



**Core Value:
Positive Attitude**

Core Value of the Month

Positive Attitude: Being cheerful and setting our minds to look for and find the best in all situations.

As boys participate in various activities, they will come to understand that all things change and they can make a difference in how that change affects their lives. A positive outlook will provide hope and excitement for their future.

Pack Planning Meeting

Pack leaders meet one or two weeks before the pack meeting to finalize plans for January and develop plans for the February pack meeting.

Pack Committee

- ▶ Inviting special guests to share with the boys is always a treat. Review the Parent and Family Talent Survey Sheets on file for family members who could contribute to this month's pinewood derby or the February blue and gold banquet.
- ▶ The blue and gold banquet committee reports on site confirmation and food service plans. Invitations for special guests, the chartered organization representative, and school officials for the schools that service pack youth should be sent several weeks ahead of the event.
- ▶ The pinewood derby would be an ideal time to invite new boys to join Cub Scouting and join in the fun that happens this month. Set up a display of derby cars in a local library with joining information.
- ▶ Appoint the following committees:
 - Welcoming Committee.** Welcome families and direct them to the derby car registration area.
 - Pinewood Derby Committee.** Running the pinewood derby involves track setup, registration, judges, timekeepers, and scorers.
 - Awards Committee.** Ensure that all rank advancements, awards for the derby winners and participants, and other awards are ready to be presented.
 - Refreshments Committee.** Purchase or make healthy energy bars.

Cubmaster Corner

- ▶ **Pack Meeting Agenda.** Every month's pack meeting is filled with fun and excitement! In order for everything to go smoothly, it is important to create a written agenda for the evening. This will help you determine the amount of time each part of the meeting should take and will then help you make adjustments to keep the evening on track. See the Pack Meeting Planning Sheet in the *Cub Scout Leader Book*.
 - February and March are filled with ceremonies, as many boys are reaching their advancement goals and Webelos Scouts achieve the Arrow of Light and cross over into Boy Scouting. Review the pack's needs for ceremonial props to create the best memories for your Scouts.
 - Your council will be sponsoring camping opportunities for Cub Scouts. All pack members should be informed of the dates, location, and costs.
 - The pack will start planning a pack overnigher. Be sure that the leaders attend BALOO (Basic Adult Leader Outdoor Orientation) when it is offered in your area.

Pack Trainer

- ▶ Conduct the Unit Leadership Enhancement No. 14, Program Evaluation. It is important to evaluate the pack program objectively so that the pack can build on its strengths and strengthen its weakness. You may also choose a different topic that better suits the current needs of your pack. See the *Cub Scout Leader Book* for detailed outlines. Select a topic for next month.



Program Highlights

Academics and Sports

The Cub Scout Academics and Sports program is a great way to help fulfill the aims of Scouting—building character, developing citizenship, and encouraging mental and physical fitness. This month you might feature these belt loops and pins.

- ▶ **Geology:** Cub Scouts can learn about the physical properties of this wilderness and the effects of wind, water, and ice on the landscape.
- ▶ **Gymnastics:** Many community organizations have programs where boys can learn different types of gymnastics events.

See the *Cub Scout Academics and Sports Program Guide* for more information.

Outing in Scouting

- ▶ **Cub Scouts.** Take a hike in the same place as a previous hike and note the seasonal differences from the other time of the year.
- ▶ **Webelos Scouts.** Schedule a trip to gaze at the winter night sky.

Resource Highlight: *Cub Scout Grand Prix Pinewood Derby Guidebook* (No. 33721A)

This book provides instructions for including Cub Scout derbies in your program. The pinewood derby, rain-gutter regatta, and space derby have long been a valuable part of the Cub Scout program. By participating in these events, Cub Scouts learn the craft skills necessary to make the racing vehicle, the value of fair play, and the importance of good sportsmanship.



The January Pack Meeting

Positive Attitude

BEFORE THE MEETING

Committee members who are helping set up the pinewood derby track should arrive well in advance. Tables are needed for weighing in and inspecting the derby cars, and for organizing the event during the derby. Additional tables will be needed for the dens to display their projects. Hang plenty of banners and racing posters. Rope off an area near the track for cars to be placed once they have been checked in and registered.

GATHERING

As families arrive, direct them to the weigh-in tables for the derby cars and to the den tables where den projects are displayed. Judges begin their work during the gathering period. Every boy is a winner, so be sure to give every boy an award for participating.

