

Cub Scout Adventure In a Box



September Adventures

Bear Necessities



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INTRODUCTION

Dear parents/leaders, Be sure to read this section (below) to or with your scouts to introduce this month's adventure and what you will be learning and doing.

Welcome scouts to the September Adventure In a Box! This month the theme we are exploring is CAMPING! Did you and your family do any camping this year? Maybe you participated in the BSA National Camp-In? Or maybe you were able to camp with your family. If so, did you have fun? Where did you go? What did you do? Camping can be an AWESOME adventure whether it is with your family, with your pack, in the woods or in your own back yard!

While we are having fun with camping this month, we will be working on requirements to complete the "Bear Necessities" Adventure. We will learn and practice a new knot that will come in handy for our future camping.

RATIONALE FOR ADVENTURE

This adventure will introduce new Scouts to basic outdoor skills while helping more experienced scouts improve and develop skills they learned in previous ranks.

TAKEAWAYS FOR CUB SCOUTS

- Reading weather instruments, including a basic understanding of barometers
- Tying two half hitches
- Improved camping skills (less dependent on parents/adult leaders"
- Cooking a simple meal
- A scout is cheerful, clean



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ADVENTURE REQUIREMENTS

Below is a list of the requirements your scout(s) will need to complete in order to earn the belt loop. Some requirements will have an activity they will need to do and some will be an outing or experience they will need to have. Detailed instructions for the activities and guidance for the outing are included later in this guide.

Complete the following Requirements.

1. While working on your Bear badge, attend one of the following:
 - a. A daytime or overnight campout with your pack or family
 - b. An outdoor activity with your den or pack
 - c. Day camp
 - d. Resident camp
2. Make a list of items you should take along on the activity selected in requirement one
3. Make a list of equipment that the group should bring along in addition to each scout's personal gear for the activity selected in requirement 1
4. Help set up a tent. Determine a good spot for the tent and explain to your leader why you picked it.
5. Demonstrate how to tie two half hitches and explain what the hitch is used for
6. Learn how to read a thermometer and barometer

Tips from an Akela!



This adventure works well split into two meetings. The first meeting can be held indoors at home, while the second meeting should be done as part of one of the outdoor outings listed for requirement one. If the outing can't be done this month while you're working on the adventure, that's ok! The tent for requirement 4 can be set up in a backyard and if the scout(s) had attended summer camp or a family campout over the summer after earning their Wolf rank, that counts for requirement one. Otherwise an outing can be scheduled later in the school year!



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MATERIALS LIST

*The following supplies will be needed to complete the activities in this kit. Most of the items will be included in the kit. Any items marked with an * are items that you may find around the house and are not included in the kit.*

- Packing List Handout
- Barometer making supplies:
 - Balloon
 - Empty metal can*
 - Rubber band
 - Straw
 - Tape or craft glue*
 - Toothpick or straight pin
 - Cardboard*
- Tent*
- Paracord for practicing knot tying

ACTIVITES

Meeting #1 - At home

Intro: For this meeting we are going to focus on getting your scout(s) ready for their camping outing for meeting #2. Depending on what works best for your scout(s) and scheduling, the activities included in this meeting could also be broken into two shorter meetings but should still be done prior to the camping outing.

Activity One: What should we take on a campout? (Requirements 2 & 3)

Discuss with the scouts what gear they should bring on the campout for their own personal care and comfort, based on where and when you are camping. Steer them toward items like tents, sleeping bags, ground cloths, pillows, sleeping pads, or mattresses, warm clothes, raincoats, eating utensils, hats or caps, toothpaste and toothbrushes, etc. Next, give them a copy of the packing list (included in the digital resources). Ask them which items they think are most important. If doing this as a group, give each scout a chance to choose one thing. Then have them share why they picked that item. Talk about the



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importance of each item on the list, not just the first 2 or three that were picked. Don't forget the Cub Scout Six Essentials.



Make a game out of it!

For brainstorming their packing lists, after introducing the topic to them such as “What personal gear do we need to bring?”, “What equipment do we need for just our family?”, and “What equipment will we need for the whole pack?”, have them each write down as many items as they can think of. Give them a few minutes to work on their lists. When the time is up, have the scouts take turns naming items on their list. If anyone else also has that item on their list then they all would cross it off. Continue until everyone has gone through their whole list. Tell the scouts that they get one point for each item they had on their list that nobody else had. The scout with the most points wins.

