the Tiger Team has learned. You can even present each team with a “Prepared Tiger” memento to paste into their scrapbook. This could be a paper fireman’s hat or a paper police badge with the words printed on it. Again you are providing something for the Tiger to take home to share and to remember his meeting by. Every time he looks at his badge, he will remember his lessons.

## places to go things to do

1. Visit your local Fire Station.
2. Play make-believe telephone calls to 911. Have the adult partner play the part of the 911 dispatcher while the Tiger provides the information. Remind Tigers that this number is for real emergencies and should never be used for prank call.
3. Discuss what to do if school is let out early and no one is at home to let you in.
4. Play a skit in which you encounter a stranger that makes you feel uncomfortable. What should you do? How loud can you scream?
5. Review a basic First Aid Kit. Learn what the various items are used for. Discuss when it is time to call for an ambulance or emergency personnel.
6. Visit a Police Station.
7. Have your local Safety officer come to your meeting.



# Big idea 5: Know your family

## general

Every Tiger comes with some form of family structure. He lives with what is known as his nuclear family, but also has a much larger extended family. The purpose of this Big Idea is to explore the family's background and structure. It allows the Tiger to explore family traditions and to express what makes him feel good or even what makes him feel bad about his family.

Remember that Tigers are still in that self-centered stage of development. To them, their feelings are the most important. As leader for this Big Idea, you may need to help the Tiger understand that others have feelings also and that these need to be considered also. The Tiger's concepts of family may differ from those of others within his family and this Big Idea will help his partner to understand them. For instance, the Tiger may express feelings that his baby sister is nothing but a nuisance, while others seem to dote on her. This allows for open dialog between the Tiger and his partner.

A word of caution as you pursue this Big Idea. The BSA takes a strong stand on reporting suspected child abuse. The Tiger may feel comfortable

discussing certain incidents with the group that is totally unexpected. If at anytime, a suspicion of child abuse surfaces, you are obligated to report the incident to your local Boy Scout Council. Contact your Cubmaster or Pack Committee Chairperson to find out the procedure for doing so. BSA assures their volunteers that all reportings will be handled in a confidential, anonymous manner.

## meeting ideas

1. Share the family photo album. Identify special family members.
2. Share family histories and traditions.
3. Have a 'families' picnic. Get to know one another.
4. Have a group party. Use a holiday for theme. How about Halloween in February?
5. Design and make a family tree. Share it with others in your den.
6. Design a family coat of arms. Have the Tiger include special areas of the family's past.
7. Conduct your own 'Family' activity.





# Big idea 6: Know your community

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## general

With this Big Idea, the Boy Scouts of America want you to begin one of the underlying purposes of scouting: that is to develop responsible citizenship in boys. This begins with an understanding of your community. As you explore your community with your boy and your Tiger Cub Den, you will be giving your boy and others a better understanding of the environment in which they live. This is the beginning of developing a deeper appreciation of their community and how it works.

Remember for most of these boys, so far, their life has been centered around their families and their homes. Yes, they go to the stores and church with their parents, but that is the basis of their knowledge. They don't have a clue what makes a community just that. This is your challenge to help the scout and his partner see the bigger picture.

So, let's search out the community. What is in it? What makes a set of streets a community? And finally, what is there to do within each individual's community? Sounds like a rather big undertaking. After all, these are only first grade boys, with a limited attention span and very limited reading skills.

Don't be frightened of this Big Idea. This can be lots of fun and educational, too. By the end of your meeting, even your adult partners may have learned something new about that town they live in. As the Adult leader for this activity, you may need to do some research, but the resources are out there for you. All you have to do is ask.

Meeting ideas: Let's plan together a meeting for your Tiger Den as they get to know their community. All meetings start with planning. What are you going to do and how? Once that has been established, the rest is easy.

Most meetings are set up with the same basic agendas. The gathering, opening, business time or

information sharing, activity for the group and finally, the closing. This is what we will set up our Big idea meeting with.

**Gathering:** Have a map of your community spread out on a table. As scouts and their partners arrive, have them mark on the map the location of their home. Compare distances between each Tiger and to the nearest store or local landmark of your choice.

**Opening:** For Tigers this is short and sweet. Remember the new logo you are learning in Scouts---KISMIF (Keep it simple, make it fun). Ask a tiger and his partner to lead the group in the Pledge of Allegiance to the United States Flag. As group leader, explain the big idea for this meeting and how you hope everyone will learn a little more about your community.

