

## **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 have to conduct activities and track achievements in the two different program 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. A adult leader 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 8<sup>th</sup> 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 cost for 12 issues is \$10.40 which is paid by the leader or family; 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 video tape 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.

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](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.’** This training is conducted by the Scout District throughout the year. 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.** This is conducted on a weeknight once a month by the Scout District. 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 preregistration 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 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 you do not have 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. Award presentations 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 other family children 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 other children to detract from or distract 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 Pizzaz! – theme decorations, costumes, hats, music, lights, posters, displays, models, games, cheers, skits, special guests, different location, etc to 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, hike, museum, minor league baseball game, trip to the beach or the farm, etc. (Do not do overnight events.)

Get the Cub Scouts to the District Cub Scout Day Camp. This is a Monday to Friday day-camp that is event and activity packed, run by Cub Scout professionals and experienced volunteers, usually in June or July. The cost is usually about \$90 per boy but well worth it. Adult leaders do need to accompany the boys, usually at the rate one adult per five boys, for transportation and control. Parents can help with this.

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

Created by Adair Petty and Joy Petty

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

**Each Month** - Cub Scout Leader Roundtable, a week night  
- 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 a 1 hour classes are 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.

## **2004-5 Cub Scout Themes**

### **September – It's a Circus of Stars (Webelos – Showman or Citizen)**

"Ladies and Gentleman" welcome to the Cub Scout Circus. It will be a month of entertainment. Dens will practice stunts, skits, songs, run-ons and applauses as part of their advancement --and just for fun -as they prepare to share their talents at the monthly pack meeting. The pack meeting focus will be the magic of a circus, with the Cubmaster serving as ringmaster. The pack meeting may be set up with three rings where each of the dens performs what they have been practicing. Be sure to have lots of balloons, peanuts, and popcorn for the audience, as well as spotlights on each den as they participate. Awards could be presented in each ring.

### **October – Cub Scout Collectors (Webelos – Craftsman or Scientist)**

Boys love to collect things like bugs, baseball cards, rocks, sticks and candy wrappers. This is a great theme for working on the collections from the boy's handbooks. Take den hikes or trips to start collections and to explore. Make scrapbooks or collection boxes to display your collections. At the pack meeting have a show and tell night similar to a Science Fair where the parents and leaders can view the collections as the Cub Scouts talk about their collections. After evaluation by a panel of judges, award prize ribbons for several different categories making sure that everyone is recognized.

### **November – Holiday Food Fare (Webelos – Craftsman or Scientist)**

Foods help to keep our bodies strong and healthy, and are often a major part of our holiday celebrations. Compare the labels of different foods to learn more about the nutrients they contain. Cub Scouts can use different types of foods to make crafts and holiday decorations to share with others. Experience foods from other countries or prepare delightful treats to share with your family, a needy family or an elderly resident. Have a family or a den dessert contest at the pack meeting. Awards could include the Best Bean Award, Top Carrot Award, or other imaginative categories.

### **December – Cub Scouts Spread the News (Webelos – Fitness or Readyman)**

Let's make news for the New Year. Cub Scouts can make headlines this month and learn about the history of news reporting. The pack spreads the good news about Cub Scouting by inviting the local radio, TV or cable channels to the pack meeting or the upcoming blue and gold banquet. Plan field trips to visit them at their workplace. Dens can publish articles and pictures in a den or pack newsletter or make their own videotape to be shown at the pack meeting or next months blue and gold banquet. Let your Cub Scouts experience the different roles on a news team and hold either a press conference or a news broadcast at the pack meeting. Use props and scripts created by the boys and a camcorder to record the broadcast or pack events. Cub Scouts can learn many different ways to spread the "news" about Scouting this month.

### **January – It's a Scouting Celebration (Webelos – Scholar or Engineer)**

It's the 75th birthday of Cub Scouting! Explore the history and beginnings of Cub Scouting, and the history of the pack and of your den. Celebrate the wonder of Scouting at your blue and gold banquet. The boys will experience the history of Scouting as they prepare centerpieces and decorations for the blue and gold banquet. Consider including a scrapbook of the history of the den or pack. Dedicate your pack meeting to Lord Baden Powell. Skits can bring Scouting highlights to life. Don't forget Scout Sunday and Scout Sabbath!

