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

Whittling

A "Knife Safety" Adventure

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



Snapshot of Adventure. A pocketknife is a useful tool to have for Scouting activities. It can also be dangerous if you don't use it the right way. In this Adventure, you will learn how to use a pocketknife safely. You will also get to learn the basics of carving.

Completing the Whittling Adventure grants the Scout the privilege of carrying and using a pocketknife at Scouting events as approved by your Den and Pack leaders.

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

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. **Read, understand, and promise to abide by the "Cub Scout Knife Safety Rules."**
2. **Demonstrate the knife safety circle.**
3. **Demonstrate that you know how to care for and use your pocketknife safely.**
4. **Make two carvings with a pocketknife.**

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, but practice makes perfect and Scouts like knives.

PREPARATION (and materials needed): Read the Whittling adventure in the Bear Handbook.

- This is an activity where you will want as many adult helpers as possible to keep Scouts safe.
  - Determine if you want to make this an outing at a local museum that has a knife exhibit or another venue that will have pocketknife enthusiasts.
  - Or invite a local woodcarver to attend to assist. This is great for parents and extended family.
- Other items you'll want to have on hand are:
  - One or more pocketknives for sharpening. And a First-aid kit with bandages and ointment!
  - Sharpening stones, and old rags for wiping down knife blades.
  - Bar of Ivory soap and plastic knives with serrated edges for each Scout's first carving.
  - Small blocks of soft wood for the second carving.

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.

- This is also a good time to reinforce the two Scout Law points of being trustworthy and obedient.

🔶**Activity 1: Cub Scout Knife Safety Rules (Requirement 1: "***Read, understand, and promise to abide by the 'Cub Scout Knife Safety Rules.'***")** (Parent leader: _____)

Review the Cub Scout Knife Safety Key Points of **S**top, **A**way, **S**harp and **S**tore (SASS)

- **Stop** – *make sure no one else is within arm's reach*.
  - Ask Scouts to explain what the rule means and why it's important.
  - Ask them each to stand up and demonstrate how far apart they should be when holding their knife.
- **Away** – *always cut away from your finger or other body parts*.
  - Have them discuss this rule and why it is important. Discuss what to do if they do cut themselves.
  - When you are using the cutting blade, do not try to make big shavings or chips. Cut slowly and steadily.
- **Sharp** – *a sharp, clean knife is a safe knife*.
  - A knife is a tool – it is not a toy. Never use a knife on something that will dull or break it.
  - A sharp knife is safer because it is less likely to slip and cut you. Keep the blade clean and dry.
  - How do they determine if a knife is sharp or dull? We need to know how to sharpen a knife.
- **Store** – *knives closed, in a sheath or knife block*.
  - Never carry an open pocketknife. When you are not using your knife, close it and put it away.
  - Close the blade with the palm of your hand.

🔶**Activity 2: Knife Safety Circle (Requirement 2: "***Demonstrate the knife safety circle.***")** (Parent leader: _____) Explain to Scouts that they are going to practice making a safety circle, one at a time.

- Tell them that before they pick up their knife to use it, they should stretch their arm out and turn in a circle.
  - They should also raise their hand above their head and move it in a circle to make sure there is nothing above them.
  - If they cannot touch anyone or anything else, it's safe to use their knife.
  - While using their knife, be sure to watch in case someone walks toward them and gets too close. If that happens, put your knife away until it is safe to continue.
- Have each of the Scouts create an area as their own "safety circle" as the knife safety circle and practice.
  - As part of the demonstration, have Scouts pretend they are using their knives.



  - Walk toward them to see if they stop. If they don't, remind them that if someone gets too close to their knife safety circle, they should stop using their knife.

◆Activity 3: Pocketknife Use and Care (Requirement 3: *"Demonstrate that you know how to care for and use your pocketknife safely."*) (Parent leader: _____) Learn the basics of handling a Pocketknife:

To **Pass a Pocketknife**



- Always close the blade – never pass an open knife.
- The receiver should get a good grip on the knife and then say "thank you" to indicate that they have a grip on the knife when taking it.
- The giver should never let go of the knife until the receiver says "thank you" …
- …. even if the receiver tries to pull it away.

