

Fellowship

Required adventure • Family and Reverence

If you read nothing else

Two meetings. Meeting 1 is the clay craft and the kindness jars; meeting 2 is the share-back and the conversation about a faith different from your own.

Requirements 1 and 4 are done with a parent or legal guardian, and requirement 2 happens with the family outside den time. The den meeting gives Scouts the workspace and the share-back; the conversations belong to families.

Send the family letter two weeks before meeting 1 so families have talked before the clay comes out. A Scout who arrives without having had the conversation makes a lump of clay and nothing else.

Your job here is to make every family feel their tradition belongs in this den — including families with no religious tradition, who complete these requirements through their own values and celebrations. Say that in the letter, in those words.

The clay needs to air dry between meetings, so you need somewhere safe to leave eight lumpy objects for a week.

The requirements

Official requirement text. Tick each one off as your Scouts complete it — the meeting plans below cover all of them.

- ☐ 1. With your parent or legal guardian, talk about your family's faith traditions. Identify three holidays or celebrations that are part of your family's faith traditions. Make a craft, work of art, or a food item that is part of your favorite family's faith tradition holiday or celebration.
- ☐ 2. With your family, attend a religious service OR other gathering that shows how your family expresses reverence.
- ☐ 3. Carry out an act of kindness.
- ☐ 4. With your parent or legal guardian, identify a religion or faith that is different from your own. Determine two things that it has in common with your family's beliefs.

Requirements 1, 2 and 4 involve the family directly. The den provides the craft time, the kindness project, and the share-back — the conversations and the service or gathering belong to families.

Meeting 1: Clay and kindness

Goal: Each Scout makes something in clay that represents a family faith tradition, and carries out a real act of kindness for their own family.

Covers requirements 1 and 3

Before the meeting

- Send the family letter two weeks out. Tell families that at this meeting Scouts will make a clay craft representing one of their favorite family faith traditions, and ask parents and legal guardians to help their Scout decide what to make before they arrive. It might be a decoration, a symbol, or a useful object used as part of a celebration.
- Word the letter carefully and generously. Some families in your den are deeply religious and some have no religious tradition at all, and both fully belong here. “Your family’s faith traditions, or the celebrations and values your family holds” covers everyone without singling anyone out.
- Ask Scouts to bring a small jar, box, or can from home for the kindness jar.
- Prepare a list of “kind words” prompts for the jars, so a Scout who freezes has somewhere to start: gives the best hugs, makes great dinners, helps with homework, took me somewhere fun, bakes with me.
- Cover the tables. Air-dry clay gets everywhere.
- Find a safe place for eight clay projects to dry undisturbed for a week, and label them before they go there.

Supplies

- Air-drying clay, about 1 lb per Scout
- A plastic knife, fork and spoon per Scout, and toothpicks to share
- Half a gallon of water in a large bowl
- Table covering
- A jar, small box, or can per Scout — plus spares for the ones who forget
- Ribbons, stickers, paper, glue
- Six 1" x 4" paper slips per Scout
- Pens or fine markers
- Labels or masking tape for naming the drying clay

Run of show

Time	What happens
5 min	Gathering: favorite celebration circle
5 min	Opening: Pledge of Allegiance, Scout Oath, Scout Law
30 min	Activity 1: Clay Celebration
20 min	Activity 2: Kindness Jar
5 min	Closing

Gathering — Favorite celebration circle (5 min)

Quick round the circle as Scouts arrive: name one holiday or celebration your family does, and one thing that always happens at it. The food, the song, the thing your grandmother says, the place you go.

Set the rule before the first Scout speaks: we listen, we do not compare, and nobody's celebration is weird. Enforce it the first time and you will not need to again.

This is also your check on whether the family conversations happened. A Scout who has nothing gets a quiet word and extra help in the next activity.

Activity 1 — Clay Celebration (30 min)

Clay Celebration — scouting.org/cub-scout-activities/clay-celebration/

Ask the den to describe their favorite family holidays and celebrations. Let this run a few minutes — it is where the ideas come from for the Scouts who arrived unsure.

