

Footsteps

Required adventure • Family and Reverence

If you read nothing else

One den meeting plus a short share-back, and one requirement done with the family.

Requirement 1 has two halves: the conversation with a parent or legal guardian happens at home, and the craft happens at the den meeting. Send the family letter two weeks ahead so the conversation comes first and the Scout arrives knowing what they want to make.

Requirement 2 is a family activity — attending a religious service or another gathering that shows how the family expresses reverence. Families with no religious tradition complete it through their own gathering and their own values, and the family letter should say so in those words.

This is the most sensitive adventure in the Wolf year. Handled well, every family feels their tradition belongs in this den. Handled carelessly, you lose someone.

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 or work of art 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. Listen to or read Aesop's fable "The Boy Who Cried Wolf." With your den or family, discuss why being truthful is important.

Requirements 1 and 2 belong to the family. The den meeting supplies the craft table and the share-back; the conversations and the gathering happen at home. Write the family letter so that a family with no religious tradition knows plainly that their own celebrations and values complete these requirements.

Meeting 1: Sun catchers, kindness and the boy who cried wolf

Goal: Every Scout makes an artwork of a holiday or celebration from their family's tradition, fills a kindness jar they will actually use, and can say why telling the truth matters.

Covers requirements 1, 3 and 4, and sends home 2

Before the meeting

- Send the family letter two weeks ahead. Ask families to talk about their faith traditions, identify three holidays or celebrations, and have the Scout bring a simple silhouette of a symbol from their favorite one — printed or drawn is fine.
- Write the letter carefully. Some families in your den are deeply religious, some are not religious at all, and both belong here. “Your family’s faith traditions, or the celebrations and values your family holds” covers everyone without singling anybody out.
- Ask every Scout to bring a small jar, box or can for the kindness jar. Bring five spares — somebody always forgets, and a Scout without a container will sit out an activity they should not sit out.
- Cut the tissue paper into small pieces or strips ahead of time, and pre-cut the contact paper slightly larger than a silhouette. Peeling contact paper is a two-adult job with second graders.
- Prepare a list of kind jobs to prompt the Scouts who go blank, and print or bookmark the fable — Wolf Footsteps 4 Boy Who Cried Wolf Story, in the Wolf adventure resources, or read it out of the Wolf handbook.

Supplies

- Black paper, and each Scout’s silhouette
- Colored tissue paper, torn or cut into small pieces
- Clear contact paper, pre-cut
- Scissors, ribbon or string, tape
- A jar, small box or can per Scout, plus spares
- Large popsicle sticks, five or six per Scout
- Ribbons, stickers, glue, paper, pens and thin markers for decorating
- The Wolf handbook, or the printed fable

Run of show

Time	What happens
20 min	Gathering: Sun Catcher
5 min	Opening: Pledge, Scout Oath, Scout Law
5 min	Welcome, roll call and announcements
20 min	Activity 1: Kindness Jar
20 min	Activity 2: The Boy Who Cried Wolf
5 min	Closing

Gathering — Sun Catcher (20 min)

Sun Catcher — scouting.org/cub-scout-activities/sun-catcher/

Scouts trace their holiday symbol onto black paper, then draw a second outline of the same symbol about an inch inside the first. Cut out both lines and what is left is a black border of the symbol.

You peel the contact paper — one piece per Scout, slightly larger than their border — and hold it sticky side up. The Scout lays their black border onto it. Tell them before they do it that they get one try, because lifting it off tears the paper.

Then they fill the space inside the border with tissue paper pieces in whatever colors they want, until none of the sticky is showing. Trim the leftover contact paper from the outside, add a loop of string, and it hangs in a window.

While they work, ask each Scout what their symbol is for. That question is the requirement — the craft is a way of getting them to tell the den about a celebration that matters at their house.

Expect real variety, and treat every one of them the same way: a menorah, a cross, a crescent, a diya, an egg, a marigold, a birthday candle, a turkey, a flag on a family holiday. A family with no religious tradition making a symbol from a harvest meal or a family reunion has fully completed the requirement.

The conversation with a parent about three holidays or celebrations happens at home and cannot happen here. Say so plainly so nobody thinks tonight finished requirement 1 on its own.

Alternatives: Faith Tradition Collage — scouting.org/cub-scout-activities/faith-tradition-collage/ · Holiday Mosaic — scouting.org/cub-scout-activities/holiday-mosaic/

Activity 1 — Kindness Jar (20 min)

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

Hand out five or six large popsicle sticks per Scout. On each stick they write one kind job they could do for a neighbor, a friend or someone in their family. Use your prepared list for the Scouts who freeze: write a poem for a parent or a sibling, play a board game with a sibling, give a compliment, help clear the dinner table, do a chore without being asked, send a homemade card to a grandparent.

Anything the Scout genuinely thinks is kind counts. Do not edit their ideas down to your ideas.

Then they decorate their container with the ribbons, stickers and paper, and drop their sticks in.

