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Why Do We Have Den Ceremonies?

When ceremonies are used in dens, boys have the opportunity to really understand what is happening because they play an active part.

- A flag ceremony or patriotic opening helps them learn about their American heritage.
- Installing a boy as a denner helps him learn that responsibilities come with a title and his leadership is important to the den.
- Immediate recognition toward advancement inspires other boys to work with their families on achievements.
- Opening and closing ceremonies mark the beginning and end of the den meeting and encourage appropriate behavior during the meeting.

Variety is as important as length. Den ceremonies should be kept short (no longer than two or three minutes). Use the planning forms, Tiger Cub Den Meeting Program, Cub Scout Den Meeting Program, or Webelos Den Meeting Program, to plan your ceremonies. Remember to keep them simple and effective.

Handshake Opening

The denner calls the roll, and each member of the den comes forward and gives him the Cub Scout handshake. Webelos Scouts could give the Scout handclasp.

Tiger Cub Roll Call Opening

As the den meeting host calls roll, each Tiger Cub team responds with a loud tiger growl.

Tiger Cub Echo Opening

ADULT PARTNERS: Search!

TIGER CUBS: Search!

ADULT PARTNERS: Discover!

TIGER CUBS: Discover!

ADULT PARTNERS: Share!

TIGER CUBS: Share!

Orange Bead Recognition

Preparation: Put orange activity beads in a cloth pouch. The narrator is the adult partner who is hosting the meeting. The narrator's Tiger Cub distributes the beads.

NARRATOR: Today, we experienced the fun of completing a den meeting requirement for the Tiger Cub badge. In recognition of today's activity, an orange bead will be added to your Tiger Cub belt. *(The narrator's Tiger Cub partner distributes one orange bead to all the adult partners. The adult partners attach the beads to the boys' totems.)*

White Bead Recognition

Preparation: Put white beads in a small box decorated to look like a treasure chest.

NARRATOR: Today, we would like to present a special bead from our den treasure chest to the Tiger Cubs who have completed a Tiger Cub rank requirement with their families. Tiger Cub [Name] and his adult partner please step forward. This Tiger Cub and his family have completed a required activity together. *(Ask the boy to tell about the activity.)* As a memento of the treasure of time your family spent together, I am presenting a white bead to your adult partner to attach to your Tiger Cub belt totem. *(Lead the den in the den cheer or a tiger growl.)*

adventure. We ask his help as each adventure begins and ends. It will be his duty to open the doorway to each meeting and to be sure the evidence of our adventure has been cleared away at the meeting's close.

Cub Scout [name], do you accept this as your responsibility?

(Cub Scout answers:) I do.

Then we present to you this cord as your key to open the doorway for our next adventures.

Assistant Denner Ceremony

As above, select an assistant denner. The den leader or den chief can then lead the following ceremony.

Cub Scout [name] has been chosen to be our assistant denner. His duty will be to help [denner's name] as we all take part in our meeting adventure.

Cub Scout [name], do you accept this as your responsibility?

(Cub Scout answers:) I do.

Then we present to you this cord as your key to help open the doorway for our next adventures.

Den Ceremony for New Bobcat

PERSONNEL

Den leader, new Bobcat Cub Scout, denner, assistant denner, three Cub Scouts.

EQUIPMENT

U.S. flag, den flag, three candles or flashlights.

ARRANGEMENT

The den leader introduces the new Bobcat Cub Scout to the other Cub Scouts of the den. The denner and assistant denner step forward with the U.S. flag and den flag, then all salute.

1st Cub Scout: (*Lights a candle and recites the Cub Scout Promise.*)

2d Cub Scout: (*Lights a candle and recites the Law of the Pack.*)

3d Cub Scout: (*Steps forward and informs the Bobcat that he is part of the den and it is his turn to light a candle to show that the den will be much brighter now that he is part of it. All den members then sing the "Cub Scout Welcome Song" found in the Cub Scout Songbook.*)



Immediate Recognition

As a Cub Scout completes achievements for Wolf or Bear, the den leader should make sure that a simple recognition ceremony is held in the den meeting. Use the Cub Scout Immediate Recognition Kit, which contains enough materials for a den of Cub Scouts for 2 years. This is a motivational device used to encourage each boy to complete the rank for his age.

Use a brief ceremony related to the monthly theme or the one below.

PERSONNEL

Den leader, den chief, Wolf and Bear candidates.

EQUIPMENT

Immediate Recognition Kit.

Den Leader: Let me tell you the story behind these wonderful beads. The custom of awarding beads started in the ancient Webelos tribe. They were given to braves who did their best to help the tribe and others.

Den Chief: Many moons ago, when the animal world was ruled by wolves and bears, the braves of the Webelos tribe feared these strong beasts.

Den Leader: But some braves named [names of boys being recognized], still untried, decided that the best way to live without fear was to learn to understand the creatures of the forest.

Den Chief: So they went, disguised as animals, to live with the wolves and bears. The animals accepted them and all their brothers and called them cubs, just as if the braves were their own. This was according to the Law of the Pack.

Den Leader: For their bravery and friendliness to the beasts, they were given a leather thong with colored beads on it. It signified that the cubs knew the ways of the tribe and did their best at everything without worrying if someone else did better. This is the law that the tribe borrowed from the animals.