**Information Sharing:** Again this is as it sounds. Share any information coming from the Pack, i.e. When is Pack meeting, what do the tigers need to do to prepare, when the next meeting will be and who is running it. Should there be expenses for the group, now is the time that it should be collected.

**Activity:** Using the map, that now has the group's homes located, start locating various other parts that make up a community. Go around the room and have each scout name another aspect of the community. Some of these may include: Fire Station, Police Station, Town Hall, Library, favorite restaurants, video store, personal place of worship, hospital or physician's office, and more and more and more. Take a minute with each suggestion and see if your group can tell you how this place helps the community. Believe me the video store will have a totally different answer than the police station.

Now it is time to get away from the table. Ask the boys to do an impromptu skit where they meet one by one on the street and each is going somewhere different. See how many places within the community they wish to go. This is the adult partner's time to see the hidden gems within their boys.

Closing: Congratulate the Tigers for a job well done on their skit. Remind partners of any future commitments and gather everyone in a circle for your closing comments. This can be just a single statement of what your community means to you. Thank everyone for coming and send them on their way.

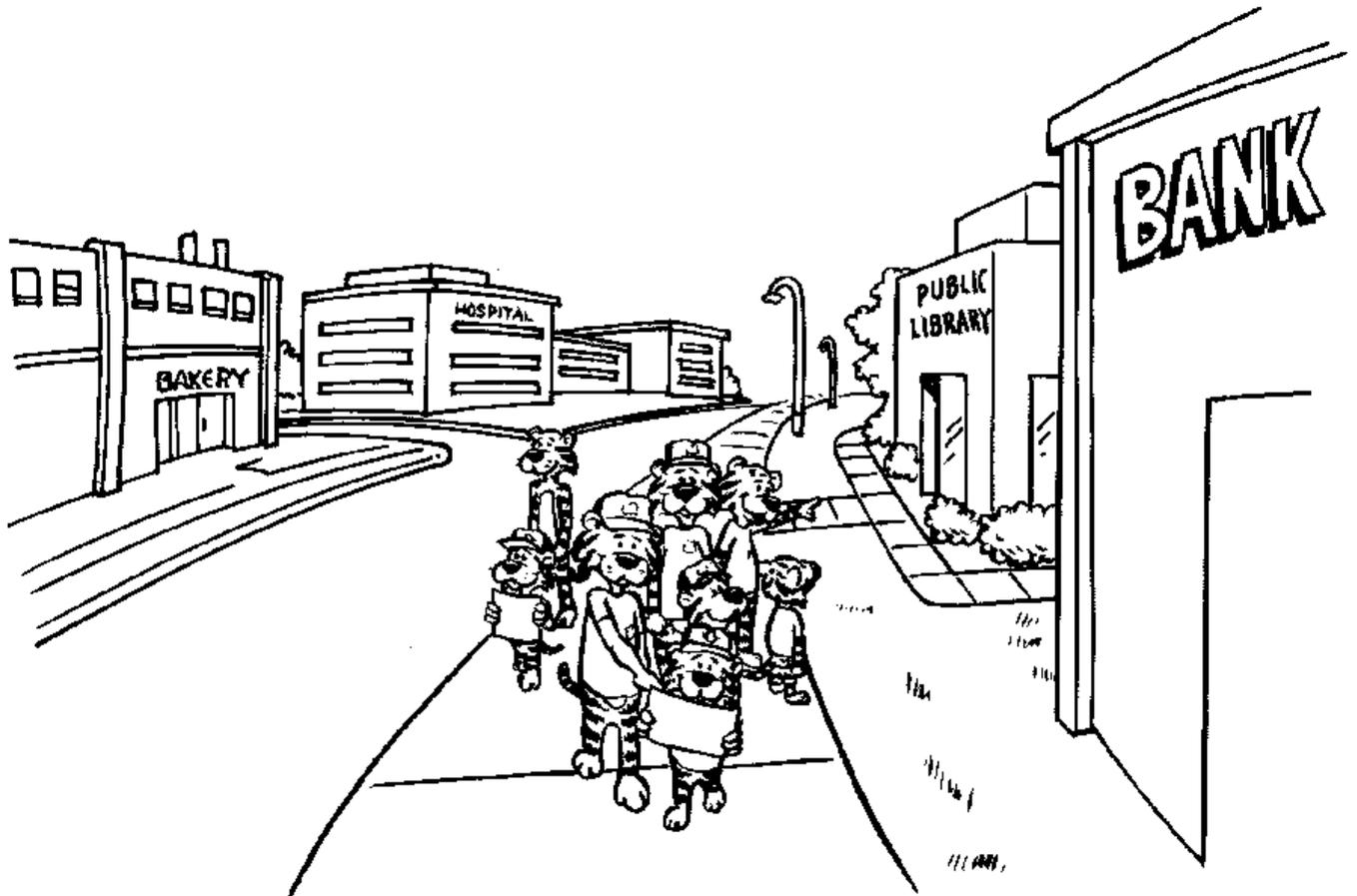
## meeting ideas

1. Draw a map of your community and include places of interest as listed from the group.
2. Make fire chief and policeman puppets as found in the Tiger Cub Resource book.
3. Play pin your town on the map, again described in the Tiger Cub Resource book.
4. Using a town map, plan and do a Town bike trip.

## places to go things to do

One of the easiest ways to get to Know your Community is to go out and "do the town." Understand that each community is different and you may not be able to do in one community that you could do in another. The following is a list of suggested places within each community that the Tiger group could visit as part of this Big Idea.

1. Visit Town Hall. Learn what services are available for others within your community.
2. Visit a bakery, a restaurant or store.
3. Visit the Fire Station.
4. Visit the Police Station.
5. Have a scavenger hunt. Plan the list of items that can be found locally.
6. Plan a 'make believe' stay at home vacation. What things can be done or visited in your area.





# Big idea 7: Helping others

## general

What would this world be like if people did not help others? It would be a pretty dismal place. Fortunately that is not the type of world we live in. Helping others should be a part of anyone's life. There are those who spend their entire lives doing just that. These people don't do it because it makes for a better world, even though that may be a part of it. They have learned that helping others makes them feel good and makes the one that they have helped feel good also.

