

Learn about the North and South Poles this month. Imagine life in a place where it's cold and icy 365 days a year! Learn about the brave explorers who traveled to the ends of our earth. Practice with a compass and map; give directions to your home and school. Experiment with magnets and polarity. Discover the plants and animals that make the icy poles of the Arctic and Antarctic their home, including the flightless bird, the penguin! Earn the Map and Compass belt loop and pin.

PACK PLANNING

This new year brings excitement to the pack as the event of the year unfolds: the pinewood derby. Cub Scouts have the experience of creating and racing their own cars.

Appoint the following committees to help with the meeting:

Decorations Committee. Include posters of people, places, and animals from the North and South Poles. Travel agents may be a source for colorful, exciting posters.

Derby Committee. The pinewood derby needs plenty of volunteer help to create a fast-paced, fun race where everyone is recognized because they “Do Their Best.”

Snack Committee. You could offer hot chocolate to keep you warm at the poles, or ice pops or gelatin cups, in an always-cold climate.

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

- **Character Development.** Boys will learn that sometimes the greatest reward is successfully completing a task.
- **Sportsmanship and Fitness.** Boys will experience that sportsmanship isn't about winning; it's about how you approach your game with integrity.

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

- **Courage.** Explorers who endure hardships and show fortitude are courageous. Cub Scouts will see these traits as they find out about those who visit and have visited the poles.
- **Perseverance.** Cub Scouts will see that things worth doing take perseverance.

Pack Meeting

BEFORE THE MEETING

The decorations committee arrives early and sets up the room decorations. Arrange the chairs in a semicircle or square so that everyone can see the activity. Set up tables for den displays.

Have a Cardboard Dog Sled (3 JAN) prepared for each den. These may have been prepared ahead of time by the den and decorated for tonight's race. Set up a race course in your meeting area.

Make sure you set up a snack area with treats reflecting the “Poles Apart” theme—away from the derby track area.

GATHERING

As families arrive, welcoming committee members greet them and show them where to leave den displays. Give each arriving boy and family member a piece of a map and instructions on how to play Map Makers (2 JAN).

MAIN PART OF THE MEETING

Opening Ceremony

A selected Webelos den leads the Pole-to-Pole Trek Team Opening Ceremony (2 JAN). Or choose another from *Cub Scout Ceremonies for Dens and Packs*.

Prayer

A preselected Cub Scout leads the Cub Scout Trek Prayer (2 JAN).

Icebreaker

Ask how many pack members completed their maps. Lead the Compass Applause (3 JAN) in their honor.

Welcome and Introductions

The Cubmaster welcomes everyone to the meeting and explains the rules and procedures for the Race for the Poles (3 JAN).

Song

The pack song leader leads “Mush Your Huskies” (3 JAN).

Game

Conduct the Race for the Poles. Between runs, dens may also contribute skits and songs related to the “Poles Apart” theme.

Recognition

Use the Trek Team Explorers Advancement Ceremony (2 JAN) or choose another from *Cub Scout Ceremonies for Dens and Packs*.

Announcements

The same people who did the announcement in December come forward (one in winter garb, one in Hawaiian garb). The one in winter garb says, “Now that we're done with this pole, come see what we do with a different kind of pole.” Play limbo music as the person in the Hawaiian garb explains the details of the blue and gold banquet. Be sure to highlight the location, date, and time and all food service plans.

Cubmaster's Minute

The Cubmaster delivers the Safety Always Cubmaster's Minute (3 JAN).

Closing

Conduct the Teamwork Closing Ceremony (3 JAN).

Cubmaster Corner

SPECIAL EVENTS

Planning special events can be a fun and memorable occasion for the pack. Lots of ideas and field trips can lead to memorable experiences for Cub Scouts and families. See the *Cub Scout Leader How-To Book* for ideas.

Always refer to the *Guide to Safe Scouting* to verify that the activity falls within the guidelines of the Boy Scouts of America. Encourage parent involvement in planning and executing events.

Plan a fun field trip for the pack so that it meets away from the regular meeting place. Remember to file a local tour permit with your council service center and secure permission slips from families.

As Cubmaster, you set the example—plan to join in the fun and have a great time.

Ceremonies, Games, Songs, Stunts

GATHERING ACTIVITY: MAP MAKERS

Materials: Assortment of maps (these may be computer-generated) of polar areas of the world

Before the meeting, cut maps into pieces—enough for all participants to have one piece of a map. Hand out pieces of map to participants as they arrive. Ask them to find the people with the adjacent pieces. Once they have found the people with the pieces on all four sides of theirs, that piece may be laid down to begin to form the map. Mark the name of the map on each piece to make identification easier if you like.

