

Bobcat

Required adventure • Character and Leadership

If you read nothing else

Every Cub Scout earns Bobcat first, at every rank. For Webelos this is the year the Scout Oath and Scout Law replace the Cub Scout Promise and the Law of the Pack — that switch is the whole point of the adventure.

Two den meetings. Requirement 7 is done at home with a parent or legal guardian and cannot be completed at a den meeting.

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 members of your den.
- ☐ 2. Recite the Scout Oath and the Scout Law with your den and den leader. Describe 3 points of the Scout Oath.
- ☐ 3. Learn about the Scout Law.
- ☐ 4. Learn about the denner position and responsibilities.
- ☐ 5. With your den create a den Code of Conduct.
- ☐ 6. Demonstrate the Cub Scout sign, Cub Scout salute and Cub Scout handshake. Show how each is used.
- ☐ 7. 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 7 is a family activity. 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: Oath, Law, and who we are

Goal: Scouts learn each other's names, say the Scout Oath and Scout Law out loud, and can explain three points of the Oath in their own words.

Covers requirements 1, 2, 3 and 6

Before the meeting

- Print the Scout Oath and Scout Law large enough to read from across the room. Tape them to the wall — leave them up all year.
- Print one copy of How to Protect Your Children From Child Abuse: A Parent's Guide per family, plus the acknowledgement slip.
- Write each Scout's name on a card for the name game.
- Ask two parents to stay — you want a second registered adult in the room and helpers for the small groups.

Supplies

- Scout Oath and Scout Law posters
- Index cards and markers
- Ball of yarn or a soft ball for the name game
- Twelve slips of paper, each with one point of the Scout Law
- Parent booklets and acknowledgement slips

Run of show

Time	What happens
5 min	Gathering: Name Toss
5 min	Opening: flag ceremony and the Scout Oath
10 min	Activity 1: three points, three corners
15 min	Activity 2: the Scout Law relay
10 min	Activity 3: sign, salute, handshake
5 min	Closing: hand out family booklets, Living Circle

Gathering — Name Toss (5 min)

Stand in a circle. Toss the ball to a Scout; they say their name and one thing they did over the summer. They toss it on. Second time around, whoever throws has to say the name of the Scout they are throwing to.

This is requirement 1 and it takes five minutes. Do not skip it because the Scouts “already know each other” — Webelos dens usually absorb Scouts from two or three Bear dens, and the ones who do not know anybody are the ones who quit in November.

Opening (5 min)

Denner leads the flag ceremony if you have one appointed; otherwise pick a Scout. Everyone says the Scout Oath together, reading from the poster.

Say something like

Last year you promised to do your best, to do your duty to God and your country, and to help

other people. This year you make the same promise the older Scouts make — the same words a Scout in a troop uses, and the same words an Eagle Scout says. That is the Scout Oath, and from tonight on it is yours.

Activity 1 — Three points, three corners (10 min)

Label three corners of the room: DUTY TO GOD AND COUNTRY, HELP OTHER PEOPLE, KEEP MYSELF. Read a short scenario and have Scouts run to the corner that best fits.

- You see a younger Scout drop his whole plate at the pack picnic. (Help other people.)
- You are up late and you know you have a game tomorrow, so you go to bed. (Keep myself physically strong.)
- Your family goes to services on Saturday and you go too. (Duty to God.)
- You pick up litter in the park nobody saw you drop. (Duty to country — or help other people; let them argue it.)

Then have each Scout pick three points and say what each one means in their own words. That satisfies requirement 2. Accept plain language — “keep myself physically strong means I take care of my body” is a complete answer from a fourth grader.

Activity 2 — Scout Law relay (15 min)

Split into two teams. Put the twelve Law slips in a pile at the far end of the room, shuffled. On “go,” one Scout runs, grabs a slip, brings it back, and the team lays them out in order. First team with all twelve in the right order wins.

Run it twice. The second time, before a team can win, each Scout has to give one example of a person being that point of the Law.

That is requirement 3. The relay is doing the work here — Scouts memorize the Law by handling it, not by reciting it at you.