This Big Idea gives the Tiger a chance to learn that helping others should be an important part of his life, both now and in the future. Helping others as a family or as a group makes the experience all the more fun and rewarding. Experiences can be shared as memories are made.

In planning a meeting for your Tiger Den centered around this Big Idea, keep in mind that the Tigers will not necessarily know or want to help others. That is not a focus of boys at this age group. You need to KISMIF—keep it simple, make it fun. When Tigers learn that helping others are fun, they will be more willing to help others in the future.

## meeting ideas

1. Play charades. Have each Tiger demonstrate something he can do to help others---without talking. Let the others try to guess what he's doing. At the end of the game discuss which idea the group would like to do together.
2. Make cookies and greeting cards. Present them to residents of a nursing home, a senior's center, hospital children's ward or children's home.
3. Make coupon books offering ways in which the Tiger can help in his own home. Have them present this to his Tiger partner or parent as a gift for redemption at a later time.
4. Collect toys or food items and donate them to a community drive to help the needy. If possible,

visit the donation center to learn more about their programs.

5. Adopt a family in need. Ask each Tiger and his partner to help provide for something special for one person within this family. Note: this does not have to be just during the Christmas season, make it all year long.
6. Participate in a clean-up day at a local church-or-schedule a clean-up day at a community building. Don't forget to reward their hard efforts later with snacks and drinks.
7. Organize and run a carnival. Donate the money to charity.
8. Make bird feeders. Hang them in your backyard or donate them to a local nature center. Learn what different birds like to eat.
9. Make simple gifts such as snack bag clips or recipe card holders. Wrap and give them to someone special.
10. Have a visitor from an Animal Rescue or Wildlife Rescue agency. Learn what you can do to help.

## places to go things to do

There are any number of places to go and things to do within a community for the Tiger Den to learn about helping others. The following is just a partial list. Add your own ideas and go have fun.

1. Visit a community center. Learn what they have to offer in helping others.
2. Go to the Fire Station and meet the people who work their. How does their job help others?
3. Visit a health center. Find out how this place helps those in the community.
4. Visit the Police Station. Is the policeman's only duty catching criminals?
5. Visit a retirement home. Put on a skit, sing some songs, or just visit with the residents. You might even want to adopt a grandparent.
6. Visit with a veterinarian. Learn how he or she helps animals.



# Big idea 8: Go see it

## general

Have you always just wanted to go visit somewhere special and just haven't gotten round to it. Well this is your chance. This big idea gives your and your boy a chance to enjoy all those special places and activities within your area.