Then tell them what they are making: something that represents one of their family's faith traditions. A decoration, a symbol, or a useful object that gets used at a celebration.

Give each Scout a ball of clay and the plastic tools. Show them the water bowl and tell them that if the clay gets hard to work, a little water fixes it. That one tip prevents most of the frustration.

Expect real variety, and treat all of it the same way: a menorah or a dreidel, an ornament or a crèche figure, a diya for Diwali, a lantern or a crescent for Eid, a marigold for Día de los Muertos, an egg, a bowl for a family recipe. A family with no religious tradition might make something for a birthday, a harvest meal, a national holiday, or a family reunion — that fully satisfies the requirement, and you should say so out loud if a Scout hesitates.

When projects are done, each Scout describes what theirs is and what it is for. That one-sentence description is where the learning happens, more than the clay.

Label each piece and put them somewhere safe to dry until next meeting.

That is the craft half of requirement 1. The conversation half — the three holidays or celebrations — happened at home, and you confirm it at meeting 2.

Alternatives: Beary Happy Turkey Treats — scouting.org/cub-scout-activities/beary-happy-turkey-treats/ · I Heart String Art — scouting.org/cub-scout-activities/i-heart-string-art/

Activity 2 — Kindness Jar (20 min)

Kindness Jar — scouting.org/cub-scout-activities/kindness-jar-2/

Hand each Scout six paper slips. On each one they write something their parent or legal guardian does that means a lot to them. Read your prompt list out if the room goes quiet — third graders often need permission to say the ordinary things.

Then they decorate the jar or box they brought, with ribbon, stickers, paper, and glue, and put the six slips inside.

The jar goes home tonight and gets given to the parent or legal guardian. That is requirement 3, and the giving is the act of kindness, not the making.

Do not let it become a competition over whose jar looks best, and do not photograph it as a display. Ask at the end how they think it will land, and let the quiet answer sit.

A Scout may do their act of kindness somewhere else instead — for a sibling, a neighbor, a teacher. That counts, and so does something they do at home this week rather than in the meeting.

Alternatives: Make a Friend — scouting.org/cub-scout-activities/make-a-friend/ · Thank a Teacher — scouting.org/cub-scout-activities/thank-a-teacher/

Closing (5 min)

Remind families of the two things due next meeting: the conversation about a faith different from your own, and the service or gathering with the family.

Tell them the clay comes back next week, dry, and that they will be showing it.

Send home with families

Talk about your family's faith traditions, or the celebrations and values your family holds, and identify three holidays or celebrations that are part of them. That is the rest of requirement 1.

Attend a religious service together, or another gathering that shows how your family expresses reverence — that is requirement 2, and a family with no religious tradition meets it through the gathering that does it for them.

Attend a Religious Service — scouting.org/cub-scout-activities/attend-a-religious-service-2/ · Chartered Partner Celebration — scouting.org/cub-scout-activities/chartered-partner-celebration/ · Veterans Day Celebration — scouting.org/cub-scout-activities/veterans-day-celebration/

Before the service or gathering, talk about what it is for, how often it happens, and whether it has different parts. Afterward, talk about how it felt, what stood out, and what part your Scout liked most.

With your parent or legal guardian, pick a religion or faith different from your own and find two things it has in common with your family's beliefs. That is requirement 4 — a conversation, not a research report.

Meeting 2: Share-back and common ground

Goal: Scouts show what they made and say what it is for, and each names two things a different faith has in common with their own family's beliefs.

Covers requirement 4, and collects 1, 2 and 3

Before the meeting

- Print the Common Faith Elements worksheet, one per Scout. It is at scouting.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/10/Bear-Fellowship-4-Common-Faith-Elements.pdf
- Read it through yourself first and decide which faiths you will walk through, so you are not improvising comparative religion in front of third graders.
- Set up a display table with a cloth for the dried clay pieces.
- Invite parents to stay for the share-back. Several will want to see the table.
- Collect the completion slips at the door for requirements 1, 2 and 3.
- Ask about food allergies if any family is bringing a food item instead of a craft, and label anything edible.