OPENING

Opening Ceremony

Have a pre-assigned den present the colors and lead the Pledge of Allegiance. Or select a different ceremony from *Cub Scout Ceremonies for Dens and Packs*.

Prayer (Cub Scout or Leader)

“May we act in a manner that we remember the winner is not just the one who crosses the finish line first, but everyone who crosses the finish line.”

Welcome and Introductions

The Cubmaster welcomes everyone to the January pack meeting. Introduce and thank those who are helping with the different parts of the pinewood derby race.

PROGRAM

Start the racing of the pinewood derby cars. Throughout the derby, emphasize the importance of participation and positive attitude. Run the race in a predetermined order and promptly recognize the winners.

RECOGNITION

Use the ceremony below, or use a ceremony from *Cub Scout Ceremonies for Dens and Packs*.

Racetrack Advancement Ceremony

Equipment: Oval racetrack drawn on large poster board; cutouts of racing cars; green, blue, white, and black-and-white checkered flags.

CUBMASTER: Tonight we will honor our racecar drivers who have advanced in their Cub Scout rank. An announcer starts a race by telling the drivers, “Gentlemen, start your engines.” We have several boys who have started their engines and earned the Bobcat rank. Will the boys who have earned their Bobcat badge please come forward? (*Have the boys place cars at the starting line on the track. Parents present the boys the award.*)

The first step in any race is to establish a qualifying time. Tonight we have some new Tiger Cubs who have qualified as drivers on the Cub Scout track. Those boys who have qualified as Tiger Cubs, please come forward. (*Boys place cars on the track. Parents present the boys the award.*)

The green flag symbolizes those drivers who have qualified for the position of the Wolf badge on our advancement track. (*Have boys come forward, and place cars as above. Parents present the boys the award.*)

A blue flag informs the drivers that faster cars are approaching and the drivers should allow those cars to pass. The boys who are receiving their Bear badges are driving fast, so watch out for them! (*Have boys come forward, and place cars on the track. Parents present the boys the award.*)



The white flag is waved when only one lap is left. The boys who are receiving the Webelos badge, please come forward. Congratulations! You are on your last lap! *(Place cars on the track. Parents present the boys the award.)*

The checkered flag announces the end of the race. It shows that the driver has reached the goal. Will the following boys come forward for our highest track award, the Arrow of Light. *(Place cars on the track. Parents present the boys the award.)*

Victory lane, also known as the winner's circle, is the spot on each racetrack's infield where the race winner parks the winning car and enjoys his victory celebration. Let's cheer the boys in our pack who have all made it to victory lane.

Parent Pins

Show your pride in your son's advancement in Cub Scouts with a parent pin to match his earned rank. Boys receive their rank recognition in the form of a cloth badge, and parents are presented a parent pin during the advancement ceremony. After a few years, each parent will have accumulated a collection. Parents can wear the pins on a parents-pride ribbon. This special ribbon allows parents to keep adding rank-advancement pin recognitions, beginning with Bobcat. It's a family memory that starts today and continues through the highest Boy Scout rank. Parent pins are not worn on the official BSA uniform.

CLOSING

Announcements

Briefly remind families about upcoming dates and refer them to the information in the newsletter. A member of the blue and gold banquet committee reviews the banquet details: date, time, place, and banquet/dining procedures.

Cubmaster's Minute

Only Winners

At the conclusion of our derby night, I would like to say that we were all winners here tonight. Parents have more respect and pride for their son whether he is a humble winner or a graceful loser. The boys gained a better knowledge of competition; how to win, how to lose, and how to be happy for his friend who is taking home the trophy he himself wanted so badly. The leaders felt proud knowing each of their boys had done their best. Building the car helped bring son and parents together and cheering for our den members helped bring the den closer together. Yes, there are only winners here tonight. Thank you all for helping to make the pack go and the Cub Scouts grow. Good night and congratulations to all us winners.

Closing Ceremony

We Are All Pinewood Derby Winners

Have the winners of the various trophies stand and be recognized one more time. Ask the boys who are not yet standing to come forward and lead the pack in the Cub Scout Promise or Law of the Pack, as they, too are winners, because they "did their best."

AFTER THE MEETING

- ▶ Refreshments
- ▶ Cleanup