

Cub Scouts will learn about the wonders of one of nature’s gifts to us—a tree! Also, they will learn to identify poison oak, poison ivy, and various trees by their shape and leaf design. Try making leaf rubbings and 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. Plant a tree 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 park. Earn the Collecting belt loop and pin.

PACK PLANNING

What better place to celebrate trees than the great outdoors! The pack meeting will be held outdoors—at a park or nature center—where everyone can celebrate and play lots of outdoor games. You may choose to invite a guest speaker to share his or her knowledge of trees or forests. Appoint the following committees:

Site Committee. Scout out locations before the pack meeting. Is the area safe for boys and families? Do you need to bring chairs or blankets? Are parking and restroom facilities adequate? Make reservations if needed. Have an indoor location available in case of bad weather.

Greeting Committee. Welcome families to the pack meeting. Prepare the Guess the Site gathering activity; distribute and explain the game to families. Create and distribute name tags.

Awards Committee. The outdoors provides a memorable place for awards this month. Use your surroundings to help make memories special.

Cleanup Committee. Practice Leave No Trace principles and leave the pack meeting location cleaner than you found it.

Some of the purposes of Cub Scouting developed through this month’s theme include:

- **Fun and Adventure.** Cub Scouts will find themselves outdoors—and fun always follows.
- **Preparation for Boy Scouts.** Get a taste of the fun you will have camping and hiking as you advance from Cub Scouting to Boy Scouting.

This theme is designed to promote character development by emphasizing these core values:

- **Perseverance.** Cub Scouts will learn to stand steadfast in the face of discouragement, just like 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.

Pack Meeting

BEFORE THE MEETING

Secure an outdoor location for the pack meeting. Publicize the time and place. Gather any necessary equipment for games.

All committees arrive early to set up the games and display areas. A quick walk-through of the site (to be sure there are no pieces of glass or undesirable leavings of others) will ensure the best location for Cub Scout families.

Set out balloons or streamers or den flags to be sure that families can quickly identify the meeting area as they arrive.

GATHERING

Greeters welcome families to the pack meeting. Direct boys to the craft and collections display area where they can place their wares. Encourage boys and families to look at displays and play the Guess the Site gathering activity (2 MAY). Provide name tags so that pack family members can be easily identified in the public area.

MAIN PART OF THE MEETING

Opening

Invite a den or pack family to present the Leaf It (2 MAY) or What Do I See? (2 MAY) opening ceremony, or present a suitable ceremony from *Cub Scout Ceremonies for Dens and Packs*. Use the outdoor setting to select an appropriate and memorable ceremony.

Prayer

Call a preselected Cub Scout forward to share the Thank You for Trees prayer (2 MAY). Invite all pack members to join in prayer, meditation, or silence, as is their custom.

Icebreaker

Everyone stands as they clap, jump, and stomp the Tree Chant (3 MAY).

Welcome and Introductions

The Cubmaster welcomes everyone to the pack meeting. Introduce special guests, speakers, and new members of the pack.

Song

Lead the group in “See the Forest” (2 MAY). Try it as a round. Or, sing “The Bear Song” (*Cub Scout Songbook*).

Den Demonstrations

Invite the denner from each den to show off some crafts and collections, or report on field trips or activities done this month.

Game

Get everyone involved in the Tree Hunt (3 MAY), Tree Scramble (3 MAY), or Squirrel and Fox (3 MAY).

Recognition

Honor boys who have earned rank advancements with the Johnny Appleseed advancement ceremony. Or choose another ceremony from *Cub Scout Ceremonies for Dens and Packs*.

Announcements

Briefly share plans for upcoming summertime activities, such as field trips and day camp. Have a leader dressed in

athletic attire jog in and announce the theme for next month's pack meeting, Go for the Gold.

Cubmaster's Minute

Wind down the festivities with the thought-provoking story "The Gift of Trees" (3 MAY and *Cub Scout Leader How-To Book*).

Closing

Assign a den or pack family to share the What's So Great About Trees? closing ceremony (3 MAY). Have an honor guard retrieve the colors.

Cubmaster Corner

THEME CEREMONIES

You can create lots of memorable experiences through the advancement recognition for all boys. The Cubmaster sets the stage for a moment to remember by being creative. Let the theme be your guide. For the Leaf It to Cubs theme, consider the many ways you can use leaves to present the awards. Next month's sports theme, Go for the Gold, presents the opportunity to use plenty of props, such as sporting equipment, balls, protective gear, and rulebooks. An umpire or celebrity can present them.

Ceremonies, Games, Songs, Stunts

GATHERING ACTIVITY:

GUESS THE SITE

Materials: Photographs or sketches of familiar places in your neighborhood, pencil and paper for each family

Have available a series of photographs or sketches of scenes in the neighborhood that would be familiar to everyone, such as an unusual statue, building, or tree; a striking landscape or farm; a bridge; a train station or airport, etc. Number each picture. As the families arrive, give each a pencil and paper and see which family can correctly name the sites.

OPENING CEREMONY: LEAF IT

Equipment: Six large leaf-shaped signs that spell L-E-A-F I-T. Each Cub Scout holds up his leaf and says his line.

L Look around and you will see
E Everywhere it's trees, trees, trees!
A Aspen, palm, willow, walnut,
F Fir and elm, dogwood, chestnut.
I In the shade of a tall old tree,
T The great outdoors is the place to be.
ALL: So, let's Leaf It to Cub Scouts!