Supplies

- The dried clay pieces, on a display table
- Table cloth
- Common Faith Elements worksheets, one per Scout
- Pencils
- Completion slips
- Plates and napkins if food items came in

Run of show

Time	What happens
5 min	Gathering: dried clay onto the display table
5 min	Opening: Pledge of Allegiance, Scout Oath, Scout Law
20 min	Activity 1: share-back — what I made and what it is for
25 min	Activity 2: Common Faith Elements
5 min	Closing

Activity 1 — Share-back (20 min)

Each Scout gets about ninety seconds: show what you made, say which holiday or celebration it belongs to, and name the three celebrations your family talked about at home. Then say one thing about the service or gathering you attended.

Set the rule again before the first Scout speaks: we listen, we do not compare, nobody's tradition is weird.

You will hear things you did not expect about families you thought you knew. That is the adventure working.

This is where requirements 1 and 2 close. Tick them off as Scouts speak, and collect the slips for requirement 3 — the kindness jars went home last week and the parents know whether they arrived.

A Scout who missed last meeting brings a craft or food item from home instead. It counts exactly the same.

Activity 2 — Common Faith Elements (25 min)

Common Faith Elements — scouting.org/cub-scout-activities/common-faith-elements/

Hand out the worksheet. Start by asking each Scout to name what faith or tradition their own family practices — and make clear before you ask that “we do not have one” is a complete and welcome answer, because in most dens somebody needs to hear that.

Then walk through some of the other faiths on the worksheet, one at a time, plainly and without ranking them. Where they worship, what they celebrate, what their main teaching is.

Now the part that is actually the requirement. Each Scout, with what their family talked about at home, names one faith different from their own and two things it has in common with their family's beliefs. Write the commonalities on the board as they come.

The Golden Rule will come up under many names, and it is worth pointing out explicitly: treat other people the way you want to be treated appears in nearly every faith on that worksheet, and it is also what “helpful, friendly, kind” means in the Scout Law.

Finish with the question that makes it land: what did you hear tonight that was the same across two different families in this room?

Say something like

A Scout is reverent does not mean every Scout believes the same thing. It means every Scout takes their own beliefs seriously and takes yours seriously too. Those are different things, and Scouting asks for both.

That is requirement 4. Never ask a Scout to explain or defend their family’s beliefs — they share what they choose to share, and that is enough.

Closing (5 min)**Say something like**

Today you showed what fellowship really means — helping one another, working together, and making sure everybody feels included. When we treat each other with kindness and respect, our den gets stronger and every Scout shines a little brighter. Keep looking out for each other, and keep spreading that spirit of fellowship wherever you go.

Record attendance and advancement. Send the crafts home tonight — they belong to families, not to your supply closet.

Send home with families

Ask your Scout what they learned about a faith different from your family’s, and what the two things in common were.

Religious emblems programs exist for most faiths and are earned outside Scouting through your own faith group. This adventure is a natural on-ramp — ask your den leader or look them up.

Leader notes

- This is the most sensitive adventure in the Bear year. Handle it with care and every family feels seen; handle it carelessly and you lose someone.
- Scouting requires a Scout to do their duty to God but does not define God for them. A family with no religious affiliation completes every one of these requirements through their own values, celebrations and gatherings. Say so in the family letter, in those words, before anyone has to ask.
- Never ask a Scout to explain or defend their family’s beliefs, and never let the den turn a tradition into a curiosity.
- If your pack is chartered to a religious organization, be especially deliberate about welcoming families of other traditions. The chartered organization provides the meeting space; it does not set the Scouts’ beliefs.

- The clay needs a full week to dry. Do not schedule these two meetings closer than seven days apart.

Safety

Before this adventure

Two registered adults with current Safeguarding Youth Training at every meeting. If your den includes girls, one of those adults must be a registered female 21 or over.

Ask about food allergies before any food item is brought in or shared, and label everything.

Air-dry clay is messy, not hazardous, but check the packaging for any allergen warning and wash hands afterwards.

Photo permission before posting anything from the share-back. Some families will not want their traditions online, and you should assume that rather than ask in front of the den.

Tracking

Write each Scout in and tick the requirement number as it is completed. Report to your advancement chair once the row is full.

Scout	1	2	3	4