**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.

Special recognition ceremonies can mark special events such as birthdays or holidays.

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. Ceremonies are also included in your Den Leader Guide appendix.

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 handshake.

**Tiger Cub Roll Call Opening**

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

**Scout Promise Opening**

The Tiger Cubs form a large circle. Their adult partners form an outer circle by standing behind their Tiger Cubs. All say the Scout Promise in unison.

**Tiger Cub Opening Ceremony**

Each Tiger Cub holds a poster with a letter on it. After he shouts his letter, his adult partner reads the statement matching the letter.

ADULT 1: T is for TEAM, the Tiger team, a boy and his adult partner having fun together.

ADULT 2: I is for INTRODUCTION, showing us what Cub Scouts is all about.

ADULT 3: G is for GOOD TIMES, having fun together as a den and with your family.

ADULT 4: E is for EXPLORING, searching out new things to see and do.

ADULT 5: R is for READY, ready for new adventures together as a team.

ADULT 6: S is for SHARING, taking time to talk to each other about the fun things we get to do.

**Adventure Loop Recognition I**

Preparation: Put Adventure Loops in a cloth pouch. (Note: If awarding the pocket certificates at Den Meetings, substitute them for the Adventure Loops) The narrator is the adult partner who is hosting the meeting. The narrator's Tiger Cub distributes the loops.

NARRATOR: Today, we experienced the fun of complet­ing a den meeting requirement for the Tiger Cub badge. In recognition of today's activity, you earned \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Adventure Loop and it can be added to your Tiger Cub belt. (The narrator's Tiger Cub partner distributes belt loops to all the adult partners. The adult partners put the loops on the belts.)

**Adventure Loop Recognition II**

Preparation: Put loops in a small box decorated to look like a treasure chest. (Note: If awarding the pocket certificates at Den Meetings, substitute them for the Adventure Loops)

NARRATOR: Today, we would like to present a loop from our den treasure chest to the Tiger Cubs who have completed their requirements for the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Adventure Loop. Tiger Cub [Name] and his adult partner please step forward. This/these Tiger Cub has 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 your loop to your adult partner to attach to your belt. (Lead the den in the den cheer or a tiger growl.)

**Adventure Loop Recognition III**

Preparation: Put loops in a daypack or travel kit. (Note: If awarding the pocket certificates at Den Meetings, substitute them for the Adventure Loops)

NARRATOR: Today, we went to [Go See It location] and completed the requirements for the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Adventure Loop . In recognition of completion of this requirement toward the Tiger Cub rank, we would like to present a loop to each Tiger Cub. This is to remind you of your visit to [Go See It location]. I am presenting your loop to your adult part­ner to attach to your belt.

**Tiger Cub Closing**

The Tiger Cubs and their adult partners stand in a circle and hold hands. In turn, each adult partner tells one thing the Tiger Cub did since the last meeting to show that he did his best. End with everyone reciting the Cub Scout motto.

**Tiger Cub Closing Song**

Divide the singers into two groups. The first group sings the first verse. The second group responds with the second verse. Repeat, singing faster each time. (Tune: "The Muffin Man.")

Can you find a Tiger Cub,

A Tiger Cub, tiger Cub?

Can you find a Tiger Cub

With black and orange bold stripes?

Yes, we found a Tiger Cub,

A Tiger Cub, a Tiger Cub.

Yes, we found a Tiger Cub With black and orange bold stripes.

**Cub Scout/Webelos Scout Light**

The den leader asks den members to sit on the floor in a circle and dims the lights. Have a small candle and larger candle, plus matches, on a table. Flashlights or battery-operated candles may be used instead of regular candles and matches.

DEN CHIEF: I will light this small candle. It represents the goodwill given by one Cub Scout [or Tiger Cub or

Webelos Scout]. See how it shines? The rays from several Cub Scouts [Tiger Cubs/Webelos Scouts] make a brighter light. Each Scout lets his light shine by doing his best and helping other people.

DEN LEADER: I'll light this large candle. This represents that there is a brighter light that leads us all. Let us always think first of God, second of others, and finally of ourselves.

**Opening/Closing Song Ceremony**

Select a song from the *Cub Scout Songbook* to sing as your opening or closing. You might also select a song related to the monthly Core Value or Webelos activity badge to sing as the opening or closing ceremony.

