



## MOUNTAIN LION

### RATIONALE FOR ADVENTURE

Lions live in the outdoors. It is important for the Lion Scout to understand how to take care of himself when in the outdoors and how to be respectful of animals and nature. He should learn the idea that he should take only pictures and leave only footprints.



### TAKEAWAYS

- Understanding the use of the buddy system on outings
- Learning what to do if he becomes separated from the group
- Identifying the six items to take with him when he is going outdoors for an activity
- Demonstrating how to be respectful of the natural environment

### CONNECTIONS WITH DESIRED OUTCOMES

- Character development
- Participatory citizenship
- Personal fitness
- Outdoor skills and awareness
- Leadership

### REQUIREMENTS

1. Gather the outdoor items you need to have with you when you go on an outdoor adventure, and understand how they are used. Also understand and commit to practicing the buddy system.
2. Learn what SAW (Stay, Answer, Whistle) means. Demonstrate what you can do to stay safe if you become separated from the group when you are outdoors.
3. Demonstrate an understanding of respect for animals and nature when participating in a learning hike.

## MEETING 1 PLAN

### PREPARATION AND MATERIALS NEEDED

- This meeting can be presented in an outdoor setting, if desired (public park, etc.).
- Gather items for the Pick and Choose game (Cub Scout Six Essentials: first-aid kit, flashlight, filled water bottle, trail food, sun protection, whistle; plus several other miscellaneous items that do not belong in the kit, such as a flying disc, small hand tools, toy, bandanna, etc.
- Whistle (for practicing the SAW principle) for each Lion

### GATHERING

- Play a game of Lion, May I? (This game is the same as Mother, May I?, with the words changed.)



## OPENING

- Select a Lion to light the Good Conduct Candle.
- Conduct a simple flag ceremony, and recite the Scout Oath together as a group.
- Sing “Happy Lions.” (See Meeting 1 Resources.)

## TALK TIME

- Carry out business items for the den.
  - Dues
  - Notification/reminder for the upcoming outing
  - Meeting information: Orient Scouts as to what to expect at this meeting.
- Present the buddy system by explaining that Scouts of any age should never go anywhere without their buddies. We always use the buddy system when we are on any kind of outing. This is to help keep us safe. You watch out and help your buddy and he does the same for you. You should always be close by your buddy. Also point out that more than two buddies can be in a group if the numbers are uneven.
- Allow time for sharing among Lion Scouts.

## ACTIVITIES

### Activity 1: Pick and Choose Game

Play the Pick and Choose game. See the Meeting 1 Resources for materials and instructions.

### Activity 2: SAW

In the event a Lion Scout is separated from the group during an outing, he needs to know how to keep himself safe. Help Lions learn “SAW,” and have them practice so they commit it to memory.

**S = STAY** put! If you move around, you make it harder for people to find you.

**A =** If you hear your name being called, **ANSWER!**

**W =** Blow your **WHISTLE**. If you try to use your voice to call for help, you will become hoarse and no one will be able to hear you. But they can hear your whistle. Blow every so often.

Once you have explained SAW, ask an adult partner to demonstrate the three SAW principles while the Lion Scouts watch. Then have all of the Lion Scouts practice SAW. If you are in an outdoor environment, you can have them hide behind trees, etc. Be aware that an emergency whistle is very loud and should never be blown near another person or at full volume when practicing.

### Activity Wrap-up

- Have Lions complete the task on the Mountain Lion page of the *Lion Adventure Book*.

## CLOSING

- As a group, recite the Scout Law. Read aloud the Boy Scout Outdoor Code. Explain that all Scouts know the Outdoor Code and agree to follow it. This will make sure we take good care of nature.



As an American, I will do my best to  
Be clean in my outdoor manners,  
Be careful with fire,  
Be considerate in the outdoors, and  
Be conservation minded.

#### **AFTER THE MEETING**

- Ensure cleanup takes place.
- Have Lions wash hands and serve refreshments, if desired. Have a Lion offer thanks before having the snack.
- Remind the Lion Scouts to bring their Six Essentials to the outing.