OPENING CEREMONY: POLE-TO-POLE TREK TEAM

Personnel: Webelos den members, World Crest insignia

NARRATOR: In the year 2000, the first pole-to-pole international team trekked from the North Pole to the South Pole.

CUB SCOUT 1: They traveled throughout North and South America. The trek took nine months.

CUB SCOUT 2: This team was made up of eight young adults . . .

CUB SCOUT 3: From seven different countries . . .

CUB SCOUT 4: From five different continents.

NARRATOR: Their message was, "We can shape the world by actively participating as global citizens." (Hold up the World Crest insignia.) As Cub Scouts,

we are members of the World Brotherhood of Scouting. We can be found in many different countries, on many different continents. We are "global citizens" as we live the Cub Scout Promise. Please stand and recite the Promise with me.

PRAYER: CUB SCOUT TREK

As we trek through Cub Scouting and beyond, we give thanks for all our blessings and the strength that keeps us going when the going gets tough. Amen.

ADVANCEMENT CEREMONY: TREK TEAM EXPLORERS

Props: Cardboard skis and poles (broom sticks or flag poles), small bags to wear around the neck, large cardboard canoe and paddles (see prop below), bicycle and helmet

CUBMASTER: Just like polar explorers on an expedition, our Cub Scouts have been trekking their way along the trail of Scouting. Will the following Bobcats and their parents please come forward? (*Calls names.*) You have completed your trek along the Bobcat trail. It may have seemed like it was all uphill at times, but you persevered, and here you are. Expedition leader, please bring these Bobcats their badges.

DEN LEADER (with pants rolled up to show sneakers; makes a big production of running to the group; speaks out of breath): It was uphill at times, but I stuck with it and here I am to present these Bobcat badges. (*Presents to parents and shakes boys' hands.*)

CUBMASTER: You have used human power to complete your achievements and I'm very proud of you. But your trek is far from over—now you'll go forth for your next rank.

CUBMASTER: The Pole-to-Pole 2000 trek team that we heard about in our opening ceremony traveled 25,000 miles by ski, kayak, foot, bicycle, and canoe. Our den leaders have also used a variety of methods to guide our Cub Scouts on their treks this month. Will the following Tiger Cubs and their adult partners please come forward? (*Calls names.*) You have completed the five achievements to earn your Tiger Cub badge. (*The Tiger Cub den leader "skis" in and hands the awards to each adult partner, who then presents it to his or her son.*)

CUBMASTER: I'm sure that there were times when our Cub Scouts felt that they could paddle no more, but the following boys had the courage to keep going to earn their [Wolf, Bear] rank. (*Calls boys and their parents forward. The den leader, wearing a cardboard canoe around the waist, paddles over, removes bag from his neck, and presents awards to parents; shakes boys' hands. Parents present awards to boys.*)

CUBMASTER: The following boys have taken the longest trek yet. They have achieved the rank of Webelos Scout. (*Calls boys and parents forward.*)

ASSISTANT CUBMASTER OR WEBELOS DEN LEADER (riding up on a bike—remember to wear a helmet): There was a lot of work on the

Webelos trek. We needed more than human power. (*Hands badges to the Cubmaster.*)

CUBMASTER: You have all completed a long journey and are one step closer to becoming Boy Scouts. I'm proud to present you with your Webelos badge. (*Presents badges to parents and shakes hands with boys. Parents present badges to boys.*)

CUBMASTER: We can compare the work that all of these boys and their families have done to the 25,000 miles that the Pole-to-Pole team completed. They have all looked to their destination and kept with it until they made it. I'm sure that I speak for everyone when I say that we're proud of you for your courage and perseverance! (*Encourage everyone to applaud the Cub Scouts.*)

DEN LEADER (handing Cubmaster the helmet): You never warned me that I was going to be the one to travel 25,000 miles!

CUBMASTER (patting den leader on the back): That's teamwork!

Ceremony Prop: Cardboard Canoe

Make a canoe shape by bending the ends of a large cardboard box together. Then simply cut a hole in the center for a boy to stand in, and cut away a triangle of cardboard in the front and back. You will have a canoe that you can "wear." The paddler can actually paddle the canoe and have both hands free if the canoe is suspended from the shoulders using clip-on suspenders or string.

