



SO YOU'RE A NEW DEN LEADER!

Congratulations! Welcome to the challenges and opportunities, joys and satisfactions that will be yours as a den leader, guiding and influencing the lives of boys. By making the commitment to serve as a leader, you have joined the ranks of adult leaders in packs around the country who are giving time, ability, enthusiasm, and energy to build a better future for our nation. As you give leadership in Cub Scouting, you help enrich the lives of boys and make a difference in the kind of men they will become. An exciting and rewarding experience lies ahead of you.

This leaflet is designed to help you get started as a successful leader. A multitude of resources are available for your use. There are many people who are interested in helping you be successful in your job, and training opportunities are provided so that you may continue to grow in effective leadership. So, good luck, and welcome to the wonderful world of Cub Scouting!

WHAT IS CUB SCOUTING?

The purpose of the Boy Scouts of America, as incorporated on February 8, 1910, and chartered by Congress in 1916, is to provide for boys and young adults an effective educational program designed to build desirable qualities of moral strength and character, to train in the responsibilities of participating citizenship, and to develop physical, mental, and emotional fitness.

Since 1930, younger boys have had the opportunity to be Cub Scouts in a year-round, home-centered program that helps to strengthen the family. Cub Scouting is the largest of the BSA's three divisions (the others are Boy Scouting, which includes Varsity Scouting, and Exploring, which includes Career Awareness Exploring and Sea Exploring).

PURPOSE OF CUB SCOUTING

Cub Scouting is for boys who are in the first through fifth grade. Parents, leaders, and organizations work together to achieve the following:

- Influencing the development of character and encouraging spiritual growth.
- Developing habits and attitudes of good citizenship.
- Encouraging good sportsmanship and pride in growing strong in mind and body.
- Improving understanding within the family.
- Strengthening the ability to get along with other boys and respect other people.
- Fostering a sense of personal achievement by developing new interests and skills.
- Showing how to be helpful and do one's best.
- Providing fun and exciting new things to do.
- Preparing them to become Boy Scouts.

THE CUB SCOUT PROGRAM

Like other phases of the Scouting program, Cub Scouting is made available to groups having similar interests and goals. "Sponsors" include professional organizations, government bodies, and religious, educational, civic, business, labor, and citizens' groups. These "sponsors" are called chartered organizations, since they are chartered by the Boy Scouts of America to use the Scouting program. Some chartered organizations use the whole Scouting family (Cub Scout pack, Boy Scout troop, Explorer post). Each organization appoints one of its members as a Chartered Organization Representative, to

be the liaison between the organization and the Scouting units and between the organization and the local Scout council. Your chartered organization, through you pack committee, is responsible for leadership, a pack meeting place, and related materials for pack activities.

Any boy who is in the first through fifth grade may join a Cub Scout pack. He is assigned to a den, which is usually made up of Cub Scouts in the neighborhood. Den meetings are held each week under the supervision of an adult volunteer den leader; a den chief (an older Boy Scout, Varsity Scout, or Explorer) and a denner (a boy leader elected by members of the den). All parents are expected to assist when called upon to help with den activities. At den meetings the boys enjoy games, crafts, stunts, songs and ceremonies. Dens also enjoy service projects, physical fitness activities, and field trips. Cub Scout dens work on projects related to a monthly theme such as "circus" or "pirates". Webelos dens work on one of the 20 activity badges each month and other projects which help prepare them for Boy Scouting.

Once each month, all den families gather for a pack meeting under the direction of the Cubmaster and pack committee. The pack meeting is the climax of the month's den meetings and activities. It gives the dens something to look forward to and work toward. It gets the parents involved in activities with their sons. It is an opportunity to provide recognition for boys, parents, and leaders. And it gives the boys a chance to 'show off' before their parents and the other boys, things they have learned during the month. Pack meeting activities are planned around the monthly theme and Webelos activity badge for the month. Pack meetings are fun for the whole family. (See **Cub Scout Leader Book** for more information on the pack meeting.)

Cub Scouting includes a plan of advancement in which a boy learns by doing. The boy works on requirements based on his grade. Sometimes advancement requirements are started in den meeting, then completed at home with the parents' help. Parental involvement is a vital part of the advancement plan. After he earns the badge for his grade, a boy may work on elective projects in 20 different interest areas until he goes into the next grade. (See **Cub Scout Leader Book** for more information on advancement.)

