

Bobcat

Required adventure • Character and Leadership

If you read nothing else

Every Cub Scout earns Bobcat first, at every rank. For a first grader this is the adventure where the den becomes a den — most of these Scouts have never met each other, and half the adults have never been to a Scout meeting either.

Two den meetings, 50–60 minutes each. Every Tiger comes with a Tiger adult partner who sits with them, writes for them, and does the activities with them. Say that out loud in your first email: the adult stays.

Requirement 6 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 acknowledgement 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. Recite the Scout Oath with your den, including your Tiger adult partner.
- ☐ 3. Have your Tiger adult partner or den leader read the Scout Law to you. Demonstrate your understanding of being trustworthy, helpful, or friendly.
- ☐ 4. Demonstrate the Cub Scout sign, Cub Scout salute and Cub Scout handshake. Show how each are used.
- ☐ 5. Share with your Tiger adult partner, at a den meeting or at home, a time when you have demonstrated the Cub Scout motto “Do Your Best.”
- ☐ 6. 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 6 is a family activity. See [Child Abuse Protection Review](https://scouting.org/cub-scout-adventures/tiger/child-abuse-protection-review/) — scouting.org/cub-scout-adventures/tiger/child-abuse-protection-review/. 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: Meeting the den, and the Scout Oath

Goal: Tigers and their adult partners learn each other’s names, say the Scout Oath together, and can give the Cub Scout sign, salute, and handshake.

Covers requirements 1, 2 and 4

Before the meeting

- Print the My Favorite Survey on one page, one for the Scout and one for the adult partner, and put a stack on the gathering table with pencils. Families who arrive early need something to do that is not standing around.
- Print the Scout Oath and Scout Law large enough to read from across the room and tape them to the wall. Leave them up all year — first graders are still learning to read and they will look at those posters every week.
- Count out nine popsicle sticks per Scout for the Oath puzzle and have thin markers ready to share.
- Clear a straight, obstacle-free path about 25 yards long for the sign, salute, and handshake relay. Indoors or outdoors both work; you need room to run.
- Print one copy of How to Protect Your Children From Child Abuse: A Parent's Guide per family, plus the acknowledgement slip.
- Learn the Cub Scout sign yourself and commit to using it. Tip from Bryan, and he is right: never call out "signs up" or talk over the den. Put the sign up and wait.

Supplies

- My Favorite Survey, two copies per family, plus pencils
- Scout Oath and Scout Law posters
- Nine popsicle sticks per Scout
- Thin-tip markers, enough to share
- Tiger handbooks — page 7 has the sign, salute, and handshake
- Crayons, enough to share
- Parent booklets and acknowledgement slips

Run of show

Time	What happens
10 min	Gathering: My Favorite Survey
5 min	Opening: Pledge of Allegiance, Scout Oath, Scout Law
5 min	Welcome, roll call, announcements
10 min	Activity 1: the Cub Scout sign and getting to know the den
15 min	Activity 2: Tiger Oath Puzzle
10 min	Activity 3: sign, salute, and handshake relay
5 min	Closing: family booklets go home

Gathering — My Favorite Survey (10 min)

One sheet for the Scout, one for the adult partner. Favorite color, favorite animal, favorite outdoor activity, a food you would eat every day, and something you want to learn in Scouts. The adult partner's sheet ends with what they hope their Scout learns this year.

When both are done they compare and circle every answer that matches. Tell them to be ready to share one thing they learned about each other.

A first grader who cannot write yet dictates and the adult writes. That is not cheating — the adult partner is part of the den.

Activity 1 — The Cub Scout sign and getting to know the den (10 min)

A Time To Talk A Time to Listen — scouting.org/cub-scout-adventures/tiger/a-time-to-talk-a-time-to-listen/

Show the Cub Scout sign and tell them the two fingers are the ears of a wolf. When anyone puts the sign up, everyone stops what they are doing and listens. Give every Scout and every adult a chance to make it.

Then practice it properly: tell them to talk to each other and make as much noise as they want. Say nothing. Put your sign up and wait. The room will go quiet, and it will take longer the first time than you are comfortable with. Wait anyway.

Now pair up — two Scouts and their two adult partners per group. Using their survey sheets, they share what they like to do as a family, their favorite food, and their favorite color. That is requirement 1, and pairing families rather than only Scouts is deliberate: the adults need to meet each other too, because those are the people you will be asking to drive, host, and help all year.

Bring them back with the sign, not your voice.

