Assembled Den Meeting Plan – LION (Kindergarten)

This ***Assembled* Den Meeting Plan** combines ideas from Lion Adventures Den Meeting Resources found at Scouting.Org or from the requirements themselves, into the parts of a quality Den Meeting, which are **Preparation** (plan + collect materials needed), **Gathering** (something for early arrivals to do), **Opening** (a ceremony to start), then **Activities** (an Activities Intro chat, followed by a series of activities, ideally alternating quiet and energetic fun), **Closing + Recognition** (ceremony), and **After the Meeting** (follow up) …

Lion – Kindergarten

Ready, Set, Grow

A "Science" Adventure

ELECTIVE (2 "electives" are needed to earn the Rank of Lion)



Snapshot of Adventure. Gardening for fun and for food is how Lions will discover some of the wonders of natural science.

The QR Code above takes you to scouting.org/cub-scout-adventures/ready-set-grow/ ↑

This Den Meeting Plan adapts Activity content from that Scouting.org link with other fun, simple, easy ideas. For more, see the Adventure Resources at the end of this Plan for a menu of activity options at that link.

Requirements from the Lion Handbook

1. **Discover where the food we eat comes from.**
2. **Plant a small garden outside or in a container.**
3. **Visit with an individual who can demonstrate different ways to garden (outside, greenhouse, container, etc.) and the basic skills needed to garden.**

Meeting Plan

Does this take one Meeting to complete – or more? It's up to the Parents / Leaders! As written, you can do this in a single 60-minute session with a gardener who comes to you, but you might split this into a visit to a garden for Requirement 3 and the other two in a den meeting where you add just fun games.

A Tip About Den Meetings for Kindergarten Kids:

- Which is better? Classroom or Playground? ***Yes, Playground!***
  - Better for the Scouts – they'll know what to do at a Playground.
  - Better for the Parents – while the Scouts play you can finalize your plans for the next part of your Cub Scout Adventure content today.
- If Scouting is "*A Game with a Purpose*", maybe Lion Dens are "*A Play Date with a Purpose*" – and there's nothing wrong with combining fun with meaning + values!
  - Maybe visit multiple playgrounds during your Lion Year – adult partners to host.



PREPARATION (and materials needed): Read the Ready, Set, Grow Adventure in the Lion Handbook.

- As always, decide whether you like any of the "Activity Card" options for the Requirements or the suggested activities below or some other way to deliver this Adventure.
  - When you decide, check the materials and supplies you need.
  - You'll need to decide on gardening supplies for "plant a garden outside or in a container".

- Decide on how to do the "visit with a gardener" Requirement in Activity 3 – if you're not the gardener, you'll want to arrange that in advance so that the gardener can prepare and has time to help you and your Scout.
  - If you're going to a garden for that visit, share time and place details with your families.

GATHERING: A "gathering" activity is to keep Scouts occupied as the rest of the den arrives. *What you do will depend on your location and leadership resources*.

- Use gathering time to connect with adults and "share the leader load": everyone can help with something! A good approach is for different parents (or teams) to share the "lead" of parts of the Adventure below.

OPENING: (Parent leader: _____) An Opening ceremony says, "we've begun" and helps set the tone.

- Maybe: a simple ceremony you like that includes the Pledge of Allegiance and the Scout Oath and/or Law.

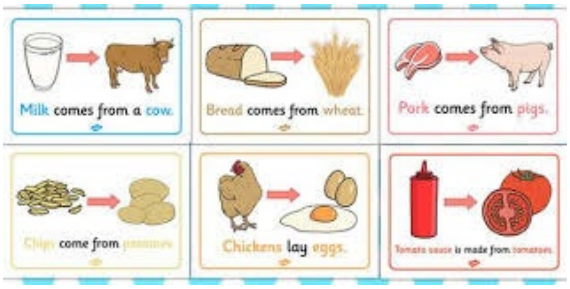
ACTIVITIES (See also other Activities linked at Adventure Resources – use those if you like them):

🔶**Activity Intro:** (Parent leader: _____) As you move into Activities, have some "talk time" where you (1) discuss today's Adventure activities (what you'll do, how you'll do it – share in a way to get the Scouts excited) and (2) let each of the Scouts share "what's new" with them and get to know each other better.

🔶**Activity 1: Where Does Food Come From? (Requirement 1: "*Discover where the food we eat comes from.*")** (Parent leader: _____)

The Adventure Resources offer Activity Cards of Ground, Tree, Vine, Farm (Handbook Coloring Exercise), Supermarket Fun (Arrange for a Supermarket/Grocery Store Tour – Hey, Much Better Would be a Farmer's Market), and Where Does That Food Come From (Relay Race with Toy/Plastic Foods). Use what you like – or something else. The plan below adapts the substance of the Requirement.

- Gather the Scouts and adult partners and share with them that natural foods come from natural places such as plants or animals.
- Trees and vines produce fruits that start off as flowers and then form into an edible fruit that contains seeds.
- When animals eat fruit, they eat the seeds too!
  - When they poop, they help spread the seeds.
- In the ground there are vegetables that are plants or roots that we can eat, vegetables don't have seeds.
- On a farm animals can become sources of protein.



