Cub Scout Den Meeting Outline

Month: **May**  
Point of the Scout Law: **Friendly**

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**Materials:**
- **Gathering:** copies of word search, pencils
- **Opening:** flag
- **Project/Activity:** copies of knives to cut out on cardstock, metal brads, push pins, scissors, crayons/markers
- **Game:** None
- **Closing:** None
- **Home assignments:** See home assignment sheets

**Advancement:**
- **Tiger** - None
- **Wolf** – None
- **Bear** – Bear Claws 1, 2, 3
- **Webelos** – None
- **Arrow of Light** – Scouting Adventure 6
Knife Safety Word Search

Find the following words:

Blade          Tool
Clean          Trustworthy
Cuts           Whittling Chip
Dry            Wood Carving
Dull
First Aid
Jackknife
Multipurpose Knife
Obedient
Penknife
Pocketknife
Safety Circle
Sharp
Sharpening Stone

This is a jackknife. A jackknife is a good tool for campers and fishermen. It has a hinged blade at only one end and may have one or two blades. Some jackknives (and other knives) have locking blades. That means you have to push a release before you can close the blade. Locking blades prevent you from accidentally closing the blade on your fingers.

This is a penknife. A penknife is small and lightweight, so it is easy to carry in your pocket. It is hinged at both ends and usually has one or two blades at each end. Penknives were originally designed to cut or sharpen quills (feathers) for writing.

This is a multipurpose knife. Multipurpose knives can be used to do many things. In addition to one or two blades, a multipurpose knife might include a can opener, scissors, leather punch, tweezers and screwdrivers. These knives can be fun to have, but all those extra pieces can get in your way when you are trying to carve or cut. Also, the more tools your knife includes, the heavier it will be. Pick a multipurpose knife that has only the tools you really need.
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A Scout is Friendly Opening

**Materials:**
None

**Instructions:**
**Cubmaster or Den leader:**
If I say “A Scout is friendly,” what does that mean to you?

[Listen to their answers and make sure that they understand that “A Scout is a friend to everyone, even people who are very different from him.”]

How can Cub Scouts better friends to the people around them?

[The Cub Scouts will likely have some perfect answers to your question. Encourage them to do their best to be a better friend.]

Let’s start our meeting today with our friends by saying the Scout Oath and Scout Law.
Make a Knife - Instructions

Materials:
Copies of knives (blade and handle) to cut out (1 per Cub Scout)
Scissors
Crayons/Markers
Metal brad
Push pin (for starting the holes for the brad)

Instructions:
1. Cut out the blade and the handle. Fold the handle on the dashed line.
2. Using the push pin, put holes in the blade and handle where the metal brad will need to be pushed. Use the dots on the handle and blade as a guide.
3. Color the knife handle. Have them write their name on the handle.
4. Carefully line up the two sides of the knife handle with the blade inside so that the blade can be moved freely in and out of the handle. Make sure the starting holes for the metal brad are also aligned (make a new or bigger starting hole if needed).
5. Push the metal brad through 3 layers of the cardstock – one side of the handle, the blade, and then the other side of the handle.
Knife Safety Discussion

Materials:
Copy of the Knife Safety Word Search
Make a Knife instructions and cut out sheets

Instructions/Discussion points:
As many of the Cub Scouts are having this discussion at a school, where knives are not permitted, we will talk about types of knives (using the pictures and descriptions on the word search) and basic safety in using a knife after we make a knife from cardstock. Actual cutting of soap or wood with a pocketknife will need to be done at home.

1 – Using the pictures and description on the knife safety word search done as the gathering activity, go over the three types of pocketknives – the jackknife, penknife and multipurpose knife. Ask them if they have ever seen these kinds of knives and review their similarities and differences.

2 – Go over the instructions for making the paper knife and have the Cub Scouts each make one. Hopefully Cub Scouts will be able to determine that they are making a paper jackknife – it has a hinge on only one side.

Once paper knives are completed, the following need to be discussed and impressed upon each Cub Scout.

Start by reminding them of the following,
“A Scout is obedient. When you follow the rules of knife safety, you keep yourself from getting hurt and you show that you are obedient.”

Then go over the Knife Safety Rules –
1. A knife is a tool, not a toy.
2. Know how to sharpen a knife. A sharp knife is safer than a dull knife because it is less likely to slip and cut you.
3. Keep the blade clean and dry. [What might happen if it’s dirty and wet?]
4. Never carry an open pocketknife. [Why is that a good safety rule?]
5. When you are not using your knife, close it using the palm of your hand and put
it away.
6. When you are using the cutting blade, do not try to make big shavings or chips. Cut slowly and steadily.
7. Make a safety circle. Before you pick up your knife to use it, stretch your arm out and turn in a circle. If you cannot touch anyone or anything else, it is safe to use your knife. While using your knife, be sure to watch in case someone walks toward you and gets too close. If that happens, put your knife away until it is safe to continue.
8. Always cut away from you, never toward you.
9. Never hand a knife to someone else blade first. Learn and use the “eye contact” method of handing a knife to someone else. Do not release the knife until the other person makes eye contact with you and acknowledges he has the knife.
10. Never use a knife on something that will dull or break it.
11. Never throw a knife for any reason.
12. Always think before you cut. Do not use your knife to strip bark from a tree or to carve your initials into something that does not belong to you.

What kinds of accidents might happen when you are cutting with a pocketknife? Most of the time these are minor cuts. Make sure that they know to wash small cuts with soap and water and then treat with antibiotic ointment and put a bandage over the cut. This will help keep the small cut from getting infected.

The items that the boys can practice with their paper knives are items 4, 5, 7 and 9. They can get a buddy and practice passing the knife or they can get in a small circle with 6-8 Cub Scouts to practice passing their knives. They can open the knife, close the knife using their palm and then pass it – or they can keep it open and make sure they are following item #9.

They can all practice item #7 by standing up and making a safety circle and spreading apart to see how big their safety circle needs to be.

Bear Cub Scouts and Webelos Scouts can continue learning about pocketknives and carving soap and wood at home as part of their home assignment. They can earn their Whittling Chip and complete the requirements that they need to complete.
Pocket Tag

Materials:
None

Objective:
The Cub Scout who is the last person to be tagged is the winner.

Pocket tag is played like regular tag –

- Choose someone to be “it” and determine a home base.
- “It” closes their eyes and counts to a certain number (10, 15 or 20) and then begins to tag people.

The difference in “Pocket Tag” is that the Cub Scouts have to run with one hand in a back pocket (or in a pretend back pocket if they don’t actually have a back pocket). If this seems too easy, have them run to tag with two hands in their back pockets. Tagging is done with an elbow if both hands are in back pockets.
Materials:
None

Instructions:
Have Cub Scouts make a friendship circle by doing the following:
Ask all Scouts to stand and form a circle facing inward. Ask them to cross their arms – right arm over left and grasp the hand of the Scout on either side of them.

Cubmaster or Den leader:
A circle is round, it has no end, and that’s how long I want to be your friend.
We are a pack and also friends, held together by the Oath and Law of Scouting. Let’s say the Cub Scout motto, “Do Your Best!”