If you would rather run something else for requirement 1, all of these work: Den Doodle — scouting.org/cub-scout-adventures/tiger/den-doodle/ · Den Flag — scouting.org/cub-scout-adventures/tiger/den-flag/ · Me Too Name Game — scouting.org/cub-scout-adventures/tiger/me-too-name-game/ · Spider Web — scouting.org/cub-scout-adventures/tiger/spider-web/

Activity 2 — Tiger Oath Puzzle (15 min)

Tiger Oath Puzzle — scouting.org/cub-scout-adventures/tiger/tiger-oath-and-law-puzzle/

Give each Scout nine popsicle sticks and a marker. The adult partner writes one phrase of the Scout Oath on each stick: On my honor / I will do my best / To do my duty / To God and my country / And to obey the Scout Law / To help other people at all times / To keep myself physically strong / Mentally awake / And morally straight.

The Scout gathers all nine sticks in one hand, holds them about a foot above the table, and lets go so they land in a loose pile. Then they take turns — Scout first, then adult partner — picking up one stick at a time without disturbing the others, laying it word-side up, and deciding together whether it goes before or after the sticks already down.

Each time a stick comes out, the Scout and adult partner say what that part of the Oath means to them. That conversation is the point of the activity; the pick-up game is what keeps a six-year-old at the table for it.

When the sticks are in order, the whole den stands and says the Scout Oath together, adult partners included. That is requirement 2 and the requirement specifically includes the adults, so make sure they are actually saying it.

Alternatives: Cub Scout Land — scouting.org/cub-scout-activities/cub-scout-land-bobcat/ · Tiger Chatterbox — scouting.org/cub-scout-adventures/tiger/tiger-chatterbox/

Activity 3 — Sign, salute, and handshake relay (10 min)

Sign Salute and Handshake Relay — scouting.org/cub-scout-activities/sign-salute-and-handshake-relay/

Open the Tiger handbook to page 7 and demonstrate all three yourself, then say what each is for:

- The sign gets everyone's attention. See it, stop, listen.
- The salute shows respect to the flag during a flag ceremony. We do not salute people with it.
- The handshake is how Cub Scouts greet each other — two fingers, left hand.

Split the den into two teams, adult partners included. You stand about 25 yards away with one team, your assistant den leader with the other. On “go,” the first person in each line runs to their leader, who asks for the sign, the salute, or the handshake. Correct, and they run back and tag the next person. Wrong, and they run back to the line and come again until they get it.

This needs at least four Scouts and four adults to work as a race. With a small den, run it as a relay against the clock instead and try to beat your own time.

Every Scout has to do all three correctly at least once. That is requirement 4, and it is a demonstration, not a discussion. If there is time left, they can color page 7.

Alternatives: If You Are Happy Show the Cub Scout Sign — scouting.org/cub-scout-adventures/tiger/if-you-are-happy-show-the-cub-scout-sign/ · Tiger Simon Says — scouting.org/cub-scout-adventures/tiger/tiger-simon-says/

Closing (5 min)

Hand the parent booklet to the adult partner directly, in their hand, and say what it is and that you need the slip back next meeting. Do not put it in a Scout's bag and hope.

Announce the next meeting date and location. Then close.

After the meeting, you and your assistant den leader talk through next week while the host adult partner and the Scouts put the room back in order. Get the Scouts doing that from week one — it is the cheapest habit you will ever build.

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 6, and only a parent or legal guardian can complete it.

Practice the Scout Oath at home with the popsicle sticks. Ask your Scout to teach it to you.

Think of one time your Scout did their best at something hard. You will be talking about it next meeting.

Meeting 2: The Scout Law and Do Your Best

Goal: Tigers hear the Scout Law read to them, show what trustworthy, helpful, or friendly looks like, and each share a time they did their best.

Covers requirements 3 and 5, and collects 6

Before the meeting

- Print a Tiger Scout Law Bingo card for each Scout — it is in the Tiger adventure resources on [scouting.org](https://www.scouting.org), filed as Tiger Bobcat 3 Scout Law Bingo.
- Have Tiger handbooks open-able to pages 8 and 9 and crayons out before anyone sits down.
- Collect the parent acknowledgement slips at the door as families arrive. Tick them off a roster — do not try to remember.
- Decide in advance which three points of the Law you will act out, so you are not improvising in front of six-year-olds.