WEBELOS SCOUT TO BOY SCOUT

When a boy begins the fourth grade, he transfers to a Webelos den, where the boy works on requirements for the Webelos badge, 20 activity badges, and the Arrow of Light Award (the highest award in Cub Scouting) which prepares him for Boy Scouting. This system of recognition for learning new things and doing his best is a step toward self-reliance and motivates a boy to achieve.

When a boy reaches 11 years of age, or completes his Arrow of Light Award, or completes fifth grade, he graduates from a Cub Scout pack into a Boy Scout troop. An impressive graduation ceremony is conducted jointly by the Cubmaster, Webelos den leader, and Scoutmaster at a pack meeting. One of the aims of Cub Scouting is to graduate every boy into Boy Scouting.

Conducting a successful Cub Scout pack program can be compared to the successful operation of a business. The pack committee is like the board of directors. The Cubmaster is like the president. The den leader coach is like a department head, guiding the den leaders and Webelos den leaders who, with help from den chiefs, deliver the product (Cub Scouting) to the consumers (Cub Scouts and their families).

SURE, I SIGNED UP...BUT WHAT DO I DO NOW?

Now that you have registered as a den leader, you will receive **Scouting** magazine, which includes **Cub Scout Program Helps** and other information to aid you as a leader. Ask your Cubmaster to furnish you a copy of the current **Cub Scout Program Helps** to use until your subscription begins.

1. Obtain (or borrow temporarily) the **Cub Scout Leader Book** and begin reading it. This book describes your role as a den leader and will give more information on the following items.
2. Get acquainted with your den leader coach. This leader will see that you have the information and material you need to get started off on the right foot.
3. Visit another den's meeting. This will give you a good picture of what to expect in your own den. It is best if you do this before you hold your first den meeting. Your den leader coach will help arrange the visit.
4. With the help of the den leader coach, assistant den leader, den chief, and **Cub Scout Program Helps**, plan your first month's den meetings. The key to success is the word KISMIF (keep it simple, make it fun).
5. Get acquainted with the parents of the boys in your den. Hold a get-acquainted parents' meeting. Your den leader coach will help you plan this meeting. You will be needing the parents' help, so get to know them early.
6. Get acquainted with the boys in your den. Establish a den code of conduct so they will know what you expect of them.

7. Ask your Cubmaster to help secure a den chief, and give him meaningful responsibilities.
8. Obtain and begin wearing the den leaders' uniform as soon as possible. It is attractive, comfortable, and suitable for all Cub Scout meetings and activities. Wearing the uniform properly is important in setting a good example for the boys. Your den leader coach or Cubmaster can tell where you to obtain the uniform and insignia.
9. Attend the monthly planning meetings held by your den leader coach for the den leaders in your pack.
10. Attend the monthly district Cub Scout leaders' roundtable. You will receive many good program ideas on the monthly theme, and get acquainted with den leaders from other packs who will share ideas and experiences with you. Your Cubmaster can tell you when and where the roundtable meets.
11. Attend Cub Scout leader training sessions as soon as possible. These will give you the foundation you need to become a successful leader. Every boy deserves trained and qualified leaders. Your den leader coach can give you information about training.

Don't hesitate to ask for help. There are many people who want to help you provide the finest possible Cub Scout experience for the boys in your den. (See last page) By the time you have completed these steps, you will be well on your way to becoming a successful den leader.

YOU, THE DEN LEADER

You were selected as a den leader and approved by the pack committee because of your interest in boys. By making the commitment to serve as a den leader, you have accepted the following responsibilities:

- Give leadership to carrying out the pack program in den.
- Lead the den in its participation at the monthly pack meetings.
- Work in harmony with the other den and pack leaders.
- Cooperate with the Cubmaster and pack committee in recruiting new boys.
- Help train the den chief and guide him to work with the Cub Scouts.
- Use **Scouting** and **Boys' Life** magazines, **Cub Scout Program Helps**, and other Cub Scout literature as sources of program ideas.
- Collect dues and turn them in to the pack secretary/treasurer.
- Encourage boys to earn the advancement awards. Keep accurate advancement records, and see that they receive recognition for their achievement.
- Help the den earn the Cub Scout Summertime Award.
- Establish good working relationships with parents, utilizing their talents. Involve the den dad, fathers, uncles, and grandfathers of the boys in outings and other den activities so the boys will have male role models.
- See that a leader is available for all den meetings and activities.
- Take part in the annual pack planning conference and the monthly pack leaders' planning meetings.
- Follow the policies of the Boy Scouts of America.