Activity Two: Weather watching. (Requirement 6)

(Note, this activity could be done as part of a separate meeting before the campout. You could also talk to them about hazardous weather and what to do in a weather related emergency)

Using Atmospheric Pressure to Forecast the Weather

A shift in atmospheric pressure is one of the most common predictors of weather changes. Weather maps show high and low pressure systems as well as lines of equal pressure called isobars. Atmospheric pressure that rises slowly over one or two weeks typically indicates settled weather that will last a long time. A sudden drop in atmospheric pressure over a few hours often forecasts an approaching storm, which will not last long, with heavy rain and strong winds. You can forecast local weather using a barometer and these simple guidelines:

- Decreasing barometric pressure indicates storms, rain, and windy weather.
- Rising barometric pressure indicates dry and colder weather.
- Slow, regular, and moderate drops in pressure suggest a low pressure system is passing in a nearby region. Significant changes are unlikely in the weather where you are located.



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- Small, rapid decreases in pressure indicate a nearby change in weather. This is usually followed by brief spells of wind and showers.
- A quick drop in pressure over a short time indicates a storm is likely in five to six hours.
- Large, slow, and sustained decreases in pressure forecast a long period of severe weather, which will be more pronounced if the pressure starts rising before it begins to drop.
- A rapid rise in pressure during fair weather indicates a low pressure cell is approaching. The pressure will soon drop, signaling the severe weather to come.
- Quickly rising pressure, when the pressure has been low, suggests a short period of fair weather is likely.
- A large, slow, and sustained rise in pressure forecasts a longer period of fair weather is on its way. Barometers are widely used and generally quite reliable at forecasting the weather. There are many types of barometers for sale at a wide range of prices, but a fun project for Scouts is to make barometers of their own from simple household items.

Coffee Can Barometer

Materials:

- Balloon
- Clean, empty metal can
- Rubber band
- Straw
- Tape or craft glue
- Toothpick or straight pin
- Cardboard

Instructions:

1. Cut the balloon in half. Throw away the half with the hole; you will only need the rounded half.
2. Stretch the balloon piece across the open top of the can.
3. Secure the balloon to the coffee can with the rubber band. Make sure it is stretched tightly across and that no air can leak out. (This would prevent the barometer from working properly.)



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4. Set one end of the straw at the center of the balloon cover and lay it across the edge of the can. Glue it in place. (Do not use hot glue, which would melt the balloon.)
5. Glue the pin/toothpick to the loose end of the straw. The pin will indicate the pressure measurements.
6. Stand the cardboard vertically next to the pin or tape it to a wall.
7. Check the internet or news reports to find the barometric pressure in inches for the day, and make a precise mark on the cardboard at the level of the pin to indicate the pressure.
8. Check and record the pressure each day to begin creating a scale.



Meeting #2 - On the Outing

Intro: For this meeting it should ideally be done with your den at an overnight campout with your pack. (Bear dens can't camp on their own as a den). If your pack is not able to host a campout then your den can plan a day long mock campout without the overnight. If that won't work either, families can camp on their own either at a campground or in their own backyard.



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Activity One: Setting Up Your Tent (Requirements 1)

Assemble a tent with the help of all the Scouts. This can be done indoors if necessary for your meeting, but it would be better outside. Show them how to use a ground cloth properly. Demonstrate how the poles are assembled and attached to the tent. Show how to put the stakes in the ground and how to assemble and attach the rain fly.

Once the Scouts see how it all comes together, have two of them take down the tent, fold it up, and then assemble it again. Switch to a new team and continue until all of them have had a chance to assemble and take down a tent (it will be helpful to have more than one tent for this exercise). Remind them that a Scout is helpful, and they can take part in setting up and breaking down campsites now that they are older Cub Scouts. Now proceed to the locations they chose for setting up a tent, and discuss campsite consideration based on what they selected (see the list below). It would be good to reinforce this discussion during the next campout, when you can point out some “unhelpful” elements at the site (rocks, drains, winds, etc.). If you are meeting indoors, you can use index cards to label mock elements around your meeting room for Scouts to consider.

