

December is marked by days of celebration and observance for many cultures and faiths around the world. Christmas, Hanukkah, Rohatsu, Yule, and Kwanzaa all occur this month. Find out how the celebrations in another country or of a religious tradition different from yours are nonetheless similar to those of your tradition and in the USA. Compare your own family's customs and traditions with others in your community. Invite an adult from another nation to come to your pack meeting to tell how his or her family celebrates. Why not start a new tradition of service in your pack as a way to honor the holidays this month? Work on the Heritages belt loop and pin.

PACK PLANNING

The pack meeting this month will allow boys and their families to experience some of the traditions celebrated around the world in December. Appoint the following committees to help with the meeting:

Decorations Committee. Decorate the room with fun festive decorations. Prepare a Holiday Tapestry board for families to display a family tradition. Arrange the meeting area for dens to set up their exhibits.

Program Committee. This group organizes the activities, mixing active and quiet games and avoiding any duplication. Will the dens be doing skits or puppet shows showing holiday traditions? How about a holiday piñata? (See 2-3 DEC for game ideas.)

Refreshments Committee. Ask families to supply treats related to their holiday celebrations. Be sure to have plates and napkins if needed. Ask families to help with cleanup.

Some of the purposes of Cub Scouting developed through this month's theme include:

- **Family Understanding.** Boys, along with their families, will learn to appreciate the traditions of others while they develop their own.
- **Fun and Adventure.** Boys will experience fun new and interesting ways to celebrate this season.

This theme is designed to promote character development by emphasizing these core values:

- **Faith.** Boys will grow stronger in their faith this month as they worship with their families.
- **Honesty.** Boys experience honesty as a part of Cub Scouting and of life.

Pack Meeting

BEFORE THE MEETING

All committees arrive early to set up their section of the meeting area: The decorations committee will arrange tables for each den's exhibit. Additional display areas will be needed for family displays. The program committee will ensure that there is a U.S. flag for the opening ceremony. The refreshments committee will prepare an area to serve refreshments at the end of the pack meeting.

GATHERING

The welcoming committee will greet families at the door and explain the Holiday Jigsaw gathering activity (2 DEC) and give out copies of the Holiday Pledge of Allegiance opening ceremony (2 DEC), which requires audience involvement. Direct Cub Scouts to the area designated for displaying den projects. Direct families to spaces set aside for family displays. Hand out name tags shaped like stars so that people can address one another by name and feel more at ease.

MAIN PART OF THE MEETING

Opening

Conduct the Holiday Pledge of Allegiance opening ceremony (2 DEC). Or choose another opening ceremony from *Cub Scout Ceremonies for Dens and Packs*.

Prayer

A preselected Cub Scout comes forward to give the Celebrate prayer (2 DEC). Invite all pack members to join in prayer, meditation, or silence as is their custom.

Welcome and Introductions

The Cubmaster says, "Harambee (hah-RAHM-bay)!" which is Swahili for "pulling together." Raise your right hand. Open your fingers. Bring your hand down to your side and make a fist. Do this seven times and yell "Harambee!" Let's pull together! The Cubmaster explains that this is one of the traditions of Kwanzaa.

Song

The song leader leads the pack in "Holiday Thoughts" (2 DEC). Or choose a different song, such as "Cub Scout Prayer," from the *Cub Scout Songbook*.

Den Demonstrations

Dens share what they have prepared during den meetings this month. They may describe a field trip, perform a song or skit, or lead a game.

Game

Divide the group into the number of games that will be played. See 2-3 DEC for suggestions.

Recognition

Use the Holiday Countdown advancement ceremony (2 DEC). Or choose a different ceremony from *Cub Scout Ceremonies for Dens and Packs*.

Announcements

Announce that the pinewood derby will be held next month during the Cub Scout Car Show theme. Distribute kits to everyone at the end of the meeting. Review details from the newsletter for a prerace weigh-in—announce the day, time, and location.

Cubmaster's Minute

The Cubmaster delivers the Silent Night by Candlelight Cubmaster's Minute (3 DEC).

Closing

The Cubmaster asks everyone to stand in a circle and join in the Cub Scout Chain closing ceremony (3 DEC).

REFRESHMENTS

Invite families to go to the refreshment area. The refreshment committee will explain which holidays are being represented by which foods and drinks.

Cubmaster Corner

ASSISTANT CUBMASTER

This important position in the pack serves many functions. The Cubmaster and assistant Cubmaster work hand in hand on many elements, such as:

- *Webelos-to-Scout transition*
- *Adult leadership recruitment*
- *Awards distribution*

Having a trained replacement for the Cubmaster is an important function of this position, too. Business opportunities and family challenges may create a demand for a new Cubmaster with little notice. Having a trained backup person for every leadership position is a good way to ensure strong leadership in the pack.

Ceremonies, Games, Songs, Stunts

GATHERING ACTIVITY:

HOLIDAY JIGSAW

Materials: Old greeting cards cut into jigsaw pieces.

Put each cut up card in a separate envelope. Boys and family members can put the puzzles together. After completing each puzzle, put it back in the envelope and try another one.

OPENING CEREMONY: HOLIDAY PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Preprint this ceremony and distribute it so that all pack members can join in. The den chief reads the first part of the lines, and audience members respond.

I pledge allegiance ... At this joyous time of year.

To the flag ... A symbol of unity as people of all faiths celebrate according to their beliefs and traditions.

