



*This den meeting is normally done as a field trip. Are you ready?*

# Webelos Den Meeting 2

## Naturalist and Forester

### Preparation and Materials Needed

- ▶ Arrange to visit a museum of natural history, nature center, or zoo.
  - Or you might arrange for someone to bring items that might be in a nature center.
- ▶ Identify any parents or other pack resources who are interested in nature (on a working or hobby basis) and could be your activity badge counselor for this meeting. Or you might see if a science teacher, parks department naturalist, or other hobbyist can visit your den 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 Naturalist and Forester chapters 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):
  - If you are not visiting a place with Naturalist resources, bring what you can (at least books or downloads of pictures of wildlife).
  - Tree books and materials about trees in your area.
  - Naturalist and Forester activity badge pins for each of your Scouts (so they can be awarded if completed today).
  - A slice of tree trunk showing growth rings. More, if possible, to show different growth patterns. Use cut lumber if tree trunks are not available.

### 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.
- ▶ 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 among the Webelos Scouts), with Pledge; maybe recite the Cub Scout Promise or sing a patriotic song; perhaps add a roll call, uniform recognition, den yell. Webelos Scouts will eventually want to incorporate the Boy Scout Oath and Boy Scout Law into ceremonies.
- ▶ If you have a guest, give a formal introduction, including what the guest will do for you.

### Business Items

- ▶ Use this time also to discuss participation in upcoming pack meetings or events as needed.
- ▶ **Verify:** Review boys' handbooks for completion of **Fitness 2–7**. Sign handbooks and record on the den advancement record.
- ▶ Explain that today's meeting is to work on the **Naturalist activity badge** because we all need to increase our awareness of, and gain an appreciation for, the natural world around us.

### Activities

- ▶ **Naturalist Activity Badge:** Requirements are to do requirement 1 and then five of 2 through 13. (This meeting plan does 1, 4, 8, and 10. Requirements 6, 7, and 9 are to be covered in the next meeting.)
  1. With your parent, guardian, or Webelos den leader, complete the Respect Character Connection.
    - a. **Know:** Tell what interested you most when completing the requirements for this activity badge. Tell what you learned about how you can show appreciation and respect for wildlife.
    - b. **Commit:** Tell things some people have done that show a lack of respect for wildlife. Name ways you will show respect for and protect wildlife.
    - c. **Practice:** Explain how completing the requirements for this activity badge gives you the opportunity to show respect.



4. Visit a museum of natural history, a nature center, or a zoo with your family, Webelos den, or pack. Tell what you saw.
  8. Watch six wild animals (snakes, turtles, fish, birds, or mammals) in the wild. Describe the kind of place (forest, field, marsh, yard, or park) where you saw them. Tell what they were doing.
  10. Identify a plant, bird, or wild animal that is found only in your area of the country. Tell why it survives only in your area.
- **Forester Activity Badge:** Requirements are to do five of 1–10. This plan does requirements 3, 4, and 9.
3. Identify six forest trees common to the area where you live. Tell how both wildlife and humans use them. (If you don't live in a region that has forests, read about one type of forest and name six of its trees and their uses.)
  4. Identify six forest plants (other than trees) that are useful to wildlife. Tell which animals use them and for what purposes.
  9. Describe both the benefits and the harm wildfires can cause in a forest ecosystem. Tell how you can prevent wildfire.
- Activities you could do for these requirements include:
- Tree Survey:
    - Select a small area with several species of trees, like a school yard, a small park, or someone's yard.
    - Sketch a map of the area.
    - Divide the boys into pairs and assign each a section of the area.
    - Have them collect a leafy twig from each tree in their area and try to identify the species (if you can't identify it, describe it, and compare it to other known types of trees).
    - Measure the height and diameter of each tree.
    - Collect any fallen twigs, branches and leaves for leaf print and wood samples.
    - See how many different species were found.
  - Leaf Identification Contest (you might collect the supplies for this while on the hike and use for the pack):
    - Mount about 20 different leaves on a large piece of cardboard with each properly identified.
    - Also prepare another piece of cardboard with the same leaves in different locations.
    - Number these leaves but don't identify them.
    - Give the boys time to study the first display, and then put it away.
    - Give each boy paper and pencil and ask them to identify the leaves on the second display.
  - Find a Tree Game:
    - Play this game outdoors where there are plenty of trees.
    - Pair the boys with a partner and have one of them put on a blindfold.
    - The non-blindfolded boy leads his partner to a tree, who feels the tree's bark, limbs, and leaves.
    - The pair returns to their starting point.
    - The boy removes his blindfold and tries to find the tree he felt while blindfolded.
    - Then it is the other boy's turn to find a tree.
- In the boys' *Webelos Handbooks*, sign the requirements met (and update your records).

## Closing

- Award (or recognize) any advancement completed today; 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 Forester and Naturalist chapters of the *Webelos Handbook*.

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### After the Meeting

- ▶ Re-read the Naturalist and Forester chapters in the *Webelos Handbook*.
- ▶ 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.