

What to do for 3 weeks at home with your Scout?

In the hustle and bustle of the modern world, it's hard sometimes to find quality time to spend with your Scout. With 3 weeks of school closure a new reality, parents have a special opportunity to engage with fun at-home activities with their scout, and maybe even earn some extra special scouting awards! Being creative and thrifty, there is practically no limit to the fun you can have (as long as it doesn't require extra toilet paper!)

Beyond the "Duty to God" adventures, which we always encourage families to do with their scout in whatever manner fits their need, there are many other adventures and extra awards that are perfect to do within your family setting! Almost any of the elective adventures can be done on your own, but here is a list of ideas for each rank that would be perfect to keep your Scout (maybe even you) from going stir-crazy:

TIGER

Tiger Bites (help with meal planning and preparations, while practicing good hygiene and cleanliness)

Tigers in the Wild (take a nice nature hike and get some fresh air!)

Curiosity, Intrigue and Magical Mysteries (Learn secret codes, do a science demonstration, and practice some magic tricks to put on a show for your family!)

Family Stories (Learn about your family history: do some research online instead of the library, and interview a family elder by phone instead of in person)

Sky is the Limit (When the clouds break, take a look at the stars, learn about constellations and jobs in astronomy! Share with your family or with your Den later in the school year)

Stories in Shapes (Learn about famous art online (especially abstract geometrical art), make an art piece, solve some tangram puzzles)

Tiger-iffic! (Play games at home! Suggestions include "indoor bowling", "seven up", board games, problem solving games (use your family instead of your den), and making their own game!)

Tiger Tales (Read and create tale tales, create a piece of art from a tall tale, play some old-timey games like hopscotch or jacks, learn two folk songs, visit the historic railcars at Old Poway Park)

WOLVES

Adventures in Coins (Learn about coins, make a coin rubbing, and play a game where you add and subtract some type of money (just about any boardgame, e.g. Life, Monopoly, etc.))

Air of the Wolf (Make paper airplanes, and learn about how air conducts sound)

Code of the Wolf (Play games using math, learn about shapes in nature, practice sending and receiving secret codes)

Digging in the Past (Learn about dinosaurs, make a fossil cast or dinosaur dig, and an edible "fossil layers" snack)

Finding Your Way (Learn about maps and compasses, go on a scavenger hunt, and get some fresh air on a walk with your family)

Germes Alive (Very topical! We covered much of this at the last Pack show. Finish it up by growing a mold culture, having a room cleaning duty chart for at least a week, and practice lots of hand washing to the happy birthday song)

Grow Something (Plant and grow some plants, and chart their progress over 30 days)

BEAR

A Bear Goes Fishing (Learn about fishing equipment and practice casting (no hook). Take your scout to Lake Poway, rent some gear and go fishing for an hour!)

Beat of the Drum (Learn about the history and culture of American Indians that lived in our area. Create a legend by building a diorama or writing a story. Make a drum or dream catcher. Create a ceremonial dance (maybe one to make COVID-19 go away?)).

Forensics (Make and study fingerprints, learn about how forensics are used to solve crimes, study differences between different substances, and learn about jobs in forensic science)

Make it Move (Make an “exploding” crat stick reaction, make pulleys and levers, and design a Rube Goldberg machine. Think of the cool stuff your scout could do by combining legos, marbles and other building toys!)

Marble Madness (Learn about the history of marbles online. Learn 3 marble games and pay one of them. Learn the lingo of marble games, share it with your family (instead of Den). Make a really cool marble game, like a marble racetrack or marble maze game.)

Robotics (Learn online about 6 tasks that robots do, and make a presentation about something robots can do instead of a human. Build a “robot hand” or other type of robot from a kit.)

Super Science (Make static electricity with balloons, and another experiment. Do 2 of 3 “kitchen chemistry” investigations (sink-or-float, color morphing, color-layering)).

World of Sound (Make 3 different simple instruments)

WEBELOS

Adventures in Science (Grow plants with and without fertilizer, and with one other independent variable. Read a biography of a scientist. Do some kitchen chemistry (eg. Vinegar and baking soda) and investigate what happens when you vary the amount of the ingredients.

Build It (Plan and build a carpentry project)

Earth Rocks! (Learn about geology, go on a rock hunt, identify different rocks, and make a mineral test kit)

Engineer (Learn about one type of engineer online. Build a project from a set of blueprints. Learn how other fields of engineering have shaped our past, present and future)

Fix It (Have some repairs to do around the house while you are stuck at home? Have your Webelos scout help you out! Make a repair kit, learn about your electrical panel, and how to shut off the water. Describe how to safely handle clogged sinks and toilets, and tripped circuit breakers. Help with 8 different projects around the house.)

Game Design (Design and Build a Game, and play it with your family)

Into the Wild (Learn about Ecology, food webs and aquatic ecosystems. Setup an aquarium or terrarium. Watch for birds in your backyard. Make a video of a wild creature doing something interesting.)

Into the Woods (Learn about plants and trees. Visit a nursery, and plant something in a pot or in your yard. List things made of useful things wood. Explain about growth rings and different types of bark.)

Looking Back, Looking Forward (Learn about the history of Scouting online. Make a timeline representing how something (e.g. computers, airplanes, phones, etc.) has changed between 100 years ago, 50 years ago, 20 years ago, 5 years ago, at present, and how it might change in the future. Make a time capsule.)

Maestro! (Make a musical instrument and play it. Play two tunes on any band or orchestra instrument (5th grade band, anyone?). Learn the words and melody of a song. Write a song with lyrics about something important to you.

Moviemaking (Make a storyboard about an imaginary scouting adventure. Make an animated or live action movie about how you live by the Scout Law. Share it safely (e.g. e-mail or closed website) with other members of your family or den)

Project Family (Talk with members of your family about your name, traditions, history and culture. Interview (by phone!) a grandparent or other family elder about what life was like when they were growing up. Choose 3 jobs to do to help your family out for at least 2 weeks. Inspect your home for any safety hazards and fix one of them. Have a family event to celebrate 3 weeks of togetherness!)