Of the United States of America ... Where we join together in peace and joy.

And to the Republic for which it stands ... Where people do their best to help each other.

One nation under God ... Where we have freedom to worship in our own way. Indivisible ... We will stand strong, respecting all others.

With liberty and justice for all ... Where people of all races and colors and beliefs can experience true fairness.

DEN CHIEF: Let's remember all our blessings as we pledge our allegiance to the flag. Will the audience please rise and repeat the Pledge of Allegiance.

OPENING CEREMONY:

LET'S CELEBRATE

Props: Yule log, with three candles in the log. A fourth candle is used to light the others.

CUBMASTER: With all the festivities of this busy holiday season, the Cub Scouts of Den _____ will light our Yule log, which will burn throughout our meeting tonight, and offer to you their holiday wishes.

CUB SCOUT 1 (*lighting candle*): This wish is for all your dreams to come true.

CUB SCOUT 2 (*lighting candle*): This wish is for peace for all the children of the world.

CUB SCOUT 3 (*lighting candle*): This wish is for a year during which everything goes well for those we hold dear.

PRAYER: CELEBRATE

We give thanks for this free country, where we can celebrate as we wish with our families. Amen.

SONG: HOLIDAY THOUGHTS

Tune: She'll be Comin' 'Round the Mountain

We will decorate the house on holidays.

We will decorate the house on holidays.

We will write down all our wishes,

And set out the special dishes.

We will decorate the house on holidays.

We'll prepare a special feast on holidays.

We'll prepare a special feast on holidays.

We will make the cakes and pies,

That smell good and tempt our eyes.

We'll prepare a special feast on holidays.

We'll give thanks for love and peace on holidays.

We'll give thanks for love and peace on holidays.

We'll share presents with our friends,

And hope the spirit never ends.

We'll give thanks for love and peace on holidays.

ADVANCEMENT CEREMONY:

HOLIDAY COUNTDOWN

Props: Large December calendar with cut out windows; awards behind each window

The Cubmaster presents awards to boys as each window is opened. Be sure to add highlights of the accomplishments the Cub Scouts made to earn their award.

GAMES

Flip the Latke!

Latkes are potato pancakes, and they are traditionally eaten during Hanukkah.

Materials: Small paper plate, tongue depressor, 2 ft. of string or yarn, heavy cardboard, crayons

Glue one end of the tongue depressor to the paper plate to make a "frying pan." Color the frying pan with crayons. Poke a hole near the edge of the plate and tie one end of the string through it. Cut a circle about 2½-in. across out of cardboard to make the latke. Color it if you wish. Poke a hole through the edge of the latke and tie the other end of the string to it.

How to Play: Try to flip your latke onto the frying pan. See how many times in a row you can make the latke land in the pan. Have contests to see who can flip the latke into the pan the most times in 1 minute.

Snowshoe Race

Equipment: Large cardboard box, pencil, ruler, scissors, twine or elastic

Cut two large ovals (roughly 12 by 24 in.) from the cardboard. Place a foot in the middle of each of the cutout ovals. Use scissors to poke two holes spaced in the center of each of the ovals, on either side of your foot. Thread the twine or

elastic up through the bottom of the holes so that the two ends are on the top of the oval. Place your foot on the oval and tie the twine around your foot. Then races with other Cub Scouts in your snowshoes!

A Drop in the Bucket

Equipment: Five pieces of Hanukkah gelt (real money or chocolate coins), ruler, large clean empty can, masking tape

Cover the rim of the can with masking tape so that there are no sharp edges. Place a coin on one end of the ruler while you hold on to the other end. Stand up straight and extend your arm in front of you. Hold the end of the ruler over the can. Try to tip the coin into the can. Once you are skilled at one coin, try for two at the same time, then three, then four, until you can finally tip all five coins in at the same time. The player with the highest number of coins landing in the can after three tries wins.

CUBMASTER'S MINUTE:

SILENT NIGHT BY CANDLELIGHT

Setting: Individual candles or flashlights. Audience hums "Silent Night" by candlelight. Cubmaster holds a flashlight or candle (where permitted).

CUBMASTER: This is the season of lights. It is a time when days are shorter and nights are longer. Because of the longer nights, we must turn the lights on in our homes. But the most brilliant glow of all comes from the spirit of sharing and goodwill that you live and give all year round. To remind us again of this spirit, let's all stand and repeat the Cub Scout Promise.

CUBMASTER'S MINUTE:

TRADITIONS

Traditions enrich people's lives everywhere. Whether they are religious, cultural, or individual family customs, traditions are like glue that holds a lifetime of experiences together. Each of us has traditions that only our own families practice. Let's remember to enjoy those traditions and our families this time of year. Remember, it is better to give than to receive. See if you can find the joy of giving this year.

CLOSING CEREMONY: CUB SCOUT CHAIN

Setting: Cubmaster asks everyone to stand in a circle and join hands

CUBMASTER: A chain is no stronger

than its weakest link. The real joy of Cub Scouting comes when complete unity exists among all people. All of us here tonight can make the world a better place by learning more about one another's customs and by showing respect for each other. When we promise to do our best, to do our duty to God and our country, to help other people, and to obey the Law of the Pack, we are taking any weaker links and making them stronger. Cub Scouting brings us all together and also celebrates what makes us unique. At this time, please join with me as we pass the peace around our chain of Cub Scouting families. (*Cubmaster starts a gentle hand squeeze that is passed all the way around the circle until it returns to the Cubmaster.*)

CUBMASTER: Peace be with you all until we meet again.