CUBMASTER'S MINUTE: SAFETY ALWAYS

CUBMASTER (holding helmet from awards ceremony): Did you notice that the Webelos den leader was wearing a helmet tonight? The den leader wore a helmet for that short trip. Most injuries occur during a "short trip" not far from home. You should wear your helmet and applicable safety equipment during every trip. Follow the directions provided with your gear and be safe. (*It may be possible to get pamphlets regarding safety equipment from your local police department.*)

CLOSING CEREMONY: TEAMWORK

Boys hold up pictures of things they learned about, reading the line for each picture:

PENGUIN: A flightless bird of black and white,

POLE: A place of cold both day and night.

SNOWSHOES: To make your way across snow,

COMPASS: This will guide you where to go.

PARKA: This you need to stay quite warm.

POLAR BEAR: Avoid this creature, stay away from harm.

ALL: Some things about the poles we've shown ... now it's time to head for home. Good night, Cub Scout Pack [number].

SKIT: PENGUINS TO THE ZOO

Setup: A bus driver, a police officer, and any number of penguins. The bus driver is seated on a chair with the penguins standing behind him. The penguins can be dressed in black clothing with white paper cut in an oval shape and pinned to their chest. They can also wear a red bow tie or sunglasses.

The bus is driving down the street. The police officer holds up a hand to signal a stop.

OFFICER (to bus driver): Where are you going with those penguins? They don't belong out on the street.

BUS DRIVER: Don't worry officer. I'm just taking them to the zoo.

OFFICER: Well, drive carefully. We want those penguins to be safe. (*The bus drives off to the zoo.*)

The next day: Same scene with the bus driver and penguins. The police officer signals them to stop.

OFFICER: Hey, where are you going with those penguins?! I thought you were going to take them to the zoo.

BUS DRIVER: I did take them to the zoo. But we had such a good time that today we're going to the beach!

APPLAUSES

North-South Applause. Divide the audience into two groups. When you point to one side, they say "north." When you

point to the other side, they say "south." Alternate between the two groups—or even repeat words to mix it up.

Compass Applause. Pretend to look at a compass. Then point to the honor and say, "Way to go!"

SONG: MUSH YOUR HUSKIES

Tune: Row, Row, Row Your Boat
Mush, mush, mush your huskies,
Through the ice and snow.
Freezing, breezing, wheezing, sneezing,
Over the ground we go.

Sing this as a round for more fun!

PACK GAME: RACE FOR THE POLES

Materials: Two objects to serve as North and South Poles; cardboard dog sled for each den (see below)

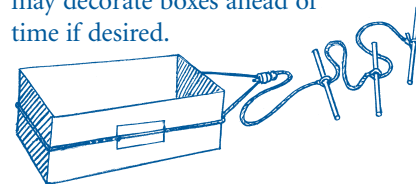
Place the poles about 40 ft. apart. Divide the boys into teams. Two teams at a time will race; the starting point is halfway between the poles, with teams headed in opposite directions. One boy sits on the sled, and the others act as huskies. On a signal, each team races around first one pole and then the other and back to the starting point.

If you wish, one of the huskies might switch places with the rider at designated points along the way.

Cardboard Dog Sled

Materials: Cardboard box, rope, dowel rods, duct tape

Tie the rope around the box and secure with duct tape as shown. Tie dowel rods on the pulling rope at 3-ft. intervals for the huskies to hold. Dens may decorate boxes ahead of time if desired.



ALTERNATE PACK ACTIVITY: PINWOOD DERBY

Conduct your annual pinewood derby with a polar theme. Boys can carve their cars in the shape of a sled, kayak, snowmobile, or other wintry item in keeping with the theme. You might even see an iceberg, a polar bear, or an igloo flying down the track!

ACADEMICS AND SPORTS PROGRAM

Academics

Geology. Polar explorers discover the special elements around them in the arctic areas. Cub Scouts can learn about the physical properties of this wilderness and the effects of wind, water and ice on the landscape.

Sports

Gymnastics. Many community organizations have programs where boys can learn different types of gymnastics events.

Snow Ski and Board Sports. Boy can practice skills for maneuvering on ice and snow—like real polar explorers!

FAMILY ACTIVITY

Learning about Arctic conditions reminds us that overcoming obstacles is sometimes a part of life. The “Overcoming Obstacles” section in *Cub Scouting’s BSA Family Activity Book* has several situations for families to explore together to help strengthen strategies to cope with and overcome obstacles.

DID YOU KNOW?

