



WINTER WONDERLAND

A SCOUT IS REVERENT. HOW DOES “WINTER WONDERLAND” RELATE TO THIS POINT OF THE SCOUT LAW?

As winter comes, it brings with it a wonderland of snow, peace, beauty, and holidays. All of us come from different backgrounds and celebrate many traditions; each of our traditions gives us an identity and a sense of belonging. When we share those traditions and accept others' traditions, we expand our circle so everyone feels like they belong. Whether we celebrate Christmas, Hanukkah, Kwanzaa, or none of these, sharing valued traditions and holding true to what they stand for will help us understand others. But no matter who we are or how we celebrate, we are all part of a great organization that has taught us to show reverence for others and their beliefs.

NOTE TO CUBMASTER

Pack meetings are best when they are no more than an hour and a half in length. Pack meeting plans are guides and can be adjusted to fit the needs of your pack.

You might consider setting up tables or areas for each den to display pictures and items made during this month's adventure.

Many families have traditions surrounding ornaments and decorations for the holidays. Have the boys in your pack share their traditions by displaying one or two ideas on a table.

This month's pack meeting provides an opportunity for the Bear den to complete requirements 2 and 3 of the Grin and Bear It adventure by organizing a winter carnival and helping the younger Scouts as they take part.

Cheers, run-ons, and songs are available in the Resources section.

◆ BEFORE THE MEETING

Be sure the following materials are available for the meeting.

Gathering option 1: Marshmallow snowmen, small plates, plastic knives, large marshmallows, frosting, cookies (optional), pretzel sticks, peppermint patties, chocolate kisses, chocolate-covered candies or mini chocolate chips, pull-and-peel licorice, or fruit leathers. Check for food allergies and alter the ingredient list as needed.

Opening ceremony: Before the meeting, ask the den or boys doing the opening what “Winter Wonderland” means to them and have them write their answer on a piece of paper or index card. Have them prepare to talk about it during the meeting.

Recognition: Large snowflake as well as individual snowflakes for each boy receiving awards. (Attach awards to smaller snowflakes.)

Cards for the audience participation (See the Resources section of this pack meeting plan.)

Set up tables or areas for den displays, if applicable.

◆ GATHERING

Option 1: The Bear den provides a winter carnival and helps the younger Scouts as they take part in it.

Option 2: Marshmallow snowmen (See the Resources section.)

◆ OPENING CEREMONY

The flag ceremony is led by a predetermined den. The Pledge of Allegiance will be said at the end of the opening ceremony. Have the boys who are presenting the opening prepare cards that describe what “Winter Wonderland” means to them. They will read these in front of the pack, so you will want to review them to make sure they are sensible and appropriate.

Cubmaster: “Tonight, we gather to celebrate the theme Winter Wonderland. What does ‘Winter Wonderland’ mean? To each of us it means something different, but to all of us it means something special. Let’s close our eyes and think about Winter Wonderland and let our thoughts paint pictures of what it means to us. As we do this, let’s hear from the boys in Den ____, who have already given some thought to what this means.”

(Boys read off “To me, Winter Wonderland means . . .”)

Leader: “So many different ideas all from the same two words. It’s no different than when we say ‘United States.’ Again, two small words that mean many different things to many different people, but there is one way in which all of us are united. Let’s stand and recite the Pledge of Allegiance—thoughts that bind us all together.”

◆ OPENING PRAYER

“During this holiday season and every day of the new year, please help us remember to have respect for others and to do our Good Turn daily with a joyful heart.”

◆ WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

The Cubmaster welcomes new families, visitors, and special guests by introducing them to the pack and thanks all who helped plan and prepare for the pack meeting.

◆ DEN DEMONSTRATIONS

If there is a den that needs to do some type of activity at a pack meeting for the completion of an adventure, please insert it here.

◆ AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

Pass out the index cards you prepared ahead of time to members of the audience, and have them pick a word from their card to fill in the blank in the story below to create a fun winter story.

How to Build a Snowman

First, wait for the perfect snow. Once you have _____, _____ snow, you should make sure you’re dressed warmly enough. Make sure to put on your _____ and _____.

Once you get outside, make _____ snowballs and then start rolling.

It’s best to make them different sizes. Make a really big one, a _____ one, and a smaller one for the head. Then add two pieces of _____ for the eyes and three pieces of _____ for the buttons.

_____ will work just fine if you can’t find any coal. Some people like to add a _____ around the snowman’s _____. Add a _____ on top of its head. And don’t forget the _____ nose! When

you’re done, you should reward yourself for all your _____ work with a big _____ of steaming

_____!

(liquid)

◆ RECOGNITION

Adventure Loops and Pins:

(Note: Adventure loops and pins can be presented at a meeting or as immediate recognition in the den.)

By den, call the names of those Cub Scouts who have completed the month's adventure to come forward.

- Have the den leader pass out the awards to the boys as they receive a Cub Scout handshake from the Cubmaster.
- If time allows, invite the den leader or den chief of the den to speak about the adventure work done for that month and have the den stand and be recognized.
- Use a positive cheer to recognize their accomplishments.