CLOSING CEREMONY: NEW YEAR'S

CUBMASTER: This is the last pack meeting of the year. We have had many fun times together during this year that is coming to a close. As we look forward to the new year, we have many things to be thankful for: Cub Scouting, our families, our homes, our friends, and especially the land in which we live. May we always give thanks for and never forget our precious freedoms. Let us stand and sing one verse of "America" as the color guard retrieves the colors.

APPLAUSES

Ice Cube Applause. Pick up an ice cube and say, "C-O-O-O-O-L!"

Frozen Cub Scout. Wrap your arms around yourself and say, "BURRRRRRRRRRR!"

Christmas Applause. Pretend to crack a whip and say, "On Dasher, on Comet, on Cupid!"

RUNS-ON

CUB SCOUT 1: How do you get to the North Pole?

CUB SCOUT 2: Go to the South Pole and head anywhere!

KWANZAA CELEBRATION STICKS

Ingredients: Red, green, and black (or chocolate) sprinkles; 1 C. white chocolate chips; 20 8-in. pretzel sticks

On a piece of waxed paper, arrange 1¼-in.-wide strips of red, green, and black (or

chocolate) sprinkles. In a shallow microwave-safe bowl, microwave the white chocolate chips on high for 1 minute, stir, and microwave for 30 seconds more. Stir until smooth (it will be thick). Use a knife to spread the white chocolate over half of a pretzel stick. Roll through the sprinkles until coated with stripes. Chill.

HANUKKAH PAPER CONES

Materials: 1 piece of heavy paper (such as grocery bag) for inner layer, three pieces of decorative paper (such as wrapping paper) for outer layer, glue, ribbon, or other trim

On heavy paper, draw a circle 14 in. in diameter. Divide the circle into thirds and cut into three sections. Glue a piece of decorative paper on top, cutting away the excess decorative paper to the shape of the heavy paper. Roll the paper into a cone, and glue together. Add trim at the top and staple ribbon handles to the cone. Fill with treats. Makes three cones.

CELEBRATIONS AROUND THE WORLD AND OF MANY FAITHS

Bodhi Day (Rohatsu). December 8. This Zen Buddhist holiday celebrates the enlightenment of the Buddha.

Christmas in Iceland. One tradition in Iceland tells the story of the mischievous "Yuletide lads," or Jólasveinar, who visit Icelandic children during the Christmas, or Yule, season. The first lad arrives on December 12. The last one comes on December 24, leaving gifts in the children's shoes.

Christmas in Poland. Polish people consider spiders, or *pajaki*, to be symbols of prosperity and good luck at Christmas.

Dong Zhi. December 22. The winter solstice festival in China celebrates the shortest day and longest night of the year.

Hanukkah. Between December 4 and 12. The *menorah* (meh-NOR-uh) is a special candleholder in the Jewish religion. For eight days, candles are lit to remember an ancient miracle in which one day's worth of oil burned for eight days in the temple.

St. Nicholas Eve. St. Nicholas of Myra (in Turkey today) might have been the original Santa Claus. Some countries celebrate St. Nicholas' Eve on December 5. In Portugal, festivities called *Nicolinas* run from November 29 to December 7.

ACADEMICS AND SPORTS PROGRAM

Academics

Heritages. Encourage boys to explore the background behind their family's celebrations. They might ask family members questions such as, "Why do we eat certain foods this time of year?" or "How did your grandparents celebrate the holidays?" This month, as the boys are learning about the traditions celebrated around the world, encourage them to earn the Heritages belt loop and pin.

Sports

Bowling. It's colder outside, so how about heading indoors to bowling fun? Take the den bowling or suggest that families to incorporate this fun indoor sport into their wintertime activities.

FAMILY ACTIVITY

This month families are encouraged to strengthen family traditions and religious beliefs as they attend their religious organization together, celebrate a holiday, or make an advent calendar or wreath. See "Strengthening Family Traditions" in *Cub Scouting's BSA Family Activity Book* for ideas.

DID YOU KNOW?

Meeting Place Rules

Many special events use candles to symbolize an important part of their holiday. Keep in mind, however, that Cub Scout packs are required to follow the safety rules set for the meeting place. If you meet in a school, religious institution, or other public building, be sure to check the fire regulations before using lit candles. Be prepared to use battery-operated or electric candles if needed.

It's a good idea to conduct an inspection of a new meeting place, and thereafter, conduct an annual inspection. See the Meeting Place Inspection Checklist in the *Cub Scout Leader Book*.

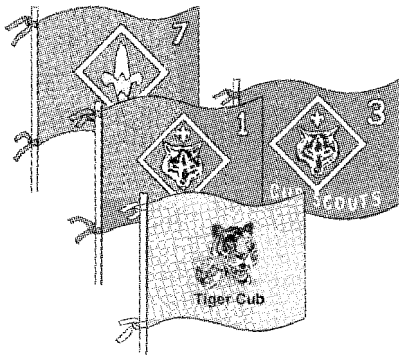
GOOD TURN FOR AMERICA



To start the new year off right, discuss the pack's plans for a Good Turn. Consider asking families to donate money

to the BSA's World Friendship Fund. Or giving plates of goodies to "Santa's helpers"—firefighters or police officers. They work hard to protect us all year, and now is a great time to show that you appreciate them.

