WELCOME! NEW WOLF OR BEAR DEN LEADER



BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA®

Welcome to your new adventure!

Your time volunteering in Cub Scouting will be rewarding and fun, and the information here will help you get off to the right start. With the proper training, resources, and enthusiasm, you have the ability to make a positive difference in the lives of Cub Scouts.



A **den** is a small group of youth—an ideal size is eight, but you may have more or less. Dens are created with Cub Scouts of the same grade and gender.

As a den leader of either Wolves (second-graders) and/or Bears (third-graders), you simply use the den leader guide and Cub Scout handbook to provide the Cub Scout program. The den leader guide provides step-by-step instructions on how to prepare for and conduct den meetings and activities centered around different adventures

BEFORE THE FIRST MEETING

1. **Register as a Cub Scout Leader.** Fill out the Boy Scouts of America (BSA) adult application and attach your Youth Protection completion certificate. (See no. 2.) This form will register you with the BSA and give the BSA permission to initiate a background check for approving you as a leader.
2. **Complete Youth Protection training and print the certificate of completion.** Youth Protection training, found online at my.Scouting.org, will teach you the BSA's policies for safely and appropriately interacting with youth.
3. **Attend leader position-specific training in person or complete the online learning plans for the "Before the First Meeting" training.** The online training, found at my.Scouting.org, will begin building the foundation you need to become an effective and successful leader.
4. **Obtain a copy of the den leader guide for your position—either the Wolf, for second grade, or Bear, for third grade, guide—and the *Cub Scout Leader Book*.** These resources describe your role as a den leader and will give you the detailed information you need for the remaining steps. Your pack may have a pack library, or another leader may let you borrow copies of these resources to allow you to get started right away.
5. **Become acquainted with your Cubmaster and the pack committee.** These leaders will see that you have the information and materials you need to prepare for and conduct den meetings and activities.
6. **Wear the Cub Scout leader uniform as soon as possible.** The uniform is suitable for all Cub Scout meetings and activities. Wearing the uniform properly is important in setting a good example. You can purchase a uniform through a local Scout shop or through www.scoutshop.org.
7. **Plan your first den meeting.** The den leader guide for your position contains plans for the den meetings. In coordination with the pack's plans, you will choose the adventure your den will complete and use the available resources to act on your plan.

WITHIN THE FIRST MONTH

1. **Attend leader position-specific training in person or complete the online learning plans for the "Within the First 30 Days" training.** Once you have attended leader position-specific training in person or have completed all online modules at my.Scouting.org, you are considered trained and eligible to wear the Trained patch.
2. **Get acquainted with the families in your den.** Hold a family orientation meeting outlining the structure of den meetings and den outings, the time and location for meetings, and your den's role during the monthly pack meetings. It may not be required, as it is in Lion (kindergarten) or Tiger (first grade) meetings, for parents to attend with their Scouts; a wise Wolf or Bear den leader will continue to have parents participate and assist with den meetings and activities.
3. **Get acquainted with the children in your den.** Establish a den code of conduct so that everyone will know what you expect of them. See the *Cub Scout Leader Book* for details.
4. **Ask your Cubmaster to help you secure a den chief.** This den helper should be a Scout from a troop, a Venturer, or a Sea Scout, who will set a good example for your Cub Scouts. A den chief may serve either an all-boy den or an all-girl den regardless of their gender. Give your den chief meaningful responsibilities right away.
5. **Attend the monthly pack planning meetings held by your pack leadership.** These meetings are led by the pack committee chair and where pack plans are made.
6. **Attend the monthly pack meeting with the members of your den and their families.** In this meeting, Cub Scouts are recognized for the adventures they have completed throughout the month. They may be asked to participate by performing flag ceremonies, displaying projects completed with your den, or acting out skits or run-ons.

7. **Attend the monthly district Cub Scout leaders' roundtable.** You will receive many good program ideas and become acquainted with den leaders from other packs who will share ideas and experiences with you. Your Cubmaster or pack trainer can tell you when and where the roundtables meet.