OPENING CEREMONY: WHAT DO I SEE?

Equipment: Flag posted at the front of the room

CUBMASTER: Trees provide us with many useful things, besides being a natural part of our earth. Trees can be useful but also should be cherished and protected.

BOY 1: What do I see when I see a tree? Oranges and apples and peaches to eat.

BOY 2: What do I see when I see a tree? A pinewood derby car made by dad and me.

BOY 3: What do I see when I see a tree? The paper for books in the library.

BOY 4: What do I see when I see a tree? The walls of the home of my family.

BOY 5: What do I see when I see a tree? The hull of the pilgrim ships sailing across the sea.

BOY 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, please stand and join us in the Pledge of Allegiance.

PRAYER: THANK YOU FOR TREES

Thank you for the trees. Thank you for their fruit to eat and the cool shade they give. Thank you for giving the birds a place to live and the Cub Scouts a place to play. Thank you for the evergreens and the colorful fall leaves. We feel gratitude for the opportunity to take care of these great gifts. Blessed be and amen.

SONG: SEE THE FOREST

Tune: Are You Sleeping?
See the forest, see the forest.
Trees so tall, trees so tall.
Tow'ring overhead,
Tow'ring overhead,
I feel small. I feel small.

ADVANCEMENT CEREMONY: JOHNNY APPLESEED

Equipment: Table, awards to be presented (Attach awards to apples, if desired.)

CUBMASTER: Many years ago, when our country was young and growing, a man named Jonathan Chapman fell in love with apples. He had visions of people all over the country enjoying this fruit. He decided to make his vision a reality and set off across the land planting apple seeds

wherever he went. You may know this man by his nickname, Johnny Appleseed. Johnny planted thousands of apple seeds in his lifetime. First he would dig a small hole, then drop the seed in and cover it with dirt. He probably watered it before he went on his way. Then he let nature do its work.

Our Cub Scouts are very much like the trees Johnny Appleseed planted so long ago. (*Calls Bobcat candidates and their families forward.*) These boys and their families are like seeds. They have just been planted in our pack. These boys have learned the Cub Scout Promise, the Law of the Pack, and other exciting things needed to become a Cub Scout, but they will need our assistance to grow and flourish in the Cub Scout program. (*Presents awards to parents who present them to boys.*)

(*Calls Tiger Cubs and parents forward.*) The seed grows into a tiny tree. It has to survive the cold of winter, the heat of summer, and the animals of the wilderness. Our Tiger Cubs are beginning to grow in Scouting. Congratulations! Keep growing in Scouting.

(*Calls Wolf Cub Scouts and parents forward.*) The tiny tree, or sapling, spends its days growing into a stronger tree. It learns to bend with the harsh winds. It gets nourishment from the soil, the sun, and the rain. Twelve achievements have been completed to help our Wolf Cub Scouts grow in knowledge. These parents and leaders have encouraged and nourished them all along the way. (*Presents awards to parents who present them to boys.*) Congratulations! Keep progressing in Scouting.

(*Calls Bear Cub Scouts and parents forward.*) The tree has started to mature, and

is now large enough to produce blossoms. Our Bear Cub Scouts have blossomed in the areas of God, Country, Self, and Others. They have completed twelve achievements and are ready to grow into the rank of Bear. (*Presents award to parents who present them to boys.*) Congratulations! Keep blossoming in Scouting.

(*Call Webelos Scouts and parents forward.*) Finally the apple appears on the tree. As the days pass, the apple grows larger until it is ready to be picked. Our Webelos Scouts have grown in knowledge of physical fitness, citizenship, and other exciting activities. Along the way, they have learned about (*names some activity badges earned by the den*) and have matured as young men and Scouts. They have explored the world of Boy Scouting and are eager to cultivate the things they have learned as Cub Scouts into greater knowledge as Boy Scouts. (*Presents award to parents who present them to boys.*) Congratulations! Keep flourishing in Scouting.

Just as Johnny Appleseed worked hard to make his vision a reality, so have all of you Cub Scouts. Continue to work hard and grow, progress, blossom, and flourish as you advance through Scouting and life. (*Leads an appropriate applause.*)

GAMES

Tree Scramble

Players stand in a circle with one player in the center. The person in the center gives each player the name of a tree, being sure to use the same name more than once so that several players will have the same tree. (Having a list of tree names is helpful.) The person in the center calls out the name of a tree, and the first player to scramble into the circle, touch the person in the middle, and return to his place wins the scramble. The game continues as more names are called.

Tree Hunt

Equipment: Slips of paper with the names of trees, pins, pencils, cards

While everyone stands in a circle, several assistants pin a paper with the name of a tree on everyone's back. Give each player a pencil and card. The object is to find out the names of as many trees as possible. Each player avoids showing his own back while he tries to read the other names. No one may stand still with his back against a wall or tree.

Squirrel and Fox

Have all except two players form circles of three or four boys each. Each circle counts off, and the 1's go into the circle and become "squirrels." The others then form "hollow trees" by holding hands. The two other players are the "fox" and the "homeless squirrel." The fox tries to catch the homeless squirrel. When the chase becomes too hot, the homeless squirrel takes refuge in any tree, thereby forcing the squirrel inside to leave. The fox now tries to catch this squirrel. If caught, the squirrel becomes a fox and the chase continues. After a few minutes, have the number 2's in each circle become squirrels.