BSA RESOURCES HIGHLIGHT



Den and Pack Flags. Be sure your den and pack have flags. Show pride in your unit by displaying your flags at den and pack meetings as well as at district and council events. You can order flags through your local Scout Shop or online.

PACK LEADERS' PLANNING MEETING

The pack leaders will meet about one or two weeks before the December pack meeting to check final details.

It's likely that each family observes a variety of winter holidays in ways that are unique and special. To highlight this diversity, invite families to help weave a Holiday Tapestry by sharing their personal celebrations. Ask families to bring something from home that represents one of their traditions. These could be photographs, artwork, ornaments, food treats, etc. These items will be displayed on a board at the pack meeting.

Outline den contributions to the pack meeting. Leaders report what they will do so den efforts won't be duplicated.

Next month's theme is Cub Scout Car Show—time for a pinewood derby race! Make arrangements to have pinewood derby kits available for families to pick up at the pack meeting. To help families prepare for the big race, allow them to weigh their cars ahead of time. This weigh-in allows families to make necessary adjustments to their cars.

Determine a day, time, and location for the prerace weigh-in.

The pack trainer conducts Unit Leadership Enhancement No. 12, Planning Special Events (*Cub Scout Leader Book*). This will alert the leadership to the need for organization for the upcoming derby in January and blue and gold banquet in February. Select a topic for next month's meeting.

LOOKING AHEAD

Continue making plans for the blue and gold banquet in February. The theme is Chinese New Year. Have a date, location, and time been secured? Has the menu been planned? What resources does the committee have?

April's theme is Abracadabra. Start reviewing pack members for any amateur magicians to help teach tricks and share their knowledge.

PACK TRAINER HIGHLIGHT

Review the training opportunities for all leaders as well as upcoming district and council events. Remind leaders to attend the monthly Cub Scout leader roundtable to receive news and program ideas and have a chance to share with other leaders.

Verify that all trained leaders have completed Youth Protection training either in person or online.

Have any boys left your pack? Contact the families and find out why. The reason may be that den meetings are not well planned with fun activities. Training can help a den leader overcome this.

OUTDOOR IDEAS FOR EVERYONE

Tiger Cubs. Boys can go caroling in the neighborhood with adult partners.

Wolf Cub Scouts. Boys can test their throwing skills by throwing snowballs through a large plastic hoop.

Bear Cub Scouts. Go outside and play Fox Hunting (*Cub Scout Leader How-To Book*).

Webelos Scouts. Attend a Boy Scout outdoor event and find out how they prepare for outdoor adventures in colder weather.

Celebrations Around the World: Tiger Cub Den Meetings

Each Tiger Cub and his adult partner should attend all meetings as a team.

Dens may meet in the evenings or on weekends.

Full or partial credit may be received for the following advancement possibilities highlighted in this month's meeting plans.

WHEN	FIRST WEEK	SECOND WEEK	THIRD WEEK	FOURTH WEEK
<p>The Tiger Cub den leader shares leadership with a Tiger Cub adult partner. This team should review plans before each meeting and check equipment needed.</p>				
BEFORE THE MEETING STARTS	Have U.S. flag; gather materials for Kwanzaa Family Scrapbooks and Star of David Picture Frames (both 6 DEC).	Have U.S. flag; gather materials for Holiday Candles, Santa's Bag (both 6 DEC), and Snow Shovel Relay (<i>Cub Scout Leader How-To Book</i>). Gather several holiday books; bring directions to the Go See It.	Call the Go See It destination to confirm arrangements, times, fees, etc.	Host team writes a thank-you note to the destination of last week's Go See It.
<p>Den leader may collect dues. Den leader checks boys' books for completed advancement requirements and records them on Den Advancement Chart. Boys record own advancement on den doodle, if den has one.</p>				
GATHERING	Have blank pages for Tiger Cubs to start decorating for the Kwanzaa Family Scrapbook.	Have Santa's Bag set up for Tiger Cubs as they arrive.		
OPENING	Recite the Pledge of Allegiance. Say the Cub Scout motto.	Sing a holiday song of your choice.		
SHARE	Tiger Cubs and adult partners share how their family celebrates holidays (<i>Elective 1</i>). Talk about different beliefs.	Have a selection of holiday books for Tiger Cub and their adult partners to read together (<i>Elective 14</i>).	<p>GO SEE IT: Visit a religious institution. While there, talk to a religious leader or teacher about his/her faith and why this is a special time of year for that faith (<i>Elective 8</i>).</p> <p>At the end of the trip, lead a reflecting discussion with boys and adult partners about their outing.</p>	<p>Participate in the monthly pack meeting by sharing "Eight Little Candles" (6 DEC) and information about the den's Go See It.</p> <p>Tiger Cubs and adult partners sign the thank-you note.</p>
DISCOVER	Make Star of David Picture Frames (<i>Elective 4</i>) and Kwanzaa Family Scrapbooks.	Make Holiday Candles. Play Snow Shovel Relay.		
SEARCH	Ask each Tiger Cub to bring a favorite holiday book next week. Discuss options for the Go See It in two weeks.	Hand out information about next week's Go See It.		
CLOSING	Form a Living Circle and recite the Law of the Pack.	Present a den leader's minute that relates holiday beliefs to the Character Connection on Faith and duty to God in the Cub Scout Promise. Then recite the Cub Scout Promise.		
<p>This month's shared leadership team reviews the meeting. The den leader should meet briefly with the Tiger Cub and adult partner who will share leadership at the next den meeting.</p>				
AFTER THE MEETING	Den leader files tour permit with local council service center for Go See It.	Talk to Tiger Cub team in charge of the next month. Offer resources or ideas as needed.	Den leader fills out den advancement report for the pack leaders' meeting.	Den leader mails the thank-you note.

