



So You're a New Den Leader!

BEFORE YOU LEAVE THE MEETING

- ✓ Get a list of the boys and their parents in your den so you can contact them. Give them your contact information as well.
- ✓ Recruit an assistant den leader so you have help and a backup.
- ✓ Get contact information for pack leaders who can help you.
- ✓ Meet briefly with your new Cub Scout parents to set a date for your first den meeting. Invite them to attend that meeting.

AFTER THE MEETING

- ✓ Take a short Youth Protection training course. Go to www.MyScouting.org to take the online course. While you do not need to have a registration number to take the course, you should print your completion certificate and turn it in to your pack so that your registration can be completed.
- ✓ Add the monthly pack planning meeting date to your calendar.
- ✓ Visit your local Scout shop for your uniform and handbook. Go to www.scoutstuff.org/retail/store-locator to find your nearest Scout shop.

BOYS' LIFE MAGAZINE

- ✓ Cub Scouts receive the Cub Scout edition of *Boys' Life*. It features Tiger Cub activities, monthly Core Values, and selected Webelos activity badges.
- ✓ If any of your Scouts have not yet signed up for *Boys' Life* magazine, please encourage them to subscribe as soon as possible.
- ✓ Every issue of *Boys' Life* is also filled with Boy Scout activities that will motivate your Cub Scouts to become Boy Scouts.

Welcome, New Den Leader! Here's what you do:

- ▶ You lead a den made up of five to eight boys, usually including your son. A den is part of a pack that could belong to your school, religious organization, service club, and so on.
- ▶ Den meetings last exactly one hour. Your responsibility is to plan and lead your den's meetings. You can certainly ask other parents to help you so you don't have to do it alone. Cub Scouting is a family program.
- ▶ A den meets weekly for three weeks during the month, then comes together on the fourth week for a pack meeting with all the dens.
- ▶ Your goal is to provide fun meetings for your Cub Scouts with plenty of opportunities for them to earn their badges. The first badge you will work on is Bobcat, and the lesson plan in this guide will walk you through the process.

You have help! Your pack and district (which is composed of many packs, troops, and crews) offers additional help, such as training sessions and material resources.

HELPFUL CONTACTS

Whenever you need help, this is who to call in your pack and district.

Cubmaster _____

Phone No. _____ Email _____

Name _____ Position _____

Phone No. _____ Email _____

District executive _____

Phone No. _____

Email _____

USEFUL RESOURCES

1. Den & Pack Meeting Resource Guide—

This book has all of your weekly den meeting plans and is available at your local Scout shop as well online at www.scouting.org/CubScouts/Leaders/DenLeaderResources/DenandPackMeetingResourceGuide.aspx.

2. **Guide to Safe Scouting**—The Boy Scouts of America wants your den meetings and activities to be safe as well as fun. This guide will let you know which

activities are permitted and which are not. It is available at your local Scout shop and online at www.scouting.org/HealthandSafety/GSS.aspx.

3. **Fast Start Training**—This is an online orientation for your position that you take before Den Leader Specific Training is available. Sign in at <https://myscouting.org>, click on the E-Learning tab on the left side of the page, then scroll down to the course for the rank of your den.

PREPARING FOR YOUR FIRST DEN MEETING

This plan will take you through your first den meeting, but there are additional meeting plans in the Den & Pack Meeting Resource Guide that your pack will help you with later.

Preparation You Will Need to Do

Contact the parents of your new Cub Scouts to tell them when your den meeting will begin and end, where it will be held, and if you need any help, such as bringing snacks. It's always good to get parents involved from the beginning.

Gather the following items to be used in the meeting:

- Poster board and marker for the den code of conduct
- Copies of the “Dos and Don’ts” activity and a pencil for each Scout
- Index cards or small pieces of paper for each boy
- A poster with the Cub Scout Promise and a poster with the Law of the Pack for display
- A small U.S. flag
- Balloons—Using a marker, write the lines of the Cub Scout Promise and the Law of the Pack. Put each line in a separate balloon, inflate the balloon, and put these in a basket or bag for the “All Mixed Up” game. See the note at the end of the game for numbers greater or less than eight members in a den.

