

The Unofficial  
GO-SEE-IT  
Guide for Den Leaders  
Of Central Oklahoma  
  
(especially Pack 777)

Throughout Cub Scouting, boys have the opportunity to visit places they may otherwise not have the opportunity to see. In the Tiger den, these are called "Go-See-Its," and although older dens may call them simply field trips, the "Go-See-It" moniker is uniquely Scout language, so this resource maintains that name.

As boys explore their communities, they learn. They learn by seeing and by doing, by getting outside their home setting. They learn by talking with experts in many fields. They learn how things work behind the scenes. They learn about the effect they have on their world.

The Cub Scouting program provides these opportunities to boys who may otherwise not have the chance to see some of these places, and den leaders organize these outings. In the Tiger year, it is presumed that the den will take one outing per month. In all honesty, this should probably persist throughout the Cub program, even through Webelos. At each age, boys learn something new. It can even be worthwhile to return to the same location as Bears or Webelos that was previously visited as Tigers or Wolves, simply because as the boys grow, so does their ability to perceive.

By the time the boys are Webelos Scouts, some at least may be considering possible career choices, so Go-See-Its become opportunities to explore different types of jobs and to make connections between what they learn at school and the kind of work they may someday do.

This resource is not intended to be exhaustive. It grew out of the understanding that the den leader simply cannot "teach" all the lessons of Cub Scouting alone, and should utilize community resources to help, and at the same time, the knowledge that the den leader is not aware of all the resources available to him or her. This guide is focused on Go-See-It destinations available to Pack 777 of Norman, Oklahoma, and should be useful to other packs in the Central Oklahoma area.

As the original compiler of this list of resources, it is my hope that it is helpful as it currently exists, but moreover that den leaders will edit it as needed, removing what becomes outdated or useless, and adding to it as more possibilities are found. All den leaders should also realize the resource they have in each other. Use your fellow den leaders and other adults in your pack for ideas. A parent of a den boy may be able to offer a tour of his or her workplace, for instance, or may have a friend who works in a particularly fascinating capacity who would be willing to meet with the boys. Guest speakers can also offer so much to the boys.

The following list is organized by category for ease of use regardless of how the Cub program may change in the years ahead.

# Nature

## George M. Sutton Wilderness Park

1920 12<sup>th</sup> Ave NE, between Robinson and Rock Creek in Norman. The Sutton Wilderness Trail offers an easy nature walk (approx 1.5 miles on the outer loop) around a lake. In addition to a short hike, this location offers nature observation (especially birds, but also insects, turtles, and at dusk, rabbits) as well as fishing opportunities. This is also a great location to do a litter pick-up outing.

## Cherry Creek Park

530 W Stonewell Dr. This small park on the SW side of Norman actually hides a treasure trove in the path behind it that winds all the way down to the Canadian River. On various hikes down this trail, many identifiable animal tracks, some enormous anthills, and even a tree full of migrating Monarch butterflies provided wonderful nature observation opportunities. The landscape and soil change dramatically on the way to the river. This is also a good location for a litter collection outing.

## Lake Thunderbird

Ten miles east of Norman on Highway 9. This state park offers both a variety of hiking trails (meaning that more than one trip can be made, and a new trail explored each time) and the Discovery Cove Nature Center. Currently, the best online map of the trails is available through the Bicycle League of Norman: <http://bicycleleague.com/clearbay/ClearBayTrailMap2010.pdf>  
Discovery Cove Nature Center: contact Kathy Furneaux at 405-321-4633 to arrange a group visit. She can also advise regarding possible conservation projects.

## Martin Nature Park

5000 W Memorial Rd, Oklahoma City. This 140 acre park is surprising mostly because of its location which is not far from busy city life, but offers three hiking trails and a nature center as well. Admission is free, but groups should book in advance: 405-755-0676.

