

Field Trips

Field trips should be a part of every den's program. They are a welcome change from the routine of den meetings. Make sure to have all the details worked out ahead of time. Get permission, if necessary from the place you are going to. Remember that a minimum of two adults must be present on all field trips.

These are the guidelines which should be followed for any field trip:

- File Local Tour Permit Application with your council office 2 weeks prior to any pack trip of less than 500 miles to provide clearance. Webelos dens should file tour permits for Webelos overnight campouts.
- It is recommended that parent consent forms be obtained for trips. The Cubmaster or committee should be informed about any den trips. Den families should be notified of all the information concerning the trip. File the Tour Permit Application for den trips that are out of your town.
- Secure adequate, responsible and safe transportation. Use passenger cars, vans or other vehicles. **NO ONE SHOULD EVER RIDE IN THE BACK OF A PICKUP TRUCK!** Make certain all boys and adults wear their seatbelts at all times. Drivers of vehicles must be licensed, at least 18 years old, and be adequately insured. Ask families to help provide transportation for den and pack trips.
- Cub Scouts and leaders should be in proper uniform.
- Good behavior is important so other Scout groups will be welcomed later.
- Provide plenty of adult supervision. Enlist the help of adult family members. A minimum of 2 adults must be present on any den or pack trip.
- Consider distance -- how much travel time is involved?
- Make arrangements in advance with the place you plan to visit. Be on time.
- Tell the boys in advance the highlights of what they expect to see and do.
- Coach the boys so they are attentive, courteous, and observe all necessary rules.
- Establish the buddy system before starting the trip. Explain that boys remain together at all times.
- Locate restrooms immediately upon arrival.
- Decide on rendezvous points, gathering times, and plans for eating.
- Know where emergency care can be obtained.
- See that each boy has enough money for an emergency phone call.
- Know how many boys are with you, and have a list of them.
- Upon your return, have the boys write your hosts to thank them for a pleasant visit.
- If destination is state or national park, show your tour permit upon arrival and be sure to obtain necessary day passes.

When these field trips are coordinated with the monthly theme or activity badge, they can help bring learning to life by allowing boys to experience firsthand the things they have been learning about.

It would be a nice idea for the pack to compile a local trip list for all the den leaders. As new ideas for trips come up, you can add to the list. This gives everyone an idea of what they can plan and where they can go.

Tour Permits

What is a Tour Permit?

1. The purpose of a Tour Permit is to prove that your activity is a safe, well planned scouting function. National Parks, military institutions and other organizations may require a Tour Permit for entry to the grounds. Another way to prove that you are participating in a legitimate scouting function is to wear your uniform.
2. Tour Permits insure that drivers are 21 years or older, have insurance, drivers license and are approved by the pack committee. All boys must wear seatbelts.
3. A Tour Permit prevents fraudulent claims. Any group involved in an accident could say that they were on a scouting trip and try to file a claim. This has been tried.
4. A Tour Permit keeps Council informed on the traveling groups location in the event that someone must be located in the event of an emergency.
5. A Tour Permit is a safety net for big trips, it justifies beyond a shadow of a doubt that your function is an approved scouting function.

When do you need a Tour Permit?

1. You must have a Tour Permit when you are traveling out of your local area on a trip that is farther than 100 miles one way. If a trip is shorter than 100 miles, you should still plan who will drive and ask if they have the proper auto insurance. Make sure seat belts will be used and that each boy has a signed permission slip.
2. You must have a tour permit for a Webelos overnigher that is not on council property.
3. Submit the Tour Permit at least 2 weeks in advance for a 100-500 mile trip, and at least 30 days in advance for a trip that is farther than 500 miles (which requires a National Tour Permit rather than a local one).
4. Always file a Tour Permit if the activity involves a water activity of either swimming or boating.

Does a Tour Permit have anything to do with insurance?