CUBMASTER'S MINUTE: THE GIFT OF TREES

"The Gift of Trees" is in the *Cub Scout Leader How-to Book*. It is somewhat longer than your average Cubmaster's minute, but it is a good story to use at the close of this meeting. Review "Storytelling Hints" in the *Cub Scout Leader How-To Book* for suggestions to strengthen your storytelling skills.

CLOSING CEREMONY: WHAT'S SO GREAT ABOUT TREES?

Setup: Six Cub Scouts each hold a drawing of a tree

ALL: What's so great about trees?

CUB SCOUT 1: Trees give us cool shade on a hot day.

CUB SCOUT 2: Trees give the birds a place to nest.

CUB SCOUT 3: Trees give us food like fruit and nuts.

CUB SCOUT 4: Trees give us fresh air to breathe.

CUB SCOUT 5: Trees give us wood to build our homes.

CUB SCOUT 6: Trees give us a place to climb and play.

ALL: That's what's so great about trees!

SKIT: GETTING DIRECTIONS

Props: A "tree" sign for each boy, large arrow with the name of a city written on it

A lone hiker is trudging through the wilderness and comes to a clump of trees. (*Boys are standing with their backs to the audience, each wearing a sign that reads "tree."*)

HIKER: I'm tired and I guess I'm lost too. Now which way is west? Seems I remember my old Cubmaster saying you could tell north by looking for moss on the side of the trees. (*He begins to look around. Trees turn to face the audience. Each holds a sign with a pointing arrow and the name of a city—St. Louis, New York, San Francisco, etc.*)

HIKER: Thanks, trees! That beats moss any time. (*All run off.*)

APPLAUSES

Bear-Hug a Tree. When lost in the forest, a Cub Scout should "Hug a Tree." Put your arms around your own shoulders and give yourself a big bear hug, just like that tree.

RUNS-ONS

CUB SCOUT 1: What are these holes in the trees?

CUB SCOUT 2: They're knotholes.

CUB SCOUT 1: If they're not holes, then what are they?

CUB SCOUT 1: I'm the world's greatest lumberjack.

CUB SCOUT 2: Really? Where did you learn to cut down trees?

CUB SCOUT 1: The Sahara Forest.

CUB SCOUT 2: Don't you mean the Sahara Desert?

CUB SCOUT 1: Oh, is that what they call it now?

ICEBREAKER: TREE CHANT

Invite the audience to stand. Start by establishing a clap, stomp rhythm. The leader says the phrase and the audience repeats it. Jump up every time you say, "Tree." The leader can vary the volume for more fun.

Tree.	Tree.
Redwood.	Walnut.
Tall, tall, tall.	Crunchy, crunchy,
Redwood.	crunchy.
Tree.	Walnut.
Pine tree.	Tree.
Needle, needle,	Maple.
pinecone.	Sticky, sticky syrup.
Pine tree.	Maple.
Tree.	Trees.
Fruit tree.	Trees, trees.
Apple, cherry,	We love trees!
orange.	Trees.
Fruit tree.	

May Pack Program Page: Leaf It to Cubs

ACADEMICS AND SPORTS PROGRAM

Academics

Astronomy. Big Dipper, Little Dipper, Ursa Major—so many stars, so little time! With warmer weather here, and evenings more enjoyable, boys can venture out with an adult and see the stars. Learn about constellations and other heavenly bodies. In a few years as Boy Scouts, they'll see the evening sky during campouts and be able to share their knowledge with the troop.

Sports

Fishing. Once your Cub Scouts learn local fishing regulations and how to bait a hook, they can try to catch a fish and develop skills that will last a lifetime while earning the belt loop and pin for this sport.

FAMILY ACTIVITY

No one said it would be easy to persevere in adverse circumstances, but when we do, we can overcome almost anything. This month would be a good time to correlate the "Overcoming Obstacles" section in *Cub Scouting's BSA Family Activity Book* with this month's emphasis on the Character Connection for Perseverance. Suggested activities include role-playing, discovering ways to relieve stress, and reading aloud a book about overcoming obstacles.

DID YOU KNOW?

Derbies

Most Cub Scout families and packs are familiar with the Pinewood Derby[®], where boys turn blocks of wood into derby cars. There are other types of derbies in Cub Scouting. The Space Derby[®] uses propeller-driven rockets powered by rubber bands. The Rain-gutter Regatta[®] is a derby for boats. For the Cubmobile derby, each den builds a Cubmobile and races it. Fishing derbies and kite derbies are also fun activities. The *Cub Scout Leader How-To Book* has plans on how to make these special events well organized, safe, and fun.

GOOD TURN FOR AMERICA

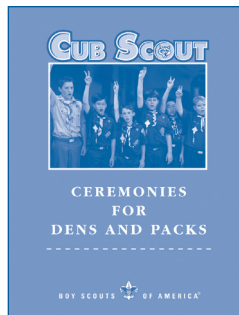
This month Cub Scouts can get down and dirty by participating in local events. Most likely there will be opportunities for tree plantings or native plant re-plantings. Many local and state parks invite the public to help in planting events.



BSA RESOURCES

HIGHLIGHT

Cub Scout Ceremonies for Dens and Packs. Check your pack library for a look at this valuable book, which presents ceremonies for



den meetings, pack meetings, advancement, recognition, and much more. When there are special recognitions, this publication can provide a good start for a ceremony to make the event shine. Den leaders will enjoy the many suggestions for adding recognition to their den activities.