CHECK WITH YOUR PACK TRAINER OR CUBMASTER FOR ROUNDTABLE DATES AND OTHER TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES.

Tiger Cub Den Activities

Advancement possibilities highlighted in this month's meeting plans: Achievement 1D; Electives 2, 4, and 6.

During this month's theme of Celebrations Around the World, each Tiger Cub starts by learning his family's traditions (Elective 1). Regardless of what religion a Tiger Cub practices, family is important to holiday celebrations. This month Tiger Cubs and their families should find time to read a book together (Elective 14), play a game together (Elective 3), or work together on a chore either for the family (Achievement 1F) or for an elderly person (Elective 10). Working on the Heritages belt loop and pin to learn about another culture would also be a good activity for this month.

CANDY MENORAH

(Elective 2)

Materials: Foam pieces for base, nine peppermint sticks, nine chocolate candy drops, frosting

Cut a 1-in. square of foam and glue to the center of the foam base. Push four peppermint sticks into the foam to one side of the center. Push four more peppermint sticks into the other side. Push the central peppermint stick into the center piece of foam.

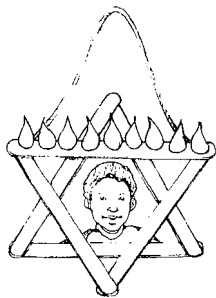
On the first day of Hanukkah, "light" the central "candle," or *Shamash*, and the first candle on the right. To light the candles, dab some frosting onto the top of the candy stick and attach a chocolate drop. Light candles from right to left. On the eighth day, enjoy eating the edible parts of the menorah in celebration of the holiday.

STAR OF DAVID PICTURE

FRAME

(Elective 4)

Materials: Six craft sticks, yellow craft foam, blue paint, silver glitter, glue, photo of Tiger Cub, 6 in. of cord



Paint the craft sticks blue and let dry. Meanwhile, cut out nine small teardrop-shaped flames out of the yellow craft foam. Take three of the craft sticks and glue into a triangle. Repeat with the other three craft sticks. Glue one triangle upside down on top of the other triangle to form a Star of David. Glue the flames onto the top to form a menorah. Run a small bead of glue around the star and sprinkle on some silver glitter. Glue the Tiger Cub photo into the center of the star. Glue a loop of cord to the back to form a hanger.

SONG: EIGHT LITTLE CANDLES

(Elective 6)

Tune: Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star

Eight little candles in a row

Wait to join the holiday glow.

We will light them one by one

So all eight will join the fun.

Eight little candles burning bright,

Fill the world with holiday light.

KWANZAA FAMILY SCRAP-

BOOK

(Achievement 1D)

Materials: White cardboard or poster board, scissors, plain white paper, hole punch, strips of construction paper (black, red, and green), glue, yarn or ribbon

This woven design and its colors are based on the Kwanzaa *mkeka*, or mat, one of the symbols of this holiday.

Cut the cardboard or poster board into two 9-by-12-in. rectangles. This will serve as the base for your cover. The back piece will be plain white and the front one will be covered in a festive plaid design. Cut the black paper into a 9-by-12-in. rectangle. With a ruler and pencil, measure out a box in the center of the black construction paper that measures 7 by 10 in. Once the center rectangle is cut out, there will be a 1-in.-wide frame of black construction paper left.

Cut four strips of black construction paper that measure 1 in. wide by 12 in. long. Lay these strips across the cardboard horizontally with the edges of the strips just touching. Secure one end of each of the strips by gluing them to the cardboard. Cut four red and four green strips of construction paper, each 1 in. wide and 10 in. long. Weave the red and green strips alternately, going over and under the black strips. Once the weaving is complete, secure the other edges of the strips.

With glue, secure the black frame to the top of woven strips. Use a hole punch to make holes along one side of each piece of cardboard. Also use it to make holes in the white paper. Use the yarn or ribbon

to tie the pages together. Have the Tiger Cubs decorate each page using crayons, markers, and family photos to record the different things they do for the holidays.

This can be adapted to other holidays by using other colors of construction paper. Use blue and white for Hanukkah or red and green for Christmas.

Adult partners cut, boys weave.

HOLIDAY CANDLES

(Elective 2)

Materials: Toilet paper roll, construction paper (in the colors you want for your candles), yellow and orange tissue paper, string, glue, scissors, spoon, small toys or candies

Cut a piece of construction paper big enough to wrap around the toilet paper tube plus 1 in. Glue the construction paper to the toilet paper tube. Cut out two 15-by-15-in. squares of tissue paper (one yellow and one orange). Place the orange piece at a 45-degree angle from the yellow piece. Place both pieces on top of one end of the tube. Use a spoon to gently push the tissue paper into the tube. Be careful not to push too hard or the paper will rip. Once the paper is in the tube, fill the tube with small toys or candies. Then use a small piece of string to tie it the paper. Arrange the extra paper to look like the flame of a candle.