1. The tour permit is a deterrent for fraudulent claims.
2. All registered leaders are 100% covered by BSA liability insurance on any scouting activity as long as they follow BSA rules. Liability insurance covers being wrongly sued by a parent for negligence. Your individual pack insurance covers personal injuries. Your own personal auto insurance covers your vehicle.
3. A Tour Permit has no bearing on your BSA liability insurance coverage.

Permission Slip For Cub Scout Trip

Date of Trip _____

Where the Scouts are going _____

Time and place of departure _____

Time and place of return _____

Transportation method _____

Uniform requirements _____

Cost (if any) _____

Any special requirements or rules _____

Every driver must have insurance on their vehicle to transport Scouts on trips.

Sign and return the portion below the line

I do hereby give my permission for my son, _____,
to take part in the following Cub Scout field trip.

Where _____

Date and times of trip _____

Parent or guardian signature _____

Date signed _____

Webelos Field Trip Ideas

Aquanaut

- Go swimming at the pool.
- Go to a swim meet or diving exhibition.
- Go to a canoe or sailboat race.
- Visit a boat yard.
- Visit a nearby lake. Learn about water pollutants and how they affect water consumption and recreation.

Artist

- Visit an art museum and/or art galleries
- Arrange to have a local architect explain his business to your den. Have him show how to read a blueprint.
- Visit a school art teacher who can demonstrate various art media.

Athlete

- Attend high school track and field meets, football games, etc.
- Attend a professional sports event.
- Set up and run a physical fitness obstacle course and run it as a race.
- Visit a local gym and talk to a trainer about exercises and programs for young people. (This is a requirement for the Sports Pin)

Citizen

- Visit a community leader. Learn about the duties of the job or office and tell what you have learned.
- Visit a local government agency. Find out how it works and what services it provides.
- Attend a naturalization ceremony.
- Observe the voting process.
- Visit a city council meeting or school board meeting.
- Visit a court. Ask the judge to speak to the boys about citizenship. Acquaint boys with the court procedure.
- Visit police and/or Fire department.
- Tour city hall.

Communicator

- Visit the library - talk to the librarian, learn how books are indexed.
- Visit a radio station - see how it operates.
- Visit a television station.
- Visit a police station or 911 dispatcher - learn how 911 calls are processed and prioritized.
- Visit a school for the deaf and/or blind.
- Visit a newspaper office - see how a newspaper is put together. Watch the printing presses run.
- Visit a telephone company. Find out how they help others communicate.
- Visit and tour a post office and see how communication by mail is processed and delivered.
- Visit a retail or production facility for cellular phones.

Craftsman

- Visit a furniture factory, lumber mill or lumberyard.
- Some local home centers offer special weekend classes for Webelos age children.
- Visit a construction site or find out about helping with a Habitat for Humanity project.
- Visit a tannery or leather goods manufacturer.

Engineer

- Visit a construction job. Look at plans used to build the facility or product. (This is a requirement for this pin.)
- Visit a civil engineer or surveyor to learn how to measure the length of a property line. Explain how property lines are determined. (This is a requirement for this pin.)
- Visit a college engineering department.
- Visit the county water works, TV or radio station.
- Take a field trip to an operating draw bridge, ship loading operation or other large industrial operation involving large cranes or other lifting equipment.

Family Member

- Tour a fast food restaurant or small restaurant.
- Have someone from OSHA or plant safety committee give a talk after touring a manufacturing facility.
- Tour an energy conservation home (underground or energy efficient).
- Tour the local water company and ask for ways to conserve water.
- Visit a dump or trash collection company.
- Visit the local Laundromat. Each Webelos is to bring a load of wash, soap, and change for the washer and dryer. Better bring a mom along, too.
- Plan a family-friendly outing for the den. Invite the families!
- Visit a bank or savings and loan.
- Visit a police station and have the police officers speak about home safety.

