DECEMBER—CHEERFUL

CELEBRATE

A SCOUT IS CHEERFUL. HOW DOES "CELEBRATE" RELATE TO THIS POINT OF THE SCOUT LAW?

A Scout looks for the bright side of things. He tries to make others happy. December is a big month for all sorts of celebrations and opportunities to make others happy.

NOTE TO CUBMASTER

Pack meetings are best when they are no more than an hour and a half in length. Pack meeting plans are guides which can be adjusted to fit the needs of your pack.

You might consider setting up tables or areas for each den to display pictures and items made during this month's adventure.

◇ BEFORE THE MEETING

Set up tables or areas for each den to display pictures and items made during this month's adventure, if applicable.

Be sure the following materials are available for the meeting:

- Flags for the flag ceremony
- Indoor Scavenger Hunt sheets (see the Resources section), pens or pencils
- Poster props for What Are We Full Of?
- Several wrapped treats to be used during the audience participation activity, Traveling Treats (The number of treats will depend upon the size of your pack. Not everyone will need a treat.)
- Candles for the rank advancement ceremony, matches, lighter, etc., or battery-operated candles if your meeting place does not allow real flames
- Copies of the song for the closing ceremony or a way to project the words

◇ GATHERING

Indoor Scavenger Hunt. See the Resources section.

OPENING CEREMONY

The flag ceremony is led by a predetermined den, who will present the colors and lead the pack in the Pledge of Allegiance.

What Are We Full Of?

Props: Six posters with the letters "C," "H," "E," "E," and "R" (one on each poster), and one poster with the letters "FUL" on it

Seven Scouts hold up the posters as the Cubmaster calls the letters.

Cubmaster: "Give me a C! *(A Scout holds up a poster, prompting the audience to yell "C!")*

"Give me an H! *(The next poster goes up, etc.)*

“Give me an E!

“Give me another E!

“Give me an R!

“What are we full of?” *(The audience yells “Cheer” when the poster with “FUL” goes up.)*

This can be repeated multiple times—slower, faster, louder, softer, etc.

◇ OPENING PRAYER

“I pray for you today that you be cheerful,

“With head held high and sparkle in your eye;

“With warmth of smile, and voice that holds no anger;

“With quickened step, and purpose in your stride.

“I pray the Lord will look on you with pleasure,

“As parents look upon a cheerful child . . . .”

– Reverend William McGinnis

◇ WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

The Cubmaster welcomes new families, visitors, and special guests by introducing them to the pack and thanking all who helped plan and prepare for the pack meeting.

◇ DEN DEMONSTRATIONS:

If there is a den that needs to do some type of activity at a pack meeting for the completion of an adventure, please insert it here.

◇ AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

Traveling Treats

Pass out a few small treats to the audience. Each time they hear a word that indicates a direction, they move the treat to the person closest to them in that direction. A few treats could be bigger or wrapped to appear more special.

Listen for these words:

- Right
- Left
- In front
- Behind

Narrator: “The Cub Scout year is filled with such fun. **Right** at the end of the summer, the pack has a grand roundup to invite new Cub Scouts into the pack. After the Webelos Scouts have **left** to join the troop, there is more room for all the new Tigers and Bobcats.

“In the fall, all the Cub Scouts **left** bags on the doorsteps for the neighbors to fill. After the service projects, caroling, and holiday crafts, there were not many days **left** in December.

“The Boy Scouts from the troop invited the Webelos Scouts to their camp at the Klondike derby. Looking to the **right** and the **left**, they found the troop’s sled **right in front**.

"At the derbies, the excited Cubs stood **in front** to see the racing. Did you see the one that **left** the others **behind** in his dust?

"**In front** of the pack at the blue and gold banquet, the Cubmaster was careful to give the boys their **right** awards.

"The fun continued with Scout shows with displays and activities jam-packed **right** in a row. What Cub Scout in his **right** mind could forget the fantastic time at summer camp?

"Den meetings, field trips, pack meetings, outings galore! You had better **write** it all down because you would certainly feel sad if you were **left** behind.

"The End"

Note: See where the treats have ended up. You could number them and ask the beginning person to remember his or her number to see how far the treat has traveled.

◇ RECOGNITION

Adventure Loops and Pins:

(Note: Adventure loops and pins can be presented at a meeting or as immediate recognition in the den.)

By den, call the names of those Cub Scouts who have completed the month's adventure to come forward.

- Have the den leader pass out the awards to the boys as they receive a Cub Scout handshake from the Cubmaster.
- If time allows, invite the den leader or den chief of the den to speak about the adventure work done for that month and have the den stand and be recognized.
- Use a positive cheer to recognize their accomplishments.

Other options:

- Have the den stand and be recognized or come forward to receive certificates for the adventure they have completed. This option would be appropriate for a den that has already received the adventure loop or pin.
- Adapt the advancement ceremony for the month's theme into an adventure loop presentation if no rank badges are being presented.

◇ RANK ADVANCEMENT

The Light of Cheer

Materials: Candles (one large and one slightly smaller representing Scouting spirit and cheerfulness, plus a smaller candle for each rank that will advance at this meeting), table for candles, matches or lighter. Please adapt for flameless candles, if necessary.

Cubmaster: "First, I light the candle of Scouting spirit *(lights largest candle).* The light from this candle leads us as we walk along our Scouting trail. May its brightness always show us the Scouting way.

"From the flame of Scouting spirit, I will light the candle of 'cheerful.' We have 12 points of the Scout Law that serve as our guide. We have picked cheerful as our focus tonight to honor the season of hope and good thoughts toward others." *(The Cubmaster lights the next largest candle from the flame of the larger one.)*

Have on the table the same number of smaller candles for each rank that will advance. The color of these candles can correspond with the ranks if you wish: dark blue for Bobcat, orange for Tiger, yellow for Wolf, light blue for Bear, green for Webelos, and red for Arrow of Light.

Cubmaster: "Will *(names of the advancing Scouts)* and their parents or guardians please come forward? I will light your *(rank)* candle from the cheerful candle. You have been cheerful Scouts as you have worked toward this award." *(Present rank patches.)*

Repeat the last paragraph for each rank that will advance.

◇ CUBMASTER'S MINUTE

"Tonight has been a lot of fun. We have a lot of cheerful faces in the room, we played games, we received our awards, etc. It's easy to be cheerful when things are going our way, right? But what about those times when things are messing up: we forgot our homework, we were late to school, our favorite computer game is broken? How do we act then? What about when your parents ask you to help around the house? How do we act then? Can we say we act cheerful? I challenge you to begin thinking of ways to stay cheerful when the going gets tough. Try to remember something fun you did, something great you had to eat, how awesome your best friend is, a really funny joke you know, and then the tough times might not seem so bad.

"Until our next pack meeting, I wish you a cheerful good night."

◇ CLOSING

Sing "Cub Scout Vespers" or another song of your choosing. (See the Resources section for the lyrics.)

The preassigned den retires the flags.

RESOURCES

Cub Scout Vespers

Softly falls the light of day,

As our campfire fades away.

Silently each Cub should ask,

Have I done my daily task?

For my country done my best?

Prayed to God before I rest?

Helped a friend along the way?

Have I done my best today?

Indoor Scavenger Hunt

Provide one sheet for each Scout to fill out.

Find one item in the room for each letter in the word “Cheerful.”

C _____

H _____

E _____

E _____

R _____

F _____

U _____

L _____

Find one item in the room for each letter in the word “Cheerful.”

C _____

H _____

E _____

E _____

R _____

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Find one item in the room for each letter in the word “Cheerful.”

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