

Cub Scout

Your Son, Scouting, and You

As a parent, you want your boy to grow up to be self-reliant and dependable ---- a person of worth, a caring individual. Scouting has these same goals in mind for him.

Since 1910 we've been weaving lifetime values into fun and educational activities designed to help parents teach their sons how to make good decisions throughout their lives and give them confidence as they become the adult leaders of tomorrow.

In a society where your son is often taught that winning is everything, Cub Scouting teaches him to *do his best and be helpful to others* as expressed in the Cub Scout Promise, motto, and Law of the Pack.

A Cub Scout den will involve your boy in a group of boys his own age where he can earn status and recognition. There he will also gain a sense of personal achievement from the new skills he learns.

The Purposes of Cub Scouting

Cub Scouting is the phase of the program offered by the Boy Scouts of America for boys in first through fifth grade (or 7-, 8-, 9-, and 10-year-old boys). The purposes of Cub Scouting are to help parents and community organizations serve boys by

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

Tiger Cubs

As a Tiger Cub, your boy will be part of a group of boys his own age called a *den*. With his den, he can build confidence and self-esteem and earn recognition. He will also gain a sense of personal achievement from the new skills he learns. The Tiger Cub motto-Search, *Discover*, *Share* will encourage him to reach out into his world. Through this Scouting program, he can do so safely.

Your Tiger Cub will be a member of a *den*. Most dens have five to nine boy-adult partner *teams*, meet twice a month in a den meeting, and have one outing a month, called a *Go See it*. The den also takes part in the monthly pack meetings. During den meetings, Go See It outings, and pack meetings, boys learn new things and have fun.

A den leader and an adult partner of one of the Tiger Cubs lead each den meeting and den activity. An adult partner can be a parent, relative, or friend who is at least 18 years old and who

cares about the boy. Each adult partner takes a turn working with the den leader to plan and lead a den meeting and/or activity.

To begin his path to the Tiger Cub rank, a boy must do three things:

- Learn the Tiger Cub motto: Search, Discover, Share
- Learn the Cub Scout sign
- Learn the Cub Scout salute

When he has done these he is awarded the Tiger Cub belt totem.

Tiger Achievements

Each achievement has three parts: a family activity, a den activity, and a Go See It outing. A boy receives three beads as he completes each part:

- He earns a *white bead* for each required family activity part he completes.
- He earns an *orange bead* for each required den activity part he completes.
- He earns a *black bead* for each required Go See It part he completes.

These beads go on the first three strands of the Tiger Cub belt totem. (The fourth strand is for Tiger Track beads.) A boy can earn only one bead for each of the 15 achievement parts, regardless of how many times he may repeat a part.

Tiger Cub Badge

The Tiger Cub Badge is for boys who have completed all 15 parts of the five achievements.

Tiger Tracks

After your boy has earned the Tiger Cub badge, he can earn Tiger Track beads by completing elective activities in his handbook. A boy earns one Tiger Track bead for every 10 electives he completes.

Akela's OK

As you look through the Tiger, Wolf, and Bear book, you'll see places for "Akela's OK." That usually means your okay. Akela (ah-KAY-la) is the boy's leader. At home, that is you; at den meetings, it is the den leader; at school, it is the teacher.

Cub Scouting

Your Cub Scout is a member of a den. Most dens have six to eight boys and meet once a week. Den meetings are a time for learning new things and having fun. Dens are led by a team of adult volunteers -- the den leader and assistant den leader(s). Den leaders are usually parents of boys in the den. Your Cub Scout is also a member of a pack. Most packs have several dens and meet once a month. Pack meetings usually follow a suggested theme and are a time for boys to be recognized for their accomplishments during the month, to perform skits and songs they've teamed in den meetings, and to have fun with the entire family.

Packs are led by a Cubmaster and pack committee. Like the den leaders, the Cubmaster and assistants are volunteers and are usually parents of boys in the pack. Most pack committees consist of parents and members of the pack's chartered organization. The pack committee makes

plans for pack meetings and activities and takes care of the "business" items necessary for a quality pack program.

The pack is owned by a community organization that is granted a charter by the Boy Scouts of America to use the Scouting program. This chartered organization might be a school, service club, religious group, or other group interested in youth. The chartered organization approves the leadership of the pack, provides a meeting place, and operates the pack within the guidelines and policies of the organization and the Boy Scouts of America.