Induction Ceremonies

This very special type of ceremony is used to mark the beginning of a new adventure for all pack members. *Cub Scout Ceremonies for Dens and Packs* has several samples for den leaders and Cubmasters to use in their program. Use an induction ceremony when a new family joins the pack. Use one when a denner is elected in the den. And use one when a new Cubmaster or committee chair is selected; it’s a great way to get that new position off to a great start.

GOOD TURN FOR AMERICA

Cub Scouts can hold a clothing drive. Remember to discuss what clothing needs there are in other parts of the

world at this time of year. There is always a need for warm clothing and many communities have local clothing banks that specialize in wearable clothing. This is a rewarding Good Turn contribution for Cub Scouts to establish.



BSA RESOURCES HIGHLIGHT

Den and Pack Ribbons. Boys in the den respond to recognition. Many occasions present themselves to use different forms of recognition. An award ribbon can be presented to different dens to recognize their attendance at the pack meeting, their advancement as a group, even parent involvement. Many different types of awards are available through your local council service center.

PACK LEADERS’ PLANNING MEETING

Hold this meeting one or two weeks ahead of this month’s pack meeting to finalize details and continue planning for the February blue and gold banquet. Consider the following:

Speaker. Can you find a special guest to attend your blue and gold banquet?

Den contributions. All dens will contribute with skits or songs.

Graduation. Your Webelos den will be joining Boy Scouts. Be sure to plan for an eventful ceremony.

Arrow of Light Award. The highest award in Cub Scouting deserves a memorable ceremony.

Props for advancement. February’s “Aloha, Cub Scouting” theme will promote lots of great ideas for ceremony props and decorations.

The pinewood derby is this month. Distribute cars in advance, reaffirm the condition of the track, and gather vol-

unteers to run the event. Be sure that all boys receive some type of recognition for their participation. The *Cub Scout Leader How-To Book* provides thorough guidelines for running this event. Consider having a race for adults. Some adults are interested in building their own pinewood car. This event will allow them to be creative and is a fun outlet for all adult pack members.

The pack trainer leads the pack adults in unit leadership enhancement No. 12, “Planning Special Events.” This will help the group fine-tune the process of making events special and organized. Or you may choose a different topic from the *Cub Scout Leader Book*. Choose a topic for the next meeting that will also serve the needs of the pack.

LOOKING AHEAD

How is the pack supporting the Cub Scout Outdoor Activity Award? Make sure there are ample field trips so each boy has the chance to participate. A number of advancement opportunities for boys are tied in with a pack camping trip. The pack will want to provide a safe, fun outdoor program for Cub Scouts.

Day camp promotions and resident camp promotions are coming.

OUTDOOR IDEAS FOR EVERYONE

Tiger Cubs. Take a hike to a place where the group has been before, in a different season. Compare the difference in sights and sounds between now and then.

Wolf Cub Scouts. Where the weather makes it possible, build a snowman.

Bear Cub Scouts. Weather/snow permitting, play snowball relay games.

Webelos Scouts. Visit a winter camp or winter camping trip with a Boy Scout troop.

Poles Apart: 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.

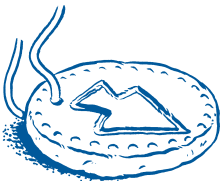
WHEN	FIRST WEEK	SECOND WEEK	THIRD WEEK	FOURTH WEEK
The Tiger Cub den leader shares leadership with a Tiger Cub adult partner. This team should review plans before each meeting and check equipment needed.				
BEFORE THE MEETING STARTS	Have materials for Plaster Scrimshaw (6 JAN); supplies for Ice Cube Toss (6 JAN).	Have a U.S. flag, plaster materials from last week, supplies for Penguin Waddle (6 JAN) and Blubber Mittens (6 JAN).	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	Gather outside for Ice Cube Toss.	Demonstrate Blubber Mittens.		
OPENING	Adult partners lead the Cub Scout Promise.	Boys and adult partners form a semicircle; two boys bring in the flag and lead the Pledge of Allegiance (<i>Achievement 2D</i>).		
SHARE	Discuss the "Poles Apart" theme and what the Tiger Cubs think the poles are like and what lives there.	Tiger Cubs share the animal they researched last week (<i>Elective 31</i>).	GO SEE IT: Visit a government office (<i>Elective 49</i>)	Participate in the monthly pack meeting by displaying the Plaster Scrimshaw artwork boys did and sharing information about the den's Go See It.
DISCOVER	Begin Plaster Scrimshaw projects. Review <i>Elective 31</i> ; Tiger Cubs choose an animal that lives at a pole to learn about and share at the next meeting. Read an article or story together about penguins (<i>Elective 14</i>).	Paint Plaster Scrimshaw discs. Play Penguin Waddle.	OR Visit an aquarium or zoo to see animals from the North and South Poles (<i>Elective 42</i>). At the end of the trip, lead a reflecting discussion with boys and adult partners about their outing.	Tiger Cubs and adult partners sign the thank-you note.
SEARCH	Review the choices for a Go See It and plan one for the meeting in two weeks.	Discuss the Go See It and what to look for during it.		
CLOSING	Recite the Cub Scout motto and then give a big tiger roar.	Tiger Cubs and adult partners line up in separate rows, facing each other. The den leader goes down the line and "high fives" boys and adults for a job well done.		
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 the Tiger Cub team in charge of 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