Your den leader coach or Cubmaster will be glad to explain any of these responsibilities that you do not understand.

All leaders bring to Cub Scouting their own talents and skills, their own backgrounds and interests. Your key to becoming an effective leader is to use your own abilities and interests, along with what you learn about Cub Scouting to plan and conduct the best possible program for the boys. What happens in the life of each boy during his formative years will determine to a great extent the kind of man he will become. What a tremendous opportunity and challenge for you, the Den Leader!

THE DEN MEETING

Den meetings are usually held in the afternoon, after school, or in the evening, once each week, in a home, church, or school. The meeting day and time is set by the den leader. It should be at the same time and place each week to prevent confusion. Den meetings last approximately 1 hour. Leadership responsibilities are shared by the den leader, assistant den leader, den chief, and denner.

The den meeting program includes the following:

1. **Before the Meeting.** The den leader, assistant den leader, and den chief make final preparations while the denner helps set up the meeting place.
2. **While Cub Scouts Gather.** The den chief or denner could teach a stunt, trick or game as the boys arrive, while the den leader and assistant den leader collect dues, and check achievements and electives.
3. **Opening.** Have a simple opening ceremony such as a song, yell, pledge to the flag, or uniform inspection.

4. **Business Items.** Den activities and plans are discussed. Announcements are made. Refreshments may be served at this time.
5. **Activities.** Games, tricks, handicrafts, or other activities related to the monthly theme. Preparation for the den's part in the pack meeting.
6. **Closing.** Reminders, den leaders' closing thought, brief inspirational closing ceremony.
7. **After the Meeting.** Den leader, assistant den leader, and den chiefs discuss plans for next week's meeting, while the denner puts the room back to order.

WHAT DO YOU INVEST IN CUB SCOUTING?

- One afternoon or evening each week for den meeting.
- One evening each month for pack meeting.
- One evening each month for a Cub Scout Leaders' Roundtable.
- One evening each month for a planning meeting with other leaders.
- Time spent in research and planning each month on such interesting subjects as Indians, Knights, Circus, or whatever the monthly theme might be.
- Cub Scout leader basic training.
- Cost of the den leader's uniform.
- The registration fee.

This is a small investment compared to the dividends you will receive. And of course, the more you invest, the more you can expect to receive in return.

WHAT DO YOU RECEIVE IN RETURN?

- One lively, never-dull afternoon or evening each week when you have the good fortune to view the world through the eyes of boys.
- The privilege of helping to enrich and to strengthen families.
- A sense of pride as you watch the Cub Scouts receive recognition for their accomplishments.
- An opportunity to share your ideas and experiences with other adults who share your interest and concern for boys.
- A chance to read about subjects that you haven't taken time for in years, and the opportunity to put your ideas into action at den meetings.
- The privilege of getting to know boys in your neighborhood a little better and watching them all grow strong in mind and body.
- The opportunity to help boys learn good citizenship and help shape them into men with strength of character who are sensitive to the needs of others.
- A knowledge that all boys are alike in many ways, and yet each one is a very special, unique individual. A chance to help stimulate boys' imaginations and to help them learn to "do their best".
- Opportunities to learn new things, along with the boys.
- The satisfaction of being a member of a worldwide movement, and pride in being publicly identified as a part of this organization by wearing the uniform which is a visible means of showing that you believe in, and stand up for its ideals and objectives.
- And many other dividends which will enrich your life as you dedicate time, talent, and enthusiasm to Cub Scouting.

Number	Literature Resources	Number	Literature Resources
33220	Cub Scout Leader Book		Cub & Webelos Scout Uniform Inspection Sheet
33831	Cub Scout Leader How-To Book		Male & Female Leader Uniform Inspection Sheet
33222	Cub Scout Songbook	34263	Pack Description Sheets Duties
33122	Group Meeting Sparklers	34426	Local Tour Permit Application
33212	Staging Den and Pack Ceremonies	34427	Unit Money Earning Application
33211	Den Chief Handbook	33748	Summertime Award Guide
	Cub Scout Program Helps (Updated Annually)	33819	Pack Record Book with Finance Section
33012	Family Book B.S.A.	33847	Den Advancement Report
33188	Your Flag	33827	Individual Cub Scout Record
33234	Wolf Cub Scout Book	34209	Monthly Den Dues Envelope
33228	Bear Cub Scout Book	33826	Cub Scout Den Meeting Form
33235	Webelos Scout Book	34192	Cub Scout Advancement Chart