

# LION

## Pilot Program Guidelines and Unit Application



BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA®  
WESTERN LOS ANGELES COUNTY COUNCIL



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May 15, 2016

Dear Cub Scout Leader,

The WLACC has been authorized to participate in the National **Lions Pilot Program**. The purpose of this program is to introduce Kindergarten aged boys and their families to the adventures of Cub Scouts. We look forward to your participation to help us learn from this pilot program.

This introductory guide will provide initial information on the Lion program including information about dens, leadership, and uniforms, as well as ideas for planning your Lion program. The final page of this packet is an application for your unit to submit to participate in the pilot program. Our Council is introducing Lion dens to a few units in each district. The pilot program applications will be reviewed and units will be notified of participation approval by June 30, 2016.

For questions regarding the Lions Pilot Program please contact the District Executive for your District.

Yours in Scouting,

Andrew Sisolak  
Director of Field Service, WLACC

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# Welcome to Lions



## What should you expect?

The Lion program involves participation by a child and a caring adult. Den meetings and outings are facilitated by a Lion guide. The Lion guide is an experienced Cub Scout leader. He or she will lead the first den meeting of the year. The Lion guide will help each adult partner lead one of the subsequent meetings. Parents should take the responsibility of planning and leading a specific den meeting or outing. The den meeting and outing plans are provided in the Parent and Leader Guidebook. One of these guidebooks will be provided to each unit who participates in the pilot program.

It is suggested that each family take one adventure and rotate responsibilities. We spread out leadership responsibilities so involvement is rewarding, not a burden. It's more fun this way and the Lions love to see their parents/guardians taking on the task and providing leadership to them and their friends.

## How are the meetings structured?

Lion dens meet twice a month for eight to nine months during the school year. The den will pick a time that works best for the members of the den. A complete and detailed program is provided to help the Lion guides and adult partners deliver the Lion program. The meeting plans can be found in the Parent and Leader Guidebook.

The Lion adults will set the schedule of their den meetings and outings during their first gathering. Each adult will choose which den meeting they will host. They should plan to host one or two. One will be a den meeting and the other will be an outing or a pack meeting.

## Understanding the Den Meeting

Dens meet once per month at a time that is convenient to members of the Lion den. The den meeting is with just their group of kindergarten-age boys. It is led by a Lion guide or a parent who, with support from the Lion guide, plans and leads activities. Most dens meet in a home or central location such as a church or school. It is up to the families in your den to determine what is most convenient.

## Outings and Pack Meetings

Outings will be a time for the entire family to join the Lion and other Lion families on a fun adventure. The outing may be a field trip to a place of interest for the boys in the den or it may be a visit to a pack meeting. A pack meeting is a monthly gathering for all of the Cub Scout dens in a pack. Lions generally attend only a few pack meetings each year.

## Program Material

The *Lion Parent and Leader Guidebook* is available for each family. As a participant in the Lion pilot program one guidebook will be provided to your unit at no cost. This handbook contains the activities and ideas for a complete year. The program is based on feedback from parents and educational experts.

## Registration

Each Lion and a parent need to complete a BSA youth application to register with the Western Los Angeles County Council. The BSA registration fee is paid to the National organization. Each youth and adult partner need to complete one youth application and submit it to the Lion guide. The Lion guide should complete and submit an adult application to the council.

Our council will provide an orientation that will help you understand how a Lion den functions and the importance of your role.

Lion Scouts must have an "adult partner" with them at all times. This is required by the Boy Scouts of America

### **The Ideal Den Size**

The best size for a Lion den is six to eight boys and their adult partners. The youth at this age are usually very energetic with short attention spans. If there are too many Lions, it's hard to manage well; and if there are too few Lions, it's not the ideal situation for group activities. Units wishing to register more than eight Lions will have to identify and register a 2nd Lion Guide for their unit. Lion dens should conduct separate den meetings, but may choose to meet together at Pack meetings or during field trips.

### **The Lion Badge**

Upon completion of the Lion program year each boy will earn the Lion badge. The first five required adventures are designed to focus each Lion on demonstrating skills in the areas of adventure, leadership, personal fitness, citizenship, and character. Lions will receive a patch at the completion of the required adventures. This is the Lion badge. The badge will be available for purchase at the store.

### **The Lion Uniform**

The Lion uniform is a Lion t-shirt. The t-shirt will be available for purchase at the Scout Store.

### **Understanding the Lion Guide and Lion Coordinator**

#### *Lion Guide Position Description*

An experienced and engaged Lion guide is recruited to take the lead on facilitating den meetings with assistance and support from the parents. Since Lion is often the first experience a family has with Scouting, it must be a fun and positive experience.