The Go See It this month has Tiger Cubs visiting a government office to see how our government supports us. It may be an office that supports Native Americans or scientific exploration. Each boy will create his own keepsake as they explore the early-American craft of scrimshaw, or scratching, carving, or etching designs into bone or ivory. Boys might research art forms that Native American tribes in polar regions have developed and practice. This is a good time of year to support our wildlife, and Tiger Cubs are encouraged to make a bird feeder (Elective 32) and hang it outside.

ACTIVITY: PLASTER SCRIMSHAW

Sailors and whalers began the art of scrimshaw in the 1860s to make the time



pass more quickly at sea. Sometimes they were gone for months at a time in polar regions hunting whales and other polar creatures. Cub Scouts can wear their plaster scrimshaw disks as pendants or use them as paperweights.

Materials: Plaster of Paris, wax paper, nails or other instrument for scratching in plaster

Mix plaster of Paris to the consistency of pancake batter. For each boy, pour plaster onto wax paper in an oval-shaped “pancake.” Let the plaster get firm. After it begins to harden, boys can use a nail to scratch a design in the plaster disk. If you wish to make a pendant, use the nail to pierce a hole in one end before the plaster sets.

Set aside until the next den meeting. Use an old sock or cloth to wipe the plaster disc with water-thinned acrylic paint. Let dry. Add heavy cord to tie around the neck if desired.

Never put plaster (liquid or powder) down the sink! Use a disposable paper cup to mix it in, and then toss the cup in the garbage when done.

GAMES

Penguin Waddle

Line teams up relay style. On a signal, the first player on each team places a small rubber ball between his knees, waddles to a goal line and back to the starting point, where the next player repeats the action. Play continues until

all players have competed. If the ball is dropped along the way, the penguin must pick it up and return to the point at which he dropped it. Remember to include adult partners in the game!

Ice Cube Toss

Materials: Foam cup and ice cube for each player

Divide into two teams of even numbers. The teams face each other and toss ice cubes back and forth, catching the cubes in their foam cups. Take a step back to increase the distance after each throw.

Ajaqag

Native American tribes such as the Inuit played this game (using a stick, hollow bone, or gourd ring, and a leather thong) during the dark winter months.



Materials: 8- to 10-in. stick, 12-in. yarn or string, top of a plastic margarine container cut into a ring

Wrap yarn around one end of stick; tie or glue in place to secure. Tie the other end of the yarn to the plastic ring. Holding the stick in one hand, toss the ring into the air and try to catch it on the stick. For a greater challenge, use a smaller ring or a shorter piece of yarn.

Snowshoe Relay

Equipment: Two shoeboxes per team
Provide each team with two shoeboxes. On a signal, each Tiger Cub in turn places his feet in the boxes and

shuffles to a goal line and back to the starting point, where the next player repeats the action.

ACTIVITY: BLUBBER MITTEN

Ingredients: 1 C. shortening, two resealable sandwich bags, bowl of ice water with ice cubes

Place the shortening in one of the sandwich bags, and then turn the other bag inside out. Place it carefully inside the bag with the shortening so that you are able to zip one bag to the other. This creates a “blubber mitten” for boys to put their hand in.

Tell boys to pretend that they are polar bears ready to dive into icy water. Each boy puts his bare hand in the bowl of ice water to see how cold it is. Next he puts his hand in the blubber mitten and then in the ice water. Boys will experience how the water isn’t as cold with the blubber mitten on. Explain that arctic animals such as walrus, whales, and seals have a layer of blubber that protects them against the cold and helps keep them warm.

