



Bear Den Meeting 15

Build a Model

Achievement 21a.

Preparation and Materials Needed

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

Before the Meeting

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

Gathering

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

Opening

- ▶ Flag ceremony (indoor or outdoor; rotate roles to complete **Achievement 3f**) with Pledge of Allegiance; the Cub Scout Promise or a patriotic song (of other opening).
- ▶ Consider a roll call, uniform inspection, or den yell.

Business Items

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

Activities

- ▶ Go to www.pinewoodderby.org for all things related to pinewood derby. Scouts can watch a movie, build a car, or view photos of other Scouts' cars—all online. Rules, resources, and much more are now in one location. This is a good place to begin.
- ▶ **Achievement 21a** ("Build a model."): Build pinewood derby cars with each Scout.
 - It will likely take two or more meetings to make the pinewood derby car.



Want More Fun in Your Activities?

Focus first on fun designs: Have each Scout use his imagination about what he wants his car to look like. Encourage all to be creative. You may not have the fastest car, but can you have the coolest design?

Here are some crazy ideas:	Burrito	Hot dog
Coke bottle	Train engine	Shark
Skateboard	School bus	Computer
Game Boy	Boat	Beaver on a log
Laptop	Fish	Banana
Computer mouse	Fire truck	Rat
Cockroach	Bath tub	Ambulance
Watermelon	Cell phone	Dragster rocket
Tank	Camera	Cheese wedge
Gift wrapped	Pencil	Batmobile
iPod	Pickup truck	Zamboni

- Start by cutting and sanding the block of wood.
 - The den leader may wish to hold all of the wheels and axles until the second meeting. The cars can be painted at the next meeting. Apply decals when the paint is dry.
 - The Cub Scout and adult should make the car together as a project. Don't let the Cub Scout just stand around while the adult cuts and sands and does all the work. Parents should shape with tools, power tools or whatever (let the Scout help as he can on the rasping and sanding), and then direct the rest of the action while showing the boy each step in building a car. Let your Scout work to his ability.
 - Den leaders: Watch carefully, and be sure that adult partners don't get carried away with this project and leave out their Cub Scouts in the process. If this is a risk, you might suggest to your pack that they have an adult division so that the adult partners can have a way to participate while allowing their Cub Scouts to really make their own cars.
- ▶ Watch this meeting carefully because you'll probably need some breaks. Be sure to mix in brief games and songs (serious or silly) to change the pace of the meeting because Cub Scouts have short attention spans. You and they will have more fun and focus better if you mix it up.

Closing

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

After the Meeting

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