Supplies

- Tiger Scout Law Bingo cards, one per Scout
- Pencils or markers, one per Scout
- Tiger handbooks, pages 8 and 9
- Crayons, enough to share
- Scout Law poster from meeting 1
- Roster for checking off the parent acknowledgement slips

Run of show

Time	What happens
10 min	Gathering: color page 9 of the handbook
5 min	Opening: Pledge of Allegiance, Scout Oath, Scout Law
5 min	Welcome, roll call, announcements
15 min	Activity 1: Tiger Scout Law Bingo
15 min	Activity 2: Do Your Best
5 min	Activity 3: Bobcat check
5 min	Closing

Activity 1 — Tiger Scout Law Bingo (15 min)

Tiger Scout Law Bingo — [scouting.org/cub-scout-activities/tiger-scout-law-bingo/](https://www.scouting.org/cub-scout-activities/tiger-scout-law-bingo/)

Read the Scout Law aloud to the den, one point at a time, slowly. The requirement says the Scout Law is read to the Tiger — by you or by their adult partner — so do not ask them to read it themselves and do not ask them to memorize it. Tigers are six. That comes later.

Hand out the bingo cards. Scouts fill them in with their adult partner as you work through the twelve points.

Then stop on three of them and make them physical. This is the part that satisfies requirement 3, and “demonstrate your understanding” from a first grader means showing you, not defining it:

- Trustworthy — you tell your adult partner you will do something and then you do it. Have each pair make one small promise for the week and shake on it.
- Helpful — pick two Scouts to help you set up the next activity, right now, in front of everybody.
- Friendly — walk over to someone in the den you have not talked to yet, say their name, and ask them one question.

A Scout who does one of those three has met the requirement. You do not need all twelve points and you do not need a recital.

Alternatives: Don't Wake the Dragon — scouting.org/cub-scout-activities/dont-wake-the-dragon/ ·
Tiger Maze — scouting.org/cub-scout-activities/tiger-maze/

Activity 2 — Do Your Best (15 min)

Do Your Best Handbook Activity — scouting.org/cub-scout-activities/do-your-best-handbook-activity/

Tell them a motto is a rule for living, and the Cub Scout motto is Do Your Best. That means trying your hardest, not just a little bit — and it means your best, not somebody else's.

On page 8, Scouts circle the Scouts who are doing their best, with help from their adult partner. Then they color page 9.

Now go around the circle. Each Scout shows their page 9 and tells the den about a time they did their best. The adult partner can prompt but should not answer for them. That is requirement 5, and it can also be done at home with the adult partner if a Scout will not talk in front of the group — the requirement allows either, and a shy first grader is not a failing first grader.

Expect small, ordinary answers: tying shoes, a spelling test, not crying when they fell off the bike. Take every one of them seriously. What they are learning here is that their effort counts, and they are watching your face to find out whether that is true.

Alternative: Do Your Best Handbook Sharing — scouting.org/cub-scout-adventures/tiger/do-your-best-handbook-sharing/

Activity 3 — Bobcat check (5 min)

Quick round the circle. Each Scout gives the sign, the salute, and the handshake, and says the Scout Oath with the den. Tick them off as they go.

Confirm you have the parent acknowledgement slip from every family for requirement 6. Chase the missing ones this week by text to the adult partner — do not let it sit until December.

Record Bobcat in Scoutbook the same night if you can. It is the first advancement of the year and packs lose credit for it because nobody entered it.

Closing (5 min)

Announce the next meeting, then close with this — read it, do not summarize it:

Say something like

As we wrap up today, remember what you discovered together — how to meet new friends, how to show the Scout Oath and Law in the way you act, and how powerful it is when you simply do your best. Every handshake, every smile, every moment of helping showed that you're ready for

the trail ahead. Keep learning, keep trying, and keep showing the world the kind, trustworthy Scout you're becoming. Your adventure is just beginning, and you're already off to a great start.

Send home with families

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

Leader notes

- The adult partner is not an audience. Requirement 2 names them explicitly, and every activity here works better when the adults are doing it too. Set that expectation at the first meeting or you will spend the year asking for it.
- Do not ask Tigers to memorize the Scout Law. The requirement is that it is read to them and that they show one point in their behavior. Wolves memorize; Tigers do.
- Use the sign instead of your voice from day one. Bryan's tip is the single most useful thing in this adventure: put the sign up, say nothing, and wait. Never call out "signs up."
- A Scout joining the den 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 6 belongs to the family. Your job is to hand out the booklet, explain 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.

The relay needs a clear run and a hard stop line well short of any wall, door, or parking lot. Walk the space before the Scouts arrive.

The child abuse protection booklet may prompt a disclosure at home. Tell the adult partners at meeting 1 that if anything comes up, they should contact you and you will contact the Scout executive.

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	5	6