## Oklahoma Forestry Services

830 NE 12<sup>th</sup> Ave, Goldsby OK. Contact Ray Samford 405-288-2386 or [Ray.Samford@ag.ok.gov](mailto:Ray.Samford@ag.ok.gov) for informational visits about local forestry.

## Demonstration Garden

The Cleveland County Master Gardeners Association offers this fabulous local resource on the west side of the parking lot to the Cleveland County Fairgrounds. Just 1/3 acre in size, the garden is divided into different growing plots, compost heap, worm farm, etc. Call for tour: 405-321-4774. Good with kids.

# History and Heritage

## Moore-Lindsay Historical House Museum

508 N Peters, Norman. Exhibits include furniture, clothing and household goods used in Norman's past. 405-321-0156.

## Legacy Trail

Along the railroad tracks, this trail that outlines much of Norman's history extends both north and south, with statues from Norman's own foundry, the Crucible, lining the path from Duffy to Gray. A great outing for active boys.

Santa Fe Train Depot (along the Legacy Trail): 200 S Jones, Norman. Built 1909.

## Bizzell Memorial Library

Built in 1929, the Gothic architecture of this building is in itself impressive. Inside are other items of historical significance, including the History of Science collection and the Bizzell Bible collection (some of which pre-date 1500, and thus the printing press). Call for group tours: 405-325-2741.

## Harn Homestead

1721 N Lincoln Blvd, OKC. Dates to the Land Run, home from 1904. Regular and group tours available. 405-235-4058.

## Chickasaw Cultural Center

867 Cooper Memorial Dr, Sulphur OK. This center would be an excellent stop in addition to exploring the Chickasaw National Recreation Area, which has numerous hiking trails to explore. 580-622-7130.

## Citizen Potawatomi Nation Cultural Heritage Center

1899 S Gordon Cooper Dr in Shawnee. Offers cultural exhibits relating to the Potawatomi tribe as well as tours by appointment: 405-878-5830.

## Medieval Fair

Yearly event at Reaves Park, Norman. Opportunities to view blacksmiths working, learn about medieval weaponry, and falconry.

# Community

## City of Norman

Cub Scout groups are welcome to visit City Council meetings on certain Tuesday evenings, and can lead the pledge before the start of the meeting. The boys may have the opportunity to meet with the mayor or other officials, and can stay to watch some of the council meeting (they can get quite long, so staying the entire meeting may not be feasible). Contact Carol Coles, 405-366-5404.

## Norman Police Department

Tours can be made of the main police department. 405-321-1600

## Norman Fire Department

There are several stations around town which would be happy to offer an age-appropriate tour. Contact individually.

## Norman Water Treatment Plant

3000 E Robinson, Norman. Located close to town, a trip to the water treatment plant is informative and fun. Geri Wellborn was our tour guide when we went to learn about how lake water becomes our drinking water. 405-321-2182.

## Norman Transcript

215 E Comanche St, Norman. Offers tours of their facility. 405-321-1800.

## KGOU

Oklahoma public radio station housed on the OU campus in Copeland Hall Rm 300. Contact Karen Holp to arrange a tour: 405-325-3388.

## OU Student Press and OU/TV

This includes the Oklahoma Daily Newspaper as well as the evening TV show provided by and for students. Tours can be arranged to learn how they receive their news and how they share it, and perhaps play around in front of a green screen. Contact 405-325-2521

## Norman Public Library

225 N Webster Ave, Norman. A "behind the scenes" tour can be arranged, to see how books are collected, sorted and shelved, as well as how books are organized. 405-701-2600.

## State Capitol Building

Self-guided as well as guided tours welcome. For group tours, contact 405-521-3356.

# STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics)

## Sam Noble Museum of Natural History

2401 Chautauqua Ave, Norman. In addition to the usual exhibits on dinosaurs, native peoples, and the natural habitat of Oklahoma, the Sam Noble Museum offers group tours as well as programs specific to Cub Scouting, including learning about wildlife conservation, forestry, science, and naturalist activities. 405-325-4712.