Other options:

- Have the den stand and be recognized or come forward to receive certificates for the adventure they have completed. This option would be appropriate for a den that has already received the adventure loop or pin.
- Adapt the advancement ceremony for the month's theme into an adventure loop presentation if no rank badges are being presented.

◆ RANK ADVANCEMENT

Snowflake Ceremony

Materials: A large cutout snowflake, awards attached to small snowflake cutouts

Cubmaster: *(Holding the large snowflake)* "This giant snowflake is a symbol of the wonder of the winter season. No two snowflakes are alike, and each is one of the most beautiful objects formed by nature. In the same way, every Cub Scout is a unique wonder, learning and progressing through life in his own way. Tonight, we have Cub Scouts who are creating their own singular designs in life by traveling further along the Cub Scout trail. *(Call forward the Cub Scouts and their parents or guardians. Present awards.)* Congratulations!"

◆ CUBMASTER'S MINUTE

"We are all like snowflakes, all unique in our own special way. And just as no two snowflakes are alike, no two people are exactly the same. We show reverence for all those we come in contact with: reverence for one's beliefs, reverence for one's belongings, and reverence for one's privacy. In doing so, we show reverence for ourselves."

◆ CLOSING

A preassigned den retires the flags.

RESOURCES

Marshmallow Snowmen

If you have the right supplies, you can put this craft together in minutes! Here's what you'll need:

- Glue—white frosting
- Optional base—cookie
- Body—large marshmallows
- Arms—pretzel sticks
- Hat—chocolate mint patty and chocolate kiss
- Face and buttons—candy-coated chocolates and/or mini chocolate chips
- Scarf—pull-and-peel licorice or a strip of fruit leather
- Toothpicks
- Plastic knives

Directions:

- Place materials on individual plates and have each boy build his own marshmallow snowman.
- Spread frosting over the bottom of the cookie, and press the cookie onto a plate.
- Spread frosting on the bottom of marshmallows and stack them on top of the cookie. As an option, poke a toothpick through the marshmallows for added stability.
- Tie on a scarf.
- Add the hat (a chocolate mint patty) and then the chocolate kiss on top of that, then eyes, the nose, and buttons.
- Slide a pretzel stick through the body for arms.
- Put snowmen in the refrigerator or freezer while the frosting hardens.

Audience Participation Cards

Prepare the following sets of three words on index cards or pick your own three words to fit the parts in parentheses:

- Card 1: Itchy, fluffy, beautiful (adjective)
Card 2: Yellow, white, purple (color)

- Card 3: Coat, socks, pants (article of clothing)
Card 4: Gloves, dress, spoon (noun)
Card 5: 3, 7, 10 (number between 1 and 10)
Card 6: Colorful, medium, muddy (adjective)
Card 7: Chalk, cake, coal (noun)
Card 8: Candy, coal, sticks (noun)
Card 9: Nuts, rocks, buttons (noun)
Card 10: Popsicle, scarf, plate (noun)
Card 11: Hand, neck, leg (body part)
Card 12: Skunk, hat, doughnut (noun)
Card 13: Carrot, potato, beet (vegetable)
Card 14: Lazy, hard, fantastic (adjective)
Card 15: Cup, cone, straw (noun)
Card 16: Hot chocolate, soda, water (liquid)

Cheers

Eskimo Cheer: “Brrrrr-rrr, brrrrr-rrr”

Frozen Cub (Scout): Wrap your hands around yourself and say “Brrrrrrr.”

Santa Claus: Reach out and hold your stomach, saying loudly, “HO, HO, HO” three times. (As a variation, add, “MERRY CHRISTMAS!”)

Santa Claus Chimney: Pretend to be driving your sleigh. Say, “Whoa!” while pulling up on the reins. Get out of the sleigh, pretend to climb into the chimney, begin to slide down and struggle. Say, “Wheeze; grunt; rattle; clank; oh, no!” Move hands as if falling, trying to grasp the sides of the chimney. Then yell: “Craaaaassshhhh!” Then put your finger to your mouth and say, “Shhhhhhh!”

Sleigh: Say “Ding-a-ling” three times.

Christmas Bells: Pretend to hold a bell rope. Have the left side of the audience say “DING” on the downstroke and the other side of the audience to say “DONG” on the upstroke.

Rudolph: Put thumbs to your head with fingers up, forming antlers. Wrinkle your nose, saying, “Blink, blink, blink.”

Jolly Old Cubmaster

Tune: *“Jolly Old St. Nicholas”*

Jolly old Cubmaster,
Lend your ear this way,
Don't you tell a single soul
What I'm going to say.

Holiday eve is coming soon,
Now you dear old man,
Tell me who has earned their rank,
Tell me if you can.

Has Bobby earned his Bobcat?
Has Nick earned his Wolf?
Has Johnny earned his Bear rank?
Has Jack earned his Webelos badge?

Now don't you think that this is
A present that's the best?
Tell me now, dear Cubmaster,
Tell me who's advanced.