

SHAPING YOUR FAMILY IDENTITY

Activity Requirements—Two of the 10 activities required for the Fun for the Family Award must be chosen from “Shaping Your Family Identity.”

Extra activities may be completed to earn additional pins.



	Name of Activity	Type of Activity	Core Value
A.	Bookworm	Reading books	Cooperation
B.	Celebrate the Date	Theme of the month activity	Citizenship
C.	Family Ancestors	Storytelling	Courage, Faith, or Perseverance
D.	Family Faith	Practicing faith in God	Faith
E.	Family Motto	Making a poster	Honesty
F.	Family Reunion	Family reunion interview	Courage
G.	Family Roots	Making family history tree	Respect
H.	Family Values	Family council and activity	Health and Fitness
I.	Heritage Party	Party	Resourcefulness
J.	Holiday Tradition	Holiday tradition activity	Cooperation
K.	House Upon a Rock	Making sand sculptures	Positive Attitude
L.	Kindness Counts	Role-playing	Compassion
M.	Lights On	Discussion	Faith
N.	Milestone Celebration	Party	Courage
O.	Name Book	Making a family book	Respect
P.	Picture Perfect	Drawing pictures	Responsibility
Q.	Treasure Hunt	Treasure hunt	Perseverance

- A. **Bookworm:** Choose a book and read it together as a family. Parents or older siblings could also read a book to the younger ones. Discuss the characters and the lessons learned. Make a poster to describe and highlight parts of the book.



Cooperation: Before reading the book together, determine how each person will cooperate to ensure that everyone can be part of this activity. What makes cooperation difficult in this activity? Why is it important to be cooperative when doing family activities? What upcoming activity will require cooperation?

- B. **Celebrate the Date:** Many calendars have special days of the month that can be celebrated. February is Children’s Dental Month, March is National Nutrition Month, April has National Library Week, May is American Bike Month, July is National Ice Cream Month, and August has National Friendship Day. Families could choose a special day each month or choose one theme during one month to celebrate or plan special activities related to that idea.



Citizenship: Discuss how being a good citizen can help others. In planning this activity, talk about how you can provide service or show special recognition to others in your community. What are other ways your family can show good citizenship?

- C. **Family Ancestors:** Find a family member that can tell a story about one of your ancestors. If they live far away have them send you the story and have someone read the story to the family. List a value that the ancestor practiced such as courage, faith, or perseverance.



Courage, Faith, or Perseverance: After the family learns about the ancestor, discuss the value that was identified. How did the ancestor practice this value? Was it difficult? Why? Why is this value important to you? How can you practice this same value? (Family members may choose any value that is pertinent to the ancestor.)

- D. **Family Faith:** Discuss as a family the meaning of “faith in God.” Talk about ways your family can show greater faith. Decide what your family will do together to act with greater faith, such as having personal and family prayer, living family values in the face of negative peer pressure, attending church together, reading scriptures, and showing service.



Faith: After your discussion, practice what your family has chosen to do to strengthen your faith. In what ways does this activity strengthen your beliefs? How does faith strengthen your family?

- E. **Family Motto:** Have the family talk about the traits that make a “good family.” Which of these traits make your family a good family? How could it be better? The Cub Scout motto is “Do Your Best.” Does that motto apply to your family? Decide on a motto for your family. Make a poster of the motto and display it somewhere in your home where people will see it.



Honesty: During the discussion, ask members to include the character trait of honesty. Is honesty a value that defines this family? How can members trust in each other and depend on each other to tell the truth?

- F. **Family Reunion:** Take part in a family reunion. Learn about the family name and some of the places where the family members live. Have each family member interview or have a conversation with someone outside the immediate family during the reunion.



Courage: Before the reunion, discuss how it might take courage to have a conversation with someone you do not know well. How can a member overcome any fears or other difficulties related to this interview? How can being brave in completing this task help members to face fears in other places such as school?

- G. **Family Roots:** As a family, draw a picture of a simple tree on large poster paper. Place children's names on the tree and show how they are connected to parents, grandparents, and great grandparents. Include birth dates (and death dates, if applicable). Discuss the importance of learning about ancestors and living up to a family legacy.



