



Supplemental Wolf Den Meeting B

Spare Time Fun
Elective 5.

Preparation and Materials Needed

- ▶ These den meetings can be held in advance of your pack's annual pinewood derby. If you're doing this meeting after your pinewood derby, then find something else fun and interesting to build.
- ▶ Ideally, make arrangements for your den to take a Go See It to a parent's house that has a good (and safe) area for woodworking. A local hardware store may be willing to assist you for this work.
- ▶ **Note:** Power tools are not appropriate for use by Cub Scouts. (See Age-Appropriate Guidelines for Scouting activities at www.scouting.org/HealthandSafety/Resources/AgeAppropriateGuidelines.)
- ▶ Materials checklist (add to your den Cub tub of U.S. and den flags, paper and pencils, other supplies):
 - Pinewood derby car kit for each boy. These can be purchased at your local Scout shop.
 - Saws, hammers, wood rasps, drills, weight inserts (washers, fishing weights or other), sandpaper, paint, decals, smocks. A good scale to weigh the cars is very useful.

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.
- ▶ If you're on a field trip, as boys arrive, collect permission slips from parents who are not staying.

Opening

- ▶ Conduct a flag ceremony, indoor (**Achievement 2b**) or outdoor (**Achievement 2f**). Options include: Gather in a line, circle, or square; Pledge of Allegiance; have the Scout leading the ceremony tell what the Pledge means (**Achievement 2a**); Cub Scout Promise or Law of the Pack; lead patriotic song.

Business Items

- ▶ Explain the upcoming pinewood derby, what you know of the participation and competition rules, and how you'll go about making the cars today. Outline all safety ground rules for your location and attendees.
- ▶ Use this time to discuss participation in coming pack meetings or events, as needed.

Activities

- ▶ **Elective 5** ("Make or put together some kind of model boat, airplane, train, or car."): Build pinewood derby cars with each Scout.
 - It will likely take two or more meetings to make the pinewood derby car.
 - Start by cutting and sanding the block of wood.
 - The den leader may wish to hold all of the wheels and axles until the second meeting. The cars can be painted at the next meeting. Apply decals when the paint is dry.
 - The Cub Scout and adult should make the car together as a project. Don't let the Cub Scout just stand around while the adult cuts and sands and does all the work. Parents should shape with tools, power tools or whatever (let the Scout help as he can on the rasping and sanding), and then direct the rest of the action while showing the boy each step in building a car. Let your Scout work to his ability.
 - Den leaders: Watch carefully, and be sure that adult partners don't get carried away with this project and leave out their Cubs in the process. If this is a risk, you might suggest to your pack that they have an adult division so the adult partners can have a way to participate while allowing their Cub Scouts to really do their own cars.

- ▶ Watch this meeting carefully, because you'll probably need some breaks. Be sure to mix in brief games and songs (serious or silly) to change the pace of the meeting. Cub Scouts have short attention spans, and you and they will have more fun and focus better if you mix it up.

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.