PACK LEADERS' PLANNING MEETING

Pack leaders meet one or two weeks before the pack meeting to review the final details for this month's meeting and to review plans for the June meeting.

Invite a guest speaker such as a park ranger or a forest service representative. You may find someone from a local university or college or a Forestry merit badge counselor.

Make sure appropriate materials will be available for the ceremonies. Encourage dens to do the Leave No Trace activities and present their posters at the pack meeting.

Contact all parents and officers of the chartered organization to let them know when and where the pack meeting will be held. If your pack meeting is being held at a different location from

usual, distribute maps about how to get there.

Plan the June pack meeting and make assignments. The theme is Go for the Gold. You may want to invite local amateur or professional athletes and coaches to speak about what it means to practice good sportsmanship and the hard work and dedication it takes to "Do Your Best."

In many packs, the dens will graduate to the next rank. Encourage each boy to complete the advancement for his current program level.

Conduct Unit Leadership Enhancement No. 2, "Annual Program Planning," to anticipate the annual pack program planning conference. Choose a topic from the *Cub Scout Leader Book* for next month and assign someone to facilitate it.

LOOKING AHEAD

Designate your summertime pack activities for June, July, and August so your pack and dens may qualify for the National Summertime Pack Award. Scout out locations for your outdoor activities and reserve those locations now. Share the date of the annual program planning conference with pack families.

PACK TRAINER HIGHLIGHT

Review recognitions earned by all pack leaders. Encourage leaders to complete the necessary paperwork to receive their training award. Not only does it enhance the uniform, but also the Cub Scouts notice that their leaders are "advancing" along with them.

Look at new leaders for next year and find out training dates so they can be prepared to attend.

OUTDOOR IDEAS FOR EVERYONE

Tiger Cubs. Go outside and watch the weather (*Achievement 5F*).

Wolf Cub Scouts. Go roller skating (always wear protective gear).

Bear Cub Scouts. Plant a tree (*Achievement 6b*).

Webelos Scouts. Earn the Fishing belt loop (*Sportsman activity badge*).

Leaf It to Cubs: Tiger Cub Den Meetings

Each Tiger Cub and his adult partner should attend all meetings as a team.

Dens may meet in the evenings or on weekends.

Full or partial credit may be received for the following advancement possibilities highlighted in this month's meeting plans.

WHEN	FIRST WEEK	SECOND WEEK	THIRD WEEK	FOURTH WEEK
The Tiger Cub den leader shares leadership with a Tiger Cub adult partner. This team should review plans before each meeting and check equipment needed.				
BEFORE THE MEETING STARTS	Have U.S. flag; materials for Cleanup Treasure Hunt (<i>Elective 33</i>) and Bird Feeders (6 MAY).	Have U.S. flag; materials for Cleanup Treasure Hunt (<i>Elective 33</i>) and Bird Feeders (6 MAY).	Call the Go See It destination to confirm arrangements, times, fees, etc.	Host team writes a thank-you note to the destination of last week's Go See It.
Den leader may collect dues. Den leader checks boys' books for completed advancement requirements and records them on Den Advancement Chart. Boys record own advancement on den doodle, if den has one.				
GATHERING	Play Cleanup Treasure Hunt.	Play Tree Tag (6 MAY). Do leaf rubbings of leaves from trees used as bases during Tree Tag (<i>Achievement 5D</i>).		
OPENING	Recite the Pledge of Allegiance. Say the Cub Scout motto.	Recite the Pledge of Allegiance. Say the Cub Scout Promise.		
SHARE	Each Tiger Cub shares one reason that trees are important.	Each Tiger Cub shares with the den what birds he saw around his bird feeder.	GO SEE IT: Take a hike near a river or park (<i>Achievement 5G</i>). Plan to have a picnic while on your hike (<i>Elective 22</i>).	Participate in the monthly pack meeting by sharing the Infant Tree skit and information about the den's Go See It. Tiger Cubs and adult partners sign the thank-you note.
DISCOVER	Make Bird Feeders. Encourage boys to set them out and observe the birds to report back next week.	Make Leaf Poundings and then frame them in Twig Frames. Practice the Infant Tree skit (6 MAY) to perform at the pack meeting.	At the end of the trip, lead a reflecting discussion with boys and adult partners about their outing.	
SEARCH	Search out ways that Tiger Cubs can help protect trees. Tie these into Frontcountry Principles of Leave No Trace. (see the <i>Cub Scout Leader Book</i>).	Hand out information about next week's Go See It.	A totem bead may be presented for completion of <i>Achievement 5G</i> .	
CLOSING	Boys form a Living Circle and recite the Cub Scout Promise.	Form a Living Circle and recite the Law of the Pack.		
This month's shared leadership team reviews the meeting. The den leader should meet briefly with the Tiger Cub and adult partner who will share leadership at the next den meeting.				
AFTER THE MEETING	Den leader files tour permit with local council service center for Go See It.	Talk to Tiger Cub team in charge of the next month. Offer resources or ideas as needed.	Den leader fills out den advancement report for the pack leaders' meeting.	Den leader mails the thank-you note.
CHECK WITH YOUR PACK TRAINER OR CUBMASTER FOR ROUNDTABLE DATES AND OTHER TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES.				

