

Cub Scout Meetings

Recommendations for Cub Scout Den and Pack meetings during the time of COVID-19.

Information Covered

Ways to meet in-person, socially distant and safe

Virtual Meeting Ideas

Cub Scout Requirements that can be done outdoors and socially distant

stlbsa.org



Adapt to the new normal and still have FUN!

Things are certainly different these days. This guide takes you through recommendations on how to best manage den and pack meetings for the rest of the year.

- Ideas on how to safely meet in-person
- Virtual meeting options and ideas
- List of Cub Scout requirements that can be done outdoors and socially distant
- How to do a Drive-By Advancement Ceremony
- Sample schedule of how/when to meet

In-Person Meetings

Before we dive into ideas on how to host in-person meetings, let's review the safety requirements of in-person meetings:

- All local and state governments, both where the unit is chartered and where the meeting or activity is to take place, must clearly permit the activity in terms of gathering size and ability to maintain proper social distancing. All of their and the Federal CDC guidelines must be followed for all phases of the meeting or activity (such as feeding, housing/tents, swimming etc.).
- Chartered organizations must approve in-person activities and/or meetings prior to restoring them. Units should also consult with their chartered organization to determine the best path forward for the unit's Scouting programs.
- Parents should be surveyed and a majority of the parents in the Scouting unit must approve restoring in-person activities.
- The safest locations for face to face activities is outdoors. Scouting activities are to continue to take place outdoors until the change in seasons makes it necessary to meet indoors. At that time, Scouting meetings and activities may take place indoors. Local building capacity restrictions must be met, masks are required, and social distancing must be practiced at all times.
- The safest method for transportation is that only household members in a vehicle. This may not always be practical. When necessary, people outside of a household may travel in a vehicle together. Unless the vehicle is a large van, (4 rows of seats) there should not be more than four people in a vehicle, and they are to sit as far apart as possible. Masks are to be worn at all times. If possible, carpool with people who interact together in other venues such as sports teams or schools.



Where to meet:

- **A local park**
 - Try to meet near an outdoor pavilion in case of rain
- **A scout property**
 - Opportunity for overnight family camping and council provided activities!
- **The parking lot of your chartered organization**
 - Make sure to have their permission first
- **We do not recommend you meet at residential residences.**
 - WHY? It is very hard to stay outside of a friend's home (kids want to go inside, use restrooms, etc.) and it can be very tempting in this environment to bend the rules.

Ideas and Suggestions

- Focus on advancements that can be done easily outdoors, socially distant, and needed for rank (see page 5-7 for full list)
- Include lots of FUN
 - Prepackage a craft or STEM project or create a park scavenger hunt
- Prepackage any snacks individually
- Wear masks and set up picnic blankets or chairs 6 feet apart, giving families their own spaces
 - Remind others frequently to maintain space - use signs as reminders!
- Keep notes of what was accomplished so that youth who did not attend can complete the activities at home

Virtual Meetings

Before we explore ideas on how to host virtual meetings, let's review the youth protection requirements of virtual meetings:

- All virtual and in-person meetings must have at least two adults present at all times
- You may not record youth in a virtual meeting unless you have permission from each youth's parent/guardian
 - Do not forget this as many want to record the meetings in case others cannot attend! Ask permission first and for every single meeting!
- Make sure you do not post a link to your meeting on Facebook or other public internet sites
- Make sure there is a security password needed in order to enter the meeting. Be very careful who you share the password with.



Virtual Options:

- First, check with your chartered organization to see if they have access to any unlimited accounts to the options below. Many of the free versions limit your meeting to 45 minutes.
- **Zoom**
 - Options of call in by phone for those without internet access
 - Great safety features and can see many participants at one time
- **Google Classroom & Google Hangout**
 - Google Classroom is a portal to upload videos, documents and pictures, similar to a private group on Facebook. People can comment and post as well.
 - Google Hangouts is similar to Zoom but the free account has unlimited meeting time
- **UberConference**
 - Call in phone option and similar to Zoom

"Carpet Time" for Cub Scouts

It is no surprise that Cub Scouts may have a harder time paying attention on virtual meetings. Carpet Time allows them a chance to talk with their peers and interact.

