



Bear Den Meeting 2

What Makes America Special? and The Past Is Exciting and Important

Achievement 3. Achievement 8. Character Connection for Citizenship.

Preparation and Materials Needed

- ▶ If applicable, for Den Meeting 2, make arrangements to take a field trip to a local historical place of interest.
- ▶ If you can, invite someone who was a Cub Scout a long time ago to accompany (or visit) your den. Ask the historical place of interest if they have a tour guide/host who was a Cub Scout. If not, see if a dad or grandfather or trusted neighbor was a Cub Scout. Ask that person to be prepared to tell the boys what Cub Scouting was like then. Also, if that person is comfortable doing so, ask that person to help with the achievement discussions; provide this meeting plan in advance to assist them.
- ▶ Research when your state was admitted to the Union; its state bird, tree, and flower; and the symbolic elements of the state flag.
- ▶ **Achievement 3** (“What Makes America Special?”) provides: Do requirements (a) and (j) and any *two* of the others. This meeting plan offers options for more achievements that would be electives for Arrow Points after the badge is earned.
- ▶ Materials checklist (add to your den Cub tub of U.S./den flags, paper/pencils, other supplies):
 - Paper or whiteboard or chalkboard to list “what makes America special to you.”
 - U.S. flag, den flag, and state flag or pictures of state flag. Pictures of bird, tree, flower, etc.
 - If you’re doing a field trip, prepare permission slips for the field trip to a bicycle shop at Den Meeting 3.

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); especially collect completed family history chart from each boy (**Achievement 8d**) and add it to the den scrapbook (**Achievement 8c**). Assign parents to meeting roles and hand out a meeting plan to each.
- ▶ If you’re on a field trip, as boys arrive, collect permission slips from parents who are not staying.

Opening

- ▶ 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.
- ▶ If you have a guest, give a formal introduction, including what the guest will do for you.

Business Items

- ▶ **Verify:** Collect completed family history chart from each boy (**Achievement 8d**) and **Bobcat requirement 8**. Allow them time to talk about it and add to the den scrapbook.
- ▶ Use this time to discuss participation in coming pack meetings or events, as needed.

Activities

- ▶ **Achievement 3d** (“Find out where places of historical interest are located in or near your town or city. Go and visit one of them with your family or den.”): Examples include a local historical house, building, museum, historical plaque, monument, cemetery, something old!
 - Your field trip activities will need to be determined with the staff at your destination.
- ▶ **Achievement 3a** (“Write or tell what makes America special to you.”) (Required). Have each boy discuss (you can use other adult leaders to create smaller groups for this):
 - Discussion can be “open” (call on Scouts as hands go up), or organized around the circle, but either way, be sure everyone gets to participate and no one is left out.



A great way to inform and involve parents is to pass out a family information letter at the end of each meeting.

- Adults can participate too, if needed to get the conversation going.
- A flip chart or whiteboard on which you write answers can help focus attention and reward good ideas.

- ▶ **Achievement 3j:** Complete the Character Connection for Citizenship. (Required)
 - **Know:** Tell ways some people in the past have served our country. Tell about some people who serve our country today. (Don't forget about ordinary people who serve our country.)
 - **Commit:** Tell something that might happen to you and your family if other people were not responsible citizens. Tell one thing you will do to be a good citizen.
 - **Practice:** Tell three things you did in one week that show you are a good citizen.
- ▶ **Achievement 3b** ("With the help of your family or den leader, find out about two famous Americans. Tell the things they did or are doing to improve our way of life.") (**Note:** this could be an elective.)
- ▶ **Achievement 3e:** If time permits, show the state flag and seek answers to name the state bird, tree, flower, and date the state was admitted to the union. If boys have prepared information on a different state, ask them to share their findings with the den.
- ▶ **Achievement 8e** ("Find out some history about your community.") Discuss with the representative of the place you visit or with someone who was a Cub Scout a long time ago (**Achievement 8b**). See the *Bear Handbook* for discussion areas.

Want More Fun Activities?

- ▶ Invite someone who was a Cub Scout a long time ago, ideally a tour guide at your place of historical interest or another guest at your den meeting. If so, he might help complete (or reinforce) **Achievement 8b** (Talk about what Cub Scouting was like way back when) as an elective, by talking about his meetings, activities, and other memories.
- ▶ **Achievement 3f, 3h, and 3i.** As part of **Achievement 3f** ("Be a member of the color guard in a flag ceremony for your den or pack.") and **3h** ("Learn how to raise and lower a U.S. flag properly for an outdoor ceremony."), practice a flag ceremony.
 - By rotating flag ceremony opening/closings, you'll complete **Achievement 3f** well before the banquet.
 - If you have access to an outdoor flagpole, do **Achievement 3h** (raise/lower) and **3i** (outdoor flag ceremony).

