



Supplemental Bear Den Meeting H

Space
Elective 1c.

Preparation and Materials Needed

- ▶ Make arrangements for a field trip to a local planetarium.
 - Consider whether local colleges, science museums, or nature centers have planetariums. A local astronomy club may be able to help.
 - The National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) has “Space Place” partnerships with community museums, libraries, planetariums, zoos, and aquariums in every state in the U.S. For locations, see <http://spaceplace.nasa.gov/en/kids/museums/index.shtml>, and see the NASA resources at <http://spaceplace.nasa.gov/en/kids/cubscouts/index.shtml#bear>.
 - Be sure your host knows how long you need to have someone make a presentation, and that you’ve confirmed what can or should be covered that would be interesting and fun for the Scouts.
- ▶ Materials checklist (add to your den Cub tub of U.S./den flags, paper/pencils, other supplies):
 - One or more simple telescopes or binoculars, if not available at the planetarium.
 - Paper and pencils for drawing the solar system.
 - Astronomy belt loops for each Scout.

Before the Meeting

- ▶ Make final preparations with assistance from any assistant den leader or other parent helper, den chief, and/or denner. Organize the space (seating, flags, advancement charts, activity materials, handouts, etc.). If you’re snacking, organize space for that and the cleanup.

Gathering

- ▶ Have a gathering activity (games, puzzles, other) that will keep Scouts interested and busy, and that others may join as they arrive. If the den desires, serve a healthy snack during this time.
- ▶ Collect dues, record attendance and any advancement completed at home (a good job for an assistant den leader). Assign parents to meeting roles and hand out a meeting plan to each.

Opening

- ▶ Flag ceremony (indoor or outdoor) with Pledge; maybe recite the Cub Scout Promise or sing a patriotic song (or other opening); perhaps add a roll call, uniform recognition, or den yell.

Business Items

- ▶ Remind the boys of appropriate behavior, including safety considerations, at the site of your visit.
- ▶ Use this time to discuss participation in coming pack meetings or pack events, as needed.

Activities

- ▶ **Elective 1c:** Visit a planetarium.
- ▶ **Astronomy belt loop:** Complete these three:
 - Set up and demonstrate how to focus a simple telescope or binoculars. (A local astronomy club may be a resource for this activity.)
 - Draw a diagram of our solar system—identify the planets and other objects.
 - Explain the following terms: planet, star, solar system, galaxy, the Milky Way, black hole, red giant, white dwarf, comet, meteor, moon, asteroid, star map, and universe.



Want More Fun Activities?

If the planetarium activity is dry or limited, you might do Supplemental Bear Den Meeting I: Make a Pinhole Planetarium. Or you might find nearby space to do some more of **Achievement 15b** ("Play two organized games with your den."), which could also be **Achievement 15c** for someone ("Select a game that your den has never played. Explain the rules. Tell them how to play it, and then play it with them.")

- ▶ Examples of games that can be played (including some unusual games) are found throughout this guide, and more are found in the *Cub Scout Leader's How-To Book*.
- ▶ Or play your den's favorite game.

Closing

- ▶ Award (or recognize) any advancement completed at this meeting; thank hosts, guests, and helpers.
- ▶ Closing ceremony: Retire the colors (fold and return the flag), or have a den leader's minute with a Living Circle, or the Law of the Pack and den yell (or other ceremony).
- ▶ Hand out or send family information letter.

After the Meeting

- ▶ If you've changed the sequence of den meetings, double-check to make sure you will still advance your boys appropriately and check with the Cubmaster to make sure you stay coordinated with the pack.
- ▶ Refreshments: If appropriate
- ▶ Cleanup: Recruit enough help to do a good job. Scouts always leave an area as clean, or cleaner, than they found it.