## National Weather Center

120 David L. Boren Blvd, Norman. The first Saturday of November is a weather festival that includes Cub Scout activities. The center also offers age-appropriate group tours. Call 405-325-3095 for more information.

## University of Oklahoma Engineering Practice Facility

This location offers an amazing opportunity to see what projects the world's up-and-coming engineers are working on. Contact Jackie Foos at [jfoos@ou.edu](mailto:jfoos@ou.edu) or 405-325-3445 to arrange a tour.

## Museum of Osteology

10301 S Sunnyslane Rd, OKC. The only museum of its kind in the country, this is a unique resource close to home. Simply visiting and using their "scavenger hunt" worksheet is a neat way to explore this museum. They also offer Cub Scout specific activities relating to science. Call for group visits or current information on scout programs: 405-814-0006

## Science Museum Oklahoma

2100 NE 52<sup>nd</sup> St, OKC. This place is just a blast, but especially so during their Cub Scout Bright Night experiences, when the boys not only have free run of the museum after hours, but can also meet a variety of program requirements. The planetarium gives daily shows on the night sky. Call 405-602-3760 for information on groups and/or Bright Nights

# Art and Creativity

## Fred Jones Jr. Museum of Art

555 Elm Ave, Norman, on the OU campus. Free to public. Collections include Native American, European, and Asian art, and ranges from painting to pottery to sculpture of many eras. 405-325-3450.

## Crucible Foundry

110 E Tonhawa, Norman. The sculptures on the lawn (and on Legacy Trail) can be viewed at any time. Some of the molds used are often visible just outside their workshop. Call to see whether you can arrange a tour of the foundry itself; our den got lucky and got that behind-the-scenes view that few get. 405-579-2700.

## Art Galleries around Norman (and elsewhere)

Don't forget this resource for when your den needs to visit a museum or gallery. Galleries are free to tour during business hours, and occasionally artists open their studios for visits as well.

## Oklahoma City Museum of Art

415 Couch Dr, OKC. This museum has one of the most amazing presentations of Dale Chihuly's glasswork, plus other permanent and temporary exhibits. 405-236-3100

## National Cowboy and Western Heritage Museum

1700 NE 63<sup>rd</sup> St, OKC. Includes both artwork as well as experiential learning opportunities. Groups welcome for discounted rate (min 15 in tour) with reservation. Call 405-478-2250 ext 250.

## Need to See a Dramatic, Live Music or Dance Performance?

Try the high schools, not just in Norman but also surrounding communities, as these are quite inexpensive.

Check out the colleges, from OU to OCCC, OCU to Rose State

Don't forget our local opportunities: Sooner Theater, Norman Music Festival, Cimarron Opera Company, etc.

## Norman Public Schools Art Exhibit

Each year in the spring, an art installation is placed in the foyer to the performing arts center at Norman North High School, including works from the youngest children up through district faculty. Free.

# Sports and Health

## Tobacco-Free Cleveland County Coalition

For a special tobacco use prevention presentation, contact Travis Humphrey 405-833-6784. Alternatively contact Charlene Shreder with the Southwest Prevention Center 405-325-4282 or [cshreder@ou.edu](mailto:cshreder@ou.edu).

## Buchanan Bikes

This little shop on Campus Corner (561 Buchanan Ave, Norman) is a wonderful place to take boys to learn about how bicycles work, how they are fixed, etc. The contact person is Tobin, 405-364-5513.

## Sports to Go View

High School sports: track and field, baseball, softball, basketball, soccer, football, wrestling, swimming, etc. At the high school level, cost is minimal.

College: OU baseball, softball, soccer wrestling, gymnastics and women's basketball tickets can be gotten at low prices.

In general, keep your eyes open for low-cost or free sports experiences. Even seeing a high school JV team can be exciting to a little boy.