The Bobcat Trail

The first rank that your boy will earn as a Cub Scout is Bobcat. Along this trail are the Cub Scout Promise, the Law of the Pack, and the Cub Scout motto. These are the three most important things a boy must learn because they will help him through all of the trails of Scouting.

One part of the Bobcat trail is to read and complete the exercises in the booklet *How to Protect Your Children from Child Abuse*. Child abuse is a problem in our society, and this booklet will help your child to avoid potentially abusive situations.

When you and your boy have followed the eight tracks of the Bobcat, he may wear his Bobcat badge. It will be presented at the pack meeting.

The Wolf Trail

After your Cub Scout has completed first grade, he can start along the Wolf trail. If your son is a new Cub Scout, he must first earn his Bobcat badge. The Wolf trail is a big adventure for a boy, one the Boy Scouts of America hopes all boys will complete.

When you have okayed the tracks your boy has filled in for all twelve achievements, he may become a Wolf Cub Scout. How quickly your boy progresses is up to him and you. He should do his best to complete each track; that's a part of the promise he made to become a Bobcat and it is the Cub Scout motto -- Do Your Best. Don't okay a track if you both know that he can do a better job. Move on to something else, then go back and try again.

The important thing is to keep him interested by working on the trail with him as often as possible.

The Bear Trail

After your Cub Scout has completed second grade, he can start along the Bear trail. If your son is a new Cub Scout, he must first earn his Bobcat badge. The Bear trail is an even bigger adventure for a boy, one the Boy Scouts of America hopes all boys will complete. The Bobcat trail has only eight tracks; the Bear trail is much longer. The Bear trail has twenty-four achievements, twelve of which a boy must complete to earn the Bear badge.

When you have okayed the proper achievements, he may become a Bear Cub Scout. How quickly your boy progresses is up to him and you. He should do his best to complete each achievement. That's part of the promise he made to become a Bobcat, and it is the Cub Scout motto-Do Your Best. Don't okay an achievement if you both know that he can do a better job. Go on to something else, and then go back and try again.

The important thing is to keep him interested by working on the trail with him as often as possible.

Progress Toward Ranks

Your boy doesn't have to wait until he completes his entire Wolf or Bear trail before being recognized for his work. When he completes any three achievements, his den leader can present the Progress Toward Ranks emblem to him (or if he was a Wolf, he can add to his current emblem). It's a diamond-shaped emblem with a plastic thong attached, and it's worn on the right pocket button of his uniform shirt. Each time he completes three achievements, he will receive a yellow bead as a Wolf or a red bead as a Bear. After he gets his fourth bead, he will be ready to receive his Wolf or Bear badge at a pack meeting.

The Arrow Point Trail

Your Cub Scout can also search the Arrow Point trail. On the Wolf and Bear trails, the main sections were called *achievements*, things that we would like all boys to do. On the Arrow Point trail, the main sections are called *electives*, choices that a boy can make on his own and with your guidance. Also, any achievement requirements that a boy did not use to earn the Wolf or Bear badge can be used as electives toward Arrow Points.

When your Wolf or Bear Cub Scout has completed his first ten electives, he will be eligible for a Gold Arrow Point. For every ten additional electives he completes, the Cub Scout qualifies for a Silver Arrow Point to wear beneath the Gold. He can earn as many Silver Arrow Points as he wants until he completes the second or third grade (or turns 10). Arrow Points are presented at a pack meeting after he receives his Bear badge.

Do Your Best

When has a boy completed an elective or achievement? When he, in your opinion as Akela, has completed the skill to the best of his ability. In Cub Scouting, boys are judged against their own standard, not against other boys.

If your Cub Scout has a mental or physical disability that prevents him from attempting an achievement, talk to your Cubmaster about using an elective as an alternative.

The Boy Scouts of America hereby authorizes you who have read this Parent Guide to act as Akela and to indicate your willingness to serve by signing below.

Webelos Scouts

Get set for fun and adventure! As a Webelos Scout, you'll explore adult careers and learn a lot of new skills. You'll go camping with your den, along with your parent or an adult relative or friend.

Everything in Webelos Scouting is more advanced and challenging than the activities younger Cub Scouts do.

You'll earn special badges that only Webelos Scouts can wear. At the same time, you'll be getting ready to become a Boy Scout.

Your Webelos den will meet each week. This is where you'll learn new *skills*. Go to all the meetings so you won't miss any of the fun, excitement, new information, and badge work.

Den meetings often include games, sports, and malting things. Sometimes the den will go on special outings, like a nature hike or an overnight campout.