CAMPSITE CONSIDERATIONS

Cub Scout camping will take place in sites approved by the local council (council camps, local parks, campgrounds). However, there are still several considerations to keep in mind when laying out your campsite for a pack event.

- Location. A campsite facing the south or southeast will get more sunlight and generally will be drier than one on the north side of a hill or in the shade of mountains or cliffs. Cold, damp air tends to settle, causing the bottoms of valleys to be more cool and moist than locations a little higher. On the other hand, hilltops and sharp ridges can be very windy and should be avoided in lightning-prone areas.
- Size and shape. A good campsite has plenty of space for your tents and enough room to conduct your activities. It should be usable as it is, so you won't need to do any digging or major rock removal to shape the area. The less rearranging you do, the easier it will be to follow Leave No Trace principles and leave the site exactly as you found it.
- Protection. Consider the direction of the wind and the direction from which a storm will approach. Is your campsite in the open or is it protected by a hill or a stand of trees? Is there a solitary tree nearby that may attract lightning? Don't camp under dead trees or



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trees with dead branches that may come down in a storm or light wind. The best campsites are found near small, forested ridges and hills.

- Insects and animals. All creatures have their favorite habitats. The best way to avoid mosquitoes and biting flies is to camp away from marshes, bogs, and pools of stagnant water. Breezes discourage insects, so you might look for an elevated, open campsite. Don't forget to check around for beehives, hornet nests, and ant mounds; their inhabitants usually won't bother you as long as you leave them alone, but give them plenty of room. The same goes for most animals.
- Ground cover. Any vegetation covering a campsite will receive a lot of wear and tear. Tents will smother it, sleepers will pack it down, and walkers will bruise it with the soles of their shoes. Some ground cover is tough enough to absorb the abuse, but much of it is not. Whenever you can, make your camp on naturally bare earth, sand, graveled soil, or ground covered with pine needles or leaves.
- Drainage. While a campsite should be relatively flat, it should slope enough to allow rainwater to run off. However, you don't want to be in the path of natural drainage. Check uphill from where you plan to set up your tent to make sure water won't run through the site. Never camp in a stream bed! Also, you want to avoid depressions in the ground, as even shallow ones can collect water in a storm.
- Privacy. One of the pleasures of camping is getting away from crowds and the fast pace of city life. Make camp in places that are far enough away from trails and other campsites. That way you can enjoy peace and privacy while respecting the privacy of other campers.
- Beauty. The beauty of a campsite often is what attracts visitors to it. Being able to look out from a tent and see towering mountains, glistening lakes, or miles of canyon land or rolling prairie is part of what camping is all about. Find a campsite that gives you spectacular scenery, but camp there only if the site is appropriate for every other reason, too.
- Outdoor ethics. Be gentle on Mother Nature. You can do a lot to protect and preserve the wilderness by leaving no trace of your visit, no marks along the trail, and a tidy campsite—cleaner than you found it. Don't harm plants, animals, or insects. Take nothing but pictures, leave nothing but footprints, and kill nothing but time. That philosophy fits as well in a county park as it does anywhere else.



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Activity Two: Knot Tying (Requirements 5)

Have the scouts demonstrate how to tie two half hitches to secure a rope to a post, rail or tree. Have them practice tying the knot and then teach someone else how to tie it.

Instructions for how to tie it are in their handbook



Tips from an Akela!



Knots 3D is a great app that can help scouts learn and practice different knots. It explains what the knots are used for and uses animation to show how it is tied. The app is available for apple and android devices. There is also a website you can check out. (<https://knots3d.com/>)

WRAPPING IT UP

Congratulations! If you have completed all of the activities and finished all the requirements, you are all done working on this adventure! For scouts that do this on their own or with their family, they can share about the adventure with their den at a future meeting. If your den is not able to meet in person, consider scheduling a virtual meeting and giving each scout a chance for show and tell.



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AFTER YOU HAVE COMPLETED YOUR ADVENTURE

Once you have completed your adventure present your Scout with the Adventure Belt Loop. Also make sure to mark off the requirements in ScoutBook. Once you do this your Den Leader will be notified of your Scouts achievement. Den Leader or Advancements Coordinator know! They will mark the requirements complete and prepare the appropriate recognition device for awarding.



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