Cub Scout Den Meeting Outline

Month: **April** Week: **4**

Point of the Scout Law: **Cheerful**

	Tiger	Wolf	Bear	Webelos	Arrow of Light
Before the Meeting	Gather materials for gathering and other activities, games and have home assignments (if any) ready.	Gather materials for gathering and other activities, games and have home assignments (if any) ready.	Gather materials for gathering and other activities, games and have home assignments (if any) ready.	Gather materials for gathering and other activities, games and have home assignments (if any) ready.	Gather materials for gathering and other activities, games and have home assignments (if any) ready.
Gathering	Rearrange the Leave No Trace Principles for Kids				
Opening	Thank You for the Trees Opening				
Discussion	Tree Cookies/Look and Listen Instructions				
Activity	Walk Outside				
Business items/Take home	None	None	None	Into the Woods 1,4,6	Into the Woods 1, 4,6
Closing	Positively Do Your Best Closing				
After the meeting					

Materials:

Gathering: markers/pencils, craft sticks, Leave No Trace Principles for Kids posters

Opening: flag

Discussion: tree cookies, copies of "Tree Cookie Project," pencils

Activity: magnifying glasses, blank paper, pencils

Closing: closing cards

Home assignments: See home assignment sheets

<u>Advancement:</u>

Tiger - Tigers in the Wild 2,3C, 4,6

Wolf – None

Bear – Fur, Feathers & Ferns 4,5

Webelos – Into the Woods 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7

Arrow of Light – Into the Woods 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7

Rearrange – Leave No Trace Principles for Kids

Materials:

7 craft sticks for each Cub Scout
Pencils/Markers
Small posters of the Leave No Trace Principles for Kids (1 for 10 Cub Scouts)
Small rubber band (for holding finished craft sticks together)

Instructions:

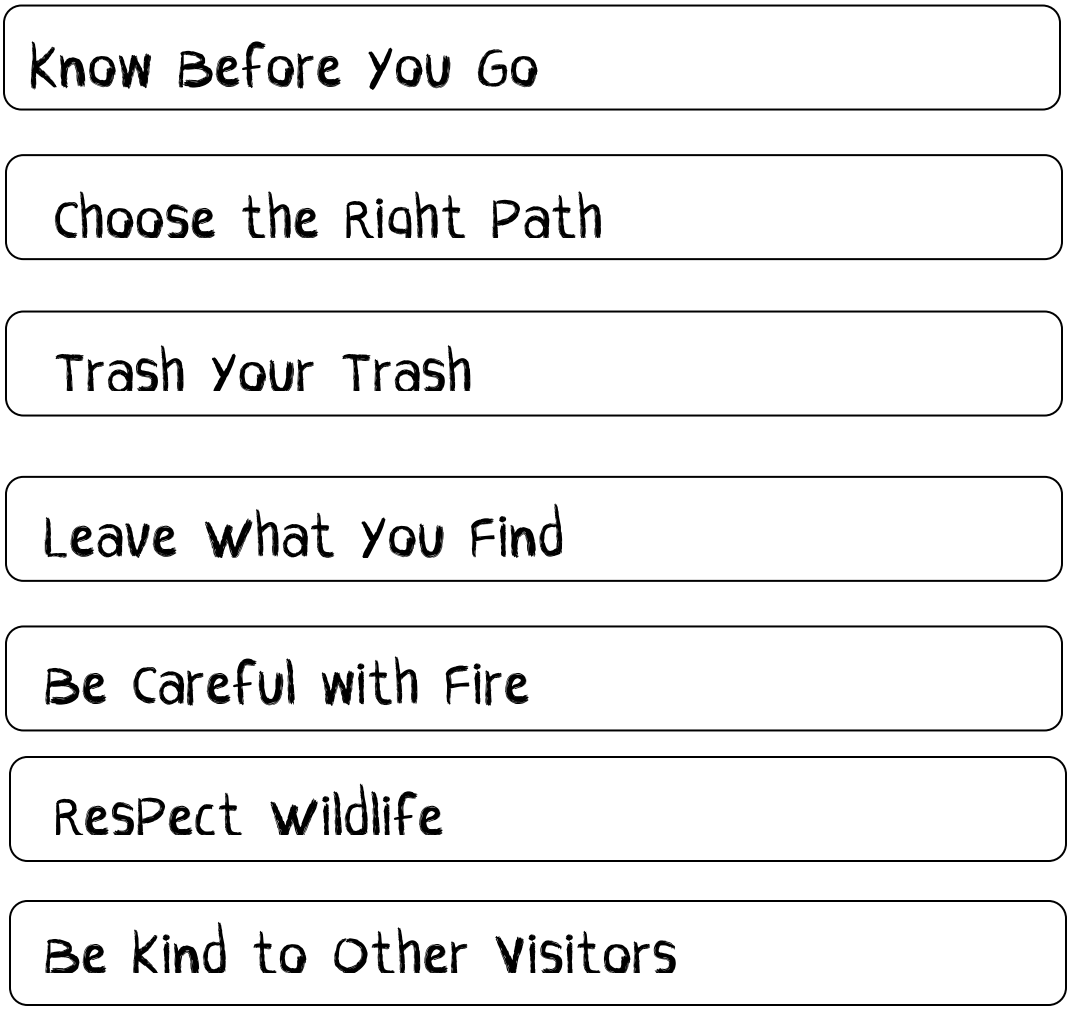
1. Explain to the Cub Scouts that they are going to learn the Leave No Trace Principles for Kids.