Create a family information letter from you to each Scout family that includes:

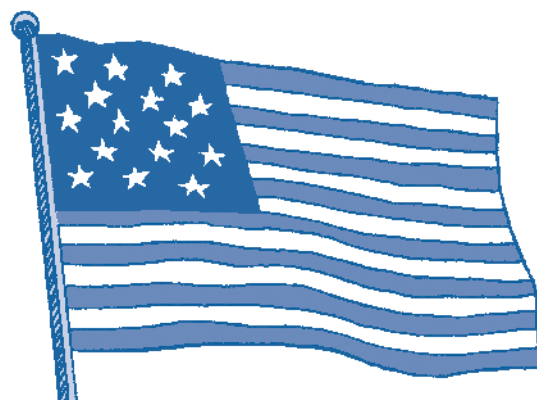
- Information about the importance of handbooks and uniforms, where to obtain them, and a reminder for boys to always wear their uniform and bring their handbook to the meeting, etc. You can also mention the uniform guide website: www.BSAuniforms.org—a great place to get you started.
- Days, time, and location of your meetings.
- Weekly home assignment. This week the home assignment should be:
 - ▶ Bobcat requirement 1 (Learn to say the Cub Scout Promise and complete the Honesty Character Connection.)
 - ▶ Bobcat requirement 2 (Say the Law of the Pack and tell what it means.)
 - ▶ Bobcat requirement 8 (With your parent or guardian, complete the exercises in the booklet *How to Protect Your Children From Child Abuse*; this book is found in the front of each Cub Scout handbook.)
- Other instructions pertinent to your den that the family should know.



Before the Meeting

This is where the den leadership team makes final preparations for the meeting.

- Set everything up for the “All Mixed Up” game. Make sure that you have all of the items on your supply list above, display any posters, place the flag in the front of the room, and do any other setup required for the meeting.



The Meeting

1. Gathering. This is the time before the actual meeting starts when the boys are arriving. This activity might not be completed by each boy during that time frame. This is OK; you can send it home with him. *Note: It's a great idea to use a timer set to go off when the meeting is to start. The boys will quickly learn that it is time to stop the gathering activity and start the actual meeting.*

- Give each Cub Scout a copy of “Dos and Don’ts” and a pencil. Remind them that at the den meeting we are all friends. Discuss how people use their bodies to be friends with others. On one side of the page they should list the actions friends do with each part of the body, and on the other side they should list the actions friends don’t do with those body parts. Example: Mouth—Friends do “say hello,” friends don’t “call their friends mean names.”
- Pass out the Family Talent Survey sheet to the parents, asking them to complete it and return it to you at the next meeting. It can be found at www.scouting.org/filestore/pdf/FamilyTalentSurveySheet2008.pdf.

2. Opening

- Show the Cub Scouts how to do the Cub Scout salute. Then have them salute the flag of the United States of America and recite the Pledge of Allegiance. *Note: You might need to have the words displayed on a poster. Please ask any parents present to participate in the pledge with the Cub Scouts.*
- Welcome the new Cub Scouts and parents. Ask each boy to write a number between two and five on an index card and hold on to it so that it can be used later in the meeting.
- Learn the Cub Scout motto: *Do Your Best*. You can do this as a cheer. The den leader will ask, “What’s our motto?” and the Cub Scouts will respond, “Do . . . Your . . . Best!” three times, getting louder each time.

3. Business Items

- Have each Cub Scout introduce himself and his parent, if present. Ask each Cub Scout to then use the number that he had written on the index card during the opening to tell things about himself. If he wrote “3” on the card then he needs to tell three things about himself, etc. You might want to start this one yourself.

CUB SCOUT SALUTE

A salute is a way to show respect. We salute our flag to show respect for our country.

For the Cub Scout salute, use your right hand. Hold your fingers as you do for the Cub Scout sign. Keep the two straight fingers close together. Touch the tips of those fingers to your cap. If you are not wearing a cap, touch your right eyebrow.

CUB SCOUT MOTTO

Do Your Best.

- Announce participation for your second den meeting.
- Create a den code of conduct. Discuss behavioral expectations at your den meetings. Let the Cub Scouts come up with a list of “rules” for the den. Record them on a poster board to be displayed at each meeting.

4. Activities

- Play the “Cub Scout Sign” game.
- Play “All Mixed Up.”
- Teach the Scouts what “Webelos” means—“WE’LL BE LOyal Scouts.”