Fitness

- Take a field trip to a fitness or recreation center.
- Visit with a dietitian and talk about the four food groups and planning meals.
- Visit a dentist's office and talk about dental health.
- Visit a doctor's office and talk about tobacco abuse.
- Visit a pharmacy and talk about use and abuse of drugs and safe handling of medicine.

Forester

- Visit a lumber yard or saw mill. A lumber dealer can help the boys by furnishing wood samples for their collections.
- Visit Morton Arboretum.
- Visit a local nursery or tree farm, or an orchard in production.
- Contact a local tree service and ask if you can watch their crew in action. Watch a tree felling or brush clipping operation. Find out about the safety features used.
- Visit a forest.

Geologist

- Visit a geology exhibit, department, museum or collection.
- Tour a quarry, mine or gravel pit. Look for fossils. (Do NOT go alone to any of these places. Get permission from the owner. Be sure to follow safety precautions.)
- Visit an industry that uses geological materials.
- Visit and watch the seismograph for earthquake activities.
- Visit a jeweler's shop.
- Visit a cave. (Red Oaks Nature Center has a small one; the only one in the area?)

Handyman

- Visit a local bicycle shop and talk with the mechanic.
- Visit a car wash facility.
- Visit a gas station, garage or tire repair shop.
- Go to a hardware store or garden nursery. See what hardware can be used to make a storage area for hand, lawn and garden tools.
- At a hardware store, visit the repair shop, and acquaint the Scouts with a few specific and varied sections in the store, like electrical supplies and hand tools.
- Arrange a presentation at a well-equipped home workshop.
- Tour a hardware store or garden store. Look for ideas on how to set up a storage area for garden tools and hand tools.
- Visit a paint store and watch how colors are mixed. Look at the variety of brushes and the types of paint. Pick out a new color for your house and the trim.

Naturalist

- Visit a museum of natural history, nature center, or zoo.
- Take a nature hike.
- Tour a botanical garden or an arboretum.
- Visit a zoo with your den families. Arrange a private session with one of the zoo docents.
- Visit wetlands, such as the Blackwell Forest Preserve in DuPage County.

Outdoorsman

- Take hikes at different times of the year and have boys notice the differences in their surroundings.
- Visit REI or similar store. Look at demonstration of camping equipment and handy gadgets that make camping easier. Look at outdoor clothing and hiking boots, too.

Readyman

- Tour a hotel, restaurant, high-rise apartment building, hospital, church or other public place to review the safety procedures and precautions used there. Do they have rules posted? Have fire drills? Have First Aid Kit?
- Visit a fire station.
- Visit a Red Cross center.
- Visit a trauma center.

Scholar

- Tour a local high school or visit a local college campus.
- Plan a trip to the library to have the librarian demonstrate the use of a microfilm or microfiche viewer.
- Briefly visit a school board meeting. Let them know you are coming. They may be interested to know the boys are working on the Scholar Activities Badge.

Scientist

- Visit an eye specialist and learn how the eyes converge and find out what the various eye tests measure.
- Arrange to have the boys visit a school science lab to see those tools.
- Visit an industrial lab.
- Visit the Museum of Science and Industry.
- Visit Argonne or Fermilabs.
- Visit a planetarium.
- Visit a TV news weather station.
- Visit a high school or college science lab.
- Go to a community science fair.

Showman

- Attend a play.
- Attend a folk music festival. Learn to sing a folk song. Learn about the history of the song.
- Attend a local school band concert.

Sportsman

- Go roller skating or ice skating.
- Go bowling.
- Visit an archery range and receive instructions on safety and procedures.
- Invite a referee or umpire to talk with the den about signals, teamwork, fair play and sportsmanship.
- Have a den outing to a sports event.

Traveler

- Visit a travel office.
- Plan a trip to downtown and take the train. As a den, plan your itinerary.
- As a den visit the control tower of an airport.
- Take a trip to a park or hiking area.
- Visit a transportation-themed museum.
- Visit a tourist bureau.