Seeing things as a group or family makes for enjoyable times for all. It allows your family to have fun together and to grow together. Stuck for an idea for a Tiger Group meeting. Well, this is the Big idea for you. It is easy. You just "Go See It."

## places to go things to do

Places to Go and Things to do: There are just so many places that a Tiger Group can go, that I am not going to do a meeting scenario. Fortunately for those within the York-Adams Area Council, there is an abundance of places to visit. As the Den leader for this meeting, you still need to abide by National BSA policies. Let your Pack committee know of your trip plans and check to see if a Tour Permit is necessary. If so, see that this form is completed prior to the meeting occurring. Inform your Tiger Partners of meeting plans, where you will meet, how long the trip is planned for and what they can expect, especially if a cost is involved. Once you have done these preliminary steps, you are ready to go.

There are always several hints for getting a group from one place to another. Plan to meet in a convenient spot. If you will be carpooling, make sure there is plenty of safe parking for those cars left behind.

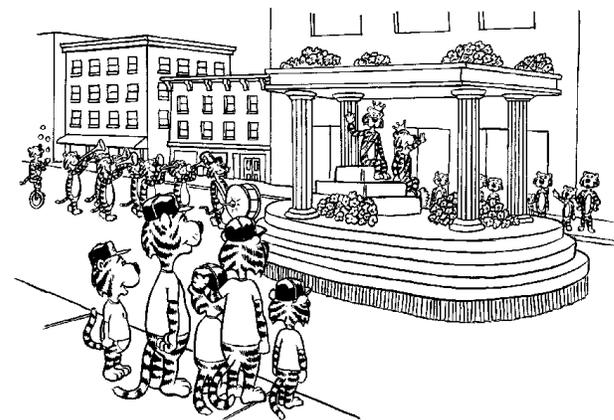
Have someone at home be a designated telephone contact, should an emergency arise or your are delayed in return plans. They can contact families as necessary to avoid unhappy spouses holding dinner plans.

If a partner has a cellular telephone, ask if he/she would mind bringing it along. Know the route you will be taking. If necessary do a test run, so you can give an accurate accounting of travel time.

Contact the place you plan to visit. Inform them of your plans and ask for help in making this a special visit for your Tiger Den. Ask such questions as: Do they have a limit on group size? Is there a cost involved for visiting? Do they have a special speaker for first grade boys?

Places to go:

1. Visit a local nature area or park
2. Visit a historic site or battlefield
3. Visit a zoo.
4. Arrange a tour of a local business, industry, bakery or farm
5. Visit a local marina. How many different boats do they have?
6. Visit the train station. Check out where they go.
7. Go to a fair or exposition.
8. Visit a museum.
9. Visit the library. How many books do they have?
10. Visit a television studio. Go on the air.
11. Visit a radio station. Watch a live air broadcast.
12. Where would you like to go? Plan it and have fun.





# Big idea 9: Getting there

## general

How we get from one place to another is an important part of everyone's lives. In today's society, we travel everywhere: to work, shopping, to church, to visit family, even to vacation spots. If the family automobile is in the repair shop, how does the family get from place to place. Do they ride a bike, walk, or get a ride with someone else?

The purpose of this Big Idea is to allow the Tiger to explore various methods of transportation available to people today. How do we get from place to place? Who runs those trains and planes? How did they get their jobs? What would we do without them. These are just some of the ideas included in this Big Idea for the Tiger to explore. This is also the perfect opportunity to discuss being on time and to be courteous to others. Don't forget maps. We might have the capability to travel from place to place, but without knowing how to get there, we only get lost.

## meeting ideas

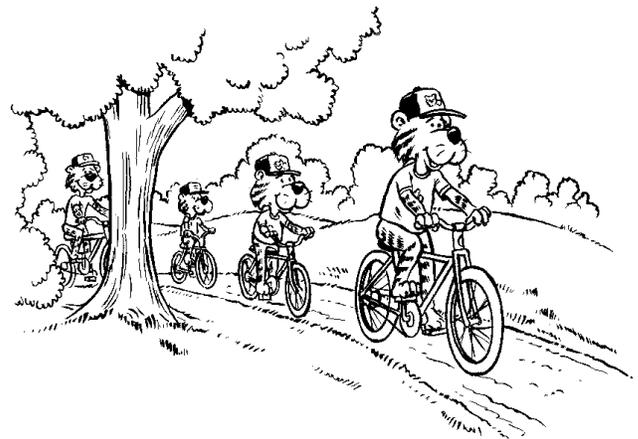
The team running this theme could open their meeting having various cars, trucks, planes and maybe even a bike or train for the Tigers to play with as they gather.

