

Keys to a Successful Cub Scout Program In The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints

Key 1 – Call a Complete Staff of Adult Cub Scout Leaders.

Each Ward/Branch should have 12 adult Cub Scout Leaders:

- Committee Chairperson and at least two Committee Members
- Cubmaster and Assistant Cubmaster
- Pack Trainer
- Webelos Den Leader and Assistant Webelos Den Leader
- Bear Den Leader and Assistant Bear Den Leader
- Wolf Den Leader and Assistant Wolf Den Leader

Wolf and Bear Cub Scouts can be combined into one den when there are only a few of each but this requires the Den Leaders for that combined den to conduct activities and track achievements in the two different programs at the same time. It is best for the development of the boys to have separate dens, even though the numbers may be small.

Wolf and Bears cannot be combined with Webelos since their programs are very different and cannot be run at the same time in a single den.

All adult Cub Scout Leaders may be either male or female.

Key 2 – Register Cub Scout Adult Leaders and Cub Scout Boys Immediately.

As soon as an adult accepts the call as a Cub Scout Leader, they **must** fill out an adult registration form and it must be turned in to the Scout Council. *This is both a BSA and a Church requirement.* This should be done within a week of the call. **An adult may not function in their Cub Scout position with boys until the registration is completed.** The Church general fund pays the registration fee.

As soon as a boy turns 8 years old, he should be registered in Cub Scouts. It is the responsibility of the Primary Presidency Counselor and the Wolf Den Leader to visit the family of the 8-year-old boy, give them an overview of Cub Scouting, and register the boy for Cub Scouts. This should be done during the week of their 8th birthday. The family and the boy should be informed about meetings, uniform, handbook, advancement process, and standards of conduct. The completed registration must be sent to the Scout Council. The Church general fund pays the registration fee.

Cub Scouts who move into the Ward/Branch should receive the same registration and overview as provided a new 8 year old. Cub Scouts and their families moving in may not have received this information before and they need to know about Cub Scouting in your Ward.

Boys Life magazine. Cub Scout Leaders and Cub Scout families should subscribe to the *Boys Life* magazine when they register. The Leader or family pays for 12 issues; the Church does not pay for the *Boys Life* subscription. The *Boys Life* has a lot of additional program

materials and items of interest for boys. There is an edition of the magazine especially for Cub Scout age boys.

Key 3 – Get your Adult Cub Scout Leaders Trained Immediately

Step 1 – **Take ‘Fast Start’ training.** This can be done by viewing the Cub Scout Leader Fast Start videotape or DVD or by viewing it online

<http://www.scouting.org/cubscouts/faststart>

Viewing the ‘Fast Start’ should be done with a more experienced adult Cub Scout Leader if possible to answer questions of the new Leader.

Step 2 – **Take the ‘Youth Protection Training’** either from the Scout District trainers or online http://www.boyscouts-ncac.org/pages/71_youth_protection.cfm

Step 3 – **Get the manuals and handbooks** for your Cub Scout Leader position. Leaders can buy these as personal items or the Ward Library can provide them.

Each adult Cub Scout Leader should have a copy of the Cub Scout Leader Book and the Cub Scout Program Features (annual magazine).

Den Leaders should have a copy of the Cub Scout Handbook (Wolf or Bear) for the den with which they are working and they should have a copy of the Cub Scout Leader How-To Book.

Webelos Den Leaders should have a copy of the Webelos Handbook and the Webelos Leader Handbook.

Den Leaders and Cubmasters should have a copy of the Cub Scout Ceremonies for Dens and Packs book.

These materials can be purchased from the Council Scout Shop in Bethesda or by phone from the BSA National Supply Division, <http://www.scoutstuff.org> , 1-800-323-0732.