#### **MEETING 1 RESOURCES**

- **Gathering Activity Song**

"Happy Lions" (Sung to the tune of "Frère Jacques" or "Are You Sleeping?")

Happy Lions, Happy Lions

Yes we are, yes we are

Hiking out in nature

Leaving only paw prints

We'll go far, we'll go far.

Actions for the song:

"Happy Lions": Give a big grin.

"Yes we are": Two thumbs up.

"Hiking out in nature": March in place.

"Leaving only paw prints": Hold both hands up in front, palms out.

"We'll go far": Hold a hand over eyebrows, searching.

- **Activity 1: Pick and Choose Game**

The object of the game is for the boys as a group to discuss and consider which six items are important for them to have when they go on an outdoor adventure.

The recommended Cub Scout Six Essentials are:

- o First-aid kit (This can be a small personal kit.)
- o Flashlight (Always check batteries before leaving.)
- o Filled water bottle
- o Trail food (Always check for allergies.)
- o Sun protection
- o Whistle

Place the Six Essentials as well as several other items on a table. Have the Lion Scouts come to the table as a group and together pick out the six items they think they should take with them on an outdoor activity. If they make an incorrect choice, help guide them toward making the correct choice.



Once they have chosen the six correct items, tell them they will need to assemble their own Six Essentials kit to bring to the outing the next time they meet.

Miscellaneous items that may be added to the table with the Cub Scout Six Essentials could include a flying disc, small hand tools, toys, a bandanna, etc. These items will encourage the Lions to think through their choices.

- **Activity 2. SAW**

Each Lion Scout will need a whistle to practice the SAW principle.

## MEETING 2 PLAN (DEN OUTING)

### PREPARATION AND MATERIALS NEEDED

- Each Lion Scout will need to make and bring their own Six Essentials kit for the short hike.
- If the group is visiting a nature center or other locality that offers a nature or game biologist, you can make arrangements for that person to do a 5- to 10-minute presentation. He or she could focus on how we can be respectful of animals and their homes when we visit the outdoors. Remind Scouts that they don't like people messing up their rooms at home, and animals deserve the same care.

### TRANSPORTATION TO OUTING

- Submit a tour and activity plan if required by the local council.
- Establish details for travel to the destination, and make certain the information is communicated to all adult partners.

### ACTIVITIES

#### Activity 1: Learning Hike

Take a short learning hike. The distance should be consistent with the age and physical ability of the group; the adult partners can work together to make this determination. The hike can be in a rural location, a local city or state park, a nature center, a zoo, etc.

Before leaving on the hike, share the "S" rules with the group:

- Sticks stay on the ground.
- Stones stay with the sticks.
- Stay on the path.
- Stay with your buddy.

A learning hike is a themed hike that encourages the boys to look for certain things.

Examples are:

- How many animals or animal homes can you find?
- How many items can you locate that would fit on a penny?
- How many colors did you see?



If desired, you may stop for a rest break during the hike, and play Pick Your Spot. Each child and adult pair picks a spot to stand in. Face away from others and discover something in nature that demonstrates our five senses—something we hear, something we smell, something we can touch, something we see, something we could taste. Be sure to emphasize that Lions will need to imagine the taste as if they were animals; they should never actually taste things they find on a hike because those things could be dangerous. Can the Lions find something for all five items? You can share as you discover or share just before you restart the hike.

At the end of the hike, guide the group in a discussion about respect for our animal friends and their homes. Help them discover what it means to have a low impact on the areas we visit—we don't litter, we don't cut or pick flowers, we don't pick up rocks and move them, we leave things as we see them without disturbing them, etc. Depending on where you decide to hike, this discussion could be led by someone who represents the area or place you are visiting.

#### **AFTER THE OUTING**

- Present a thank you note to someone at the area you visited, if appropriate.
- Present Lions with a sticker to designate the completion of the Mountain Lion adventure.
- Have Lions put the sticker in their adventure book.
- Remind Lions and parents of next meeting time and location.
- Confirm plans for the next meeting with the host family and provide support as needed.

#### **TRANSPORTATION HOME**

- Each family is responsible for transportation home. Follow the details established during the planning phase.