ACTIVITY: SCRIMSHAW TREATS

Ingredients: Graham crackers, chocolate chips

Melt the chocolate chips in a double boiler or in a microwave. Coat the graham crackers with the hot chocolate before the meeting. Let cool. Give each boy a toothpick and let him scratch a design into the chocolate. The light brown of the graham cracker will show their creative designs.

SONG: I’M A LITTLE PENGUIN

Tune: I’m a Little Teapot
I’m a little penguin, short and stout,
My black-and-white suit makes me stand right out.
You can watch me waddle across the ice,
And dive in the water, out of sight.

Poles Apart: Wolf Den Meetings

Dens may meet after school, in the evenings, or on weekends.
Review the theme pages before planning den meetings.

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 supplies for Magnet Activities (8 JAN), Global Warming (8 JAN), and Magnet Activities (8 JAN); signs for Compass Formation Opening Ceremony (8 JAN).	Have materials for Magnet Activities (8 JAN) and Polar Pull (8 JAN).	Call the destination of your field trip to confirm arrangements, times, fees, etc.	Denner writes a thank-you note to last week's destination. Have materials for Compass Points Opening Ceremony (8 JAN), for Magnet Activity 4, and balls for Snowball Spud (<i>Cub Scout Leader How-To Book</i>).
Den leader collects dues				
WHILE CUB SCOUTS GATHER	Den chief leads boys in playing Snowballs on a Spoon (8 JAN).	Collect permission slips. Den chief teaches the song "Sled Dog Fred" (8 JAN).		Boys sign thank-you note. Den chief reviews where the four directions are.
OPENING	Conduct the Compass Formation Opening Ceremony.	Boys recite the Pledge of Allegiance and Cub Scout motto.	Collect permission slips. Review any rules of conduct and safety for the trip.	Use the Compass Points Opening Ceremony.
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	With boys sitting in a circle, lead a discussion on magnets. Introduce the "Poles Apart" theme.	Review the "Poles Apart" theme and the importance of using the right tool, whether it's for exploration, construction, or education. Talk about the pack meeting this month and how the den will contribute.		Review the den's contribution to the pack meeting and practice it. Make sure every boy has a part. Do an informal uniform inspection.
ACTIVITY	Do Magnet Activities 1 and 2 (8 JAN). Play Global Warming.	Do Magnet Activity 3. Play Polar Pull.	Take a field trip to an aquarium or zoo to see animals from the North and South Poles. At the end of the trip, lead a reflecting discussion with boys about their outing.	Do Magnet Activity 4. In colder climates, go outside to play Snowball Spud. In warmer climates, play the same game with a ball for each boy.
CLOSING	Sing "Good Night Cub Scouts" (<i>Cub Scout Songbook</i>). Send home permission slips for the field trip during the third week.	Boys give the den yell.		Observe a moment of silence for all the polar explorers who contributed so much to our knowledge of the poles.
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 third week field trip.		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

Boys will have the opportunity to explore the concept of magnetism—along with the magnetic South and North Poles. Purchase magnets at a craft store, teacher supply store, or educational supply store so that each boy can do the experiments at the same time. A visit to a hardware store will introduce boys to many tools. Some may offer free or low-cost projects for boys to complete at the same time.

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

- *Achievement 12a*, “Making Choices”: Exploring a desolate area of the earth requires courage. Cub Scouts can explore what courage means by completing the Character Connection on courage.
- *Elective 10e*, “American Indian Lore”: Boys can make a model of an Aleut, Inuit, or other Alaskan Native American house.
- *Elective 20d*, “Sports”: Learning about the safety and courtesy codes for skiing is a first step in learning the sport.

OPENING CEREMONY: COMPASS POINTS

Materials: 12-ft. length of rope marked at 3-ft. intervals; join the two ends and secure with duct tape. Place the rope on the floor and form into a circle; place the U.S. flag in the center. On four pieces of paper write a large N, E, W, and S; place them randomly at each of the marked places on the rope.

Boys stand outside the circle facing the U.S. flag. Recite the Pledge of Allegiance followed by the Cub Scout Promise. With the boys around the circle ask: What do you think the letters stand for? Does it matter where the letters are placed? What tool or instrument could we use to put the letters in their proper positions? How do you think a compass works?

OPENING CEREMONY: COMPASS FORMATION

Preparation: Give each boy a sign with a compass point designation

Call for the boys to form a circle, standing in the appropriate position for their sign. Once the circle is formed, say the Law of the Pack.

