

# THE WOLF AND BEAR PROGRAMS

## CUB SCOUT DENS, 20-1

### PLANNING THE CUB SCOUT DEN MEETING, 20-1

- Den Meeting Planning Tips, 20-2
- Who Attends Cub Scout Den Meetings?, 20-2
- Who Is Responsible?, 20-2
- Resources for Den Leaders, 20-2
- Den Meeting Location, 20-2
- Den Meeting Date and Time, 20-2
- Den Records, 20-2
- Den Tools and Equipment, 20-3

### SEVEN PARTS OF A CUB SCOUT DEN MEETING, 20-3

### ELEMENTS OF A GOOD CUB SCOUT DEN MEETING, 20-4

## CUB SCOUT DENS

**C**ub Scout dens are composed of boys who are in second or third grades (or who are 8 or 9 years old). When they complete third grade (or reach age 10), they enter a Webelos den. The boys in second grade (or who are age 8) are called *Wolf Cub Scouts*. The boys in third grade (or who are age 9) are called *Bear Cub Scouts*.

Den meetings are planned and run by an adult den leader with the help of an assistant den leader and den chief. A member of the pack committee works closely with the den leaders, coordinating den activities and plans for pack meeting participation and providing training and support. The pack trainer will provide information about training.

Den meeting activities are planned around the monthly theme and include playing games, making handicrafts, taking hikes and pursuing other outdoor fun, practicing skits and stunts in preparation for the next pack meeting, and taking part in simple ceremonies and songs. Sometimes, work on advancement requirements is included.

## USING THE THEME OF THE MONTH, 20-5

### ADVANCEMENT, 20-5

- Bobcat, 20-5
- Wolf, 20-6
- Bear, 20-6
- Immediate Recognition, 20-6
- Arrow Points, 20-6

### THE CUB SCOUT DENNER AND ASSISTANT DENNER, 20-7

### DEN ADULTS' MEETING, 20-7

- Den Adults' Meeting Agenda, 20-8

### JOINING A WEBELOS DEN, 20-9

## PLANNING THE CUB SCOUT DEN MEETING

A Cub Scout den leader is not expected to find and develop all of the ideas and materials needed to run four lively den meetings each month. The Cubmaster and pack committee members work with den leaders to develop den meeting programs. Much of the planning for the den and pack is done at the annual pack program planning conference, the pack leaders' planning meeting, and the den chief planning meeting. (See Chapter 24, "Program Planning.")

*Cub Scout Program Helps* provides four monthly den meeting outlines based on the monthly theme. Most leaders use these outlines as a guide for planning their own den meetings, but they are also free to incorporate their own ideas in the den meeting plan.

Remember that sometimes a den trip or other special activity might take the place of a regular den meeting. If the den meeting program is well-planned, interesting, and fun, the boys will be more likely to attend.

### Den Meeting Planning Tips

- The den meeting outline is planned at the monthly pack leaders' meeting using the Cub Scout Den Meeting Program sheet (page 34-14).
- Periodically review "Elements of a Good Cub Scout Den Meeting" (see page 20-4) to help you with quality planning.
- Make good use of all available resources, such as district roundtable, pow wow or University of Scouting, *Cub Scout Program Helps*, and other BSA literature. (See Chapter 34, "Resources, Forms, and Applications.")
- Use the den chief as a leader. Allow him to help lead rather than merely participate in activities with the younger boys.
- Always inform family members of the time, place, and plans for den meetings.

- *Cub Scout Leader How-To Book* (No. 33832A) is filled with ideas for games, crafts, skits, puzzles, outdoor activities, and more. It also provides ideas for working with boys with special needs.
- **Other BSA literature and helps** are available for you to use in your planning. Check your pack library or Scout shop for appropriate materials on songs, ceremonies, the Academics and Sports program, the BSA Family program, and outdoor opportunities that you could use with your den.

### Den Meeting Location

Most dens meet in the den leader's home. They can be held in a basement, garage, backyard, or other practical place. Sometimes, chartered organizations will provide a meeting place. Many dens meet in apartment buildings, parks, or other locations in the community. In rural areas where travel distances may be far, be flexible in finding a place to meet that everyone can get to.

