

Bobcat

Required adventure • Character and Leadership

If you read nothing else

Every Cub Scout earns Bobcat first, at every rank. For a Lion this is the meeting where kindergarteners learn each other's names, meet the Cub Scout sign, and hear the Scout Law read to them by their own adult.

Two den meetings of 45 minutes. Every Lion has a Lion adult partner who sits with them and does every activity with them — the partner is not a spectator and this adventure will not run without them.

Requirement 4 is done at home with a parent or legal guardian and cannot be completed at a den meeting. Hand the booklet out at meeting 1 and collect the slip at meeting 2.

Start this the first week of the program year. Nothing else counts toward rank until Bobcat is done.

The requirements

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

- ☐ 1. Get to know the members of your den.
- ☐ 2. Have your Lion adult partner or den leader read the Scout Law to you. Demonstrate your understanding of being friendly.
- ☐ 3. Share with your Lion adult partner, during a den meeting or at home, a time when you have demonstrated the Cub Scout motto "Do Your Best."
- ☐ 4. At home, with your parent or legal guardian, do the activities in the booklet How to Protect Your Children From Child Abuse: A Parent's Guide.

Requirement 4 is a family activity. Hand the booklet out at meeting 1 and collect the signed acknowledgement at meeting 2 — do not attempt to run it as a den activity.

Meeting 1: Names, the sign, and being friendly

Goal: Lions learn each other's names, learn what the Cub Scout sign means and obey it, and hear the Scout Law read to them by their own adult partner.

Covers requirements 1 and 2

Before the meeting

- Print the My Favorite Survey sheet, one per Lion and one per adult partner, and put them on a table by the door with pencils. Arrivals are staggered and a kindergartener with nothing to do is a kindergartener under a table.
- Practice the Cub Scout sign yourself and decide now that you will never call out “signs up.” You raise the sign and you wait. That is the whole method.
- Print one copy of How to Protect Your Children From Child Abuse: A Parent’s Guide per family, plus the acknowledgement slip.
- Clear a floor space big enough for the whole den plus adult partners to sit in one circle. The Compliment Game happens on the floor.
- Ask families to bring the Lion handbook to every meeting. You will use pages 3 and 4 tonight.

Supplies

- Lion handbooks — pages 3 and 4
- Pencils, one per Lion
- My Favorite Survey sheets, one per Lion and one per adult partner
- Crayons, enough to share
- Parent booklets and acknowledgement slips, one per family
- Scout Law printed large enough to read from across the room

Run of show

Time	What happens
10 min	Gathering: My Favorite Survey
5 min	Opening: Pledge of Allegiance, Scout Oath, Scout Law
15 min	Activity 1: Lions Talk and Lions Listen
10 min	Activity 2: The Compliment Game
5 min	Closing: hand out family booklets

Gathering — My Favorite Survey (10 min)

Lion and adult partner each fill in their own sheet: favorite color, favorite animal, favorite outdoor activity, a food you would eat every day, something you want to learn in Scouts. Then they compare and circle the answers that match.

Most Lions cannot read the prompts. That is fine and it is the point — the adult partner reads them aloud and writes what the Lion says. This is the first thing they do together in Scouting and it sets the pattern for the whole year.

Tell each pair to be ready to share one fun thing they learned about each other.

Opening (5 min)

Pledge of Allegiance, then the Scout Oath and Scout Law read by the den leader while everyone stands. Lions do not have to say the words yet. They will pick them up by hearing them at the front of every meeting.

Keep it to five minutes. A kindergartener standing still is spending real effort, and you want that effort back later.

Activity 1 — Lions Talk and Lions Listen (15 min)

Lions Talk and Lions Listen — scouting.org/cub-scout-activities/lions-talk-and-lions-listen/

Gather the Lions and adult partners together. Have the Lions meet each other and sign each other's handbooks on page 3. A kindergartener signing their name on somebody else's book is the single most popular thirty seconds of the night.

Then demonstrate the Cub Scout sign and tell them it stands for the ears of a wolf. When they see the sign, everyone stops what they are doing and listens.