**Pledge of Allegiance Opening**

The den gathers in a semicircle or horseshoe formation. One boy presents the colors (the U.S. flag) at the open end of the horseshoe. In turn, each boy steps forward, gives the Cub Scout salute, and steps back. Follow with the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Roll Call Opening**

The denner calls roll, and the boys respond by naming an item related to the Core Value or activity badge for the month.

**Den Flag Opening**

The den forms a tight circle with the den flag in the center. Each boy grasps the flagpole with his left hand, makes the Cub Scout sign with his right hand, and says the Cub Scout Promise.

**Scout Law Opening**

The den forms a circle, gives the Cub Scout salute, and says the Scout Law. [Webelos Scouts give the Scout salute.]

**Scout Oath Opening**

Select a point from the Scout Oath and talk about its meaning.

**Cub Scout/Scout Motto Opening**

Talk about the meaning of the Cub Scout motto. Say it in unison. [Webelos Scouts talk about the meaning of the Scout motto and say it in unison.]

**Den Yell Opening**

Give your den yell.

**Cub Scout Shirt Bobcat Recognition**

Preparation: Cut a piece of blue cardboard into the size and shape of a Cub Scout shirt with pockets on it and a hand-drawn version of the Bobcat badge (or a Bobcat badge sticker).

DEN LEADER: This Cub Scout shirt is very plain and could belong to anyone. It represents a sense of belong­ing and friendship in our den. Once you place the Bobcat badge on this shirt, it shows that our Scout has new knowledge and skills. Today, we have some den members who have earned this special recognition. Congratulations!

**Snowflake Immediate Recognition**

Preparation: Cut out paper snowflakes and hang an immediate recognition bead from each one.

DEN LEADER: Snowflakes begin to appear one at a time, and each one takes its own form. Will [den member] please come forward. (Present the snowflake.) With each of you working on requirements, we will soon make a snowstorm out of our snowflakes. All of us can encourage one another!

**Den Doodle for Advancement**

Preparation: Have a bead or other object ready to be attached to the den doodle for each loop or award that will be recognized. After all loops are presented, the den leader says the adventure pledge, and the den members repeat it, line by line.

DEN LEADER: We have a boy (or boys) ready to add an achievement to his (or their) string on the den doodle. He has (or they have) been working hard and completed an adventure loop (or activity pin) toward his Wolf (or Tiger Cub or Bear or Webelos) badge. Congratulations, [Name]! Keep up the great work!

(Present him with a bead or other object to attach to his area on the den doodle.) While he is adding this to his string, let's repeat our den pledge:

We, the boys of den [number], (Boys repeat)

Promise to do our best, (Boys repeat.)

To keep working on our requirements, (Boys repeat.)

And really pass the test. (Boys repeat.)

**Immediate Recognition Balloons**

Put immediate recognition loops inside balloons and then blow up the balloons. Let the boys pop the bal­loons to receive their recognition.

**Immediate Recognition Fishing**

Make a fishing pole from a stick and string, and attach a magnet for the book. Attach a paper clip or a pin to

the recognition. Have the boys fish for their awards.

**Denner and Assistant Denner Installation**

Preparation: Set a white candle and matches or flash­light to light it where everyone can see it. Have a denner shoulder cord ready to present to the chosen boy.

DEN LEADER: Cub Scout/Webelos Scout [Name of new denner], will you please step forward and light our candle. (The denner lights the candle.) This white candle represents the spirit of Scouting. It takes team effort to keep the spirit alive—to keep the candle burning. You have just been elected to be a member of that team.

As denner, your duties are to assist our den. You will help record attendance and collect den dues. (These duties may vary depending on the den.)

During the week, you will set a good example for the other members of our den by being honest and fair, and showing true Scouting spirit.

Do you accept these responsibilities?

DENNER: I will do my best.

DEN LEADER: I'm happy to present to you the denner cord, which is to be worn on your left sleeve during your term of office. Wear it proudly and with honor. Congratulations!

Cub Scout/Webelos Scout [Name] has been selected to be our assistant denner. His duty will be to help our

denner in his duties. Do you accept your responsibilities?

ASSISTANT DENNER: I will do my best.

DEN LEADER: We present to you the assistant denner cord that is to be worn on your left sleeve during your term of office. Congratulations!

**Denner and Cub Scout Stamp Installation**
Preparation: Secure a rubber stamp with the Cub Scout symbol on it and a washable ink stamp pad. Have a

denner shoulder cord ready to present to the chosen boy.