Opening can include a discussion or statement of the inconvenience our society would experience if all these forms of transportation didn't exist. Remind the boys that just one hundred years ago, most people traveled by walking, on horseback or by sailboat. Ask them to think about what their life would be like living back then. How far would they be able to travel in a day? Would families see each other as often? How do they think their family would travel and where? Is it really easy for a handicapped person to travel?

For an activity, the den could make craft cars or planes or draw a picture of an airport. If a Tiger has a special airplane model he would like to share, this would also be the time to do it. The Tiger Cub Resource Book has any number of ideas for an activity for your meeting. Use it. This is a wonderful tool to run your Tiger Program.

## places to go things to do

1. Visit a train station. Take a train ride.
2. Visit a local airport. Try to make advance arrangements to explore a plane.
3. Visit the Bus Station. Check out timetables and where they go. Can you get there from here?
4. Visit a bicycle repair shop. Learn how to check your bike for problems. Take a bicycle ride as a den.
5. Take part in a bicycle rodeo.
6. Visit a local stable. Ride a horse or pony. Take a trail ride.
7. Make arrangements with a local Amish family. Take a buggy ride. Is this form of transportation comfortable. How do you keep warm in the winter?





# Big idea 10: Something special, all your own

## general

This is the one idea that belongs solely to the Tiger Den. There will be times when the monthly theme just doesn't fit with what the Tiger Den would want to do. Then it is time to pull out Big Idea #10. In this Big Idea, the Tigers and their Partners decide what they would like to do. The boys play as big a part in the decision making as the adults. The only requirement is that it needs to be fun for everyone.

You can let your imagination suggest whatever it wants. The important part is that the boys and adults plan the big idea together. Don't forget to include both family and group activities.

As the group decides what the idea is all about, there is no meeting plans or places to go/things to do section for this big idea. Just remember to have fun in whatever you do.





# Big idea 11: Making your family special

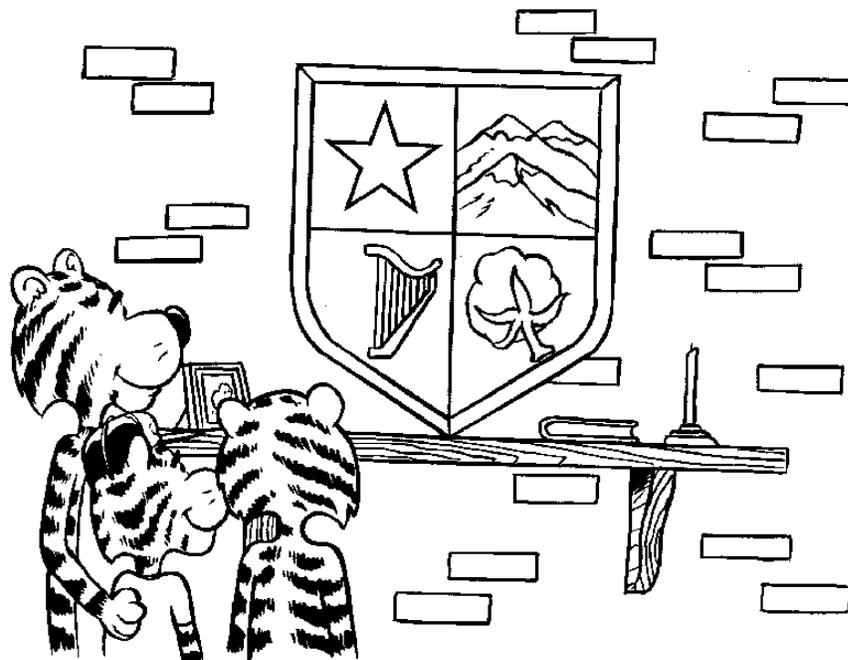
## general

Every family is special in their own way. How they are made up, Where they came from, even Who is part of the family. This makes them one of a kind or unique. Being different allows each family to have its own strengths. Taking the opportunity to talk about his own family allows the Tiger to develop a sense of belonging and pride.

