

Monthly Cub Scout Themes for 2007–2008

SEPTEMBER 2007—CUB SCOUT EXPRESS

All Aboard the Cub Scout Express! Invite a buddy to join you in your journey through Cub Scouting, riding the rails to adventure. Activities can include a trip to a train or rail museum, visiting a local train station, or inviting a model railroader to your pack meeting. Look up the history of trains at the library or on the Internet. Read about the different train cars and engines. Use a large cardboard facade of a train for an induction ceremony for new families or presentation of awards. Play train relay games with your den or pack.

Character Connection: Compassion

OCTOBER 2007—DOWN ON THE FARM

It's harvest time! Cub Scouts learn about growing crops and the life of a farmer. Dens might visit a farm, dairy, or petting zoo to learn first-hand about farm animals. Boys can build a miniature greenhouse to start their own vegetables for planting in the family garden or patio pots. Dens could take a field trip to a pumpkin patch and pick their own pumpkin for the pumpkin decorating contest at the pack meeting. Fair activities might include contest booths, a rubber-glove "cow" for milking, and an old-fashioned hayride.

Character Connection: Resourcefulness

NOVEMBER 2007—INDIAN NATIONS

Dens will learn about the American Indian tribe or nation currently living in their part of the country or those that previously lived there. Invite a local tribe to help the pack learn how Native Americans show their respect for Mother Earth and how "we are all related." The boys will learn about native foods and discover how good these foods taste. They will learn about traditional oral history as a way of teaching lessons and history. They can work on their Communicating belt loops and pins, play a native American game, and learn the meaning and history behind the skills required to play the game. Boys can then share their new knowledge at a pack meeting or special event.

Character Connection: Respect

DECEMBER 2007—CELEBRATIONS AROUND THE WORLD

December is marked by days of celebration and observance for many cultures and faiths around the world. Christmas, Chanukah, Ramadan, Rohatsu, Yule, and Kwanzaa can all occur this month. (But note that Ramadan is from mid-September to mid-October this year.) Find out how the celebrations for the same holiday in another country are similar and different than those in the U.S.A. Boys can compare their own family's customs and traditions with others in your community. Invite an adult who came here from another country to come to your pack meeting to tell what and how their family celebrates. Why not start a new tradition of service in your pack as a way to honor the holidays this month? Boys will work on the Heritages belt loop and pin.

Character Connection: Faith

JANUARY 2008—CUB SCOUT CAR SHOW

Cars have fascinated every generation since their invention in 1769. They've been featured in many movies and on television. Boys will discover the different kinds of cars and trucks, such as sports cars, sedans, limousines, taxis, vans, pickups, SUVs, and racecars. They will learn how these vehicles are built, repaired, modified, and sold. The den can visit a car dealership, auto mechanic shop, or auto parts dealer. Boys can build car or truck models or create a model of a showroom or a garage, with miniature die-cast cars. They can participate in a slot car race or pinewood derby race with the den or pack.

Character Connection: Positive Attitude

FEBRUARY 2008—CHINESE NEW YEAR

Happy Chinese New Year! Or more appropriately, Gung Hay Fat Choy! (That's the traditional Chinese New Year greeting.) This month we welcome the year 4705. Let's celebrate and welcome the New Year with dragon dances, paper lanterns, fortune cookies, and oranges for abundant joy. Decorate your blue and gold banquet with banners inscribed with Chinese characters for luck and with lots of red, the symbol of a bright and sunny future. The boys can earn the Language and Culture belt loop and pin.

Character Connection: Cooperation

MARCH 2008—LITTER TO GLITTER

This month Cub Scouts will turn recycled items into treasure and learn about conservation at the same time. Using items that would normally go in the trash or recycling bin, they can build artistic masterpieces of their own design. It's amazing what some recycled bottles and paper can do when combined with glue and a little imagination. Have a gallery opening at your pack meeting with all your art displayed. Don't forget the Art belt loop and pin.

Character Connection: Citizenship

APRIL 2008—ABRACADABRA

Boys discover secrets of the magician's art as they demonstrate magical illusions and learn new tricks with cards, coins and other everyday objects. Visit a magic shop or have a magician come to your den or pack meeting to teach the boys a few tricks of the trade. Prepare to watch in wonder at the pack meeting as your Cub Scouts entertain their audience with skits, stunts, and sparklers that they have practiced at den meetings. The Cubmaster uses the magic of ceremonies to pull awards from his hat at the mystifying pack meeting magic show. This would be a good month to hold your pack space derby.

Character Connections: Courage

MAY 2008—LEAF IT TO CUBS

Cub Scouts can learn to identify poison oak, poison ivy, and various trees by their leaf design. Boys will try leaf rubbing, leaf prints, making a leaf collage, preserving leaves with wax paper, or making a leaf collection from fallen leaves. Activities could include racing leaf boats at a den or pack meeting, a tree planting, or your local Arbor Day activities. A den could adopt a tree or plant one, and research how trees help us in our daily lives. Trips can be to a lumberyard, nature center, forest preserve, or local park. Boys could earn the Collecting belt loop and pin.

Character Connection: Perseverance

JUNE 2008—GO FOR THE GOLD

As the athletes of the world strive to do their personal best in international competition, Cub Scouts have the opportunity to "go for the gold" by doing their best in feats of skill and prowess. This month Cub Scouts learn about exercise and sports and put that knowledge to use playing Ultimate or another sport not played before. They will be reminded that it is important to do your best, but it is also important to be a good sport no matter the outcome of the game. This would be a great time to work on the Cub Scout Sports belt loops and pins in baseball, golf, or flag football.

Character Connection: Honesty

JULY 2008—H₂O hhh!

Cub Scouts learn about water, our most precious resource. Dens can visit a water treatment facility, local aquarium, or fish farm. They'll learn about marine life, and may even want to prepare their own aquarium or fish bowl and "adopt" a gold fish. This is an excellent opportunity to teach our Cub Scouts about water conservation and water safety. Boys can enjoy water games; hunt for shells, and experience all the beach has to offer. Hold a water carnival with games, competitions, and safe swim demonstrations. Boys can work on the Wildlife Conservation, Fishing, or Swimming belt loop and pin. Have a raingutter regatta race.

Character Connection: Responsibility

AUGUST 2008—S'MORE SUMMER FUN

Since "outing" is part of Cub Scouting, get the boys outside to have some fun. Be it having a picnic, water party, softball game, or campout; there is no limit to the amount of fun to be had by all this month. Why not have a pack family campout following the guidelines your leaders learned in BALOO training? What could be better than an outdoor pack meeting complete with a campfire? Whether you make a real or synthetic fire, the fun is 100 percent genuine. This would be a good opportunity for Cub Scouts to work on the Softball belt loop and pin or the Weather belt loop and pin.

Character Connection: Health and Fitness