2. Show one of the small posters with the Leave No Trace Principles for Kids and repeat it with them and show them how the Leave No Trace Principles for Kids has 7 lines.

3. Pass out the craft sticks and markers/pencils.

4. It may take time, but have each Cub Scout write each line of the Leave No Trace Principles for Kids on one of the craft sticks (if a line takes both the front and back of the craft stick, that is fine).

5. The finished sticks may look something like the following:



6. The Cub Scouts can then put the Leave No Trace Principles for Kids in the correct order, repeat it while removing certain sections, etc.

7. Cub Scouts can use the rubber band to hold their craft sticks together.

Leave No Trace Principles for Kids

Know Before You Go

Choose the Right Path

Trash Your Trash

Leave What You Find

Be Careful with Fire

Respect Wildlife

Be Kind to Other Visitors

Leave No Trace Principles for Kids

Know Before You Go

Choose the Right Path

Trash Your Trash

Leave What You Find

Be Careful with Fire

Respect Wildlife

Be Kind to Other Visitors

Thank You for the Trees Opening

Materials:
Flag

Cubmaster or Den leader:
Thank you for the trees. Thank you for their fruit to eat and the cool shade they give. Thank you for giving the birds a place to live and the Cub Scouts a place to play. Thank you for the evergreens and the new spring leaves. We feel gratitude for the opportunity to take care of these great gifts.

Let us begin our meeting today by saying the Pledge of Allegiance and then by saying with me the 7 Leave No Trace Principles for Kids.

Tree Cookies

Materials

Tree cookies (sliced branches or trunks of trees) – at least 3 or 4 to pass around and look at
Copies of Tree Cookie Project (courtesy of Project Learning Tree and St Joseph County Parks)
Pencils

Instructions:

Describe to the Cub Scouts what tree cookies are and how to read them so that they can complete the “Tree Cookie Project.”

Tree cookies are cross sections of tree trunks or branches that foresters use to illustrate how trees grow. Tree cookies reveal the many different layers that make up a tree. Each layer can tell us something about the tree's life and the climate in which it grew.

Reading the Rings

To help figure out what climate the tree grew in and what the environment was like, look at each ring:

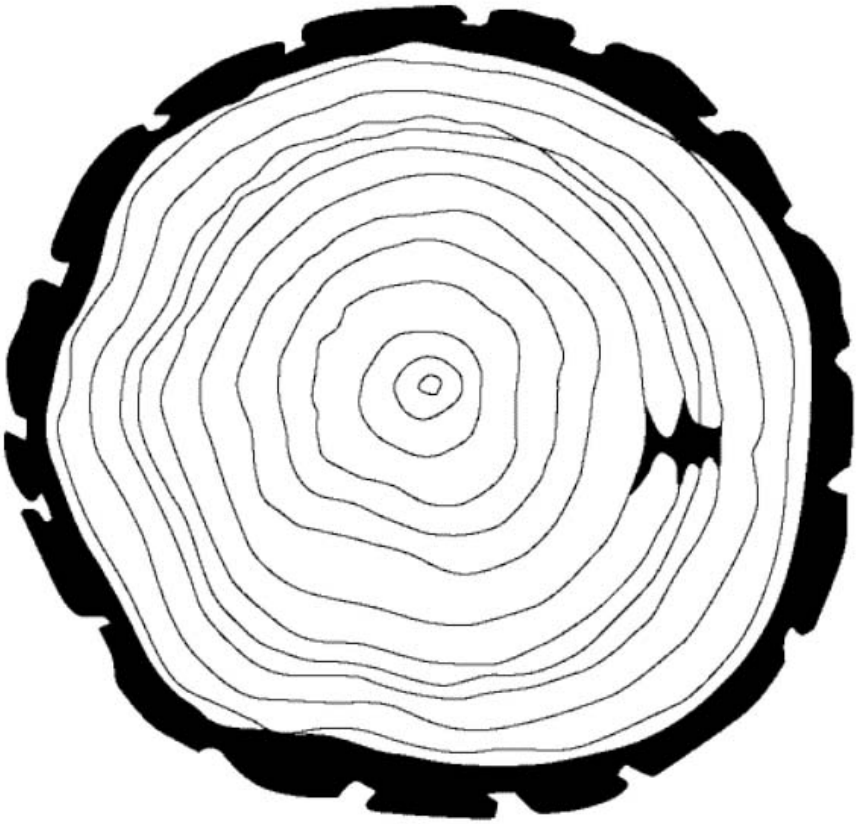
- **Thickness**
  How wide a ring is can tell you if the environment was good or bad for the tree to grow in.
  In years when the amount of rain and temperature were good a tree's rings are wider.
  In bad years a tree's rings are thinner.