This could also be used at a pack meeting to hand out the awards.

SANTA'S BAG

Materials: Ten brown paper bags, 10 small toys or holiday items, marker, tape, paper, pencils

Use the marker to give each bag a number from 1 through 10. Place one item in each bag and then fold the top and tape it shut. Each Tiger Cub and his adult partner are given a pencil and paper with numbers 1 through 10. They try to guess what is in each bag by touching and shaking the bag, and write their guess on the paper by the appropriate number. The team with the most correct answers wins.

Celebrations Around the World: Wolf Den Meetings

Dens may meet after school, in the evenings, or on weekends.

Review the theme pages before planning den meetings.

Full or partial credit may be received for the following advancement possibilities highlighted in this month's meeting plans.

WHEN	FIRST WEEK	SECOND WEEK	THIRD WEEK	FOURTH WEEK
Den leader, den chief, and denner review plans before each meeting and check equipment needed.				
BEFORE THE MEETING STARTS	Have supplies for Pie-Tin Washer Toss (<i>Elective 4a</i>) and Icicle Hunt (8 DEC), materials for Craft Stick Snowman (8 DEC), U.S. flag.	Have materials for Chenille Stars and Snowman (both 8 DEC).	Call the destination of your field trip to confirm arrangements, times, fees, etc.	Denner writes thank-you to last week's destination. Have materials to finish the Snowman (8 DEC).
Den leader collects dues.				
WHILE CUB SCOUTS GATHER	Play Pie-Tin Washer Toss.	Collect permission slips. Paint hat materials and liter bottle for Snowman in two weeks.		Boys sign thank-you note. Where weather permits, build a snowman outside.
OPENING	Form a circle around the flag and recite the Pledge of Allegiance (<i>Achievement 2a</i>).	Sing a holiday song.	Collect permission slips.	Give the den yell.
Den leader checks boys' books for completed achievements and electives and records them on Den Advancement Charts. Boys record own advancement on den doodle, if den has one.				
BUSINESS ITEMS	Discuss the Celebrations Around the World theme. Encourage boys to find out about their special holiday celebrations to share next week.	Cub Scouts share the special things their family does for the holidays.		Practice song for the pack meeting.
ACTIVITY	Boys make Craft Stick Snowmen. Play Icicle Hunt.	Boys play the Star Nods game (8 DEC) and make Chenille Stars. Wrap Chenille Stars and Craft Stick Snowman made last week (<i>Elective 17c</i>).	Go ice skating. In temperate climates, go rollerblading or go to an indoor skating rink (<i>Elective 20e, 20f</i>).	Finish the Snowman started two weeks ago. Play Chef Manda (08 DEC)
CLOSING	Ask boys to observe a moment of reverence. They then give the Cub Scout salute to the den chief, handshake to the den leader, and leave quietly. Send home permission slips for the field trip during the third week.	Form a Living Circle. Denner leads the Cub Scout Promise.	At the end of the trip, lead a reflecting discussion with boys about their outing.	Den leader leads the Chef Manda Closing.
Denner supervises putting away equipment.				
Den leader, den chief, and denner review the meeting and check details for the next meeting.				
AFTER THE MEETING	Den leader files local tour permit with council service center for field trip planned for third week.		Den leader fills out den advancement report for the pack leaders' meeting.	Den leader mails thank-you note.

CHECK WITH YOUR PACK TRAINER OR CUBMASTER
FOR ROUNDTABLE DATES AND OTHER TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES.

Advancement possibilities highlighted in this month's meeting plans: Achievement 2a; Electives 4a, 11d

December brings many different celebrations around the world. It is a time of giving and receiving gifts. It is also a time when stars are important in many religions. Christians follow the star to Bethlehem. The Buddha realized enlightenment under the morning star, Venus. The Star of David is important for the Jewish religion. This month's activities highlight gift giving and stars. For the third week, weather permitting, take the den on an outdoor adventure: The snowman boys make this month will become a family treasure. Involve the families in gathering supplies. You don't have to tell them what they are for. They'll enjoy the surprise and being a part of the activity.

Encourage Cub Scout families to work on additional achievements and electives that support this theme such as:

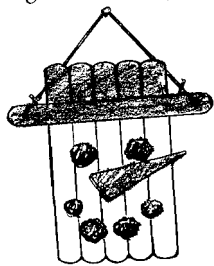
- *Achievement 11a*, Duty to God: Each Cub Scout can complete the Character Connection on Faith.
- *Elective 9a*, Lets Have a Party: Cub Scouts can help their families plan a holiday party.

CRAFT STICK SNOWMAN

(Elective 9b)

Materials: Six craft sticks per boy, black and white paint, orange foam sheet, craft glue, cotton swabs, wire or string for hanging

Line up five craft sticks horizontally to form a square. Glue together. Place the last craft stick about one-quarter of the way down to form the brim of the hat. Paint the top hat black. Paint the snowman's face white. Add dots for eyes and mouth with a cotton swab. Cut a nose from the craft foam by first cutting a rectangle and then cutting diagonally to form a triangle. Glue the nose into place. Tie string or wire onto the ends of the hat brim to form a hanger.



For crafts that require drying, you can speed drying time by using a hairdryer.

