



## Supplemental Bear Den Meeting J

### Landscaping

Elective 14.

### Preparation and Materials Needed

- ▶ Arrange to take part in a project with your den to make your neighborhood or community more beautiful. Consider whether your chartered organization has a need for a landscaping project, and get permission.
  - Schedule this meeting at a time of year when flowers can be planted.
- ▶ Determine if you've got a parent who has an interest in this topic to come in as a guest leader for this.
- ▶ Note that if you break out parts of this meeting in advance, you can do more of the elective:
- ▶ Materials checklist (add to your den Cub tub of U.S./den flags, paper/pencils, other supplies):
  - Work gloves for each boy and leader
  - Plastic bags to collect litter
  - Flower bulbs or seedlings, mulch and/or other landscaping material for your project
  - Paper and pencils for the landscaping plan

### 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

- ▶ Remind the boys of appropriate behavior, including safety considerations, at the site of your visit.
- ▶ Use this time to discuss participation in coming pack meetings or pack events, as needed.

### Activities

- ▶ **Elective 14b** ("Make a sketch of a landscape plan for the area right around your home. Talk it over with a parent or den leader. Show which trees, shrubs and flowers you could plant to make the area look better."): You might do this if it fits your project:
  - Show the boys the area that you'll be working on and improving, and ask for their ideas.
  - Unless you break this out and do this before the actual working day, you will want to limit their final ideas to use of the materials in hand.
  - Have them map out where items should be planted in the landscape area.

### Want More Fun Activities?

**Elective 14d** ("Build a greenhouse and grow 20 plants from seed. You can use a package of garden seeds, or use beans, pumpkin seeds, or watermelon seeds.") You might do this if it fits your project:

- ▶ If you do this in an earlier meeting, you can plant those today.
- ▶ Or plant your seeds today, put them in your simple greenhouse, and then transplant them in a later meeting when the plants are ready.



- ▶ **Elective 14c** (“Take part in a project with your family, den, or pack to make your neighborhood or community more beautiful.”) and/or **14a** (“With an adult, help take care of your lawn or flower beds, or help take care of the lawn or flower beds of a public building, school, or church. Seed bare spots. Get rid of weeds. Pick up litter. Agree ahead of time on what you will do.”):

With your Scouts, work your plan:

- Prepare the area (clear trash, weeds, work the soil as needed to prepare).
- Plant your flowers and/or bulbs or other plants, and apply any mulch or other landscape cover.
- Be sure to take “before and after” pictures!

### Want More Fun?

Leaning on a shovel and waiting as the landscaping is done may be less active, so watch to see if and when you might need to do some more games or pull something from your den’s emergency fun box.

### 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.