Tiger Cub Den Activities

Advancement possibilities highlighted in this month's meeting plans: Achievements 5D, 5G; Electives 4, 22, 30, 32, 33

During this month, get your Tiger Cubs outside. Use this opportunity to observe the weather (Achievement 5F) and work on the Weather belt loop and pin. Together you can work in the yard (Achievement 1F) or you can help an elderly neighbor in his or her yard (Elective 10). Take time to learn about the various birds and animals that live in your trees (Elective 31).

LEAF POUNDINGS

Materials: Fresh leaves and flowers (pick as close as possible to using them so they don't dry out), cotton muslin, rubber mallet or hammer, masking tape, piece of wood (to protect the table), iron, cardboard, glue

Cut the muslin into 8-by-8-in. squares. Lay one or two flowers or leaves facedown on the muslin. Cover them with masking tape. Flip the muslin over and lay it on top of the piece of wood. Use the mallet to hammer out the flowers and leaves. As you are hammering, the color will be released and the image should appear on your fabric. Remove the leaves and tape. Have the adult partner use the iron to set the colors. Once the piece of fabric has been ironed, lay it on the table with the image facedown. Center a 6-by-6-in. square of cardboard on the fabric. Use the glue to attach the extra fabric to the back of the cardboard. Use masking tape to finish the raw edges.

TISSUE PAPER FLOWER POT

Materials: 6-in. clay pot, white craft glue or decoupage medium, clear acrylic sealer, foam paintbrush, lots of tissue paper cut up into ¾-in. squares, wax paper to protect work surface

Cover the flowerpot with a thick layer of glue. Lay single tissue paper squares on the wet glue to cover the pot completely. Don't be afraid to overlap the squares. Let it dry and then apply clear acrylic sealer. When complete, fill with soil and plant a seed (*Elective 30*) to care for as it grows.

TREE TAG

(*Elective 35*)

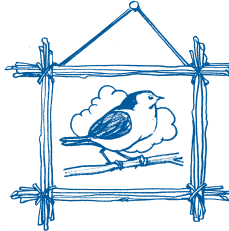
Choose a Tiger Cub to be "It." Play tag using trees as the base. Anyone touching the base forces the present base holder to run to another base.

TWIG FRAMES

(*Elective 4*)

Materials: Lots of small, straight twigs; glue; twine or yarn; cardboard; picture to be framed; ruler; low-temperature glue gun

Measure the picture to be framed and cut out a piece of cardboard the same size. Glue the picture to the cardboard. Break the twigs into pieces that are about 2 in. longer than each side of the picture. Arrange the sticks to form the picture frame. Adult partners use the glue gun to tack the sticks down. Use twine or yarn to wrap the four corners in an X pattern. Glue the ends of the twine to the back of the sticks. Now glue the picture to the back of the frame. Glue a piece of twine to the back of the photo to hang.



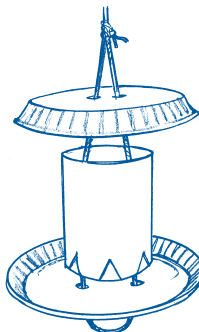
THE INFANT TREE

This simple little skit is easy to adapt to the number of Tiger Cubs. Throughout the course of the pack meeting, have Tiger Cub teams (boy with adult partner) enter the stage and shout out a warning: "The infantry is coming!" Continue to do this every so often until finally a Tiger Cub team walks in carrying a small branch wrapped in a baby blanket and says, "The infant tree has arrived!"

BIRD FEEDER

(*Elective 32*)

Materials: Two foil pie tins, one juice can (or other tin can) with top removed, twine or nylon cord, hammer, large nail, can or bottle opener, birdseed



Turn the can so it is top down. Center a pie tin on the can. Use a large nail and a hammer to punch two holes through the pie tin and the can bottom. Use a can opener to make openings along the bottom of the can. Fold these as flat as possible (or cut off). Punch two holes through the other pie tin, about 2 in. apart. Thread the cord through the first pie tin and the bottom of the juice can, then pull it through the second pie tin. Tie a knot, leaving about a foot of hanging space. To fill the feeder, pull aside the top pie tin and fill the can with birdseed. Replace the pie tin and hang your feeder.

As Tiger Cub adult partners help out in den meetings with activities and taking their turn at shared leadership, they are setting the scene for future involvement with their Cub Scout. Always greet their efforts with encouragement and positive reinforcement. They are the future leadership in your pack.

SODA BOTTLE TERRARIUM

(*Elective 30*)

Materials: Clear (not green) 2-liter soft drink bottle with lid, dirt, aquarium gravel or other small rocks, water, seeds or pits from something you have eaten, utility knife, plastic spoon

Rinse the bottle and remove the label. Adult partners use the utility knife to cut the bottle into two pieces; the cut should be approximately one-third of the way down the bottle. In the bottom half, place a ½-in. layer of rocks. Then place 2 to 3 in. of dirt on top of the rocks. Each Tiger Cub uses a spoon as his shovel and plants his seeds into the dirt. Before closing up the terrarium, be sure to water it thoroughly.

Squeeze the top part of the bottle into the bottom half. (This will definitely take the adult partner's help.) Screw on the top. Place the terrarium in indirect sunlight. As long as it is never opened, it should never need watering.

Leaf It to Cubs: Wolf Den Meetings

Dens may meet after school, in the evenings, or on weekends.

Review the theme pages before planning den meetings.

Full or partial credit may be received for the following advancement possibilities highlighted in this month's meeting plans.