- **Shape**
  If rings become thinner on one side than the other it means the tree is leaning over to one side.
  High winds or a big storm can cause a tree to lean.

- **Strange Marks**
  Look also for strange marks, like scars, and other "*pieces of evidence.*"
  Scars can be left by insects or disease. A forest fire can leave burnt marks.

Tree Cookie Project

If you have access to a real tree slice, you can use it for this activity, or use the diagram below.



1 Each ring represents one year of growth. How old was the tree when it was cut down?

2 Assuming the tree was cut down this year, can you find the ring that represents the year you were born, or when you got your dog, or other family milestone?

3 Use push pins with little slips of paper to make your family milestones, or write them on the tree cookie diagram above.

4 Can you find any narrow rings that might indicate stress on the tree such as low rainfall?

5 Can you find any areas of the tree cookie that look like the tree was damaged? What might have caused the damage?

Diagram courtesy of *Project Learning Tree*. For more information visit: www.plt.org

St. Joseph County Parks

Look and Listen Instructions

Materials:
Blank paper (folded in half as a book)
Magnifying glasses (1 per group of 6-8 Bear Scouts)
Pencils

Instructions:

As we walk around the area today, what do we need to look for?

What kinds of animals, plants and insects live in our area of Houston? [robins, cardinals, mockingbirds, blue jays, red squirrels, gray squirrels, grasshoppers, cockroaches, mosquitoes…] What else do you see? How can we tell different birds and animals apart?

Look at the trees – are the leaves starting to come? Look closely. What bugs are in the grass or dirt? Are there any birds in the sky? What do you see up in the trees? What kinds of trees do we have around here? [pine, oak, maple, etc] How do we tell different trees apart?

Try to watch wildlife (birds, squirrels, etc) from a distance so as not to harass or startle them. Make sure that we follow the Leave No Trace Principles for Kids.

Remind each group of Cub Scouts what they can be looking or listening for as they go outside. Have them use their paper and pencils to write down what they see.

Tigers – Look for three different kinds of plants, animals or signs of animals. Find two different trees and two different plants.

Wolves – Try to name two birds, two insects and two animals that live in your area. Look for them as you are outside. [They don't have to see them on this walk.]

Bears – Use a magnifying glass to examine plants more closely. Describe what you saw through the magnifying glass that you could not see without it. Have them try to watch wildlife from a distance (across the field, high in the air, etc)

Webelos/Arrow of Light –Identify **6 trees common** to their area. Identify **6 plants common** to their area. Some of these trees and plants could be on the school grounds. How do humans and wildlife use the trees? Is the bark the same on all trees? Are leaves all the same? What plants are common to their area? Have them think about how trees help the environment. How does wildlife use the plants (not trees) that you saw? What wildlife uses the plants that you saw?

****When you return from your walk, ask the Cub Scouts how they were able to use the Leave No Trace Principles for Kids on their walk. Did they trash their trash, did they choose the right path, did they leave what they found, and did they respect wildlife?****

Positively Do Your Best Closing

Materials:
Three cards with one word written on the front of each, “do,” “your,” “best.” Write script on the back of each card.

Cubmaster: Remember to be cheerful and set your minds to look for and find the best in all situations.

Cub Scout #1: Do. Remember to do good for others with a cheerful heart.