Don't hesitate to ask for help. There are many people who want to help you provide the finest possible Cub Scouting experience for the families in your den. As a registered Cub Scout leader, you will also receive *Scouting* magazine, which includes information to assist you as a leader. By the time you have completed the steps outlined here, 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 abilities and character. By making the commitment to serve as a den leader, you have accepted the following responsibilities:

- Plan, prepare for, and conduct den meetings with the assistant den leader and den chief.
- Attend the pack leaders' meetings.
- Ensure Cub Scouts earn their badge of rank and continue in Cub Scouting.
- Help train and guide the den chief in working with Cub Scouts and see that they receive recognition for their efforts at den and pack meetings.
- Provide meaningful responsibilities for the denner and assistant denner, who are elected by their peers to help the den chief and den leader, so that they can learn responsibility and gain satisfaction from their efforts.



Assistant Cub Scout Den Leaders

The assistant den leaders share the responsibilities of the Cub Scout den leader and may be called upon to serve as a family contact or record keeper or to handle other details of den operation. Each den should have at least one assistant den leader and more if needed.

Assistant den leaders must be 21 years of age or older, which helps ensure that there are two registered adult leaders who are 21 years of age or older at every meeting or activity. Additional assistant den leaders may be recruited to provide additional support as needed.

THE CUB SCOUT DEN MEETING

Den meetings are typically held twice a month. The meeting day, time, and location are set by the den leader and should be the same each week to prevent confusion. Den meetings last approximately one hour. Leadership responsibilities are shared by the den leader, assistant den leader, den chief, and denner.

The den meeting program includes the following parts, detailed for each adventure in the den leader guide for your position:

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. **Gathering.** As Cub Scouts arrive, they join in a game or activity with help from the den chief or denner. The den leader and assistant den leader collect dues, take attendance, and check on completion of requirements.
3. **Opening.** The den participates in a simple opening ceremony such as a song, yell, pledge to the flag, or uniform inspection.
4. **Talk Time.** Leaders discuss den activities and plans and make announcements.
5. **Activities.** Cub Scouts do activities related to the completion of the den's current adventure.
6. **Closing.** The den leader gives reminders and shares a closing thought, and the den holds a brief inspirational closing ceremony.
7. **After the Meeting.** The den leader, assistant den leader, and den chief discuss plans for the next week's meeting, while the denner puts the room back in order.

THE CUB SCOUT UNIFORM

The uniform is a method of the Cub Scouting program. It identifies youth and adults as part of a team and provides a sense of belonging to the den, the pack, and the Boy Scouts of America. It also instills a sense of pride as the uniform is where awards and achievements are displayed. Most Cub Scout-age children love wearing their Cub Scout uniform. Uniforms should be worn to all den meetings, pack meetings, and special pack activities.

The Cub Scout uniform for Wolves and Bears is the navy blue Cub Scout uniform shirt, navy blue pants or skorts, the blue web belt, and the appropriate neckerchief, slide, and cap.

Wolf—Red neckerchief, Wolf slide, navy and gold socks, and red Wolf cap. For the 2018-19 program year, either yellow or red neckerchiefs and caps are acceptable as it is a transitional year for the uniform change.

Bear—Blue neckerchief, Bear slide, navy and gold socks, and blue Bear cap.

WHAT DO YOU INVEST IN CUB SCOUTING?

- One afternoon or evening each week for either a den meeting, pack meeting, or pack committee meeting.
- One evening each month for the Cub Scout roundtable.
- Time spent in reviewing den meeting plans in the den leader guide and gathering materials.
- Time spent in Cub Scout leader training.
- Cost of the Cub Scout leader uniform.
- Registration fee.

This adds up to 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?

- Make new friends with families in your community.
- An evening each month of fun and fellowship with pack families, sharing their pride in their child's accomplishments.
- The privilege of helping to enrich and 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 in and concern for youth.
- Watching Cub Scouts grow and mature as they strive to live up to the Scout Oath and Scout Law.
- The opportunity to help youth learn good citizenship and shape them into young adults who have strength of character and are sensitive to the needs of others.
- The satisfaction of being a member of a worldwide organization 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 for its ideals and objectives.

You will discover many other dividends that will enrich your life as you dedicate your time, talent, and enthusiasm to Cub Scouting.

All leaders bring to Cub Scouting their own talents, skills, 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 families in your den. What happens in the life of each child during the formative years will determine to a great extent the kind of adult they will become. What a tremendous opportunity and challenge for you, the den leader!

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