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).
 - ▶ **Home Assignment:** If not completed in Den Meeting 2, ask parents to help their sons complete **Achievement 3b** at home. Provide the Bike Safety Quiz and answers to help teach Scouts and parents. Remind Cub Scouts and their families to work on **Achievement 16a** and record weekly results. Completed achievement forms will be due at the next meeting.
- ▶ If you're doing a field trip next meeting, hand out permission slips for the field trip to a bicycle shop. **Note:** If you do a one-mile ride, the meeting may take approximately two hours to complete.
- ▶ 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.



Bike Safety Quiz

A bicycle is not a toy; it is a vehicle and you are the driver!

Learn to share the road and Ride Safely.

1. Are there any times when you don't need to wear a helmet when riding a bike?

Answer: _____

2. Name three safe bike riding practices:

Answer: _____

3. What kinds of things should you check before you begin to ride?

Answer: _____

4. Where do most bicycle crashes occur?

Answer: _____

5. When riding your bike, it is important to stay alert at all times. Name three road hazards you should watch out for:

Answer: _____

6. Is it OK to ride a bicycle while listening to audio headphones?

Answer: _____

7. What is the most serious type of injury for cyclists?

Answer: _____

8. Always be a courteous cyclist. Remember, who has the right of way? Cyclists or pedestrians?

Answer: _____

9. How do you finish this sentence? Be Safe, Be _____! Sore or Seen?

Answer: _____

10. Always go with the flow of traffic, and stay to which side of the road?

Answer: _____

11. Before entering a roadway, you should look which ways for traffic?

Answer: _____

12. Where do you always need to check before changing lanes?

Answer: _____

13. Your bicycle helmet should cover your what?

Answer: _____

14. Your bicycle helmet should fit how?

Answer: _____

15. When making a turn, what do you do for others?

Answer: _____



Bike Safety Quiz Answers

A bicycle is not a toy . . . it is a vehicle and *you are the driver!*
Learn to share the road and *Ride Safely.*

1. Are there any times when you don't need to wear a helmet when riding a bike?

Answer: No, you should wear a helmet every time you get on any bike.

2. Name three safe bike riding practices:

Answers include:

- a. Ride single file.
- b. Obey traffic signs, signals, and lane markings.
- c. Always ride on the right side of the road, with traffic.
- d. Signal your moves to others.
- e. Check for traffic at an intersection.
- f. Stay alert at all times; slow down at driveways.
- g. _____

3. What kinds of things should you check before you begin to ride?

Answers:

- a. Inflate your tires properly.
- b. Check your brakes before riding.
- c. Always wear bright colors.
- d. Make sure you're not wearing clothes that can get caught in your bike.
- e. Carry your books and other possessions in a bicycle carrier or backpack.

4. Where do most bicycle crashes occur?

Answer: At intersections, including driveways.

5. When riding your bike, it is important to stay alert at all times. Name three road hazards you should watch out for.

Answers: Potholes, wet leaves, storm grates, cracks, gravel, broken glass or trash, water or oil, parked cars (doors flying open), _____

6. Is it OK to ride a bicycle while listening to audio headphones?

Answer: No.

7. What is the most serious type of injury for cyclists?

Answer: Head injuries.

8. Always be a courteous cyclist. Remember, who has the right of way? Cyclists or pedestrians?

Answer: Pedestrians.

9. How do you finish this sentence? Be Safe, Be _____! Sore or Seen?

Answer: Be Safe, Be Seen!

10. Always go with the flow of traffic, and stay to which side of the road?

Answer: The right side of the road.

11. Before entering a roadway, you should look which ways for traffic?

Answer: Left-right-left.

12. Where do you always need to check before changing lanes?

Answer: Beside you, in front of you, and behind you!

13. Your bicycle helmet should cover your what?

Answer: Forehead and the top of your head.

14. Your bicycle helmet should fit how?

Answer: Snugly, all straps snug and attached.

15. When making a turn, what do you do for others?

Answer: Signal your turn; show right and left turn signals.