WHEN	FIRST WEEK	SECOND WEEK	THIRD WEEK	FOURTH WEEK
Den leader, den chief, and denner review plans before each meeting and check equipment needed.				
BEFORE THE MEETING STARTS	Materials for Chocolate Roses and Leaf Splatter Cards (both 8 MAY).	Have U.S. flag, materials for Leaf Collection Mobile and for Seed Planting Relay (both 8 MAY).	Call the destination of your field trip to confirm arrangements, times, fees, etc.	Denner writes thank-you note to last week's destination. Have leaves of local trees to identify.
Den leader collects dues.				
WHILE CUB SCOUTS GATHER	Each boy uses the prepared pattern to cut out rose leaves for Chocolate Roses.	Collect permission slips. Select leaf pieces to put between plastic wrap for the Leaf Collection Mobile.	Collect permission slips. Remind boys of the road safety rules reviewed last week.	Boys sign thank-you note. Den chief reviews different kinds of leaves of trees or shrubs with boys.
OPENING	Denner faces the den and leads the Law of the Pack.	Form a semicircle around the flag and recite the Pledge of Allegiance.		Denner leads the Cub Scout Promise.
Den leader checks boys' books for completed achievements and electives and records them on Den Advancement Charts. Boys record own advancement on den doodle, if den has one.				
BUSINESS ITEMS	Introduce the Leaf It to Cubs theme. Share the pack meeting plans and where it will be held. Encourage any boy who has not earned his Wolf badge to finish as soon as possible.	Review the rules of street and road safety (<i>Achievement 9d</i>) to be ready for next week's field trip.		Be sure all boys who have completed their rank advancement recognized at the pack meeting. Sing "The Bear Song" (<i>Cub Scout Songbook</i>) to be used as the den contribution for the pack meeting.
ACTIVITY	Make Chocolate Roses to use as gifts for Mother's Day (<i>Elective 9b</i>). Make Leaf Splatter Cards.	Cut apart soda can rings. Place leaf samples in six-pack rings and glue together for the Leaf Collection Mobile. Play Seed Planting Relay.	Visit a lumberyard and find out about the types of lumber that are sold there and where it comes from. At the end of the trip, lead a reflecting discussion with boys about their outing.	Finish Leaf Collection Mobile. Play Leaf Identification Tag (8 MAY).
CLOSING	Boys form a line and salute the den leader as they leave. Send home permission slips for field trip during the third week.	Den leader asks, "What is the Cub Scout motto?" Boys respond, "Do Your Best!"		Give the den yell.
Denner supervises putting away equipment. Den leader, den chief, and denner review the meeting and check details for the next meeting.				
AFTER THE MEETING	Den leader files local tour permit with council service center for field trip planned for third week.		Den leader fills out den advancement report for the pack leaders' meeting.	Den leader mails thank-you note.

CHECK WITH YOUR PACK TRAINER OR CUBMASTER FOR ROUNDTABLE DATES AND OTHER TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES.

Wolf Den Activities

Advancement possibilities highlighted in this month's meeting plans: Achievements 6b, 9d; Elective 9b

Roses are red...and they make nice gifts for moms, grandmas, aunts, or special friends for Mother's Day. This month Cub Scouts can create a rose and a card to give to a family member. Examining the leaves in your neighborhood will lead to learning about the trees and the important stewardship we have for our living world. Cub Scouts will enjoy a visit to a lumberyard where they see the results of years of growth in our forests and how valuable that product is.

Encourage Cub Scout families to work on additional achievements and electives that support this theme such as:

- *Achievement 5, Tools for Fixing and Building:* After a visit to the lumberyard, Cub Scouts may be eager to work with wood.
- *Achievement 11a, Duty to God:* Experiencing the majesty of the world around us can easily lead to a discussion of faith.
- *Elective 15b, Grow Something:* Springtime is the perfect time to plant and raise a flower bed.

CHOCOLATE ROSES

(Elective 9b)

Materials: Chocolate "kisses", leaf shapes cut from construction paper, skewer stick, 12 in. of green florist tape, pink or red cellophane/plastic wrap

Place the two Hershey's kisses together, bottom end to bottom end, and hold in place. Wrap them with a



small square of pink or red cellophane from top to bottom, creating a roselike shape.

Gather the cellophane together at the bottom of the rosebud and lay a skewer "stem" on it. Twist the cellophane around the stem, and add a precut leaf shape near the bottom of the "bud." Use the florist tape (about 12 in.) to wrap around the cellophane, leaf, and stem, all the way to the bottom.

CHARACTER CONNECTION:

PERSEVERANCE

The den leader asks Cub Scouts about making the roses treats.

- Was it easy? Did it take more than one try?
- Do you know what *perseverance* is? Sticking to something and trying again and again.

In this case, you had the goal of making a present—a handmade gift for Mom or another relative. Ask for other ways boys "stick with it." Challenge them to think of more ways that they persevere and the positive outcomes of doing so.



GAMES

Leaf Identification Tag

Place many leaves from different trees in a pile at one spot on a table (at least

two leaves from each kind of tree). Boys form teams. The den chief announces a type of tree. The first boy in each line goes to the table and picks up what he thinks is the correct leaf for that tree. He shows it to the assistant den leader, then returns to tag the next boy. Teams get a point for each correctly identified leaf.

