

Tiger Circles

Required adventure • Family and Reverence

If you read nothing else

One den meeting plus a family activity and a short share-back. Requirement 1 is a conversation with a parent or legal guardian, which for a Tiger can happen right at the meeting because the adult partner is there. Requirement 2 happens with the family, on their own time.

This is the adventure where families feel most exposed. Your job is to make every family in the den feel their tradition belongs here — including families with no religious tradition, who complete these requirements through their own values and celebrations, in those words.

Write the family letter carefully and send it two weeks ahead. “Your family’s faith traditions, or the values and celebrations your family holds” covers everyone in your den.

Requirement 2 offers a religious service OR another gathering that shows how your family expresses reverence. Say the OR out loud when you explain it.

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. Draw a picture 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.

Requirement 2 belongs entirely to the family and happens outside the den meeting. Requirement 1 is a parent-or-guardian conversation — if the adult partner at the meeting is the parent or legal guardian, it can be done in the room; otherwise it goes home.

Meeting 1: Family traditions and an act of kindness

Goal: Each Tiger names three holidays or celebrations from their family’s traditions and draws their favorite, and every Tiger makes and sends a card to someone.

Covers requirements 1 and 3, and sends home 2

Before the meeting

- Send the family letter two weeks ahead. Be deliberate and generous with the wording: some families in your den are deeply religious, some are not religious at all, and both fully belong. Say so in the letter.
- Draw a large tree on a sheet of poster board and cut out three paper leaves per Scout for the gathering activity.
- Print the My Family Traditions worksheet, one per Scout — it is in the Tiger adventure resources on scouting.org as Tiger Circles 1 Faith Traditions Worksheet.
- Set up the room for a calm meeting. This one is quieter than the rest of the year and the space should say so before anyone speaks.
- Have scissors, crayons, and handbooks open-able to page 27 ready for the kindness cards.
- Bring stamps and envelopes so the cards can actually be sent.

Supplies

- One large sheet of poster board with a tree drawn on it
- Pre-cut paper leaves, three per Scout
- Crayons, enough to share
- Three rolls of clear tape
- My Family Traditions worksheets, one per Scout
- Colored pencils
- Tiger handbooks, pages 26 and 27
- Scissors, enough to share
- Envelopes and stamps

Run of show

Time	What happens
10 min	Gathering: Tree of Reverence
5 min	Opening: Pledge of Allegiance, Scout Oath, Scout Law
5 min	Welcome, roll call, announcements
15 min	Activity 1: My Family Traditions
15 min	Activity 2: A Note of Kindness
5 min	Activity 3: the family gathering, explained
5 min	Closing

Gathering — Tree of Reverence (10 min)

Tree of Reverence — scouting.org/cub-scout-activities/tree-of-reverence-tiger/

The poster-board tree goes up on the wall. Greet each family at the door and give the Scout three paper leaves and the prompt: draw three pictures of your favorite holidays or celebrations that are part of your family's traditions.

They tape the leaves to the tree as they finish, and read the ones already up while they wait for the meeting to start.

This sets the tone before you say a word, and it gets requirement 1 half done during the arrival window. Leave the tree up for the rest of the meeting and point at it later.

Activity 1 — My Family Traditions (15 min)

My Family Traditions Worksheet — scouting.org/cub-scout-activities/my-family-traditions-worksheet/

One worksheet per family. Each adult works through it with their own Scout: talk about your family's traditions, name three holidays or celebrations that are part of them, and draw the favorite one.

You are not teaching this. Sit down, be available, and let the families talk. The requirement is a conversation between a Scout and their parent or legal guardian, and your contribution is the paper, the crayons, and fifteen quiet minutes.

If the adult partner at the meeting is not the Scout's parent or legal guardian, the worksheet goes home to be done with one. Say that once, to the room, without pointing at anybody.

When everyone is finished, ask each Scout to show the den their favorite celebration and say one sentence about it. Set the rule before the first Scout speaks: we listen, we do not compare, and nobody's family is weird. Enforce it the first time and you will not need to again.

You will hear a real range — Christmas and Easter, Hanukkah and Passover, Eid, Diwali, Lunar New Year, a birthday, a harvest meal, a national holiday, the whole family driving to grandma's every August. All of it counts. A family with no religious tradition completes this requirement through the celebrations and values they do have, and you should say that out loud so nobody in the room is wondering.

Alternatives: My Family Celebrations — scouting.org/cub-scout-activities/my-family-celebrations/ ·
Tiger Holiday Drawing — scouting.org/cub-scout-activities/tiger-holiday-drawing/ · Tiger Circles
Passport — scouting.org/cub-scout-activities/tiger-circles-passport-req-1/

Activity 2 — A Note of Kindness (15 min)

Tiger A Note of Kindness — scouting.org/cub-scout-activities/tiger-a-note-of-kindness/

Ask the den what they could do to be kind to somebody. Take the answers. Then tell them one of the easiest is to give somebody a card that says how special they are.