Give every Lion and every adult partner a turn to make the sign. Then practice it for real: tell everyone to talk and make noise, and without saying a word, raise the sign and wait. When the room goes quiet, point out that you never had to yell.

- Tip: patience is the whole technique. Do not talk over the den, do not yell, and do not call out "signs up" or any other verbal command. Raise your hand and wait. If you break this once, you will be yelling for the rest of the year.

Finish by pairing up two Lions and their adult partners. Have each pair get to know each other: what they like to do as a family, favorite food, favorite color. When they look done, raise the sign to move on.

That is requirement 1. Other activities that also complete it: Den Doodle Lion — scouting.org/cub-scout-activities/den-doodle-lion/ · Den Flag Lion — scouting.org/cub-scout-activities/den-flag-lion/ · Hand Puppet Introductions — scouting.org/cub-scout-activities/hand-puppet-introductions/ · The Wigalo Song — scouting.org/cub-scout-activities/the-wigalo-song/

Activity 2 — The Compliment Game (10 min)

The Compliment Game — scouting.org/cub-scout-activities/the-compliment-game/

First, the reading. Adult partners read the Scout Law to their own Lion from page 4 of the handbook, or from the back cover of the handbook and the adult partner guide, and explain in their own words what each point means. This is what requirement 2 actually asks for — the adult reads it, the Lion hears it.

Then the pairs complete the activity on page 4 together.

Now everybody sits on the floor in one circle, adult partners included. Pick a Lion to start. They turn to the person on their left and say something they like about them. The compliment has to be kind and true.

The person who received it says thank you, turns to their left, and gives a compliment to the next person. Keep going until everyone has given one and received one. Then have the Lion who started turn to their right and send the compliments back around the other way.

That second lap matters more than it looks. The first time round, half of them are rehearsing instead of listening. The second time round they are relaxed, and that is when a five-year-old says something you will remember.

That is requirement 2 — demonstrating an understanding of being friendly. Also works: Friendship Zipper Pull — scouting.org/cub-scout-activities/friendship-zipper-pull/ · The Colorful Scout Law — scouting.org/cub-scout-activities/the-colorful-scout-law/

Closing (5 min)

Put a parent booklet in every adult partner's hand, not in a Lion's backpack. Say out loud what it is and that you need the slip back next meeting.

Announce the next meeting date and location. Close with the Living Circle.

Send home with families

Do the activities in How to Protect Your Children From Child Abuse: A Parent's Guide together, and return the signed slip at the next meeting. That is requirement 4 and only a parent or legal guardian can sign it off. The related den activity, if you want it, is Child Abuse Protection Review Lion — scouting.org/cub-scout-activities/child-abuse-protection-review-lion/

Practice the Cub Scout sign at home. When you raise it, your Lion stops and listens — and so do you.

Talk about one time this week when your Lion did their best at something hard. They will need that story next meeting.

Meeting 2: Do Your Best, and a den of our own

Goal: Each Lion tells their adult partner about a time they did their best, and the den makes something that belongs to all of them.

Covers requirement 3, and collects 4

Before the meeting

- Set up table space where Lions and adult partners can work on page 5 of the handbook together, sitting side by side.
- Collect the parent acknowledgement slips at the door as families arrive. Tick them off a roster — you will not remember who gave you one.
- Cut a piece of felt or heavy cloth for the den flag and gather decorating supplies, or use a large sheet of poster board for a den doodle.
- Think of one story of your own about a time you did your best and it was hard. You will need it to start the conversation, because kindergarteners do not go first.

Supplies

- Lion handbooks — page 5
- Crayons, enough to share
- Felt or cloth for a den flag, or poster board for a den doodle
- Fabric markers, glue, scissors for adult hands
- Acknowledgement slips checklist and a roster

Run of show

Time	What happens
5 min	Gathering: free drawing at the tables
5 min	Opening: Pledge, Scout Oath, Scout Law
15 min	Activity 1: When Am I Doing My Best
12 min	Activity 2: make the den flag
8 min	Closing: Bobcat check and sign-off

Activity 1 — When Am I Doing My Best (15 min)

When Am I Doing My Best — scouting.org/cub-scout-activities/when-am-i-doing-my-best/

Gather the Lions and adult partners and tell them that being a Cub Scout means we always do our best. Then ask the Lions the real question: how do you know when you did your best? Let them answer. Take every answer.