- Dedicate part of each meeting to give each youth a chance to share something important to them
- Keep the rest of participants muted
- Set a timer for each Scout as some may want to be more verbal
- Possible questions to ask (if scouts don't know what to share):
 - What is something new you want to do in scouting this year?
 - What is your favorite part of being outside?
 - What do you most look forward to doing with Scouts this year?
 - What are three awesome things about yourself?
 - Which is your favorite season and why?

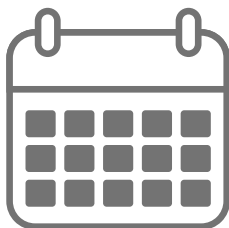
Sample Den/Pack Schedule

Things to keep in mind when scheduling meetings:

- Focus on warmer months for outdoor requirements and electives
 - If you cannot meet in-person, we still encourage you to meet virtually
- Always have a backup plan in case of rain or bad weather. (A pavilion at a local park is appropriate if there is rain but no thunderstorm). We do not encourage scouts to be dropped off in the event of bad weather.
- Find what works for your pack or den.
 - Same location and same day of the week. Makes it easier for parents and can be less overwhelming.
 - Different locations such as a local park, scout camp, or state park can make it more interesting for the youth.
- Pick a theme for each month (ideas on page 5)
- Choose what works for your unit. Some meet weekly with 3 den meetings and one pack meeting. Some meet twice a month with one den meeting and one pack meeting. Include “extra” optional activities ... such as hikes or geocaching. That makes it easier to social distance and those that aren’t available won’t be “left behind”.

September

- Theme: Trustworthy
- Do an outdoor activity!
- Meet 1-2X virtually



October

- Theme: Loyal
- Do an outdoor activity!
- Meet 1-2X virtually

November

- Theme: Helpful
- Scouting for Food Nov. 14th & 21st
- Meet 1-2X virtually

December

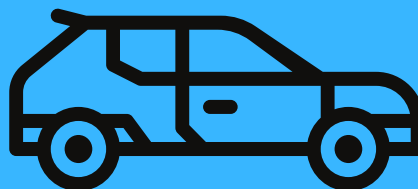
- Theme: Friendly
- Meet 1-2X virtually
- Weather permitting - try an outdoor activity that is active in case it is cold!



Idea Corner: Drive-By Advancement Ceremony/Pack Mtg.

Wondering how to recognize your scouts' accomplishments? Get creative with a drive-by ceremony!

- Meet at a central location with a large parking lot
- Have families line up with their cars
 - You could even give them different times of when to arrive
- Have Cubmaster and 1-2 other leaders handout advancements and congratulate Cubs (wear your masks!)
- Have music playing and balloons - have fun with this!
 - Make a playlist and have cubs submit song requests!
- Encourage Cub families to decorate their cars if they want



Cub Scout Themes & Activities

That can be done outdoors and socially distant

Get into theme! Here are activities and games to help with these themes.

September's Theme: Trustworthy

Adapted from https://www.kellerisd.net/cms/lib/TX02215599/Centricity/Domain/98/CommOfCharacter/CoC_Trustworthiness_5-8.pdf

- Make a circle of "TRUST." Pass a beach ball around the circle. Lead a discussion about trusting each other to get the beach ball around the circle. As a den, we are all relying on each other. When one of us drops the ball (or can't be trusted), we don't work as well. Remove scouts one at a time. How does it affect the group if others let the den down with untrustworthy behaviors?
- Trust Walk. Place scouts in pairs. Have one scout lead his/her blindfolded partner through an obstacle course using words only. (Scouts may not physically lead each other.) Discuss how trust between the two played a part in the success or failure of the task.