Seed Planting Relay

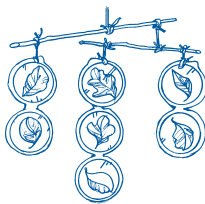
Materials: 10 seeds or unpopcorned kernels for each boy

Each boy has 10 seeds. Walking heel to toe, boys walk a straight line from a starting line. They stop every three steps and bend and "plant" a seed. When the first boy has planted all his seeds, he runs back and tags the next player. The first team to plant all their seeds wins.

LEAF COLLECTION MOBILE

(Achievement 6)

Materials: Plastic rings from soda pop cans, markers, twigs, stapler, leaves, glue, clear plastic wrap



Carefully cut apart into individual rings the plastic rings that are found on six-packs of soda cans. These can be colored with permanent felt-tip markers. (This will create colored outer rings for the pictures.)

Cut pieces of clear plastic wrap slightly larger than a soda ring circle. Place leaves on the clear plastic and place another sheet on top. Run a bead of glue around the edge of the soda ring. Place the plastic (with the leaf between the sheets) on the soda ring circle and then add another bead of glue to the plastic and top with a second soda ring circle. Let dry. Trim away any extra plastic wrap.

To create a mobile, tie the rings together with string and then tie them to the ends of sticks as shown.

Note: Repetitive tasks such as cutting apart soda can rings provide a unique opportunity for the den to bond and the den leader to facilitate discussions. Use the chance to get to know your Cub Scouts' likes and dislikes by leading a discussion on topics such as the theme of the month, what's happening at school, who the boys' favorite sports personalities are, and much, much, more.

RESOURCE: NATIONAL NATUREWATCH PROGRAM

You can learn about the National NatureWatch Program of the USDA Forest Service at <http://www.fs.fed.us/outdoors/nature-watch/>. The program is specially geared toward children (K–6). As it says on their web site: "Opportunities abound for enjoying nature on a national forest near you and the Forest Service has joined with some terrific organizations to help make your visit even better. Through programs such as Eyes on Wildlife, Celebrating Wildflowers, and Fish Watch, the Forest Service and its partners have developed sites, activities, and publications that will help you take full advantage of nature viewing."

LEAF SPLATTER CARDS

Materials: Old toothbrush, newspaper, leaves, paper (cardstock works nicely), acrylic paint

Lay a newspaper over the area where boys will create the cards. Fold the paper for the card in half, and then unfold it and lay it flat. Lay a leaf on what will be the outer cover of the card. Dip the toothbrush in the paint and run your hand across the bristles, pointing them at the card. The paint will splatter around the leaf, creating the leaf pattern on the

Leaf It to Cubs: Bear Den Meetings

Dens may meet after school, in the evenings, or on weekends.

Review the theme pages before planning den meetings.

Full or partial credit may be received for the following advancement possibilities highlighted in this month's meeting plans.

WHEN	FIRST WEEK	SECOND WEEK	THIRD WEEK	FOURTH WEEK
Den leader, den chief, and denner review plans before each meeting and check equipment needed.				
BEFORE THE MEETING STARTS	Have paper and pencils for lists; leaves for Sniff It Out (10 MAY), soccer equipment, materials for solar prints (<i>Elective 12a</i>).	Have volleyball equipment, materials for Leaf Identification and Nature Candle Holders (both 10 MAY).	Call the destination of your field trip to confirm arrangements, times, fees, etc.	Denner writes thank-you note to last week's destination. Have U.S. flag, Ultimate equipment, supplies for Tree Home (10 MAY).
Den leader collects dues.				
WHILE CUB SCOUTS GATHER	Start the meeting outdoors. Den chief teaches boys the rules for soccer (<i>Achievement 23a</i> ; see the <i>Cub Scout Academics and Sports Program Guide</i>).	Collect permission slips. Have a collection of leaves from which each boy identifies 10.	Collect permission slips. Remind boys of behavior rules and planting techniques.	Boys sign thank-you note. Den chief teaches Ultimate rules (<i>Achievement 23a</i> ; see the <i>Cub Scout Academics and Sports Program Guide</i>).
OPENING	Denner leads Cub Scout Promise.	Denner leads "Under the Spreading Chestnut Tree" (10 MAY).		Boys stand in horseshoe formation; assistant denner presents the flag at the open end. The denner leads the Pledge of Allegiance.
Den leader checks boys' books for completed achievements and electives and records them on Den Advancement Charts. Boys record own advancement on den doodle, if den has one.				
BUSINESS ITEMS	Discuss the Leaf It to Cubs theme. Play Sniff It Out. Make a list of things trees do to make the world a better place (holding soil to prevent erosion; providing shade, a place for birds to nest, nuts, berries, and flowers, building materials, etc.).	Review plans for the pack meeting. Review the details of the tree planting to be done next week. Review planting techniques to be used for the type of tree or vegetation to be planted.	Visit a nursery or nature center, or take a hike through a tree-filled park. Learn about what kind of trees are native to your area and how they prevent erosion (<i>Elective 15d</i>).	Check den's preparation for the pack meeting. Talk about ways to display the flag. Tell boys about Memorial Day observances in your area.
ACTIVITY	Make solar prints (<i>Bear Handbook</i>). Den chief leads soccer game. Press leaves for Nature Candle Holders (10 MAY) for next week.	Do Leaf Identification activity. Create Nature Candle Holders for Mother's Day presents. Play volleyball.	OR Take a trip to an area where boys have permission to plant trees. Help them to understand correct planting techniques (<i>Achievement 6b</i>).	Play Tree Home and a game of Ultimate.
CLOSING	Boys form a brotherhood circle with arms around each other's shoulders; sing "Taps" (<i>Cub Scout Songbook</i>). Send home permission slips for field trip during the third week.	Explain that trees have to struggle to survive in all kinds of weather—they persevere! Learning a sport takes perseverance, too. It means to keep trying and never give up!	Be sure to plan for the care of the trees after planting. At the end of the trip, lead a reflecting discussion with boys about their outing.	Remind boys to display the U.S. flag on Memorial Day (<i>Achievement 3g</i>). Scouts salute the flag and observe a moment of silence for our military at home and abroad.
Denner supervises putting away equipment. Den leader, den chief, and denner review the meeting and check details for the next meeting.				
AFTER THE MEETING	Den leader files local tour permit with council service center for field trip planned for third week.		Den leader fills out den advancement report for the pack leaders' meeting.	Den leader mails thank-you note.
CHECK WITH YOUR PACK TRAINER OR CUBMASTER FOR ROUNDTABLE DATES AND OTHER TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES.				

