Assembled Den Meeting Plan – BEAR (3rd Grade)

This ***Assembled* Den Meeting Plan** combines ideas from Bear 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) …

Bear – 3rd Grade

Let's Camp Bear



A "Camping" Adventure
ELECTIVE (2 "electives" are needed to earn the Rank of Bear)

Snapshot of Adventure. Camping is a fun way to spend time with family and friends. Prepare for your campout by gathering what you will bring with you and setting up a tent.

Your den leader and parents will help you get ready.

Find the best spot to pitch your tent and make it your home for the campout.

The QR Code above takes you to scouting.org/cub-scout-adventures/lets-camp-bear/ ↑

This Den Meeting Plan adapts Activity ideas from that Scouting link with other fun, simple, easy ideas. For more, see the Adventure Resources at the end of this Plan for a list of the suggested Activities at that link.

Requirements from the Bear Handbook

1. **Review the buddy system and how it works in the outdoors.**
2. **Pack your Cub Scout Six Essentials for the campout.**
3. **In addition to your Cub Scout Six Essentials, show the personal items you need for your campout.**
4. **Help set up a tent. Determine a good spot for the tent. Explain why you picked the spot.**
5. **Attend a council or district Cub Scout overnight camp or attend a campout with your pack.**

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 session at a campout (or break it up during the campout – you'll be there for a while) so long as campers bring the gear they need (the Bear Handbook can help with that). You might also split into two sessions and do the first three requirements in advance of the campout.

PREPARATION (and materials needed): Read the Let's Camp Bear adventure in the Bear Handbook.

- Key is to decide where to go on your campout … and to be sure your Pack has planned for a fun and safe campout. This plan is not a full campout plan … just the Adventure plan. Also: an overnight campout is not a "single den" activity – it needs to be a Pack activity, but all dens can do their own "Let's Camp" Adventure.
  - Communicate with the families about when and where you will go, and what they need to bring.
  - This checklist might help families know what to bring, but you may see other items need in your locale. To complete the requirements, you need to have one or more tents for Scouts to set up, and Scouts need to "show" the gear that they are packing for the campout.
  - For this Adventure, work at home before the campout will include Requirement 3 about "*the personal items you need for your campout*") so that they can pack properly.
  - The Six Essentials are: first-aid kit, filled water bottle, flashlight, trail food, sun protection, and whistle.
- To develop a full fun and safe campout plan … attend Basic Adult Leader Outdoor Orientation (BALOO).

- This one-and-a-half day course is an introduction to the Cub Scout outdoor program for leaders interested in adding a camping component to their Pack activities.
- BALOO training consists of an online pre-requisite component (found in my.scouting.org) in addition to an overnight hands on practical experience with other Cub Scout Leaders.
- Completion of this course is mandatory for a minimum of one adult on a Pack overnighter.

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 have the Scouts recite the Outdoor Code: *"As an American, I will do my best to: / Be clean in my outdoor manners, / Be careful with fire, / Be considerate in the outdoors, / Be conservation minded."*

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: Campout Buddy System (Requirement 1: "***Review the buddy system and how it works in the outdoors.***")** (Parent leader: _____) Learn about the buddy system and how it works on your campout.



- The buddy system is when two Cub Scouts work together, share, and keep each other safe. The den leader decides how buddies are paired.
  - You cannot change buddies unless the den leader approves and everyone knows their new buddy.
- Having a buddy is very important when you are doing an activity outdoors.
  - When you have a buddy, you are not to let your buddy out of your sight.
- Each Scout picks a "buddy" for the duration of the event. (If you have an uneven number of Scouts, put three together in one group.)
  - As buddies you are friends, so remember to be friendly, courteous, and kind to each other.
  - You keep each other safe by following any rules or instructions for the activity.
- Discuss with the Scouts: Why is it important to remember our buddy when we are outside? Why is it important to have a buddy when you have to leave the group?

◆**Activity 2: Six Essentials (Requirement 2: "***Pack your Cub Scout Six Essentials for the campout.***")** (Parent leader: _____) Here's the Cub Scout Six Essentials (for more, see: https://vimeo.com/498051015):



- **First-aid kit**: adhesive bandages, moleskin, gauze, antibiotic ointment, etc.
- **Water bottle**: filled and large enough to last until it can be filled again.
- **Trail food**: can be made as a den activity prior to hike or campout.
- **Sun protection**: sunscreen of SPF 30 or greater and a hat
- **Flashlight**: small, for emergency use only
- **Whistle**: also for emergency use only

◆Activity 3: Other Campout Personal Gear (Requirement 3: *"In addition to your Cub Scout Six Essentials, show the personal items you need for your campout."*) (Parent leader: _____)

- Discuss with Scouts what gear they should bring on a campout for their own personal care and comfort, based on where and when you are camping. If camping when you review this, review what they brought.
  - Maybe break it down to what they ***"need"*** to bring and what they might ***"want"*** to bring.