- ∞ Has previous successful experience as a den leader
- ∞ Works directly with other den and pack leaders to ensure that the den is an active and successful part of the pack
- ∞ Plans and prepares for initial Lion den meeting and outings
- ∞ Mentors adult partners in the delivery of Lion den meetings
- ∞ Attends the pack leaders' meetings
- ∞ Leads the den at the monthly outings and other pack activities
- ∞ Ensures the transition of Lion Scouts to Tiger at year-end
- ∞ Prepares the Lions for day camp at the end of the Lion year if appropriate
- ∞ Coordinates shared leadership among the Lion adult partners in the den
- ∞ Ensures that each Lion and his adult partner have the opportunity to be the host team, which plans and executes the den activities, and rotates responsibilities monthly.

### *Lion Coordinator Position Description*

The Lion coordinator is an experienced den leader or former Lion guide who will work to support the Lion guide as he or she delivers the year's program.

- ∞ Is an experienced and successful den leader
- ∞ Understands den and pack operations within the overall structure of Cub Scouting
- ∞ Demonstrates excellent communication and organization skills (and will remain in at least monthly contact with the Lion dens)
- ∞ Participates as needed in the unit's Join Scouting Night with all new Lions and their parents
- ∞ Assists with the Lion guide in hosting the first orientation meeting for all the individual Lion dens in their pack
- ∞ Serves as a coach and mentor for the Lion guide

### **Your Unit Commitment**

Our Pack requests to be included in the Lions pilot program being offered by the National Council of the Boy Scouts of America for Kindergarten boys and their adult partners administered by the Western Los Angeles County Council. As a pack, we commit to the following:

- ∞ Recruit Kindergarten boys to the Lions program being offered by our pack
- ∞ Provide the Lions program from September 2016 through June 2017
- ∞ Use only the materials being provided by the National Council
- ∞ Register Lions and their adult partners using a BSA youth application
- ∞ Collect and submit the annual BSA registration fees to the Western Los Angeles County Council
- ∞ Attend a WLACC Lion Pilot Program training/coaching session
- ∞ Lion Coordinators and Lion Guides are required to complete Youth Protection training and be registered
- ∞ Complete the feedback forms requested by the National or Local Council
- ∞ Have an active email address for your Lion Guide and Lion Coordinator
- ∞ Our pack will not deviate from the program provided
- ∞ **Return this agreement below to the Western Los Angeles County Council no later than June 15, 2016**



**Lion Pilot Program Application**  
Submit to [christine.medina@scouting.org](mailto:christine.medina@scouting.org)  
by June 15, 2016

Cub Scout Pack # \_\_\_\_\_

**If selected to participate in the Lion Pilot Program our pack agrees to the following:**

- Our Lion Guide will be an experienced adult leader who has completed Youth Protection training and is currently not the Cubmaster, Committee Chair, or a Den Leader. If a Lion Guide has already been selected please provide their name and contact information:

Lion Guide Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

- Our Lion Guide will complete Lion Guide training by August 15, 2016.  
*Note: Packs will be notified by July 1 if they have been selected to participate in the pilot program, and at that time will be given all additional details about implementing the program, including information about Lion Guide training.*
- Our pack has a quality year-round program planned at least one year in advance. We agree to submit our pack's 2016-2017 program calendar and budget plan by August 1, 2016.  
*Note: Your district executive is excited to help you with annual program planning.*
- Our pack will collect and share results of the program with the WLACC and BSA as requested throughout the pilot program, including attendance of Lions at meetings.
- The Lion program will be delivered as designed to ensure accurate feedback.
- Our pack will not include Lions in our fundraising efforts, overnight camping, day camp, and shooting sports.
- Our Cubmaster and den leaders have completed basic leader training for their positions. Please list these leaders below and indicate the training they have completed. If all leaders are not currently trained in their position, what is the plan to achieve this by August 31, 2016?

|                           |   |   |
|---------------------------|---|---|
| Cubmaster: _____          | <input type="checkbox"/> Youth Protection | <input type="checkbox"/> Cubmaster Position-Specific  |
| Tiger Den Leader: _____   | <input type="checkbox"/> Youth Protection | <input type="checkbox"/> Den Leader Position-Specific |
| Wolf Den Leader: _____    | <input type="checkbox"/> Youth Protection | <input type="checkbox"/> Den Leader Position-Specific |
| Bear Den Leader: _____    | <input type="checkbox"/> Youth Protection | <input type="checkbox"/> Den Leader Position-Specific |
| Webelos Den Leader: _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> Youth Protection | <input type="checkbox"/> Den Leader Position-Specific |
| Web II Den Ldr: _____     | <input type="checkbox"/> Youth Protection | <input type="checkbox"/> Den Leader Position-Specific |

Pack Committee Chair Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Cubmaster Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_