GAMES

Icicle Hunt

Materials: Glittering white yarn

The icicles are pieces of yarn cut into various lengths. Hide them before the meeting. On a signal, boys search for the various icicles. After a specified time, end the game. See whose string of icicles is the longest when laid end to end.

Star Nods

This game is similar to "Simon Says." The Star is in the center of a circle of players. The Star points to any player and says, "Star says yes," or "Star says no." That player must quickly nod "yes" or shake his head "no." If Star says only "yes" or only "no" without prefacing it with "Star says," the player must not respond. If he does, he is eliminated. The Star should give commands quickly. The last person not eliminated becomes the new Star.

Pass the Snowball

Materials: Soft foam ball or piece of paper squashed into a ball

Boys form two lines and hold hands with the boy next to them. Start the "snowball" at one end of the line. The team tries to pass the snowball down the line while holding hands. Allow the boys time to practice this. If a team drops the ball, they may retrieve it if they can do so without letting go of hands. If this is impossible, one player may get the snowball, but before it is passed down the line further, all boys' hands must be clasped again.

CHENILLE STAR

(Elective 9c)

Materials: Silver chenille stems (two per boy), clear or sparkly pony beads

Fold each chenille stick into a triangle. Slide any number of pony beads onto each formed triangle end and twist to close. Take one triangle with the tip pointed to the top, and place second triangle with the tip facing down on top of it. This will form a simple six-pointed star. Glue into place.

CHEF MANDA

("The Chief Orders"—a game from Brazil)

The den leader stands in front of the other players and gives orders that they must follow if he first says, "The chief orders ..." If the chief says, "He orders you to laugh," none of the players should laugh because he did not say, "The chief orders. ..." A player who makes a mistake is eliminated or a point is scored against him.

CHEF MANDA CLOSING

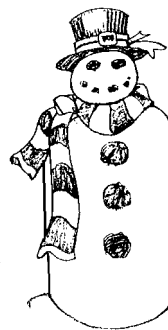
Den leader says:

- The chief orders you to shake the hands of the Cub Scout to your left. (Wait for action)

- The chief orders you to shake the hands of the Cub Scout to your right (wait for action)
- He orders you to leave our meeting (wait for no action)
- The chief orders you to have a great week until our next meeting. Thank you, Cub Scouts.

SNOWMAN

Materials: Liter plastic soda bottle; sand, dirt or pebbles; 2- to 3-in.-diameter foam ball; white and black acrylic paint; fine-grain sandpaper; black felt buttons; ribbon; plastic spray can lid (spray starch or similar size); plastic tub lid (butter tub or similar size)



Sand the surface of the bottle, spray can lid, and tub lid so that the acrylic paint can adhere to the surface better. Paint the spray can lid and tub lid black. Paint the bottle white. Allow to dry.

Cover the top and sides of the spray can lid and the top of the tub lid with black felt. Center and glue the spray can lid to the tub lid. This is the hat. When the glue has dried, turn the hat over and cut a small hole in the bottom with a craft knife. Make the hole a little smaller than the circumference of the top of the hat.

Fill the bottle about halfway with pebbles, sand, or dirt so that your snowman doesn't fall over. Remove the lid from the bottle and set the foam ball down onto it. Tie a long piece of ribbon around the snowman's neck. (Another piece could go on the hat.) Attach the hat to the head as above. Glue buttons to the foam to make the snowman's face. Cut small circles of black felt and glue them onto the snowman's belly.

Celebrations Around the World: Bear Den Meetings

Dens may meet after school, in the evenings, or on weekends.

Review the theme pages before planning den meetings.

Full or partial credit may be received for the following advancement possibilities highlighted in this month's meeting plans.

WHEN	FIRST WEEK	SECOND WEEK	THIRD WEEK	FOURTH WEEK
Den leader, den chief, and denner review plans before each meeting and check equipment needed.				
BEFORE THE MEETING STARTS	Have materials for Jingle Bell Bracelets and Star of David (both 10 DEC), and for Pass the Ring (<i>Cub Scout Leader How-To Book</i>). Bring library books about different holidays.	Have a ball or balloon for Snowball Tag (10 DEC).	Call the destination of your field trip to confirm arrangements, times, fees, etc.	Denner writes thank-you note to last week's destination. Have supplies for Noel Candles (10 DEC).
Den leader collects dues.				
WHILE CUB SCOUTS GATHER	Make Jingle Bell Bracelets.	Collect permission slips. Do stretching exercises (<i>Achievement 16a</i>). Play Snowball Tag.	Collect permission slips. Review the destination for this month and explain what boys will experience.	Boys sign thank-you note. Boys paint twigs for Noel Candles.
OPENING	Sing "Jingle Bells." Cub Scouts shake their wrists during the chorus of "Jingle Bells."	Boys answer roll call with the name of a holiday celebration from around the world.		Cub Scouts join in a semicircle around the den flag and say the Cub Scout Promise.
Den leader checks boys' books for completed achievements and electives and records them on Den Advancement Charts. Boys record own advancement on den doodle, if den has one.				
BUSINESS ITEMS	Explain the Celebrations Around the World theme and share plans for the month. Cub Scouts review library books about holidays.	Review the words to "Jingle Bells" and practice again for presentation at the pack meeting.		Practice "Jingle Bells" for the pack meeting. Remind boys to bring Jingle Bell Bracelets to wear at the pack meeting.
ACTIVITY	Make straw Stars of David. Play Pass the Ring.	Have a guest who was a Cub Scout a long time ago come to the meeting and share his experiences (<i>Achievement 8b</i>).	Attend a local holiday celebration. At the end of the trip, lead a reflecting discussion with boys about their outing.	Make Noel Candles. Lead the Character Connection on Faith.
CLOSING	Cub Scouts shout out their den yell. Send home permission slips for field trip during the third week.	Have a moment of silence to show respect for the many celebrations and different beliefs people have.		Den Leader shares the End of the Year closing (10 DEC).
Denner supervises putting away equipment. Den leader, den chief, and denner review the meeting and check details for the next meeting.				
AFTER THE MEETING	Den leader files local tour permit with council service center for field trip planned for third week.		Den leader fills out den advancement report for the pack leaders' meeting.	Den leader mails thank-you note.