MAGNET ACTIVITIES

Materials: For each group of three to four boys, provide bar magnets, 10 nails, at least 10 metal paper clips, at least 10 steel washers

Activity 1. Give each group a magnet, along with a box of steel paper clips and steel washers and nails. Ask each group to predict how many paper clips a particular magnet will attract; then how many washers and nails. Then see which group comes closest to the correct answer.

Activity 2. Ask Cub Scouts to explore moving the magnetic objects along a tabletop without touching. Boys explore by placing a magnet a distance from the objects and under the tabletop.

Activity 3. Distribute two bar magnets to each group. Ask Cub Scouts to predict what will happen when the two magnets are placed near each other. Direct boys to place magnets near each other in three different ways. Groups compare their findings.

Activity 4. Distribute nails and paper clips. See whether groups can figure out how to make a temporary magnet with a nail. Allow Cub Scouts time to experiment until they get the nail to pick up paper clips (by rubbing one pole of the magnet along the length of a nail).

GAMES

Snowballs on a Spoon

Materials: Snowballs (cotton balls or crushed ice if no snow is available), spoons

Form two teams, giving each a spoon and as many snowballs as there are members of the team, plus a few extras. The first person picks up a snowball on his spoon and carries it to a bucket at a distance determined ahead of time. If the snowball falls off the spoon or breaks, the boy must return to the starting point for a new snowball. Once the boy puts the snowball in the bucket, he runs back and the next boy takes his turn until all have had a turn.

Variation: If there is no snow in your area, try making snow from a snow cone machine.

Polar Pull

Conduct an old-fashioned tug-of-war. One team is the penguins, representing the South Pole. The other team

is the puffins, representing the North Pole. See which group has the greatest “magnetic” force over the other pole!

Global Warming

Equipment: Several plastic hoops, old towels or open sheets or newspaper, CD player or other music source

The leader explains that everyone is on an Antarctic expedition. The hoops represent icebergs that have broken away from the continental shelf. Boys must stay on the icebergs and out of the water to survive; the goal of the den is for everyone to survive. While the music is playing, boys may jump from iceberg to iceberg. But when the music stops, one of the icebergs “melts” and one hoop disappears. Play continues in this manner; as the number of icebergs gets smaller, it becomes more difficult for everyone to survive.

Lead a reflecting discussion at the end of the game. Ask boys how they felt when they realized there were fewer icebergs. Or how it felt to help save others. Tell the boys a little about global warming and how it threatens our planet.

SONG: SLED DOG FRED

Tune: Oh Susanna

I went to find the South Pole,
Just me and my dog Fred.
I know old Fred, he'll want to go,
He'll want to pull my sled.

We'll need a tent, we'll need some food,
About a ton or so,
A map would be real useful,
As o'er the ice we go.

Chorus

So, let's go Freddie!
Wasting time is futile.
We're off to find the South Pole,
Just me and my French poodle!

Poles Apart: Bear Den Meetings

Dens may meet after school, in the evenings, or on weekends.
Review the theme pages before planning den meetings.

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 a compass available for each boy; have materials for Compass Neckerchief Slides.	Have materials for Make a Compass (10 JAN); books on kayaks.	Call the destination of your field trip to confirm arrangements, times, fees, etc.	Denner writes a thank-you note to last week's destination. Have soap for carving and pocketknives for all boys (10 JAN), materials for Compass Pointing game (10 JAN).
Den leader collects dues				
WHILE CUB SCOUTS GATHER	Den chief shows the basics of a compass to the Bear den.	Collect permission slips. Boys make maps of their neighborhood (<i>Map and Compass belt loop, requirement 3</i>).	Collect permission slips.	Boys sign thank-you note. Play the Inuit jumping game of Nauktak (10 JAN).
OPENING	Boys say the Law of the Pack and the Cub Scout motto.	Boys form a semicircle, and denner leads a flag opening.		Boys answer roll call by giving the name of an animal they saw during the field trip.
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 "Poles Apart" theme and talk about polar adventurers. For next week, ask them to use the computer to identify two U.S. polar explorers (<i>Achievement 17d</i>) and report on them next week (<i>Achievement 3b</i>).	Show boys a library book or other resource with photos and encourage them to make a model of an Inuit kayak to share with the den in two weeks (<i>Achievement 21f</i>).	Visit an aquarium or zoo to see animals from the North and South Poles. At the end of the trip, lead a reflecting discussion with boys about their outing.	Boys who made kayak models share them with the rest of the den.
ACTIVITY	Make Compass Neckerchief Slides by gluing a PVC ring to the back of a toy compass. Review Achievement 11b—what to do if someone falls through ice.	Boys share their research on two polar explorers. Lead the Character Connection on Courage (10 JAN) based on the boys' research. Make compasses (10 JAN).		Boys make a carving with a pocketknife (<i>Achievement 19c</i>), with the den leader supervising closely. Play the Compass Pointing game.
CLOSING	Sing "Do, Do, Do Your Best" (<i>Cub Scout Songbook</i>). Send home permission slips for field trip during the third week.	Remind boys to bring a pocketknife for the fourth week meeting. Ask each boy to answer this question: "Why might it be difficult to be courageous in an emergency situation?"		Conduct the Good News Closing Ceremony (10 JAN).
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 third week field trip.		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