🔶**Activity 2: Plant a Garden! (Requirement 2: "*Plant a small garden outside or in a container.*")** (Parent leader: _____) The Adventure Resources offer Alright, Alright, Alright, It's Avocado Time (growing an avocado from seed), From Eggs to Planter (Various Seeds in an Egg Carton), and Sunflowers and Sunshine (Sunflower Seeds in a Pot). Use what you like, what's below – or something else.

- Key is to decide what you want to plant and where … outside or in a container like a pot. Here's a very simple approach for planting in a container. Materials:
  - Container (if not a planting pot, then maybe a recycled item that will hold soil and will have drainage at the bottom – it can also be as simple as a cup or bowl)
  - Potting soil
  - Seeds or sprouted plants that you'll transplant to your container.
  - Small rocks or pebbles for drainage (Mulch on the top is optional)



- Planting: Follow the instructions for your plant or seeds as to the size of pot and type of soil.
  - Here's a "how to start a garden" for kids video: youtube.com/watch?v=6sEKubBz9fA
  - … or do an internet search of the type of plants or seeds you'll plant to get tips.
  - The gardener you visit in Activity 1 might be able to direct you.
- If you really like this, don't stop at one pot!
  - Feel free to make multiple containers for your home's plants, or containers with multiple plants.
  - And put your Scout to work watering and caring for their plants.









◆Activity 3: Visit With a Gardener (Requirement 3: *"Visit with an individual who can demonstrate different ways to garden (outside, greenhouse, container, etc.) and the basic skills needed to garden."*) (Parent leader: _____)

The Adventure Resources offer an Activity Card of Lions Garden Like a Pro – a visit to a nursery, garden, community garden, botanical garden or any other location with plants that will give an instructional lesson on gardening. That's excellent! Use that if you like – or something else. You might have a gardener visit you!

- Different ways to garden include outside gardening, greenhouse gardening, container gardening, hanging plants, hydroponics, organic gardening.
- Skills that are needed to garden include: Planting, watering, fertilizing (and testing soil to know when and how to fertilize), weeding, managing bugs (both helpful, like lady bugs, and harmful, like cut worms, and knowing when to harvest.
- More about gardening skills can be found by doing an internet search of: *how to garden*.
  - Or search *how to vegetable garden* or *how to flower garden* or *how to organic garden* .

◆Activity 4: [*OPTION*: Fun Game We Like (Parent leader: _____):



If this meeting is too dry or the games in the Activity Cards in Adventure Resources don't resonate with you as something your Scouts will like, you can turn up the "Fun Meter" and play a game or some other Fun Activity you like. Some ideas here.

CLOSING: A Closing ceremony ends the meeting and highlights the achievements. A Den leader can reflect on the meeting + praise Scouts for specific good actions today. Thank every Parent who helped.

- If you have them, award Loops to all who completed the requirements. Maybe end with a "Living Circle".

AFTER THE MEETING: Clean up as needed. Share refreshments if that's what you like.

Upon completion of this Adventure, your Lions will have earned the Adventure Loop for it. Make sure they are recognized for their completion by presenting the Adventure Loops, to be worn on their belts, as soon as possible according to your pack's tradition. Text or email all Den parents to share these resources for future reference and so parents of Scouts who could not attend may complete this Adventure from home.

ADVENTURE RESOURCES: Den Meeting Resources and "Activity Card" options for this Adventure are found at https://www.scouting.org/cub-scout-adventures/ready-set-grow/. Those resources include the Snapshot of Adventure (included above), a "Safety Moment" of tips and links about doing this safely, and, for each Requirement, one or more "Activity Cards" you can click on for an activity to complete the Requirement.

Those "Activity Card" pages are linked below – along with the "Key" scoring of (a) whether the Activity must be done Outdoors, may be done Indoors, or involves Travel; (b) how much Energy Scouts will generate; (c) How "Supply Intensive"; and (d) Prep Time – those last 3 categories are scored on a 1 to 5 scale, with 5 being "most". Note that while that website page says, "Choose one of the following" before the "Activity Cards", what that means is "Choose one of the following – *or do some other activity that will meet the Requirement*", because the Requirements are required, not the Activity Cards. In the Assembled Den Meeting Plan above we have adapted some of what's below or other ways to complete the requirement in easier ways.

1. **Discover where the food we eat comes from.**
   - Ground, Tree, Vine, Farm (Indoor; **2** of 5 Energy; **2** of 5 Supplies; **1** of 5 Prep Time)
   - Supermarket Fun (Travel; **2** of 5 Energy; **2** of 5 Supplies; **5** of 5 Prep Time)
   - Where Does That Food Come From (Indoor; **4** of 5 Energy; **4** of 5 Supplies; **3** of 5 Prep Time)
2. **Plant a small garden outside or in a container.**
   - Alright, Alright, Alright, It's Avocado Time (Indoor; **2** of 5 Energy; **3** of 5 Supplies; **2** of 5 Prep Time)
   - From Eggs to Planter (Indoor; **2** of 5 Energy; **3** of 5 Supplies; **2** of 5 Prep Time)
   - Sunflowers and Sunshine (Indoor; **2** of 5 Energy; **3** of 5 Supplies; **2** of 5 Prep Time)
3. **Visit with an individual who can demonstrate different ways to garden (outside, greenhouse, container, etc.) and the basic skills needed to garden.**
   - Lions Garden Like a Pro (Travel; **3** of 5 Energy; **2** of 5 Supplies; **5** of 5 Prep Time)