DEN LEADER: (Stamp the right hand of the new denner) As our denner, you will have the responsibility of assisting our den chief and me. Will you do your best to help our den along the advancement trail and share with them the work and fun of Scouting?

DENNER: I will do my best. (Present the denner cord.)

**Brotherhood Circle Closing**

Preparation: Form the den in a brotherhood circle: Each boy places his left arm around the shoulder of the boy on his left and his right arm around the shoulder of the boy on his right.

DEN LEADER or DEN CHIEF: Now may the Great Master of all Scouts be with us until we meet again.

**Handshake Closing**

Have the boys give the Cub Scout handshake to the den leader and den chief and then leave quietly. Another version is to have the boys form a circle and pass the handshake from one to another around the circle until it reaches the boy who started it. As each boy receives the handshake, he silently makes a wish and pledges to do his best.

Tiger Cubs and Cub Scouts use the Cub Scout handshake. Webelos Scouts use the Scout handshake.

**Leader's Minute Closing**

This is a closing inspirational thought. It can be a brief story about the Scout Law, the Scout Oath, the motto, or something patriotic. It could reflect ideals such as being kind to ani­mals and people, showing sportsmanlike behavior, or par­ticipating in school activities. It is told without moralizing.

**Flag Folding Closing**

Have three boys fold the flag while the other boys stand respectfully in a semicircle.

**Den Yell Recognition Ceremony**

Den members form a circle around the den flag. They give their den yell in honor of those den members who completed an achievement or elective this month.

**Friendship Circle Closing**

Den leaders and members form a friendship circle: Cross arms with right arm over left and grasp the hands of people on each side. They then sing a closing song.

**Grand Howl Recognition Ceremony**

Cub Scouts form a circle around the person in whose honor the grand howl is to be given. This may be a visi­tor, the den chief, a new den member, or a Cub Scout who has earned the respect of the "wolves." Each boy squats, makes the Cub Scout sign with both hands, and touches them to the ground between his feet. Then, like young wolves, the Cub Scouts raise their heads and give a long howl. As the last word is yelled, everyone jumps to his feet, and raising his right hand high above his head, gives the Cub Scout sign.

DEN MEMBERS: Akela! We'll—do—our—best!

**Living Circle Closing**

Den leaders and den members form a close circle and turn to their right, each placing his left hand into the center of the circle, palm facing downward. Each person grasps the thumb of the person behind him, making a complete circle with the group. Everyone's right hand is held straight up in the Cub Scout sign. One version is to pump joined hands up and down seven times as all say, "Akela! We'll—do—our—best!" You can also use the Scout Oath, Scout Law, Cub Scout motto, or your own personal words in place of this chant.

**Meaning of the Scout Oath Closing**

Den members form a circle, and each person says one sentence of the Scout Oath and then explains what this sentence means to him.

**My Flag Closing**

Right before the ending, the den leader asks each boy to write a sentence about what the U.S. flag means to him. For the closing ceremony, read the statements.

**Patriotic Song Closing**

Den members form the den in a circle around the U.S. flag. Everyone salutes and sings "America", "God Bless America," or another patriotic song. (See the *Cub Scout Songbook* for ideas.)

**Mountain Climbing Closing Thought**

Preparation: Ask the boys to sit in a circle with the den leader and close their eyes.

DEN LEADER: Picture a very high mountain. It is beautiful but very dangerous. It has slippery glaciers and high rocky places you can climb only with special equipment and with help from other people. Mountain climbers depend on each other. They must be able to trust their friends at the other end of the rope. When you pick your friends, think about whether this is a person you could trust at the end of that rope. Let's have a moment of silence as we think about the good friends we have chosen.

**Square Knot Closing**

Preparation: Give each boy a 3-foot section of rope. The boys tie the rope with a square knot to each other's ropes to form a complete circle. They all lean back care­fully to form a taut circle.

DEN LEADER: You are part of a group of close friends, held together by the square knot—a symbol of friendship.

**We Meet as Cub Scouts Closing**

Preparation: Have the boys form a circle.

DEN LEADER: We meet as Cub Scouts [Tiger Cubs, Webelos Scouts], we part as friends, as now we leave, our meeting ends.

Let this circle be a token of friendship, as Akela guides us home.