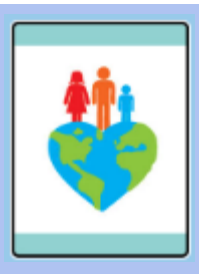
Assembled Den Meeting Plan – BEAR (3rd Grade)

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

Paws for Action



A "Citizenship" Adventure

REQUIRED (An Adventure "Required" to earn the Rank of Bear)

Snapshot of Adventure: This Adventure is about America and the powerful symbols that represent the best of our country and how communities come together to help solve problems. Citizenship is about participation. One way to participate and make an impact is through nonprofit organizations – a place for people to give their time, talents, and resources to make a difference in their community. You can make an impact by participating in a service project to help your community.

The QR Code above takes you to scouting.org/cub-scout-adventures/paws-for-action/ ↑

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 list of the suggested Activities at that link.

Requirements from the Bear Handbook

1. **Familiarize yourself with the flag of the United States of America including the history, demonstrating how to raise and lower the flag, how to properly fold and display, and the United States etiquette.**
2. **Identify 3 symbols that represent the United States. Pick your favorite and make a model, work of art, or other craft that depicts the symbol.**
3. **Learn about the mission of any non-profit. Find out how they fund their activities and how volunteers are used to help.**
4. **Participate in a service project.**

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 one session with a simple project, but this could be two or three meetings if you want a deeper dive.

PREPARATION (and materials needed): Read the Paws for Action adventure in the Bear Handbook.

- U.S. flag – (ideally) several U.S. flags so all Scouts can practice folding the flag.
- Supplies for Requirement 2's "*make a model, work of art, or other craft*". Simplest is paper and pencils, crayons.
- Determine how to learn about a non-profit. If not doing a visit to one to find out what they do (which can be a great activity), pick some examples and do some research you can reveal in the Activity 3 discussion.
- Determine your Service Project for Activity 4 (Requirement 4). Your den families, Chartered Organization, and local schools and places of worship may have great options. This page has many Service Project ideas: scoutingatl.org/serviceprojects.

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.

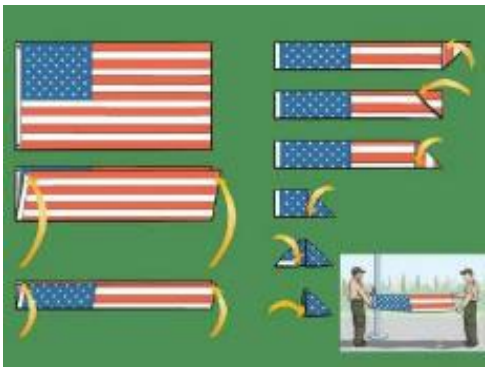
- Because of Requirement 1's element of "*demonstrat[e] how to raise and lower the flag*", this meeting begs for an opening at an outdoor flagpole where all Scouts get to practice raising and lowering.

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: The Flag (Requirement 1: "*Familiarize yourself with the flag of the United States of America including the history, demonstrating how to raise and lower the flag, how to properly fold and display, and the United States etiquette.***")** (Parent leader: _____)

- Gather the Scouts and inform them that in this den meeting, they will learn about the United States flag and how to properly display, fold, how to raise and lower it.
  - Tell the Scouts that we treat the flag with respect because the flag symbolizes freedom and justice.
  - People have made great sacrifices, and many have even given their lives to provide us with the freedoms we enjoy today. Treating the flag with respect shows you believe in freedom and justice.
- Practice folding a U.S. Flag.
  - Have the Scouts pair up. Taking turns, each pair of Scouts hold the flag at waist level between themselves.
  - Ask the Scouts to fold the flag in half lengthwise, then fold it in half lengthwise again, keeping the blue field on the outside.
  - While one holds the flag by the blue field, the other makes triangular folds from the opposite end until only the blue field is available.
  - Ask the Scouts to continue folding in a triangular pattern.



  - Have the Scouts tuck any excess fabric into the final fold to ensure a neat triangle.
  - The final folded flag should resemble a neatly folded triangle with only the blue field showing.
- You can also ask about the flag history/etiquette described in the Bear handbook.