Step 4 – **Take ‘Basic Training.’** The Scout District throughout the year conducts this training. Basic training consists of two classes, *New Leader Essentials* and *Cub Scout Leader Specific Training*. There is a *Cub Scout Leader Specific Training* class for each type of Leader: Den Leader, Webelos Den Leader, Cubmaster, and Committee Member. The *New Leader Essentials* is about a 2-hour class taught several times a year by the Scout District. The *Cub Scout Leader Specific Training* classes are about 4 hours long and taught by the Scout District several times a year. Check with your Scout District to see when these classes are held. You can find information on your Scout District on the Council website at <http://www.boyscouts-ncac.org> .

Step 5 – **Attend Monthly Cub Scout Roundtable.** The Scout District conducts this on a weeknight once a month. At Roundtable, you receive additional training (sort of like teacher Inservice training); you learn the crafts, games, skills, and skits for Cub Scout program two months out; you network with other Cub Scout Leaders; and you get information on the Cub Scout calendar and upcoming events and programs.

Step 6 – **Attend the Annual Cub Scout Leader Pow Wow.** This is one-day Saturday event held usually in November conducted by the Scout Council. It is an opportunity to go to 1-hour classes of your choice, in all kinds of Cub Scout Leader topics of interest, taught by experienced Cub Scout Leaders and professionals. You come away with a bag full of

materials, tricks, and experience to make your Cub Scout program better. There is pre-registration information circulated at Roundtables a couple of months in advance.

Key 4 – Leaders Wear the Uniform and Set the Example; Boys Wear Uniform.

Leaders should get and wear the appropriate uniform for all Den and Pack meetings and set the uniform example. Work with boys and parents to have boys do the same. Expect, encourage, and require uniform wear. The uniform also contributes to teaching values and maintaining conduct and discipline.

Key 5 – Conduct ‘Theme’ Den Meetings and Pack Meetings.

The *Cub Scout Program Features* annual magazine provides themes for each month of the year with instructions on how to conduct den meetings and pack meetings on that theme. The den meeting crafts and skills lead up to the monthly pack meeting. Roundtables also help Leaders understand how to use these themes.

Key 6 – Successful Den Meetings – Rules for Den Leaders.

Rule 1 - Always have a Den Leader and an Assistant (two adults) at the Den Meeting for adequate control, supervision, and assistance.

Rule 2 - Do not have older or younger children participate in the Den Meeting. Eliminate other distractions.

Rule 3 - Establish a code of conduct for the Den meeting and the Den meeting place at the first meeting and stick to it. Use conduct regulators such as the ‘Good Conduct Candle’, rewards, treats, ‘Akela Ears,’ seated time, etc. (learn these from Leader training).

Rule 4 - Appoint boy leaders (Denner and Assistant Denner) to help run parts of the meetings and give them specific assignments ahead of time.

Rule 5 - Request from the Scout Troop a Boy Scout to serve as a ‘Den Chief’ to help with before and after meeting games, skill instruction, and supervision.

Rule 6 - Have a set agenda for meetings so that boys know what to expect. This agenda is taught to Leaders in training.

Rule 7 - Leaders practice or rehearse crafts, games, skills, and ceremonies ahead of time so there aren’t any failures or surprises during the den meeting.

Rule 8 – Generally, den meetings should only be an hour from opening ceremony to closing ceremony. Before and after games and activities can occupy additional time as needed or desired.

Key 7 – Successful Pack Meetings – Rules for Cubmasters.

Rule 1 – Have theme Pack Meetings according to the themes given in the *Cub Scout Program Features* magazine.

Rule 2 - At the beginning of the month or end of prior month, have a meeting or communication with the Den Leaders to make sure they all know what to work toward in the den meetings to prepare for the pack meeting.

Rule 3 – Get your committee and Assistant Cubmaster to help with or do parts of the Pack Meeting.

Rule 4 – Pack ceremonies, activities, demonstrations, skits, games, etc, should occupy a majority of the Pack meeting time. Awards should occupy a lesser part of the time.

Rule 5 – Make award presentations as short as possible while still making it important to the boy. Make each month's award presentation somehow different or special so that they do not become stale or humdrum. An award presentation using the monthly theme is suggested. Making awards in groups by den, by rank, by badge, by skill, or by elective are other ways to make it shorter and still effective. Also always have extra stock of awards in case some deserving boy is accidentally missed but make sure the Den Leader approves before the award is given.