October's Theme: Loyal

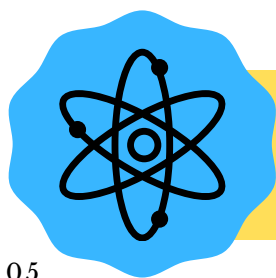
- Loyalty to your school or your Pack could be putting them first:
- Clean up the front of the school or place where your pack or den meet (Loyalty to the organization)
- Write a thank you letter to a Veteran (loyalty to your country)
- Helping your family do yard work (weeding, sweeping, etc) (Loyalty to the family)

November's Theme: Helpful

- Help a younger sibling with a chore they have trouble doing
- Do something for your neighbor
- Bring a food item to the next Pack meeting for the school's foodbank (or church, etc.)
- Do an "extra" good turn daily for a week. How does that make you feel? What did you do?

December's Theme: Friendly

- Invite a new neighbor to play a game with your friends outside
- Invite a new classmate to join you at recess
- Have lunch with someone new
- Invite a younger sibling to play a game



Looking for STEM Novas and how to do them outdoors and socially distant? Check out our resource here: <https://tinyurl.com/y33nfty6>

Cub Scout Advancements & Activities

That can be done outdoors and socially distant

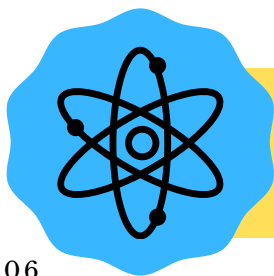
Below are activities and advancements that can be done outdoors and socially distant when you are meeting. The best places to do these meetings are at local parks, a scout property, or the parking lot or field of your chartered organization.

General Activities:

- Just for fun activities:
 - Hiking
 - Fishing (have everyone bring their own pole/supplies)
 - Make a park scavenger hunt (or any type of scavenger hunt for the location of your meeting!)
 - BYOP-Bring Your Own Picnic - have families set up 6 feet apart and bring their own food and drinks
 - Campfire with skits and songs
 - Scout show-and-tell
 - **Council Provided Activities (see page 9 for more)**
 - Beaumont (and other locations) will host Cub Launch Saturdays where scouts can participate in BB guns, archery, STEM and earn their bobcat badge on a hike! Most Saturdays in Sept. & Oct.
 - Outdoor Experience
 - Overnight camping at all scout properties and select activities such as climbing, horseback riding and shooting sports!
 - Go to <https://stlbsa.org/2020FallOutdoorExperiences/> for more information

Lions:

- Required advancements:
 - Fun on the Run: 1, 4
 - Animal Kingdom: 4
 - Mountain Lion: 3
- Electives:
 - Pick My Path: 3 (need to be creative choosing games and very explicit on rules to maintain social distance)
 - On Your Mark: 1, 2 (need to be creative choosing games and very explicit on rules to maintain social distance)
 - Build It Up, Knock It Down: 3
 - Ready, Set Grow: 1, 3



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Cub Scout Advancements

That can be done outdoors and socially distant

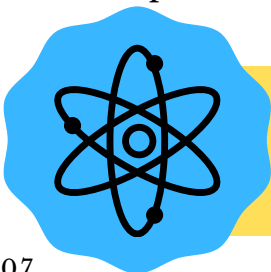


Tigers:

- Required advancements:
 - Games Tigers Play: 1, 3 (need to be creative choosing games and very explicit on rules to maintain social distance)
 - My Tiger Jungle: 1, 2, 3
 - Team Tiger: 4
 - Tigers in the Wild: 2, 4, 5, 6, 7
- Electives:
 - Rolling Tigers: 5
 - Sky is the Limit: 1, 2
 - Tiger Tag: 2, 3, 4 (need to be creative choosing games and very explicit on rules to maintain social distance)

Wolves:

- Required advancements:
 - Call of the Wild: 1B, 5, 6
 - Council Fire: 2
 - Howling at the Moon: 3, 4
 - Paws on the Path: 5
 - Running with the Pack: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 (need to be very explicit on rules to maintain social distance)
- Electives:
 - Air of the Wolf: 1, 2A, 2C, 2D
 - Code of the Wolf: 2A, 4A (Flashlight Morse Code)
 - Digging in the Past: 3A
 - Finding Your Way: 3, 4
 - Germs Alive!: 2, 3
 - Grow Something: 3
 - Motor Away: 1, 2
 - Paws of Skill: 2, 5 (need to be very explicit on rules to maintain social distance)
 - Spirit of the Water: 5