Activity 2: USA Symbols (Requirement 2: "*Identify 3 symbols that represent the United States. Pick your favorite and make a model, work of art, or other craft that depicts the symbol.***")** (Parent leader: _____)

- Which symbols to depict?
  - Eagle? Liberty Bell? Statue of Liberty? National Anthem? Uncle Sam? White House? Capitol? Declaration of Independence?
- Which media to use?
  - Model building? Drawing? Painting? Playdoh? Lego? Lincoln Logs? Collage? Chalk? Computer graphics?
- Simple and easy is drawing, but more elaborate may be more fun.



Activity 3: Non-Profit Contributions (Requirement 3: "*Learn about the mission of any non-profit. Find out how they fund their activities and how volunteers are used to help.***")** (Parent leader: _____)

If you are not visiting a non-profit organization to learn about what they do, this becomes a discussion.

- Tell Scouts they're going to learn about a nonprofit organization by researching it online.
  - Ask Scouts to name some local nonprofit organizations.

- If Scouts are having trouble, you can prompt them with these ideas: Local food pantry, Animal shelter, American Legion, or others that you want to investigate.
- Find the organization's website on your computer, tablet, or mobile phone.

- Ask Scouts what they would like to know about the organization. You can prompt them with these ideas:
  - What does the organization do? What group of people or cause does this organization serve?
  - How does it raise money? What do their volunteers do to help?

◆Activity 4: Service Project (Requirement 4: "*Participate in a service project.*") (Parent leader: _____)

- Pick a service project that will be helpful in your Community and meaningful to your Scouts.
  - Three options – for Eyeglasses Donation Drive, Plant Trees, Scouting for Food – are in the Activities linked at Adventure Resources – use those if you like them
  - This page has many Service Project ideas: scoutingatl.org/serviceprojects.





- Participate in your service project. Be sure all families know when and where to meet, what to bring, and what you'll do. Check to be sure you have all the materials needed, which will depend on your project.
- Take pictures and video of your Scouts and families serving, and share with your Chartered Organization, Schools, places of worship, and elsewhere in your community.

◆Activity 5: [*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. NOTE: the fun game doesn't' need to be connected to today's Adventure topic – it can just be FUN!

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/paws-for-action/. 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. **Familiarize yourself with the flag of the United States of America including the history, demonstrating how to raise and lower the flag, how to properly fold and display, and the United States etiquette.**
   - Outdoor Flag Ceremony (Outdoor; **3** of 5 Energy; **4** of 5 Supplies; **3** of 5 Prep Time)
   - Patriotic Guest Speaker (Indoor; **2** of 5 Energy; **2** of 5 Supplies; **3** of 5 Prep Time)
2. **Identify 3 symbols that represent the United States. Pick your favorite and make a model, work of art, or other craft that depicts the symbol.**
   - Paint the Flag (Indoor; **3** of 5 Energy; **3** of 5 Supplies; **3** of 5 Prep Time)
   - Statue of Liberty (Indoor; **3** of 5 Energy; **3** of 5 Supplies; **3** of 5 Prep Time)
   - U.S.A. Symbol Model (Indoor; **3** of 5 Energy; **3** of 5 Supplies; **2** of 5 Prep Time)
   - U.S.A. Symbols Drawing (Indoor; **3** of 5 Energy; **3** of 5 Supplies; **2** of 5 Prep Time)
   - White House Model (Indoor; **3** of 5 Energy; **3** of 5 Supplies; **2** of 5 Prep Time)
3. **Learn about the mission of any non-profit. Find out how they fund their activities and how volunteers are used to help.**
   - Groups That Help (Indoor; **1** of 5 Energy; **2** of 5 Supplies; **2** of 5 Prep Time)
   - Nonprofit Visit (Travel; **1** of 5 Energy; **1** of 5 Supplies; **5** of 5 Prep Time)
4. **Participate in a service project.**
   - 10,000 for the Troops – Bear (Indoor; **2** of 5 Energy; **2** of 5 Supplies; **2** of 5 Prep Time)
   - Eyeglasses Donation Drive (Indoor; **3** of 5 Energy; **3** of 5 Supplies; **5** of 5 Prep Time)
   - Plant Trees (Travel; **4** of 5 Energy; **5** of 5 Supplies; **4** of 5 Prep Time)
   - Scouting for Food Bear (Travel; **3** of 5 Energy; **1** of 5 Supplies; **5** of 5 Prep Time)