### **February – Invention Convention (Webelos – Athlete or Engineer)**

Every Cub Scout can be a genius or an inventor. Give each boy a Cub Scout Genius Kit prepared from odds and ends that can be recycled and tell him to invent something with these materials. Cub Scouts will learn about recycling. What do we recycle, and what becomes of it? How can we help as individuals and as citizens in the community? Present all the inventions at the pack meeting and award prizes to all category winners. Also have exhibits of what recycling is all about and how we can help. Don't forget that everyone is a winner and needs recognition. Learn about inventors and geniuses of the past, present, and future. Let your imagination and your own genius lead the way.

**March – Waterways of the USA** (Webelos – Sportsman or Family Man)

Rivers have been a vital part of our environment for many years. Cub Scouts can use a map to trace where their local river begins, then draw other waterways that connect to it as the water flows to the ocean. Dens can invite environmental agencies to talk about the local rivers and their resources. Scouts can also learn how early explorers used rivers, and how important rivers are in transporting people and products. Discover how rivers are used as a water irrigation source and how we harness the power of some rivers for electricity. Investigate the history, folklore or legends, songs, and types of boats that are associated with rivers. Dens can help with the cleanliness of their local river while working on their World Conservation Award or the Conservation Good Turn Award. Packs can hold a raingutter regatta using a variety of boat styles.

**April - Cub Pet Pals** (Webelos – Outdoorsman or Handyman)

It's not just our parents and siblings who live with us but our pets do as well. Learn to care for a pet and draw or take their picture to show at the pack meeting. The American Humane Association has designated the first full week of May as "Be kind to Animals Week." Discuss responsible care of pets. Visit a local pet shop and see different kinds of exotic pets. Make something for your pet like a toy or a new home at the den meeting. Remember, don't pet strange animals.

**May – Destination Parks** (Webelos – Traveler or Artist)

America is blessed with an abundance of natural parks. Point out on a map where National or State Parks are located and why the land became a park. Learn the rules of safe hiking, about "hugging" a tree, and the Outdoor Code. Construct your own hiking stick and pack a backpack with personal first aid kit, food, water, insect repellent, sunscreen and a poncho. After exploring the trails at the local park or the council's Scout Camp, Scouts can tell what they saw. Work on a service project to improve the local park. Remember to leave the area better than you found it.

**June – Play Ball** (Webelos – Aquanaut or Geologist)

The season of fun in the sun is here! This is the time of year for sports, outdoor picnics, and exploring. Dens should play sports and learn about sportsmanship. "Do Your Best" counts. Cub Scouts can work on sports belt loops and pins as they participate with their den or pack. Put the "Outing in Scouting" and go to a baseball game as a pack. Use the big outdoors and the time of summer to enjoy all that it offers. Get the baseball gloves, balls, and bats out and have your own baseball game between the parents and the Cub Scouts.

**July – Campfire Tales and Traditions** (Webelos – Naturalist or Forester)

A campfire is a great way to close the summer and begin the fall. How about telling a few tall tales, songfest, folklore, and Native American lore? Use the Campfire Planning Guide as dens are assigned to prepare the different parts of your pack's campfire program. This will be a great opportunity to recruit, so invite potential new Cub Scouts. Webelos Scouts can learn about fire building and fire safety. How about marshmallows or s'mores around the campfire? Don't forget to leave the area as clean or cleaner than you found it so that others can enjoy it as well.

**August – Cub Scout Round-up** (Webelos – Communicator or Scientist)

Explore the wild and woolly West as you round-up new membership. This month learn about the Chisholm Trail and its hardships. Locate on a map the actual route that the cattle drive took. Find out what the cowboys wore and the safety reason for each garment. Learn about leather and rope-making crafts from each. Plan a field trip to see horses and wagons or learn about Western history. Learn to sing "Home on the Range" and other western songs. Experience trail food as everyone tries beans and jerky for dinner.