CHECK WITH YOUR PACK TRAINER OR CUBMASTER
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Bear Den Activities

Advancement possibilities highlighted in this month's meeting plans: Achievements 1a, 8b, 16a, 22b.

Jingle, jangle—holiday bells beckon Cub Scouts and their families. This month, Bear Cub Scouts will explore some of the celebrations that may not be familiar to them and their families. Highlight the experience by attending a holiday celebration of a group different from their own. Have someone who was a Cub Scout a long time ago share his special memories of how he celebrated the season.

Encourage Cub Scout families to work on additional achievements and electives that support this theme such as:

- *Achievement 13c, Saving Well: Spending Well.* Keeping track of how money is spent on holiday gifts will be a learning exercise for boys.
- *Achievement 18b, Jot It Down:* This is a good time of the year to write to family members and share Cub Scout experiences—or certainly to thank them for gifts received.
- *Elective 20b, Sports:* Many people learn about and enjoy the sport of skiing during this time of year.

JINGLE BELL BRACELETS

Materials: Chenille stems, small bells

Boys feed the end of the chenille stem through the clasp at the top of the bell and twist the stem. Then twist around the wrist to make an easy percussion instrument.

Each Cub Scout makes at least one bracelet. They may make many others to share with siblings and other family members to join in at the pack meeting.

GAMES

Snowball Tag

Materials: Three to five play balls or blown-up white balloons

Divide the boys in half. On “go!” boys start to throw the balls to the other side. The object is to hit a player with the balloon/ball and then that player joins the team that the thrower belongs to. If a boy catches a ball/balloon in the air, the player who threw it must join the opposing team. The only balls that count are those hitting above the waist.

Pin the Candle on the Menorah

Materials: Large piece of white paper, markers, colored construction paper, scissors, tape, blindfold

Draw a large menorah on the white paper. Write the word *shamash* (SHAH-mush) on the tallest candleholder and the numbers 1 through 8 on the other candleholders, going from right to left. Cut nine candles out of construction paper. Label one of them the *shamash* and number the others 1 through 8.

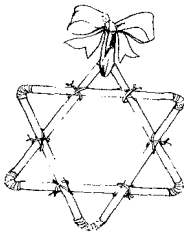
Hang the menorah on a wall. Give each player a candle with a piece of tape on the back. Each player is blindfolded and sent toward the menorah to try to tape his candle to the correct holder.

STAR OF DAVID

(*Achievement 22b*)

Materials: Drinking straws with flexible ends (six per star); string, yarn, or ribbon

Fold and insert the shorter end of the straw into the longer section. Connect two sets of three straws this way, creating two triangles. Place one triangle over the other and tie at each intersection with a square knot, creating the six-pointed Star of David. Attach a yarn or ribbon hanger at the top. Use blue straws or spray paint the finished ones for effect.



CHARACTER CONNECTION:

FAITH

(*Achievement 1a*)

Celebrations around the world involve many different faiths, as well as different versions of them.

- What do you think *faith* is?
- How do you show your beliefs?
- Is one faith or belief better than another?

For the year ahead, many people rededicate themselves to their faith. This might be a good time to do Achievement 2 and earn the religious emblem of your faith.

NOEL CANDLES

In France, Christmas is called *Noël*. Christians usually have a Christmas tree, sometimes decorated in the old way with red ribbons and real white wax candles.



Materials: Dried twigs, approximately 1/2-in. in diameter; white spray paint (or tempera paint); yellow or orange felt

Paint the twigs white. To make the candle “flame,” cut a small piece of felt in a flame shape. Glue to the top of the candles.

DEN LEADER'S MINUTE:

END OF THE YEAR

We have learned about the different religions and beliefs in the world that celebrate this time of the year. As we move to a new year, let's hope that we all have learned to respect the beliefs of other people and their right to practice their faith. Let us be thankful that we live in a country that values this right. Thank you, Cub Scouts, for knowing how important this is and for your respect for and support of each other. Happy New Year!

NAPKIN RINGS

Materials: Cardboard tissue or paper towel tubes, wrapping paper, glue, paint and paintbrushes, craft foam, holiday cards

Cut the paper tube into 1-in. lengths. Apply a coat of white glue and let harden to keep the ring firm. Choose one or more ways to decorate:

- Glue a length of wrapping paper around the cardboard ring.
- Paint the napkin ring with acrylic paint (inside and out); let dry.
- Wrap the ring with plain colored paper. Then cut out designs from craft foam, such as tree shapes, bell shapes, and candle shapes and glue on the ring.
- Form a mosaic by cutting pieces of wrapping paper and holiday cards and gluing them on the ring.