Rule 6 – Plan and provide some control for Cub Scout siblings who attend (there are many ways to do this). Make sure they follow the same conduct rules as the Cub Scouts. Do not allow uncontrolled or undisciplined children to detract from the Pack Meeting.

Rule 7 – Designate a specific place for dens to sit with their Den Leaders, families to sit with their children, and other children to sit.

Rule 8 – Use Pizzazz! Things such as theme decorations, costumes, hats, music, lights, posters, displays, models, games, cheers, skits, special guests, different location, etc. will make the Pack meeting sparkle.

Rule 9 – If you have refreshments, establish the rule that the Cub Scouts serve their brothers and sisters and parents first and then sit down until all have accomplished this and then invite the Cub Scouts for refreshments or establish some other similar appropriate rule before you have the closing ceremony and refreshments.

Rule 10 - Dens should be given rotating assignments for clean up and put away afterward.

Key 8 – Primary Presidency Counselor, Cubmaster, and Committee Chair Meetings.

These three people should meet regularly to correlate and coordinate the Cub Scout program and the Primary program – calendars, meetings, activities, needs, budget, boys' needs, etc. These three people should also meet monthly in the Ward Key Scout Leader Meeting, which is conducted by a Bishopric member.

Key 9 – Summer Time – Have Three Summer Time Pack Activities and Get the Cub Scouts to District Cub Scout Day Camp.

Dens usually do not meet during the summer months but the Pack should have one event or activity each month. These are often family oriented and sometimes away from the usual Pack Meeting location such as a picnic, swimming pool (make sure you follow the BSA Safety Afloat rules), ball game, fishing, hiking, museum, minor league baseball game, trip to the beach or the farm, etc. (Cub Scouts *do not* go on overnight events.)

Get the Cub Scouts to the District Cub Scout Day Camp. This is a Monday to Friday Day camp that is packed with events and activities, run by Cub Scout professionals and experienced volunteers, usually in June or July. The cost is about \$90 per boy but well worth it. 'Camperships' are available to deserving boys who cannot afford the cost. Adult Leaders need to accompany the boys, usually at the rate one adult per five boys, for transportation and supervision. Parents can function in these roles.

Key 10 – Help the Cub Scouts Have Fun in Developing Upright Character, Self Confidence, Citizenship, and Growth in the Gospel through Practical Application.

Annual Cub Scout Program Calendar of Events in National Capital Area Council:

Each Month - Cub Scout Leader Roundtable, a weeknight
- Cubmaster/Den Leader Coordinating Meeting
- Committee/Cubmaster Coordinating Meeting
- Pack Meeting

September - Weekly Den Meetings begin
- Join Scouting – invite a friend to join Cub Scouts

October - Cub Scout Leader ‘Pow Wow’ (Saturday training fair*)
- Webelos attend District Scout Camporee on Saturday

November - Scouting for Food, bag distribution and food pick-up

January - Pine Wood Derby (or Rain Gutter Regatta or Space Derby)
- Friends of Scouting general fund raising campaign

February - Blue and Gold Dinner
- University of Scouting, College of Cub Scouting (Saturday training fair*)

March - District Pinewood Derby (or Rain Gutter Regatta or Space Derby)

April - Program Launch for Leaders, Saturday morning

June, July, August – generally den meetings are not conducted during the summer but there should be a pack activity/meeting each month to qualify the pack for the ‘Summer Time Pack Award’

July - Cub Scout Day Camp

Recharter - one month each year, packs recharter. Check with your district to see when your pack recharter. This is an administrative task for leaders and the committee but parents also need to be asked for “Boys Life” subscription fees at this time.

* These training fairs are not basic training but 1-hour classes, offered on a variety of topics to help the leaders be more effective. Leaders should also take Basic Training and Youth Protection Training, which are offered by the Scout district throughout the year.