Boys like to feel that one place is their den's "home," and it can be enjoyable for the boys if the den has a place they can fix up as their own den headquarters. The boys can decorate the walls with pictures, charts, and their exhibits. Adult family members can be called upon to help the boys clean up, paint, or build portions of a den meeting place.

### Who Attends Cub Scout Den Meetings?

Den meetings are for the boys. They are attended by the Cub Scouts, the den leader, assistant den leader, and den chief. On some occasions, a parent, guardian, or other family member might be asked to help at a specific meeting, but family members do not normally attend Wolf or Bear den meetings.

### Den Meeting Date and Time

Cub Scout den meetings are usually held once a week. A regularly scheduled meeting day and time will result in better attendance. Some dens meet after school, some meet in the early evening, and others meet on weekends. The den leader chooses a suitable meeting day and time after talking with all den families.

Most den meetings are not longer than an hour and 15 minutes. Short meetings keep activities moving at a pace that prevents lulls during which boys could lose interest. This can result in disruptive behavior. It's better to send the boys away wishing the meeting had been longer than to keep them so long they wish it would end.

### Who Is Responsible?

The Cub Scout den leader is responsible for seeing that the weekly den meetings are planned and conducted. The basic outline for den meetings is planned at the monthly pack leaders' meeting (see Chapter 24, "Program Planning"). A wise den leader will involve the other members of the den leadership team (assistant den leader and den chief) in the planning.

### Den Records

Several record forms and charts are needed for the den meeting. (See Chapter 10, "Den and Pack Management," for more information.)

### Resources for Den Leaders

Several resources are available to help den leaders with their plans for den meetings:

- *Cub Scout Program Helps* (No. 34304) provides den meeting outlines using the monthly themes. The activity plans for weekly Wolf and Bear den meetings are designed to be age-appropriate.
- **Cub Scout Leader roundtable**, a combined planning meeting for several packs in your area, provides program ideas, policy guidelines, and information on events in your district and council. Check with pack leadership for the time and place of district roundtable.

- **Cub Scout Den Meeting Program** (see page 34-14). This form helps you plan a den meeting, as you fill in the details for each portion of a den meeting, including the plans and equipment needed.

- **Den Advancement Report** (see page 34-24). Use this form to report advancement of boys in the den so that badges can be obtained and presented at the pack meeting.

- **Cub Scout Den Advancement Chart.** Use this wall chart to record Cub Scout advancement; it can also serve as an incentive for boys in the den.
- **Cub Scout Den Record** (see page 34-19). Use this two-sided form for keeping track of advancement, attendance, and dues, completing the record weekly. You can record the date each boy joined the den and the date he will be eligible to join a Webelos den. Information such as phone numbers and addresses is requested on this form to help you stay in contact with the boys' families.
- **Individual Cub Scout Record** (see page 34-29). Keep this record on each boy in the den. Space is provided for a four-year record of attendance and dues, personal and family data, and a detailed advancement record. (A separate individual record form is used for Tiger Cubs.) Whenever a boy transfers into a new program area, the record should go with him and be given to his new den leader.
- **Monthly Den Dues Envelope** (No. 34209). Use this envelope to collect den dues.

### Den Tools and Equipment

The den will need a den flag and a U.S. flag (which are usually furnished by the pack), with flag stands or holders. Other ceremony equipment that might accumulate over time could include candles, den doodles, and ceremony boards. Many dens also have a den game box (see Chapter 29, "Den and Pack Activities").

Each boy could have his own personal tool chest that could include such things as

- Pencils and crayons
- Watercolors and brushes
- Blunt-nosed scissors
- Light hammer
- Ruler
- Small knife

Other den tools and materials will be needed for the entire den to use. Families could donate or loan most of them. These supplies could include

- Assorted nails, pins, screws, and tacks
- Pieces of wood of various shapes and sizes
- Balls of cord, string, and small rope
- Wire
- One or two hammers

- Pliers and wire cutters
- Screwdrivers
- 26-inch saw
- One or two coping saws
- Hand drill
- Palm or block plane
- One or two wood rasps and files
- Sandpaper

A scrap box would be useful that contains old spools, plastic bottle tops, jar lids, bits of hardware, doorknobs, dowels, aluminum foil, plywood scraps, leather scraps, wheels, and other things that might be used for crafts. See the *Cub Scout Leader How-To Book* for more ideas.