(Asks the den to form a living circle and repeat the Law of the Pack.)

Den Chief: For doing your best in completing three achievements toward your [Wolf/Bear] badge, I award you, [name], this thong and this bead. May you always obey the Law of the Pack.

Special Effects—Hawaiian

PERSONNEL

Master of ceremonies, conch shell blower (optional), six Cub Scouts, someone to operate a tape player.

EQUIPMENT

Tropical plants, tiki torches (improvised imitations for indoors); headdress and lei for the master of ceremonies; a shell or flower lei for each adult participant; conch shell; Hawaiian music and tape player; cards printed with the Hawaiian words; and for each person being recognized, a certificate or award and a flower or paper lei.

ARRANGEMENT

The torches on stage are lighted, and the houselights are turned down. Soft Hawaiian music playing in the background fades out. Three blasts of the conch shell start the ceremony, then the shell is blown four more times. The first blast is made facing east. Then there is a slight pause, and a chant may be performed. The second blast on the conch shell is made facing west. Then there is another pause, and another chant may be performed. The third blast is made facing south, and another pause is allowed. The fourth blast of the conch shell is made facing north.

Master of Ceremonies: *(Addresses the audience in the traditional greeting style.)* Aloha! Welcome to our [month] pack meeting. Traditional Hawaiian family life has many of the same ideals as Cub Scouting.

(The first Cub Scout comes on stage carrying a card with the word ALOHA on it.)

Aloha has many meanings: love, affection, compassion, mercy, pity, kindness, charity, hello, good-bye, alas, and regards. The Hawaiian family provides a ready source of love, affection, kindness, courtesy, and hospitality. In Hawaii, aloha is shown and given not only to family members but to all who visit.

(The second Cub Scout comes on stage carrying a card with the word IKE on it.)

Ike means to recognize everyone as a person. Everyone needs to be recognized, especially children. Ike can be given in a number of ways. It can be a look, a word, a touch, a hug, a gesture, and even a scolding. Children need to give ike to each other, so if the teacher demonstrates the giving of ike then the children will follow the example.

(The third Cub Scout comes on stage carrying a card with the word KOKUA on it.)

5. Special achievements in school, church, etc.

We hope that the examples in this chapter will create in you the desire to use more special ceremonies and that you or some member of your pack will develop them.

Den Doodles

Many dens use den doodles as an incentive for advancement. It is the most fun when the boys help make the doodle. Decide on a theme that fits your particular den. Doodles can be table models or standing models. You may want to call on some adults to help out. (See pages 14-15 for den doodle ideas.)

The boys will look forward to hanging devices on the den doodle as they earn achievements and electives. This can be done in conjunction with an immediate recognition ceremony.

Good-Conduct Candle

Using a good-conduct candle is a method often used by den leaders as an incentive for good behavior. As the candle is lighted for each den meeting, the den leader can say a few words related to the theme of the month, such as:

- During the holiday season we see lots of candles burning. They help make the holiday decorations more festive and enjoyable. Our den conduct candle will help make our den meeting more enjoyable, since it is a reminder of a treat that is in store when the candle has burned down.
- In the early days, fire was an important source of warmth, light, and cooking heat for the Indians. They respected fire because they depended upon it for their livelihood. As we light our good-conduct candle, let's remember to respect each other.

A Webelos Den Becomes a Boy Scout Troop

This ceremony can be held at a pack meeting when the entire membership of a Webelos den is being organized into a Boy Scout troop.

PERSONNEL

Cubmaster, Webelos den leader who is becoming the new Scoutmaster, Scouting coordinator, Webelos Scouts and their parents, head of chartered organization.

EQUIPMENT

Boy Scout neckerchiefs.

Cubmaster: Tonight we have an unusual event to recognize in our pack.

Because of the need for an additional Scout troop in our neighborhood (*or organization*) and because we had a Webelos den, our chartered organization has agreed to accept the responsibilities for a new troop. Our Scouting coordinator, [name], has met with the parents of the Webelos Scouts and learned that they are willing to organize and become the nucleus of a new troop. Our Webelos den leader [name] has accepted the invitation of the committee to become Scoutmaster.

[Name], the head of [name of the organization], our chartered organization, is here tonight. As he comes to the front, I will read the names of the graduating members of the Webelos den. Will they please step forward with their parents as their names are called. (*Announces boys' names.*)

Head of Chartered Organization: On behalf of the [name of organization], I pledge full cooperation with our new Boy Scout troop. We want it to be one of the finest troops anywhere. If this is to be true, every one of our members must do his part. We are proud of our Cub Scout pack and have watched with interest all of these boys as they became Webelos Scouts. We will continue to follow their advancement through the ranks of Boy Scouting.

Our Scouting coordinator will now say a few words and officially introduce the new troop and its leaders. [Name of Scouting coordinator].

Scouting Coordinator: Cub Scouting has been an answer to the needs of our boys and their families as they play and work together. We are proud of our pack leaders and of the progress made by the Cub Scouts in our pack.

Though our new troop is starting small, it will grow as its new Scoutmaster, [name], develops a program of fun and adventure with the new Boy Scouts. They will be