



*Pinewood derby car for
Craftsman activity badge?*

Webelos Den Meeting 13

Craftsmen (Derby Car Construction)

Craftsman activity badge (partial).

Preparation and Materials Needed

- ▶ Read the Craftsman chapter in the *Webelos Handbook*.
 - Review the Crafts sections in the *Cub Scout Leader How-To Book* for ideas about crafts you or an activity badge counselor could conduct in the den meetings.
- ▶ Identify any parents or other pack resources who are handy with tools and could be your activity badge counselor for this meeting—these might include woodworkers, potters (so consider your art teachers), and arts and crafts hobbyists. If you have such a resource, you might do this meeting as a field trip to the craftsman's workshop. You might see if a local hardware store can host a Craftsman meeting.
 - Be sure any guest speaker knows how long the presentation should run, and that you've confirmed what can or should be covered that would be interesting and fun for the Scouts.
 - Show any guest speaker the Craftsman chapter in the *Webelos Handbook*.
- ▶ Make arrangements for your den to take a field trip 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.
- ▶ If you are doing this as a field trip, inform Scouts and families about when and where to meet.

▶ **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

- ▶ Review After the Meeting at the end of the previous den meeting plan for necessary preparation and materials.
- ▶ 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.
- ▶ If you have background materials for the activity badge, Scouts may be interested in reviewing those.
- ▶ If you're on a field trip, as boys arrive, collect permission slips from parents who are not staying.
- ▶ 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 (rotate planning and leadership to complete **Webelos requirement 6**), with Pledge of Allegiance; maybe recite the Cub Scout Promise or sing a patriotic song; perhaps add a roll call, uniform recognition, or den yell.
- ▶ If you have a guest, give a formal introduction, including what the guest will do for you.

Business Items

- ▶ Remind the boys of appropriate behavior, including safety considerations, at the site of your visit.
- ▶ Use this time also to discuss participation in upcoming pack meetings or events as needed.
- ▶ Explain that today's meeting is to work on the **Craftsman activity badge** because we want to learn to use tools, and find some craftsman talent that will be useful or may lead to a hobby in one of these areas.



Activities

- ▶ **Craftsman Activity Badge:** Requirements are to do requirements 1–4. (This meeting does 1 and 2 (partial). The next meeting does 3 and 4.)
 1. Explain how to safely handle the tools that you will use for this activity badge safely.
 2. With adult supervision and using hand tools, construct two different wooden objects you and your Webelos den leader agree on, such as the items listed below. Use a coping saw or jigsaw for these projects. Put them together with glue, nails, or screws. Paint or stain them.
 - Many den leaders pick pinewood derby cars as something to build, but two objects need building, and there are many alternatives:

Book rack	Mailbox	Bread box
Napkin holder	Letter holder	Recipe holder
Shelf	Birdhouse	Key rack
Animal cutouts	Notepad holder	Lamp stand
Bulletin board	Desk nameplate	Measuring cup rack
Garden tool rack	Toolbox	Kitchen knife rack
Weather vane	Letter, bill, and pencil holder	Measuring spoon rack
Lid holder	Towel rack	Kitchen utensil rack
Tie rack		

Fun Ideas for Car Design

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:

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

- ▶ In the boys' *Webelos Handbooks*, sign the requirements met (and update your records).

Closing

- ▶ Award (or recognize) any advancement completed today (ideally, award the activity badge, belt loop or compass item completed today, and recognize later at the pack meeting); thank hosts, guests, helpers.
- ▶ Closing ceremony (rotate planning and leadership to complete **Webelos requirement 6**): Retire the colors; maybe with the Boy Scout Oath and/or Law, or the Law of the Pack and/or den yell. Den leader may add a den leader's minute comment.
- ▶ Remind the Webelos Scout who will plan and lead the next meeting's flag ceremony, and remind about home assignments (and include these in any family information letter or e-mail).
- ▶ Hand out or send family information letter.

- ▶ **Home Assignment:** Review the Craftsman and Scholar chapters in the *Webelos Handbook*.

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.