Cub Scouts will get a taste of adventure as they search out those who have explored the poles. They'll also learn to find their own way as they learn about maps and compasses and work toward earning the Map and Compass belt loop (see the *Cub Scout Academics and Sports Program Guide*).

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

- *Achievement 18b*, "Jot It Down": Boys can write two letters to relatives or friends and tell them what they find out about polar explorers.
- *Achievement 20c*, "Sawdust and Nails": Boys can use some tools to be helpful around the house and fix something at home.
- *Elective 17*, "Repairs": Cub Scouts can start the year off by doing a repair job at home.

CARVING

(*Achievement 19c*)



The Inuit, or Eskimos, carve beautiful animals, such as seals, bears, or dogs, from ivory and bone. You can make a carving of a bear like the Inuits do. Carve it out of soap. Share it with your den.

ACTIVITY: MAKE A COMPASS

Materials: Magnet, straight pin or needle, piece of cork about 1 in. wide by ¼ in. thick, bowl or saucer of water

Rub one end of the pin along the magnet about 12 times. Rub in one direction only—don't rub back and forth. Lift the pin up each time. Place the pin on the cork, and gently place the cork in the bowl of water. At first, the pin will swing around, and then it will point steadily in one direction. It points along the magnetic line between the Earth's North and South Poles.

GAMES

Compass Pointing

Materials: One dowel (or straight stick) for each boy; make cards with the major points of a compass (N, S, E, W, NE, NW, etc.)

Choose a card and have the boys lay down their dowels in the direction indicated on the card. The leader checks with a compass and gives a point for each correct direction.

Nauktak

Boys lie on the ground with their feet against a barrier (a wall). Mark the place where the top of his head touches, then the boy rises and crouches next to the barrier. The point is to try to jump out to the point where the mark was made.

Crossing the Ice

Equipment: 12-by-12-in. cardboard squares

Line teams up relay fashion. Each team has two pieces of cardboard, which are ice floes on which boys may step. On a signal, the first boy on each team places the two pieces of cardboard in front of him and moves forward. In order to continue moving forward, he must lift one foot and move that square forward to step on. He continues in this manner until he reaches a designated goal, and then he runs the squares back to the next player on his team. Play continues until all players have finished. If a player steps onto the floor instead of the cardboard, he has fallen into the water and must return to the starting line.

CHARACTER CONNECTION: COURAGE

Today you shared stories of American polar explorers (*Achievement 3b*). Being an explorer takes *courage*.



- What does courage mean? What is it?
- Boys your age may be faced with situations that require courage at school or at home. How do you show courage? (Examples: Saying no to drugs

or violence, standing up to a bully, being safe at home alone).

- In the week ahead, think of the times you will be faced with choices and congratulate yourself on the courageous choices you make.

CLOSING CEREMONY:

GOOD NEWS

Setup: Boys write N, E, W, and S on four large pieces of paper and read the following lines as they hold them up:

CUBMASTER: Have you ever noticed that the abbreviations for points of a compass spell NEWS?

BOY 1: N stands for North, but it also stands for NEVER give up.

BOY 2: E stands for East, but it also stands for EACH other and the friendship we have.

BOY 3: W stands for West, but it also stands for WEBELOS—our next destination in Scouting.

BOY 4: S stands for South, but it also stands for SCOUTS and our growing to be the best we can be.

ALL: Cub Scouting is good news for everyone!

KAYAK RACES

(*Elective 7d*)

If you can find an old clamp-on roller skate, the den can make a kayak. Screw the skate wheel assemblies near the ends of a 2-by-4 that is about 6 ft. long. In the middle, nail a sturdy box (wooden or cardboard) that is big enough to hold a paddler. Use a pole padded on both ends to propel your kayak.