Cub Scout #2: Your. Remember it’s your positive attitude that will make a difference in the lives of others.

Cub Scout #3: Best. Remember to find the best in all situations.

Cubmaster: Always do your best to have a positive attitude, and share it with those around you.


Do

Cub Scout #1:

Do. Remember to do good for others with a cheerful heart.

Your

Cub Scout #2:

Your. Remember it’s your positive attitude that will make a difference in the lives of others.

Best

Cub Scout #3:

Best. Remember to find the best in all situations.

Name _____

April Week 4

Home Assignment – Webelos

(For Webelos working on the Into the Woods Adventure – All Webelos)

Into the Woods, Requirement 1 (Webelos Handbook, pages 451-453)

Identify two different groups of trees and the parts of a tree.

Unless you live in the desert, on the tundra, or at the top of a tall mountain, there are probably trees around you – even in the middle of a city. But what kinds of trees are they? If you look closely you will discover that different trees have different characteristics. Some grow very tall, while others grow out as much as they grow up. Some keep their foliage (leaves) all year round, while others lose their leaves in the fall.

Scientists divide most trees into two main groups: coniferous trees and deciduous trees.

Coniferous Trees

Coniferous trees include pines, cedars, firs, and spruces. The seeds in these trees grow in cones, which is where the word "coniferous" comes from. When a cone's scales open up, the seeds fall out, and new trees can take root. Coniferous trees tend to grow tall rather than wide; they have a triangular shape like a Christmas tree.

Most coniferous trees are evergreen, meaning they don't lose their leaves (which are called needles) in the fall. Evergreens do lose their needles. They just don't lose them all at the same time. However, some coniferous trees, like the bald cypress, do lose their leaves as winter approaches.

Deciduous Trees

Deciduous trees include oaks, maples, poplars, beeches, sycamores, ashes and many other species. They are called deciduous because they lose their leaves each year.

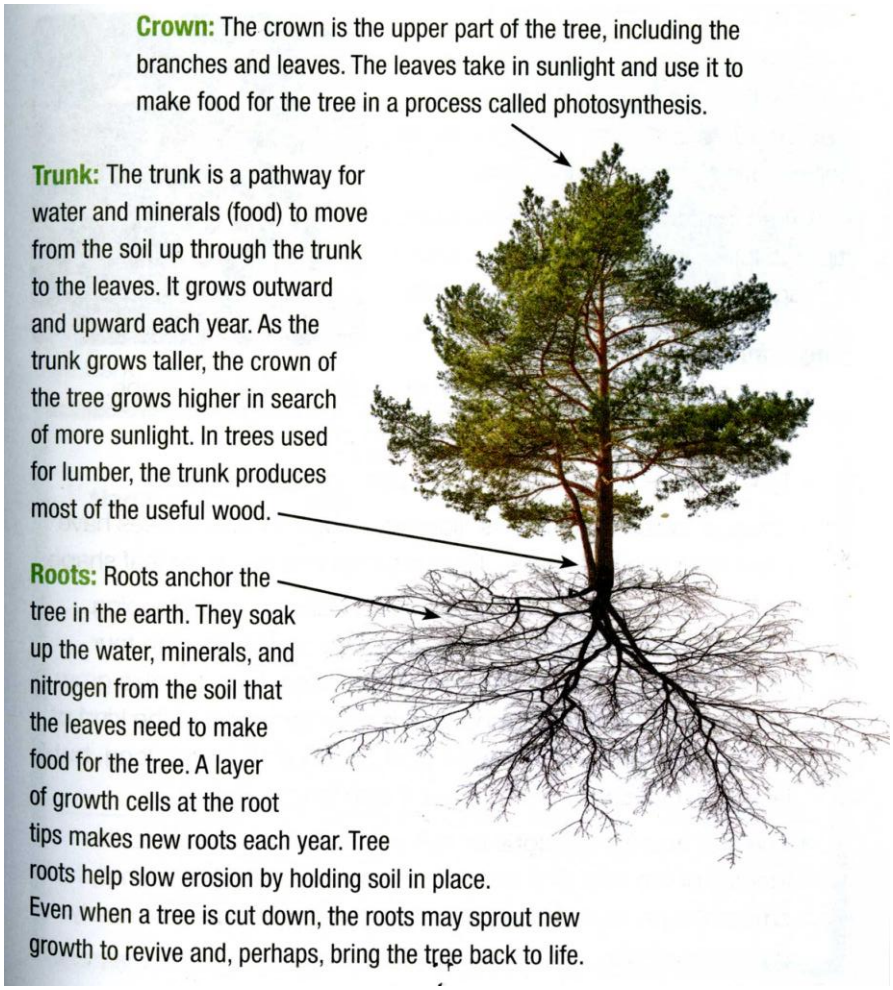
Instead of having needles, deciduous trees have wide, flat leaves that are good at capturing sunlight. These trees spread out as they grow, and they're often bigger at the top than they are at the bottom. Deciduous trees don't produce cones. Their seeds are contained in nutshells or fruit.

