



So You're a New Den Leader!

DURING 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.

Welcome, New Den Leader!

What Do You Invest in Cub Scouting?

- ▶ One afternoon or evening each week for a den meeting
- ▶ One evening each month for the pack meeting
- ▶ One evening each month for the Cub Scout roundtable
- ▶ One evening each month for a planning meeting with other pack leaders
- ▶ Time spent in research and planning each month on such interesting subjects as native Americans, knights, the circus, or whatever the next monthly theme will be
- ▶ Time spent in Cub Scout leader basic training
- ▶ Cost of the Cub Scout leader uniform
- ▶ The 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.

HELPFUL 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 as online at <http://www.scouting.org/resourceguide.aspx>. It is available at your local Scout shop and online at <http://www.scouting.org/HealthandSafety/GSS.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.
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.

HELPFUL CONTACTS

Don't hesitate to ask for help. There are many people who want to help you provide the BEST Cub Scout experience for the boys in your den.

Submaster _____ Phone No. _____

Email _____

Pack trainer _____ Phone No. _____

Email _____

Unit commissioner _____ Phone No. _____

Email _____

Council _____ Phone No. _____

Website _____

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. Visit <http://www.scouting.org/resourceguide.aspx>.

Before the Meeting

- 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
 - Sign-up sheet for Scouts to bring healthy snacks
 - 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.



The Den Meeting

Gathering

Recruit one new person to help you with a gathering activity and work with the boys as they arrive to complete the “Do’s and Don’ts” page. You can use the online template at www.scouting.org/cubscouts or create your own. You can find other gathering activities in the *Den & Pack Meeting Resource Guide* or at www.cubscouts.org.

DO'S AND DON'TS

Give each Cub Scout a copy of “Do’s 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. 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.”



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

The Meeting

Greet each family and introduce yourself. Provide them with the letter you created and remind them of important dates. Also ask if they had a chance to fill out the Family Talent Survey sheet. If they have not, have them fill one out and leave it with you tonight. It can be found at www.scouting.org/filestore/pdf/FamilyTalentSurveySheet2008.pdf.

Opening

1. Call the meeting to order by demonstrating the Cub Scout sign. Explain to the boys and parents the meaning of the sign and when to use the sign.

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.

2. 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.*

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.

3. 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.

CUB SCOUT MOTTO

Do Your Best.

PEOPLE BINGO

Find a different person to sign his or her name in each box. When you get all boxes signed, call out **BINGO!**

I have a pet.	I was born in _____(month).	I play baseball.	I have a pool.
My shoes have no laces.	I have curly hair.	My name has more than seven letters.	I was at a different school last year.
My favorite food is pizza.	I was born in another state.	I have been to the zoo.	I write with my left hand.
I know the principal’s name.	I speak another language.	I walk to school.	I have read a chapter book.
I have a summer birthday.	I like vegetables.	I know how to swim.	I have traveled to another country.

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.

Activities

1. Have the Scouts play a game to get to know each other. You can find several games in the *Den & Pack Meeting Resource Guide* or on the Internet. You can enlarge People Bingo or create your own.
2. Review what the Cub Scouts discussed in the opening exercise of Do's and Don'ts. Together as a den, create your own den code of conduct.
3. Teach the Scouts and parents the Cub Scout Promise and the Law of the Pack.
4. Teach the Scouts and parents what "Webelos" means.
5. Play the "All Mixed-Up Game."

**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.

Closing

1. Have the Cub Scouts form a circle. Teach them how to do the Cub Scout handshake. Have them shake their neighbor's hand.



2. Remind the parents to help their Scout and of any upcoming dates.
3. Have Cub Scouts sign up to prepare and bring a healthy snack to the upcoming den meetings.
4. Tell the Cub Scouts the importance of keeping your meeting space clean and have them help clean up the room.
5. THANK everyone for attending.

Akela: This is for each family to work on at home for the following week.

- Bobcat requirements 1, 2, and 8
- Discuss healthy eating habits and plan a healthy snack for an upcoming den meeting.