- **"Need"** items:
  - Cub Scout Six Essentials
  - Sleeping Bag or blankets
  - Waterproof ground cloth or plastic sheet
  - Tent
  - Eating utensils (may be with Pack gear)
  - Clothes (including at least one extra set, plus different sleeping clothes)
  - Durable closed toe shoes
  - Hat or cap (sun protection)
  - Toothbrush and toothpaste
  - Other personal items like soap in container, toilet paper, washcloth and towel (may be with Pack gear)
  - Insect repellent
  - Raincoat or poncho, and warm jacket
  - Gloves (if it will be cold)

- **"Want"** items:
  - Pillow, sleeping pad or air mattress
  - Camp Chair
  - Cub Scout uniform
  - Bear Handbook
  - Camera
  - Notebook and pencil
  - Fishing pole and gear
  - Binoculars
  - Nature books, other books (Potter? Poetry?)
  - Sunglasses



- As you discuss, steer them to items like tents, sleeping bags, ground cloths, pillows, sleeping pads or mattresses, warm clothes, raincoats, eating utensils, hats or caps, toothpaste/toothbrushes, etc.
  - Maybe ask which items they think are the most important, going around the group and letting each one choose something. Have each Scout say why he picked that item (i.e., a sleeping bag to stay warm at night, to sleep well, and to be ready for the next day).
  - Continue until all the items have been discussed. Talk about the importance of each item on the list, not just the first two or three that were picked. Don't forget the Cub Scout Six Essentials!
- Maybe have all of those items, and pull out each item one by one. Ask the Scouts if the item is a Six Essential, a needed item, or something they may want to bring but isn't needed.
  - Call out items that are part of the Cub Scout Six Essentials and why they are essential.
  - Describe why the "need" items may be important to take.
  - Describe why the "want" items are nice but not needed.

◆Activity 4: Set Up A Tent (Requirement 4: *"Help set up a tent. Determine a good spot for the tent. Explain why you picked the spot."*) (Parent leader: _____)

The details of this Requirement will depend on what kind of tent you're setting up.

- Step One: Read the instruction booklet! (Some tents attach instructions).
  - Practice at home in advance!
- Tent Site Selection -- at the campsite:
  - Choose a level spot that drains well – don't be in the bottom where water will flow.
  - Look Up? Do you see dead limbs that might fall? Don't tent under those dead limbs!

- Remove stones and sticks, but don't disturb the natural ground cover.
- Always look for signs of creepy critters. Don't set up your tent on anthills or nests!

- Here are a few generic tips for when you're ready to pitch your tent (follow *your* tent's instructions):
  - Spread out your tent's footprint, or a ground cloth, to protect the tent floor from moisture, sharp objects and dirt.
  - Unfold the tent on top of the footprint or ground cloth.
  - Pull out the corners of the floor and stake them to the ground, then assemble the poles and put them in place.
  - If needed, use taut line hitches to tie the free ends of guy lines around stakes you've pushed into the ground, and pull the lines tight.
  - Put a rain fly over the tent, and stake it down.



- Ask Scouts the following questions:
  - What was the hardest part about putting together your tent?
  - How could you work better as a team next time?
  - If we are on a campout, where should we put our tent?
  - What do you think determines a good tent site?

🔶**Activity 5: Attend a Campout (Requirement 5: "***Attend a council or district Cub Scout overnight camp or attend a campout with your pack.***")** (Parent leader: _____)

- Simple: attend your campout, follow the instructions of your campout leader, and have fun.
- The Requirement says "*attend*" but does not specify that you must camp overnight. We want you to, but if that's beyond what the family is ready to do, the requirement is satisfied if you attend. "Do Your Best!"

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 Bears 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/lets-camp-bear/. 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. **Review the buddy system and how it works in the outdoors.**
   - Bear Buddies Rule (Indoor; **3** of 5 Energy; **2** of 5 Supplies; **1** of 5 Prep Time)
   - Standing Bear Buddies (Indoor; **3** of 5 Energy; **1** of 5 Supplies; **1** of 5 Prep Time)
2. **Pack your Cub Scout Six Essentials for the campout.**
   - Bear Backpack (Indoor; **2** of 5 Energy; **3** of 5 Supplies; **3** of 5 Prep Time)
   - Cub Scout Six Essentials Word Search (Indoor; **1** of 5 Energy; **2** of 5 Supplies; **2** of 5 Prep Time)
3. **In addition to your Cub Scout Six Essentials, show the personal items you need for your campout.**
   - Check It Off The List (Indoor; **1** of 5 Energy; **2** of 5 Supplies; **1** of 5 Prep Time)
   - Den Approval (Indoor; **2** of 5 Energy; **1** of 5 Supplies; **1** of 5 Prep Time)
   - Musical Gear (Indoor; **5** of 5 Energy; **4** of 5 Supplies; **3** of 5 Prep Time)
4. **Help set up a tent. Determine a good spot for the tent. Explain why you picked the spot.**
   - Pitch It Fast (Indoor; **4** of 5 Energy; **3** of 5 Supplies; **3** of 5 Prep Time)
   - Tent Set Up (Outdoor; **2** of 5 Energy; **3** of 5 Supplies; **2** of 5 Prep Time)
5. **Attend a council or district Cub Scout overnight camp or attend a campout with your pack.**
   - Let's Camp Bear (Outdoor; **5** of 5 Energy; **5** of 5 Supplies; **5** of 5 Prep Time)