A few deciduous trees are actually ever greens. The live oak is an example.

How a Tree Grows

A tree grows in its **roots, trunk,** and **crown** (its top where all the branches and leaves are). The tree needs food to grow, and its roots and leaves pla a part in the process of making food.

How far do a tree's roots stretch? A tree's root ball is usually as wide as its branches.



_____

Akela's OK Date

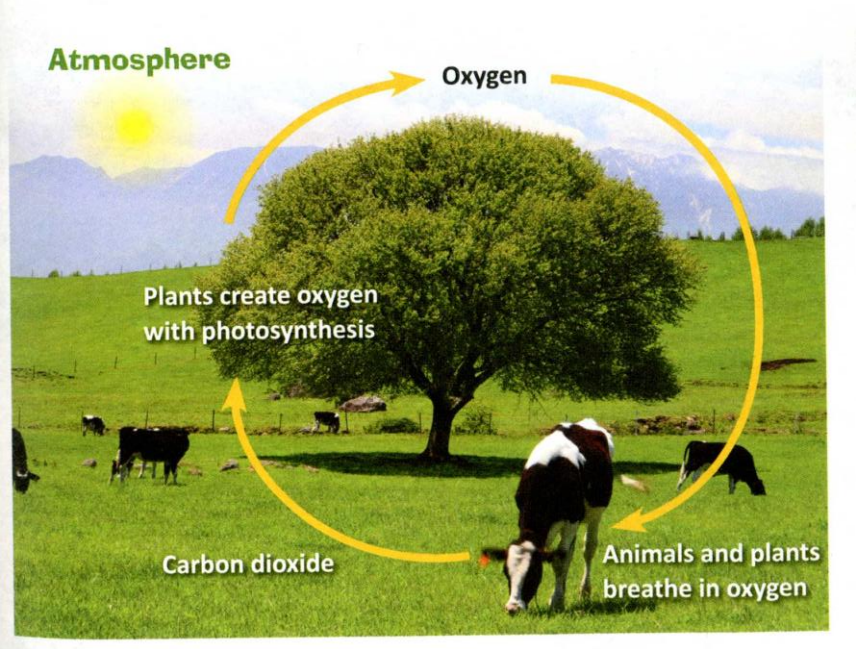
Return this paper to Cub Scout meeting after you have completed the assignments.

Into the Woods, Requirement 4 (Webelos Handbook pages 457-458)

Visit a nature center, nursery, tree farm, or park, and speak with someone knowledgeable about trees and plants that are native to your area. Explain how plants and trees are important to our ecosystem and how they improve our environment.

An ecosystem is a community of plants and animals living in an environment that supplies what they need for life. Within an ecosystem trees and plants product leaves, bark, fruits, nuts, and seeds that many animals eat. They also produce oxygen, which animals need to breathe. In fact, plants and trees produce most of the oxygen on Earth.

Through a process called photosynthesis, plants turn sunlight, water and carbon dioxide into energy. A byproduct of photosynthesis is oxygen. You know where sunlight and water come from, but where does carbon dioxide come from? It comes from animals and humans every time we breathe out! That's why scientists talk about the oxygen cycle that connects plants and animals.



By trapping carbon dioxide, plants and trees keep it out of the atmosphere. That's important because too much carbon dioxide in the atmosphere contributes to climate change.

Plants and trees do some other important things. They stabilize the soil, which prevents erosion, and they provide shade and shelter for animals and humans. They can be harvested to create furniture, building materials, clothing, paper, food, and many other things we use every day.

_____

Akela's OK Date

Return this paper to Cub Scout meeting after you have completed the assignments.

Into the Woods, Requirement 6 (Webelos Handbook page 461)

Make a list of items in your home that are made from wood.

Many things in your home are made from wood. In fact, your home itself may be made from wood. If you go into an unfinished attic or basement, you can see some of this wood in the form of studs, joints and floor boards. Make a list of everything in your home that is made of wood.

Items made from wood:

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

Akela's OK Date

Return this paper to Cub Scout meeting after you have completed the assignments.