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Cub Scout Advancements

That can be done outdoors and socially distant



Bears:

- Required advancements:
 - Baloo the Builder: 3, 4
 - Bear Claws: 1, 2, 3
 - Bear Necessities: 1B, 4, 5, 6
 - Fur, Feathers, and Ferns: 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7
 - Paws for Action: 4A
- Electives:
 - A Bear Goes Fishing: 3, 4
 - Make it Move: 1, 2, 3
 - Roaring Laughter: 6
 - Salmon Run: 2

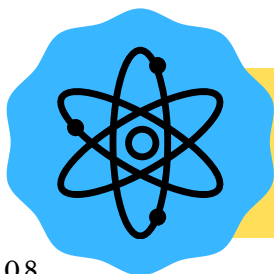
Webelos:

- Required advancements:
 - Cast Iron Chef: 3
 - Stronger, Faster, Higher: 1, 2, 5
 - Webelos Walkabout: 1, 3, 4, 5
- Electives:
 - Art Explosion: 3A, 3D
 - Castaway: 1B, 1C, 2C, 2D
 - Earth Rocks: 2, 3A, 3B, 3C
 - Into the Wild: 1, 3, 5, 7, 8
 - Into the Woods: 1, 2, 3



Arrow of Light:

- Required advancements:
 - Outdoor Adventurer: Option B- 1, 2, 4
- Electives:
 - Art Explosion: 3A, 3D
 - Castaway: 1B, 1C, 2C, 2D
 - Earth Rocks: 2, 3A, 3B, 3C
 - Into the Wild: 1, 3, 5, 7, 8
 - Into the Woods: 1, 2, 3



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2020 Council Program Opportunities



Overnight/Camping Opportunities:

Outdoor Experience:

- At all GSLAC Camp properties
- Overnight camping by family or unit
- Additional day activities such as horseback riding, swimming, fishing, etc.
 - activities will depend on camp property
- Go to this link for more information: <https://stlbsa.org/2020FallOutdoorExperiences/>



Day Activities/Events:

Cub Launch Saturdays:

- Beaumont Scout Reservation and 8 other locations across the Council
- Saturdays in September and October
- Activities: BB Guns, Archery, STEM, and hike the Bobcat Trail (and earn your Bobcat while doing it!)
- Socially distant activities that adhere to the 50-person limitations, masks and proper sanitation protocols
- Register at stlbsa.org

Outdoor Experience Day Activities:

- Depending on the property, there are activities such as horseback riding, climbing the climbing towers, fishing, swimming and more!
- You do not have to camp overnight to reserve these activities!
- Details and registration at: <https://stlbsa.org/2020FallOutdoorExperiences/>

Essential Resources

Below are essential resources to host meetings, activities and Scouting events:

Be on the *lookout* - another meeting guide will be publishing in November to help you plan your meetings January-April

National Den Leader Meeting Tips & Tricks:

<https://www.scouting.org/programs/cub-scouts/den-meeting-resources/den-leader-tips-tricks-video-series/>

- Videos for *EVERY* adventure for each rank
 - Send these to your families as you work on the adventures!
- Rank overviews
- Scoutbook Hacks

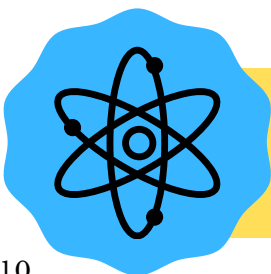
ScoutShare - Remote Scouting Resources

<http://scoutshare.org/>

- Resources and ideas to help your Scout Unit provide a superior program

Scoutbook for Den Leaders

- Login to leader.scouting.org with your MyScouting ID and password to get a free PDF version of the Den Leader Guide for the rank you lead (must be an assigned den leader in Scoutbook)



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