



## Webelos Den Meeting 18

### Dramatic Showmen

Showman Activity Badge (complete).

### Preparation and Materials Needed

- ▶ Read the Showman chapter in the *Webelos Handbook*.
    - **Note:** This meeting plans a drama-focused version of Showman, and so adds some other elements from Webelos Den Meetings 16 (Puppetry) and 17 (Music), to complete the activity badge in one meeting.
    - But if you have interest and it fits your schedule, you could cover each element of Showman.
    - Or you may choose to pick a more even mixture from each: Showman requires completion nine requirements, as long as there is at least one from each of puppetry, music and drama.
  - ▶ Identify any parents or other pack resources (like teachers) who are into theater and could be your activity badge counselor for this meeting. Or you might see if a drama teacher or someone from a community theater can visit your den meeting, or you might do this meeting as a field trip to a school or community theater.
    - Be sure any guest speaker knows how long you 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 Showman chapter in the *Webelos Handbook*.
  - ▶ If you are doing this as a field trip, inform Scouts and families about when and where to meet.
  - ▶ Materials checklist (add to your den Cub tub of U.S./den flags, paper/pencils, other supplies):
    - Pictures of William Shakespeare's Globe Theatre
    - Props and costumes for the drama options you pick from this plan and the *Webelos Handbook*
- Bring some examples of short plays.
- The *Cub Scout Songbook* or words to a folk song for the Scouts to sing
  - **Showman activity badge** pins for each of your Scouts (so they can be awarded if completed today) and compass emblems or points (if those will be completed today)

### 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 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 to discuss participation in coming pack meetings or events, as needed.
- ▶ Explain that today's meeting is to work on the **Showman activity badge** because we want to get exposed to theater and music arts, to build self-confidence by performing, and to have fun by acting.



## Activities

- ▶ The **Showman activity badge** requirements are to complete nine requirements from among the puppetry, music, and drama requirements offered, as long as there is at least one requirement completed from each of the puppetry, music and drama areas.
  - This is a drama plan, and adds puppetry and music requirements to complete the activity badge.
  - **Showman 16:** Give a monologue (a talk) on a patriotic, humorous, or holiday subject, or another subject of your choice.
    - Could be serious, could be comedy.
    - Stand-up comedy is when someone delivers a humorous monologue—which is when a solo actor recites or acts out a play or gives a talk on any topic.
    - Let your boys warm up your next den meeting by preparing a series of jokes or stories to entertain their den mates. Boys’ Life magazine is an excellent source of fresh humor every month.
  - **Showman 21:** Describe a theater-in-the-round. What are its good and bad points?
  - **Showman 22:** Explain the difference between a grand opera and a light opera. Explain the difference between a musical and a play.
  - **Showman 23:** Read about William Shakespeare. Draw a picture of his Globe Theatre.
    - For these three requirements, see pages 446–453 of the *Webelos Handbook*.
  - **Showman 18:** Read a play. Make a model stage setting for one of the acts.
    - You can bring examples, or the Scouts can read a play that another Scout has written.
  - **Showman 20:** Make a list of stage directions. Tell what they mean.
    - These should be part of the play that they put on.
  - **Showman 19:** Write, put on, and take part in a one-act play.
    - You might split the den into two groups, to put on separate plays for each other.
    - One way to handle the play-writing phase of this badge is to let Webelos Scouts produce a film, using a home camcorder to record the action.
    - This is a unique opportunity that should excite the boys. Let the boys write the script, choose someone to direct and film it, and act in it. You’ll find that ideas for the plot will come easily.
  - **Showman 17:** Attend a play. Describe the story. Tell what you liked about it.
    - Here the Scouts get to be drama critics as they watch a puppet play put on by another Scout or group of Scouts in the den.
- ▶ Puppetry activities (you could pick another item from requirements 2 to 7 if you choose):
  - **Showman 3:** Make a set of puppets or marionettes for the play you have written or for another play.
    - See Meeting Plan 16 for ideas on making puppets.
    - You might have them incorporate this as a ventriloquist act:
      - Have boys write a dialogue that takes place between themselves and a hand puppet they use as a ventriloquist’s dummy.
      - It is not very likely that a 10-year-old boy will be a very good ventriloquist, but if he makes wide, exaggerated actions with the puppet, the audience’s eyes will be on the puppet rather than the boy.
      - Other alternatives include having another boy off-stage speaking for the dummy, or having the dummy’s dialogue recorded on tape.
      - Both of these methods work well, particularly if you have a microphone available.
- ▶ Music activities (you could pick another item from requirements 8 to 15 if you choose):
  - **Showman 11:** Tell what folk music is. Hum, sing, or play a folk tune on a musical instrument.
    - See Page 441 of the *Webelos Handbook*. For example, “This Land Is Your Land.”
    - In the boys’ *Webelos Handbooks*, sign the requirements met (and update your records).

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### 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, and 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.

### 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.