Bear Den Activities

Advancement possibilities highlighted in this month's meeting plans: Achievements 3g, 6b, 23a; Electives 12a, 15d

May is a great month to get outdoors and learn about how trees affect our lives every day. Use all your senses to enjoy leaves and trees. Cub Scouts can use the power of the sun to create leaf pictures. Visit a local nursery or nature center to learn about trees. Plant new trees to help maintain and beautify our communities. The *Cub Scout Leader How-To Book* is a source for plenty of ideas. This month we'll also participate in outdoor Sports in preparation for next month's Go for the Gold theme.

Encourage Cub Scout families to work on additional achievements and electives that support this theme such as:

- *Achievement 3g*, What Makes America Special: Boys may display the flag on Memorial Day.
- *Achievement 6b*, Take Care of Your Planet: Boys will plant a tree and watch it grow.
- *Elective 15d*, Water and Soil Conservation. Boys will learn how trees hold the soil to prevent erosion.

SMIFF IT OUT

Have dried or fresh aromatic leaves—such as mint, basil, sage, thyme, eucalyptus, and dried tea leaves—for boys to sniff. Help them to identify the various leaves. Talk about how we use leaves as spices in foods, teas, perfumes, and even breath freshener!



SONG: UNDER THE SPREADING CHESTNUT TREE

See how fast you can sing this song and perform the actions.

Under the spreading chestnut tree,
There we both sit, you and me.
Oh how happy we can be
Under the spreading chestnut tree.

Actions:

Under: Hands over head, umbrella fashion.

Spreading: Hands out to the side.

Chest: Point to chest.

Nut: Point to head.

Tree: Hold arms out like branches of a tree.

Sit: Bend into sitting position.

You: Point to another.

Me: Point to yourself.

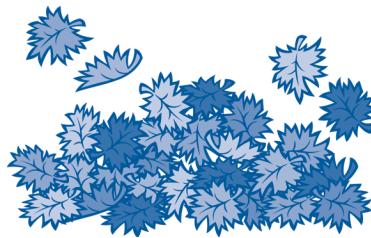
Happy: Put fingers at mouth and smile.

TREE HOME

Explain that trees grow naturally in specific types of climate. Use pictures of trees and names of locations to have boys match the tree to its natural habitat.

- Mesquite: Desert
- Willow tree: Near water
- Pine tree: Mountains and cold climates
- Palms: Warm climates

LEAF IDENTIFICATION



Explain how to identify leaves by their shape. Use various leaves to show the difference between round and oblong shapes, jagged edges and smooth edges, simple and compound leaves. You can also then play the ID Game in the *Cub Scout Leader How-To Book*.

GAMES

Meet a Tree

Work in pairs. Blindfold your partner and lead him through the forest to any tree. Ask the blindfolded Cub Scout to feel the tree so that he can identify it later without his blindfold. After several minutes, walk him back to the starting place and remove the blindfold. Now the Cub Scout must find the tree he explored.

Memory Hunt

This is similar to Kim's Game. Divide the den into two teams and seat them facing the same scene. For two minutes, all team members study the view, trying to memorize all the plants, trees, and animal life (insects, birds, amphibians, mammals) they see. At the end of two minutes, both teams turn their backs on the scene and make a list of everything they remember seeing.

LEAF PLACEMATS

Materials: Clear adhesive paper, construction paper, leaves

Decide on the finished size of your placemat and cut two pieces of adhesive paper to that size. Cut a paper frame to fit inside the adhesive sheet. Peel the backing off the first piece and carefully lay your frame on top of it to steady it. Now arrange your leaves on it.

When you are happy with the arrangement, peel the backing off the second piece of adhesive paper and lay it over the frame and leaves so that they are sealed between the two. Smooth down to fix.

NATURE CANDLE HOLDERS

Materials: Pressed leaves or flowers, baby food jar, tissue paper, water-based school glue thinned slightly with water, foam paintbrushes

Press flowers and leaves the first week. Place a leaf or flower between sheets of waxed paper and put inside a heavy book such as an encyclopedia or dictionary. The leaves will dry flat within the week for use the following week in the craft.

Tear off the straight edges from a sheet of tissue paper, and then tear the paper into small pieces. Brush the outside of a baby food jar with the glue solution. Arrange pressed flowers and leaves all around the glass. Brush on more glue and lay the pieces of paper on the glass, overlapping the edges. Keep adding paper and glue until the entire glass is covered.