The goal of the BSA with this idea is to make family bonds stronger. This is accomplished by helping the Tiger to see what makes his family special and how they are different from other Tiger families. No way is the Tiger allowed to view another Tiger's family as inferior. Instead, he is encouraged to view the differences with tolerance and helped to understand that being different is 'special.'

## meeting ideas

1. Have a family picnic. Have the Tiger introduce the other members of his family.
2. Ask each Tiger bring 2-4 pictures of something special their family has done together. Let the scout share this with his den.
3. Make a Family Coat of Arms. Include individual preferences of the family members.
4. Play the various Tiger Cub and partner games as listed in the Tiger Cub Resource book.
5. Make a dessert during the meeting, Ask the family members to share it with you after closing.
6. Research the meanings of your names. Share what they signify with the others in your den.





# Big idea 12: Make your own

## general

Everyone loves the feeling they get whenever they finish a project. That is the concept of this Big idea. BSA wants the Tiger to feel proud of whatever they accomplish, knowing that they have worked hard to make something of their very own. The satisfaction of completing a job and the pride of doing one's best are feelings that one never outgrows.

Along with this concept of making one's own, is also the chance to develop patience. Remember how hard it was to do simple things when you were a child. Well, this also pertains to Tigers. Patience is not a concept that can be taught. It is learned. With this idea, we are working on teaching just that thought. Not everything can be made in one meeting, or for that matter in two. You cannot snap your fingers and get a cookie ready to be eaten---not if it is one that needs batter mixed and baked. And even though we are approaching the 21<sup>st</sup> century, we still cannot call on a replicator to give us whatever we need.

BSA wants their Tiger's to learn perseverance and initiative as well. Sticking with a project until it is done is not an easy concept for those first graders who have short attention spans. Because of this, it is suggested that Tigers make simple things. Letting them make their own designs or decorating their projects enables the Tiger to take the initiative. Praise from their partners will provide that the Tiger will continue with their initiative and perseverance.

Tigers love to make things. The joy on their faces when they can say, "Look what I made," is precious. BSA recognizes this. Thus this big idea. So let's see what you can make.

## meeting ideas

This big idea can be used anytime. There is any number of theme related ideas with things to make for them. Holidays lend themselves to any number of items. The kitchen is a wonderful place to start. Every Tiger loves to eat what they make. *Remember: No matter where you are meeting, always check the area for safety issues.* Are knives out of reach? We don't need to tempt our Tigers with the potential for danger. Use common sense if working with hot surfaces, i.e. Stove or oven. Nothing puts a damper on a meeting as much as if there is an injury.

Make Your Own does not have to be the center of a meeting. This theme can be used in conjunction with any of the other Big Ideas. The following are just some examples of things you can do at a meeting.

Make paper bag puppets. Present a puppet show at Pack meeting.

Make a bird feeder with the help of your partner. Hang it in your backyard to watch your feathered friends all winter.

Make a gift for someone special in your family.

Make greeting cards. Send it to someone you know is lonely.

Make a game. Play it as part of a meeting. things to make for them.

Make cookies. Share them with a retirement home.

Make ice cream. Have a sundae party.

Make salt clay. Use it to make Christmas tree decorations.

Make a kite. Go as a Tiger Den and fly them.

## places to go things to do

There are any number of places to go to see how things are made. The fun part of a Tiger outing is to have something to bring home from this special trip. Even more special is if the tiger has made it themselves. This can be something as simple as a visit to the local pizza parlor and making your own personal pizzas. The following is a partial list of places to go with things to do.

1. Visit a bakery. Help decorate cupcakes or cookies.
2. Visit a pretzel factory. Try twisting those pretzels.
3. Visit a cabinet factory. Learn how they use those

power tools safely.

4. Visit a nature center. Make bird feeders or bird houses. How about a bat house?
5. Visit a museum. Try your hand at making Indian costume replicas.
6. Arrange a visit to a craft store. Make a special item to take home.

In arranging a trip for your Tiger Group. Remember to follow the BSA guidelines for taking a trip as discussed in the previous section. Provide advance notice to the business you plan to visit. They may not wish to have your group on certain days or may need to plan ahead in order to have enough supplies on hand. Nothing is more frustrating than to do a trip and find out that not everyone can make something.





# Big idea 13: Caring for your home and household

## general

A neat clean home is a happier home for anyone. In a neat home, people can find things as they are put in their proper place. Not only this, but a clean home is a healthier home. People tend to have less illness when living in a clean home.

