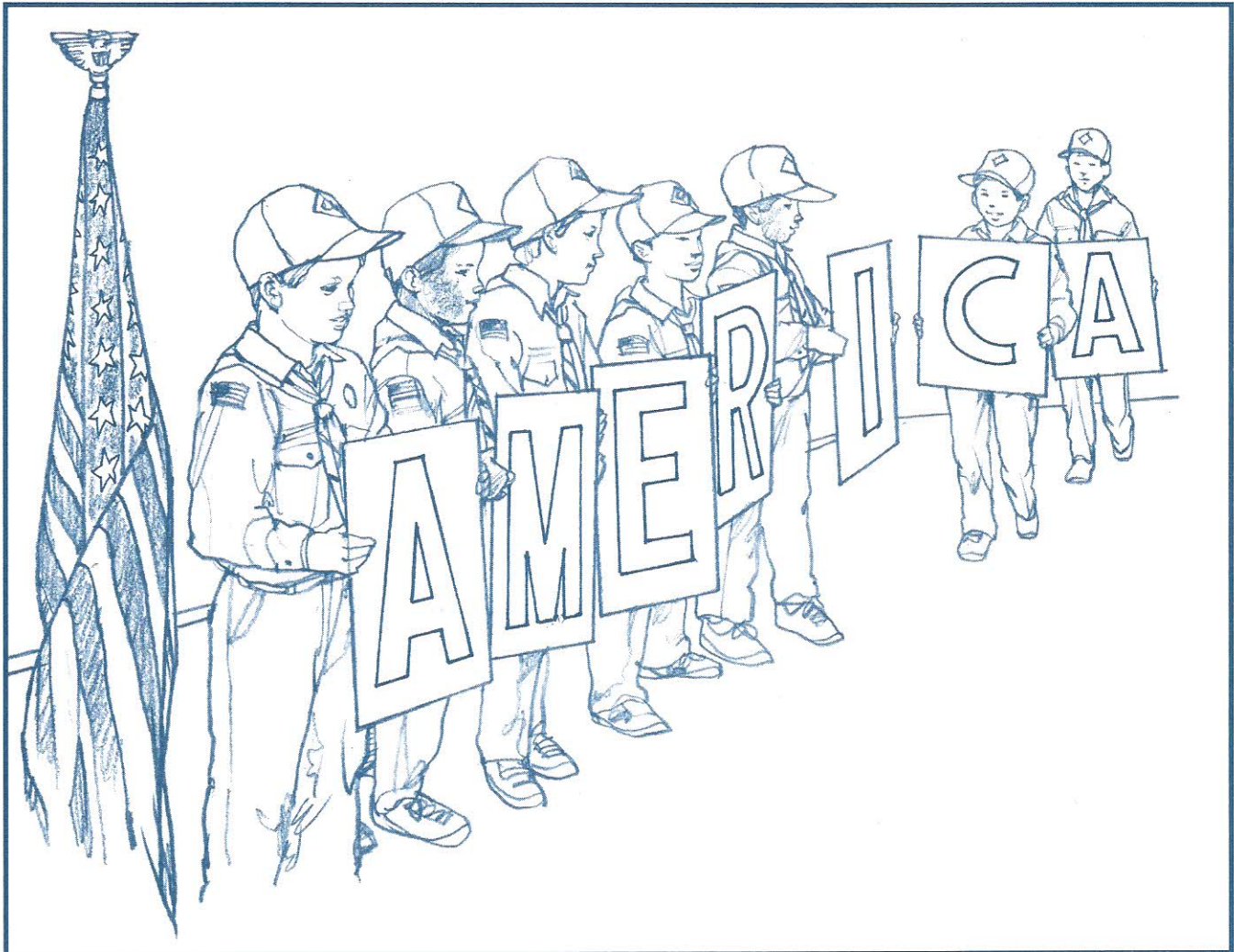


CHAPTER 5

Pack Meeting Opening Ceremonies



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Ceremonies

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Why Are Opening Ceremonies Important?

The opening ceremony at your pack meeting will set the stage for everything that follows. It can reinforce the purposes of Cub Scouting for both boys and adults. We have the opportunity to help make the Cub Scout ideals meaningful through the words and pictures of our ceremonies.

You can also use the opening ceremony to develop the Core Value being highlighted that month. You will find ideas for Core Values–related ceremonies in the *Den & Pack Meeting Resource Guide* and at Cub Scout roundtables.

Be aware of physical and/or mental disability challenges in your pack. Be sensitive to the fact that all boys and adults may not be able to, or even want to, read lines out loud. Adapt ceremonies in a sensitive way to involve everyone at the level they will feel comfortably involved.

A-M-E-R-I-C-A

Preparation: Make seven cards with one letter on each: A, M, E, R, I, C, and A.

CUB SCOUT 1: A is for all people in our land.

CUB SCOUT 2: M is for the many that lent a hand.

CUB SCOUT 3: E is for equality of race, color, and creed.

CUB SCOUT 4: R is respect for all people's needs.

CUB SCOUT 5: I is for ideas—new ways to know our neighbor.

CUB SCOUT 6: C is for caring and sharing in labor.

CUB SCOUT 7: A is the allegiance we feel for our land.

CUB SCOUT 8: Stand now and pledge with heart and hand.

America—The Song

Preparation: Preparing for this ceremony helps boys earn Wolf Elective 11a. The pack can sing both verses of “America” for the opening, or they can sing the first verse for the opening and the second verse for the closing.

CUB SCOUT 1: What makes our country so special?

CUB SCOUT 2: America is special because it is a land of liberty. Liberty means freedom.

CUB SCOUT 3: We can choose how we do our duty to God. We can say what we think in public. We have free education for all.

CUB SCOUT 4: We can choose our own jobs. And we have civil rights, like voting and trial by jury.

CUB SCOUT 5: A special song was written to celebrate the freedoms we have. In 1831, Samuel Smith wrote the words to “America” for a children’s Independence Day program in Boston.

CUB SCOUT 6: The first verse of the song tells of the love we have for our country because of the freedom we enjoy.

CUB SCOUT 7: The last verse is a prayer asking God to protect our free country.

CUB SCOUT 8: Stand and join us in singing “America.”

Building a Flag

Preparation: Conceal a U.S. flag inside a large bowl or pot. The Cub Scouts will use a long spoon to stir the pot as they add pieces of red paper, blue paper, white paper, white stars, a needle, and some thread.

NARRATOR: Today, we have a special treat, and we’re going to follow this recipe, the greatest in the land.