When they have all had a turn, give them the frame:

Say something like

Only you know when you have done your best. But here is one thing I am sure of — doing nothing is never your best. Your grown-ups and I are always going to want your best, and that is all we are going to ask for.

Then say the part that matters for a kindergartener: we are going to do a lot of new things this year, and you will not be good at all of them the first time. Nobody is. To get good at something you practice, and while you are practicing you do your best.

Adult partners then work with their Lion on the activity on page 5. The requirement is satisfied when the Lion tells their adult partner about a time they did their best — at a den meeting or at home, either counts.

Listen in while they work. You will hear a five-year-old explain that they did their best at tying their shoes, or at not crying at the dentist. Those are complete answers. Do not go looking for a better one.

Activity 2 — Make the den flag (12 min)

Den Flag Lion — scouting.org/cub-scout-activities/den-flag-lion/ · Den Doodle Lion — scouting.org/cub-scout-activities/den-doodle-lion/

The den now has names, a sign, and a compliment circle. Give them something they can carry.

Every Lion adds their own handprint, name, or drawing. Adults do the cutting and any hot glue; Lions do the deciding and the decorating. Do not tidy it up after they leave — a den flag a grown-up straightened out stops being theirs.

Bring it to every meeting for the rest of the year and to every pack meeting. Kindergarteners find their den by looking for the flag, which is exactly why it is worth twelve minutes tonight.

Closing — Bobcat check and sign-off (8 min)

Go around the circle once. Each Lion makes the Cub Scout sign and says one point of the Scout Law they remember. Anything they can produce counts; adult partners can prompt.

Confirm you have the requirement 4 slip from every family. Chase the missing ones this week by text to the parent — do not let it sit until December, because it is the one thing that will hold up a Bobcat you have otherwise finished.

Record Bobcat in Scoutbook the same night if you can. Advancement nobody entered does not exist — not on the Scout's record, and not in the award order.

Say something like

Today you took your very first steps as a Lion Scout — learning names, practicing friendliness, and remembering what it means to Do Your Best. You discovered how the Scout Law can guide your choices and how your family helps keep you safe and strong. These are the building blocks of your Scouting journey. Keep being friendly, keep trying hard, and keep growing with your den.

Send home with families

Nothing new. If the parent booklet slip has not come back, it is due now.

After the meeting the den leader and assistant den leader talk through next week while the host adult partner and the Lions put the room back in order. Lions can carry chairs. Let them.

Leader notes

- Every activity in this adventure is done by a pair — Lion and adult partner. If a partner cannot make a meeting, arrange a stand-in adult from the den before the meeting rather than letting a Lion float. A Lion without a partner at a Lion meeting has a bad night.
- Forty-five minutes is the whole meeting, and that is not a budget problem — it is a kindergarten attention span. If you are running long, cut the second activity, not the closing.
- The Cub Scout sign is the most valuable thing you teach tonight. Use it, wait for it, and never replace it with your voice.
- A Lion joining the pack mid-year earns Bobcat first, whatever the calendar says. Run a short catch-up with them and their adult partner rather than making them wait.
- Requirement 4 belongs to the family. Your job is to hand out the booklet, say why, and collect the slip.

Safety

Before this adventure

Two registered adults, both with current Safeguarding Youth Training, at every den meeting and activity. SYT is valid 12 months — check your own expiry date before the program year starts. If your den includes girls, one of those adults must be a registered female 21 or over.

No one-on-one contact between an adult and a Scout who is not their own child, in person, online, or by text. Include a parent on every message.

Adult partners handle scissors and any glue gun at the den flag activity. Lions decorate; adults cut.

Ask about food allergies in writing before you serve any snack, even a simple one.

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