Requirement 3 is carrying out an act of kindness, not planning one, so close the loop before they leave: every Scout pulls a stick out of their own jar now and says out loud which one they are going to do, and when. Follow up next meeting and ask how it went.

Some Scouts will want to do theirs at the meeting. Let them — writing a card for someone, or cleaning up the room without being asked, counts.

Alternatives: Kindness Rocks — scouting.org/cub-scout-activities/kindness-rocks/ · Sing with the Elderly — scouting.org/cub-scout-activities/sing-with-the-elderly/

Activity 2 — The Boy Who Cried Wolf (20 min)

Boy Who Cried Wolf — scouting.org/cub-scout-activities/boy-who-cried-wolf/

Read Aesop's fable aloud out of the Wolf handbook or the printed version. Read it properly, with the voices. Second graders will sit still for a story told well and fidget through one read flatly off a page.

Then discuss the moral, and let them say it before you do. Somebody will get there: when you lie, people stop believing you — including when you need them.

Two questions that turn a story into requirement 4:

- How would this story go if it happened today? Let them update it — a fire alarm, a phone, a group chat, a kid who keeps saying someone is hurt.
- Why does being truthful matter in a den? What happens on a campout if we cannot believe each other?

Tie it back to the Scout Law they handled in Bobcat. A Scout is trustworthy is the first point, and this is what it costs when it goes.

Do not let it turn into confession time. Nobody has to share a time they lied.

Closing (5 min)

Explain requirement 2 to the Scouts and put it in writing for families: attend a religious service or another gathering with your family that shows how your family expresses reverence, and tell the den one thing about it next time.

Say the inclusive version out loud, to the Scouts, so no Scout in the room thinks they are the odd one out:

Say something like

Some of your families go to a church or a synagogue or a mosque or a temple. Some of your families do something else — a big dinner, a family gathering, a walk somewhere that matters to you. All of those count for this. What we are asking is that you go and do it with your family, and then tell us one thing about it.

Send home with families

Talk with your Scout 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 conversation is requirement 1, and only you can do it.

Attend a religious service or another gathering that shows how your family expresses reverence, together. A family with no religious tradition completes this through your own gathering — a holiday meal, a memorial, a family celebration. That is requirement 2.

Ask your Scout which stick they pulled out of their kindness jar and whether they have done it yet.

Meeting 2: Share-back

Goal: Each Scout says one thing about the gathering they attended with their family, and the den hears how many different ways reverence looks.

Covers requirement 2 completed at home; verified here

Before the meeting

- This is a fifteen-minute block at the start of your next regular den meeting, not a whole meeting. Say so in the family letter so nobody plans a party.

- Set out a table for the sun catchers if Scouts finished them at home, and hang a few in the window.
- Collect any outstanding completion slips at the door.
- Invite parents to stay for it. Several will want to.

Supplies

- A table or a window for the sun catchers
- Completion slips

Run of show

Time	What happens
15 min	Share-back circle
—	Then continue with your next adventure

Share-back circle (15 min)

Each Scout gets about a minute: what did you go to with your family, and one thing about it. That is the verification for requirement 2, and it is also the whole value of the adventure.

Set the rule before the first Scout speaks and enforce it the first time: we listen, we do not compare, and nobody's family does it wrong. You will only have to say it once.

A Scout may say very little, and that is their right. Never ask a Scout to explain or defend what their family believes.

Finish with one question to the whole circle: what did you hear tonight that was the same at two different houses? Somebody will say food, somebody will say family, somebody will say saying thank you. That common ground is what the adventure is for.

The den resources for this requirement, if a family wants a starting point: Attend a Religious Service — scouting.org/cub-scout-activities/attend-a-religious-service/ · Let's Celebrate Together — scouting.org/cub-scout-activities/lets-celebrate-together/

Say something like

Today you explored the footsteps of helpers in your community and learned how your own choices can make a difference. Keep noticing the people who help, keep following good paths, and keep leaving footsteps that lead to kindness and service.

Leader notes

- Scouting asks a Scout to do their duty to God and does not define God for them. A family with no religious affiliation completes requirements 1 and 2 through their own values, celebrations and gatherings — say that in the family letter, in those words, before anyone has to ask you.
- Never ask a Scout to explain or justify their family's beliefs. They share what they choose to share, and a short answer is a complete answer.

- If your pack is chartered to a religious organization, be deliberately welcoming to families of other traditions and of none. The chartered organization provides the meeting space; it does not set the Scouts' beliefs.
- Requirement 3 says carry out an act of kindness, not plan one. The jar is a great craft and it does not finish the requirement on its own — make sure every Scout actually does one and tells you about it.
- Religious emblems programs exist for most faiths and are earned outside Scouting through the family's own faith group. Mention them to families; this adventure is a natural on-ramp.

Safety

Before this adventure

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

Scissors are blunt-tipped and stay on the table. Contact paper is peeled by an adult.

Check for allergies before any food comes in with a family tradition, and label anything that does.

Photo permission before posting anything from the share-back. Some families will not want their traditions online.

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