Parents are always asking their children to help in the chores and to pick up after themselves. It is just a right of parenting. BSA recognizes this right and is doing their part. Part of the goal of this Big Idea is to help the Tiger realize that if everyone does his part to keep a home clean, neat and fixed up, it will be a happier place. If nothing else, by doing his part, the Tiger will lessen the amount of nagging he gets from his mother.

Another part of this Big Idea is to give the boy a greater appreciation of all the things that others do to keep a home in good shape. He learns that dad cannot always drop what he is doing to play a game of baseball. Not when there is home maintenance to be done. This Big Idea allows the Tiger to participate in simple home maintenance. By doing so, the Tiger is also learning to follow directions. Another goal of this Big Idea.

## meeting ideas

1. Talk about how chores are divided in your families. Discuss how the Tiger can help in doing his share.
2. Make a house shaped picture frame for the Tiger to put a picture of his family in.
3. Talk about how the Tiger cares for his schoolbooks and clothing.
4. Organize a recycling program within your den.
5. Make something useful for your home.

## places to go things to do

1. Visit with a local handyman or contractor. Find out about basic maintenance jobs that need doing on homes in your area.
2. Hold a leaf raking party. Learn how to dispose of them properly.
3. Make holiday decorations to be used in your own home. Make a second set to share with someone who is less fortunate.
4. Visit with a dog groomer or veterinarian. Learn how to care for your pet.





# Big idea 14: Family games, tricks, and puzzles

## general

This is one of the most fun and easiest Big Ideas to do. Basically this is play time for the Tigers. In doing so, the Tigers learn how to be both good winners and good losers. In this idea, they also learn to play by the rules and how to follow directions.

Although this doesn't sound like such a big deal. Stop and think what first graders are like. They want to win. They want to do things their own way and they will break the rules in order to do so. BSA is taking the time to help its Tigers learn how to play with others. Thus this Big Idea. Not only that, but

this idea allows the Tiger to develop patience as he learns to solve a puzzle or invent a new game.

## meeting ideas

1. Hold a den tournament in marbles. Recognize both the winners and the losers.
2. Learn magic tricks. Perform them at a Pack Meeting.
3. Have a families team game.
4. Make jigsaw puzzles and trade them with one another.





# Big idea 15: Fitness and sports

## general

Sports and physical fitness activities are fun. Naturally these activities do more than provide fun for the Tiger and his partner. They can make family members healthier as well as bring the family closer together. BSA wants its members to get up off the couch and go do things. Naturally, they want their members to have fun doing whatever it is and sports and physical activities is the perfect way to do it.

Learning new sports can help the Tiger develop self-confidence and self-esteem. There is nothing more special than a little boy yelling, "I can do it!" at the top of his lungs. The pride that goes with this is just as special. However, winning is not emphasized in BSA Sports.

As good sportsmanship and teamwork are promoted with this Big Idea, the Tiger will learn some important values that will extend far beyond sports. No one likes a 'poor loser' and Tigers need to be taught this. Many a first grade boy, thinks the first part of any sport is winning. He needs to be reminded that someone also has to lose. In Cub Scouts, we don't ask for winners, we only ask that you 'do your best.'

Teamwork, how to work with others is another skill encouraged by the Boy Scout Program. Getting along with others, working well with others, no always being the leader: are all skills that the Tiger will use throughout his life. This is also the time to remind tigers that Physical Fitness means in both body and mind. This is the time to discuss the use of drugs and alcohol on the body. Don't get heavy duty here. Remember these are only first graders.

The Fitness and Sports Big Idea helps to teach these skills and ideals. More than anything remember, sports is just plain fun.

## meeting ideas

Meetings centered around sports and physical fitness usually need to be planned when the weather will allow the teams to be outdoors. Begin with a gathering activity that will allow the boys to identify various different sports activities. They could match pictures to the sport name, practice basic physical fitness activities such as sit-ups and jumping, or review the rules for a specific game they will be playing. After the opening, the boys could set-up and play a game or sing a favorite sports song. How about the "take me out to the ball game" song. The Tiger team could also have a guest for their meeting such as a High School coach or Physical Fitness teacher to discuss the merits of a good sports program. Have this person stay to answer any questions later and perhaps to teach the boys a sport.

For closing, reflect a minute on what being a good sportsman means. Remind the Tigers that they have their entire future before them and that they can make whatever they like of it.