Page 27 of the handbook is the card. Scouts make theirs, and their adult partner helps cut it out. Ask each Scout who theirs is for before they start — naming the person first makes it a real card rather than an art project.

Then it has to be sent. Adult partners help address it; bring the stamps yourself and put the envelopes in the mail on your way home if you can. Requirement 3 says carry out an act of kindness, and a card that stays in a backpack has not been carried out.

Tie it to the Law before you move on: a Scout is kind. That is not a thing you say at a meeting, it is a thing you do to somebody who is not in the room.

Alternatives: Tiger Be Kind at Home — scouting.org/cub-scout-activities/tiger-be-kind-at-home/ ·
Tiger Be Kind at School — scouting.org/cub-scout-activities/tiger-be-kind-at-school/

Activity 3 — The family gathering, explained (5 min)

Tiger Religious Service — scouting.org/cub-scout-activities/tiger-religious-service/

Explain requirement 2 to the adults, slowly, and read the OR: attend a religious service with your family, or another gathering that shows how your family expresses reverence. Both are the requirement. Neither is the lesser version.

For a family that attends services, page 26 of the handbook is the prep. Before you go, talk about what the service is for, how often it happens, and whether it is divided into parts. Afterward, talk about how it felt, what stood out, and which part they liked best.

For a family with no religious tradition, the other gathering is genuinely equivalent: a Veterans Day ceremony, a Memorial Day service, a family reunion, a volunteer morning, a visit to a memorial, a meal where the family says what they are thankful for. What makes it count is that it shows how your family expresses reverence and that you talk about it together before and after.

Alternatives: Tiger Religious Celebration — scouting.org/cub-scout-activities/tiger-religious-celebration/ · Tiger Veterans Day — scouting.org/cub-scout-activities/tiger-veterans-day/

Send home with families

Attend a religious service, or another gathering that shows how your family expresses reverence, and talk about it together before and after. Page 26 of the handbook has the questions. That is requirement 2.

Finish the family traditions worksheet if you did not at the meeting.

Look for one more act of kindness to do this week, and let your Scout choose who it is for.

Meeting 2: Share-back

Goal: Scouts say where they went with their family and what they noticed, and requirement 2 is signed off.

Covers requirement 2

Before the meeting

- This is a ten-minute block at the start of your next regular den meeting, not a whole meeting. Say so in the family letter so nobody drives across town for it.
- Put the Tree of Reverence back up on the wall.
- Check off requirement 2 by name as each family reports.

Supplies

- The Tree of Reverence poster
- Your roster

Run of show

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

Share-back circle (10 min)

Around the circle, about thirty seconds each: where did you go with your family, and what is one thing you noticed? The adult partner can help, but let the Scout say it.

Same rule as last time, said again before the first Scout speaks: we listen, we do not compare, and nobody's family is weird.

Do not ask a Scout to explain or defend what their family believes. They share what they choose to share and you take it at face value.

Then one question to close it out: what did you hear tonight that was the same in two different families? Let them find it themselves. There will be thankfulness, and there will be taking care of other people, and once a Tiger has spotted that in somebody else's family they have understood something that is hard to teach any other way.

Say something like

Today you took time to learn about what makes your family unique — the traditions you celebrate, the moments you share, and the kindness you show to others. By exploring your family's faith practices and doing an act of kindness, you discovered that reverence isn't just something you talk about... it's something you do. Keep honoring your family, keep showing kindness, and keep carrying those values with you wherever you go.

Leader notes

- This is the most sensitive adventure in the Tiger year. Handled with care, every family feels seen; handled carelessly, you lose somebody quietly and never find out why.
- Scouting asks a Scout to do their duty to God and does not define God for them. A family with no religious affiliation completes these requirements through their own values, celebrations, and gatherings — say that in the family letter, in those words, before anybody has to ask.
- Never ask a Scout to explain or defend their family's beliefs, and never let another Scout do it either. Set the listening rule before the first share and enforce it once.
- If your pack is chartered to a religious organization, be especially deliberate about welcoming families of other traditions and of none. The chartered organization provides the meeting space; it does not set the Scouts' beliefs.
- 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.
- Adult partners are usually the parent, so requirement 1 can often be done in the room. Do not assume it — some Tigers come with a grandparent, an aunt, or a family friend, and that is fine.

Safety

Before this adventure

Two registered adults with current Safeguarding Youth Training at every den meeting.

Scissors are adult-supervised and blunt-tipped. Adult partners do the cutting on page 27.

Ask about food allergies before anything edible comes in with a family tradition, and label everything.

Photo permission before posting anything from this adventure. Some families will not want their traditions online, and you will not know which ones unless you ask.

The kindness cards carry a first name only. No last names, no addresses, no school names.

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