To **Pass a *Kitchen* Knife**

- Since you can't close the blade – never hand a kitchen knife (or fixed blade knife) directly to another person.



←= Instead, just lay the knife down on a safe flat surface, like in the middle of a cutting board.

Invite the next user to pick it up from the flat surface. ➔

This reduces the risk of either user cutting the other.



To **Open a Pocketknife**





- Hold the knife in your left hand, and put your right thumbnail into the nail slot on the blade.
- Pull the blade out while pushing against the hinge with the little finger of your left hand.
- Continue to hold on to the handle and blade until the blade snaps into the open position.

To **Close a Pocketknife**





- Hold the handle in your left hand with your fingers safely on the sides.
- Push against the back of the blade with the heel of the right hand and swing the handle up to meet the blade. Let the knife snap shut.
- It's sometimes easier for the Scouts to use their fingers instead of the heel of the hand.

To **Sharpen a Pocketknife**

- Best to have a large sharpening stone, like in the images below – some are smaller and hand held.
- Hold the knife blade at about at about a 35 degree angle to the stone.
- Keeping your fingers out of the way of the blade, run the blade across the stone away from you, 10 times (more if the blade is very dull).
- Then flip the blade to sharpen the other side of the blade in the same way.

KEEPING YOUR KNIFE SHARP



A good way to sharpen your knife is to use a sharpening stone. Lay the blade on the stone at a slight angle. Push the blade forward as if you were going to shave a thin sliver from the stone. Do not push down hard. Next, turn the blade over and shave the stone toward you. This is the only time you should move your knife toward yourself. Keep your fingers below the surface of the stone to protect them. Continue this back-and-forth action until the edge is sharp along its entire length.





To **Use a Pocketknife**



- Start in your knife safety circle. Always "cut away" from you.
- The "Rough Cut" below is the typical first "whittle away" cut (holding the knife by the handle, making big cuts).
- The "Push Cut" below is for smaller cuts (using the thumb for control).
- The "Stop Cut" is useful to be sure your Push Cut doesn't go too far.

Rough Cut



Push Cut



Stop Cut



◆Activity 4: Whittle Away (Requirement 4: *"Make two carvings with a pocketknife."*) (Parent leader: _____)

The Adventure Resources offer Activity Cards for a Potato Printing Press and Soap Carving.

- What they carve is up to you.
  - Soap Fish? Sure. Or carve carrots, potatoes, more.
  - Stick for s'mores or hot dog? It's a carving!
- Your Scouts will want to try carving wood, so start with soft woods like pine or balsa wood.
- There are also whittling kits with patterns and instructions.





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/whittling/. 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. **Read, understand, and promise to abide by the "Cub Scout Knife Safety Rules."**
   - Knife Safety Rules Bear (Indoor; **1** of 5 Energy; **1** of 5 Supplies; **1** of 5 Prep Time)
   - Knife Safety Rules Charades (Indoor; **4** of 5 Energy; **2** of 5 Supplies; **2** of 5 Prep Time)
2. **Demonstrate the knife safety circle.**
   - Knife Safety Circle Bear (Indoor; **3** of 5 Energy; **1** of 5 Supplies; **1** of 5 Prep Time)
3. **Demonstrate that you know how to care for and use your pocketknife safely.**
   - Pocketknife Sharpening Practice Bear (Indoor; **3** of 5 Energy; **5** of 5 Supplies; **2** of 5 Prep Time)
4. **Make two carvings with a pocketknife.**
   - Potato Printing Press (Indoor; **3** of 5 Energy; **3** of 5 Supplies; **2** of 5 Prep Time)
   - Soap Carving (Indoor; **3** of 5 Energy; **3** of 5 Supplies; **2** of 5 Prep Time)