5. Closing

- Distribute the family information letter you created before your meeting.
- Thank everyone who helped with the meeting.
- Teach the Scouts how to do the Cub Scout handshake.



- Have the Scouts form a circle. Have each Scout in turn go around the circle and give each of the other Scouts the Cub Scout handshake.
- Congratulate each of the Cub Scouts for learning so much about Cub Scouting this week, and thank everyone for being such a great den.

6. After the Meeting

- Serve refreshments, if appropriate.
- Put away equipment, tidy up the meeting place, put records in order, review the meeting with your assistant, and assign duties for next week.



CUB SCOUT PROMISE

I, _____, promise to do my best

To do my duty to God and my country,

To help other people, and

To obey the Law of the Pack.

LAW OF THE PACK

The Cub Scout follows Akela.

The Cub Scout helps the pack go.

The pack helps the Cub Scout grow.

The Cub Scout gives goodwill.

CUB SCOUT SIGN

The Cub Scout sign is made by raising the right hand straight up high over the head with the palm forward. The first two fingers are wide apart and pointing up as in a V. The two extended fingers stand for two parts of the Cub Scout Promise—"to help other people" and "to obey"; they look like the wolf's ears ready to listen to Akela. The thumb covers the nails of the ring and little fingers.

When to Use the Cub Scout Sign

The Cub Scout sign is given when saying the Cub Scout Promise or Law of the Pack. It is also used by Akela to ask for quiet and attention. Akela in the den is you. When you give this sign the boys should stop what they are doing and give you their complete attention.



Webelos means WE'll BE LOyal Scouts.

Being loyal means that you will keep the Cub Scout Promise.

ALL MIXED UP GAME

Write out the Cub Scout Promise and Law of the Pack as presented above. Cut each line into a strip and insert each one into a separate balloon. You should have eight balloons, each with a strip inside. Blow up the balloons and place them in a large basket or bag. Divide the Cub Scouts into two teams and line them up next to each other with the basket of balloons between them.

Mark a starting and finish line. Each boy will select a balloon, run to the finish line, sit on the balloon to pop it, retrieve the paper inside, then run back to his team and tag the next Scout to go. Once all of the balloons have been popped, the den leader calls "Fix!" and the Cub Scouts then work together to get themselves into the correct order for the Cub Scout Promise and the Law of the Pack. Have each Scout read his line, then have them all can recite together.

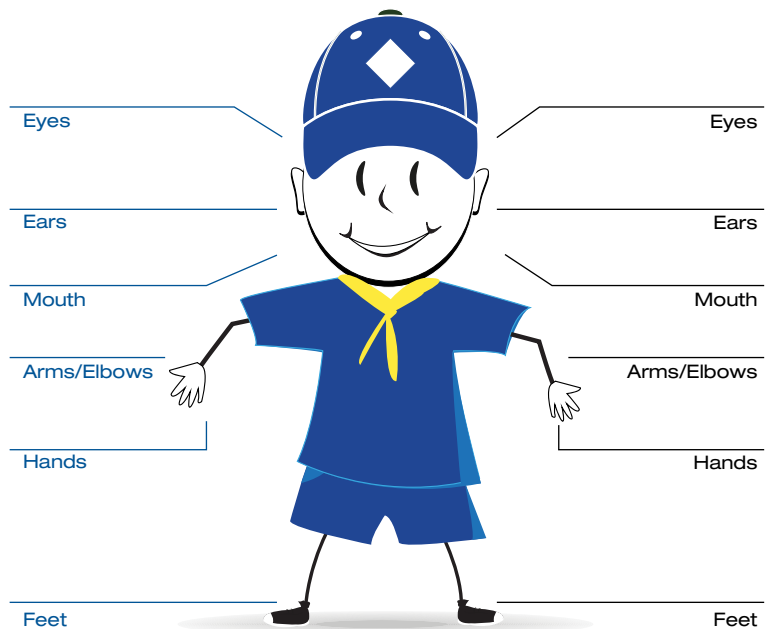
Note: If you have more than eight boys in your den, include lines from the Cub Scout motto in separate balloons. If you have fewer than eight, either have the Scouts go twice or have others fill in.

Dos and Don'ts*

How do friends use their mouths, ears, hands, and so on?

FRIENDS DO

FRIENDS DON'T



*Note: Either make one enlarged copy and have the boys draw their own or make an enlarged copy for each Scout.