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

Demonstrate all three yourself first, then have the Scouts mirror you. Then quiz them: “You just walked into the meeting and the flag is posted.” (Salute.) “I raised my hand for quiet.” (Sign.) “You are meeting the Scoutmaster of the troop.” (Handshake, left hand.)

Point out that the Cub Scout handshake uses two fingers and the left hand, and that they will switch to the Scouts BSA handshake next year in Arrow of Light. Fourth graders like knowing something changes ahead of them.

Watch each Scout do all three once. That is requirement 6 and it is a demonstration, not a discussion.

Closing (5 min)

Hand every Scout a parent booklet to take home in their hand, not in their bag. Tell the parents directly at pickup what it is and that you need the slip back next meeting.

Close with the Living Circle.

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. This is requirement 7 and only a parent or legal guardian can sign it off.

Practice the Scout Oath and Scout Law at home. Ask your Scout to teach it to you.

Meeting 2: Denner and the den Code of Conduct

Goal: The den elects or appoints a denner, understands the job, and writes a Code of Conduct in the Scouts' own words.

Covers requirements 4 and 5, and collects 7

Before the meeting

- Write the denner responsibilities on a sheet of easel paper ahead of time.
- Have a large sheet of poster board ready for the Code of Conduct — the den will sign it and you will bring it to every meeting all year.
- Collect the parent acknowledgement slips at the door as families arrive.

Supplies

- Poster board and markers
- Easel paper with denner duties
- Denner shoulder cord if your pack uses one
- A watch or timer for the denner to practice with

Run of show

Time	What happens
5 min	Gathering: word scramble on the points of the Law
5 min	Opening: Scout Oath, led by a Scout
15 min	Activity 1: what a denner actually does
20 min	Activity 2: writing the Code of Conduct
10 min	Activity 3: Bobcat check and sign-off
5 min	Closing

Activity 1 — What a denner actually does (15 min)

Show the list, then give the job away. The denner is a real position with real duties, and the fastest way to teach it is to hand a Scout the timer for the rest of the meeting.

- Leads the opening and the Living Circle
- Helps set up before and clean up after

- Takes attendance
- Keeps the meeting on time and tells the den leader when a segment is running long
- Helps a Scout who is behind or new

Elect or rotate. A six-month rotation with an assistant denner works well; so does rotating every month so every Scout gets a turn before crossover. Say which you are doing and stick to it.

That is requirement 4 — learn about the position and responsibilities. The Scout does not have to hold the job to complete it.

Activity 2 — Writing the Code of Conduct (20 min)

This has to be theirs. If you write it, they will follow it for three weeks. If they write it, they will enforce it on each other, which is the actual goal.

Ask three questions and write down what they say, in their words:

- What makes a den meeting good?
- What ruins one?
- What should happen when someone breaks the code?

Group the answers into five or six rules. Push them toward positive phrasing — “we listen when someone else is talking” beats “no interrupting.” Tie at least two of them back to points of the Scout Law out loud so they see the connection.

Everyone signs it, you and the assistant den leader included. Bring it to every meeting for the rest of the year and point at it instead of raising your voice.

Say something like

This is not my list of rules for you. This is your list, and you are all signing it, which means when someone forgets it is not me who reminds them — it is you.

Activity 3 — Bobcat check and sign-off (10 min)

Go around the circle. Each Scout says the Scout Oath, gives three points in their own words, and demonstrates sign, salute, and handshake. Tick them off as they go.

Confirm you have the parent slip for requirement 7 from every family. Chase the missing ones this week — do not let it sit until December.

Record Bobcat in Scoutbook the same night if you can. It is the first requirement of JTE objective 5 and packs lose Gold on it because nobody entered it.

Send home with families

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

Leader notes

- Bobcat comes first at every rank, but the Webelos version is not a repeat — the Oath and Law replace the Promise and the Law of the Pack. Say that out loud to the Scouts and to the parents.

- The Code of Conduct poster is the most useful thing you will make all year. Laminate it if you can.
- A Scout joining the pack mid-year earns Bobcat first, whatever the calendar says. Run a short catch-up with them and a parent rather than making them wait for next September.
- Requirement 7 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.

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.

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	7