## places to go things to do

1. Hold a mini-olympics. Discuss the training required for true Olympic athletes.
2. Go to a sporting event.
3. Go bowling.
4. Start a family height chart. Put the Tiger's measurement in his scrapbook.
5. Take the President's Physical Fitness test. Compare the Tiger to his partner.
6. Play baseball, soccer or any other team sport..
7. Go on a hike.
8. Visit a Sports Medicine clinic. Learn how to prevent sports injuries.
9. Learn a new sport and play it together.

REMINDERS: Always have plenty of water on hand while playing sports. Make sure you recognize the winners and the losers in any game.



# Big idea 16: Tell it like it is

## general

Not many Tigers will be able to define the word communication. This is an awfully big word for a first grade boy. This Big Idea explores the ways in which people communicate with each other. How do we tell our stories? How does the deaf person get their ideas across? Can a blind person read a book? How would you send a secret message so others could not read it? These are just some of the ideas you can explore with this Big Idea.

How to get your message across clearly is another goal of this Big Idea. This big idea is designed to allow the tiger Team to have fun while learning to communicate better with those around them. Think of all the ways we do communicate. This can be a fun and really interesting project.

## meeting ideas

1. Review you Tiger Scrapbook. How does this help you communicate with yourself?
2. Learn simple sign language.

3. Get a book in Braille from the Library. Try to read it.
4. Have a guest speaker such as a parent of a blind or deaf child. Ask them to tell the Tiger Den how they help their child communicate.
5. Learn a song and sing it at a Pack Meeting.
6. Learn telephone etiquette. How do you answer the phone politely?

## places to go things to do

1. Visit a newspaper office. Learn how they collect their news and spread the word.
2. Design your own Tiger secret Code. Send messages to each other.
3. Visit a television or cable studio.
4. Visit the Post Office. How does the mail get sent to others?
5. Play a 'gossip game.' Show tigers how messages never seem to end up as they started.
6. Visit the telephone office.
7. Explore the Internet. Learn how to computers help us meet and exchange ideas with others.





# Big idea 17: Cub scouting, here we come

## general

This Big Idea is reserved for May or the month in which the Tiger Den will graduate. As a Tiger Den you are in the first level of the Cub Scout Program. This theme allows for preparation of the den to advance into the next level or Wolves. Tigers are encouraged to look over the Wolf book, learn the Bobcat Trail and start planning future Cub Scouting activities.

Traditionally, the completion of this Big Idea culminates in the Tiger Cub Graduation Ceremony. Many of these are included in the Tiger Resource Book and your Cubmaster and Tiger Den Coach will plan this event. This is a time for celebration. Your den has worked hard and deserves to be rewarded. They have spent the year learning to 'Search, Discover, and Share.' Now they are going to learn the Cub Scout Motto of 'Do Your Best' and they will. They are ready to travel onward in scouting. Remember: HAVE FUN!

## meeting ideas

These meetings are a time for reflection and planning. You may want to ask your Tiger Den Coach to participate.

1. Review what you have done throughout the year and with the new friends you have made.
2. Look at the Wolf Book, review the Bobcat Trail and explain the importance of this. Make copies of this (found in the Tiger Resource Book) and distribute to each Tiger team. Ask them to start learning this.
3. Talk of your plans as Wolves. Do you perhaps have a set of parents who would be willing to be

Den Leaders? If so, have them complete and Adult Volunteer Registration Form and submit to your Pack Committee. Have parents fill out and complete the Cub Scout Application, lettering 'Tiger Cub Transfer' across the top and submit to your local Council Service Center by June 1. This will allow your Tiger Cub Graduates to participate in Summer Camp---Tigers cannot. As Cub Scouts, these graduates will also be able to work toward and earn the National Summertime Award.

4. Finally, participate in your graduation ceremony. Tigers have watched the other Cub Scouts receive advancements and recognitions throughout the year. Now it is their time to shine. Meet with the Tiger Den Coach to find out the details.

## places to go things to do

1. Hold a "We did it" ice cream party. Use orange sherbet and chocolate sauce to represent the Tiger colors. Celebrate your year as Tigers. Have your new friends autograph your Tiger Scrapbook.
2. Review the Wolf book. Ask the Tigers to list things they would like to do next year as wolves.
3. Practice the Cub Scout Law and promise. Learn to do the Cub Scout salute and handshake.
4. Make a Cub Scout neckerchief slide to wear with your Wolf neckerchief next year.
5. Review the Cub Scout uniform. Learn where the patches go.