Respect: Before making the family tree, discuss how members can show respect to their ancestors by learning about them and their experiences. Do ancestors deserve respect even when we do not know them personally? What will your grandchildren say about you and your branch of the family tree in years to come?

- H. **Family Values:** Have a family council at which the family lists five or six family values and traditions. Talk about the importance of spending time together as a family and discuss activities the family could enjoy. Conclude the family council by playing a game, going on a hike, playing at the park, swimming, biking, or reading a book together as a family.



Health and fitness: When discussing the values, include health and fitness. How does the health and fitness of family members affect the selection of activities for all to enjoy? What activities in the future will help promote health and fitness in your family?

- I. **Heritage Party:** Learn about a country or culture that is part of your family heritage. Eat foods that are from that culture. Play games and/or have decorations that are also part of your family heritage.



Resourcefulness: When planning the activity, ask members how they can use the value of resourcefulness. What resources are readily available in your house to have a successful heritage party? Remember that people are resources also. After the party, list the resources you used and how you used them.

- J. **Holiday Tradition:** Participate in a family tradition for a holiday. Talk about how the tradition started. Discuss how a new tradition could be started for another holiday. Why do families have traditions?



Cooperation: Before the activity, discuss how cooperation among family members is needed in planning the activity. Why is cooperation helpful during activities? How is the holiday activity better because family members work together? When will cooperation be useful in the following week?

- K. **House Upon the Rock:** Visit a beach or a lakefront. Make a family sand castle or have each person create something he or she likes out of the sand. Judge the creations and then note how long they will last. Remind family members how it is important to build houses and families “upon a rock” of things that last, and not the sand.



Positive attitude: After the activity, discuss how unexpected influences can affect a family’s outlook. How can a positive attitude help family members overcome problems? How do members learn how to have a positive attitude? How does having a positive attitude strengthen your family?

- L. **Kindness Counts:** Discuss how your family is a kind and caring family. Role-play situations where each person can demonstrate kindness that he or she might experience at home, school, work, or play.



Compassion: After the role-play, discuss how showing kindness and compassion helps demonstrate who you are as a family. Are there times when being kind is difficult? How do you feel when people are kind to you? How can you show compassion to your friends?

- M. **Lights On:** Find a place in the house that can be made very dark when the lights are turned off. Have everyone sit together in this place and discuss how light is needed to accomplish tasks. What does it mean to have a life in total darkness? Discuss how God is like light to a family. Make this time a learning experience that can support and strengthen a family faith.



Faith: During the activity, discuss how our faith is like a light. How can faith help family members to better understand their beliefs? How can family members rely on God’s light to help them in the future?

- N. **Milestone Celebration:** Plan a party to celebrate a family milestone. Plan the celebration to take place after a goal has been reached, such as at the end of a term when students complete school or when the family has completed a large task in the house or yard.



Courage: During the celebration, recognize the family member’s efforts in succeeding with his or her goal. How did this member show courage in achieving this milestone? Did it require courage to try something new? Was courage needed because of peer pressure? How can family members demonstrate courage in accomplishing future milestones?

- O. **Name Book:** Learn about your family name and its history. Make a book with a page on each family member’s name. Have family members decorate their own pages using names and adjectives or interesting facts about their names or how they got their names. Discuss why living up to a family name is important.



Respect: Before making the book, discuss the value of respect in living up to your name. How do the actions of one family member reflect on the entire family? How can members demonstrate pride in their name and show respect for the heritage their name represents?

- P. **Picture Perfect:** Stress that everyone in the family is an important part of the group. Each one has a responsibility to do his or her best to help the family be happy. Have family members draw pictures of examples of how they can support each other. Post these pictures in the house where they can be seen as reminders.



Responsibility: In the discussion, talk about how every member has a responsibility to the family. What are some of these responsibilities? What happens when people are not responsible with their duties? How can family members become more responsible to each other?

- Q. **Treasure Hunt:** Have members create a treasure hunt for other members in the family to do. Use clues that encourage family members to discover some of the family heirlooms or treasures.



Perseverance: Before the treasure hunt, discuss how family members need to persevere even when the clues seem difficult to solve. What will they do if they cannot solve the clue? Why is it important not to give up on the activity? How will practicing perseverance help family members in future challenges?