## SEVEN PARTS OF A CUB SCOUT DEN MEETING

A good working pattern for the Cub Scout den meeting has been developed through long experience. It is suggested that you follow this seven-part pattern, especially if you are a new Cub Scout leader. Each part has a purpose, and you should include all parts.

### Seven Parts of a Den Meeting

1. Before the Meeting
2. Gathering
3. Opening
4. Business Items
5. Activities
6. Closing
7. After the Meeting

1. **Before the Meeting** the den leadership team has a chance to make whatever last-minute preparations are needed for the den meeting program. The den leader, assistant den leader, and den chief can sit down together and make sure everything is ready. If the denner (see page 20-7 for more on denners) can arrive early, he can help set up the meeting place.

Sometimes, the den chief is not able to arrive at the meeting before the Cub Scouts. In that case, a phone call the day before the meeting will verify that he knows what is expected.

2. **Gathering.** As soon as the first Cub Scout arrives, get him started on a gathering-time project. For example, the den chief might teach him a trick or puzzle, which he in turn can teach to other Cub Scouts as they arrive. Planned activities during this gathering time will keep boys busy and eliminate some possible behavior problems. Some den leaders find this period a convenient time to check attendance, collect dues, and mark the boys' achievements.

3. The **Opening** is when the meeting officially starts. Whereas the gathering period was informal without much organization, the opening period begins the organized activities of the meeting.

Most den meetings include a flag ceremony so boys can complete one of the requirements for a Wolf or Bear achievement. Saluting the flag is a good way to start the meeting, and the style can be varied each week. The opening might also include a prayer or thought for the day.

Try active elements, too, such as a song, yell, rhythmic applause stunt, or something else in which all boys participate.

A roll call isn't necessary, but boys enjoy responding to their names in a unique way. For instance, a roll call can be related to the theme of the month; if it's a nature theme, boys could respond with the name of a bird, animal, or tree. The denner can be asked to call the roll.

Occasionally, it is a good idea to have a uniform inspection during the opening period. Check the boys' uniforms to be sure they are wearing them properly. The den chief can help.

4. **Business Items.** Keep this part of the den meeting informal and brief. There usually will not be much business to conduct, but this is a good time to introduce a new monthly theme and to decide what the den will do at the pack meeting. Some den leaders prefer using this period to check attendance, collect dues, and mark the boys' achievements. Others serve refreshments during this time.

5. **Activities.** Include at least one game during every den meeting. Both the denner and den chief can be helpful in leading games. It is usually best if the den chief leads games but does not play them.

Some den meetings will include craft projects. It isn't always necessary for boys to complete their craft projects during den meetings. Sometimes, you can get them started, get them interested, and let them take the unfinished projects home to work on with their families. The den leader or assistant den leader can teach the craft; the den chief can help but should not make a craft himself.

Most den meetings also include some stunts and puzzles, but teach something new; try not to use the same puzzles used in the preopening activities.

Den meetings may be planned around an outdoor activity. Boys love outdoor cooking, nature walks, and field trips.

Often, den meeting activities result in the boys completing some of the advancement requirements. The den leader can initial the requirement in the boys' handbooks so it can be signed later by parents or guardians when they feel the boy has done his best.

See Chapter 29, "Den and Pack Activities," for more detailed information on den meeting activities.

6. The **Closing** is usually more serious and quiet. Some den leaders like to present a short closing thought. It is also a time for last-minute reminders about next week's den and/or pack meeting. A closing ceremony with all the boys involved is a good time to reinforce the values of Scouting.

7. **After the Meeting** the boys should be instructed to go directly home. The denner may stay to help straighten up the meeting place. The den leader, assistant den leader, and den chief use this time to review assignments for next week's den meeting.

## ELEMENTS OF A GOOD CUB SCOUT DEN MEETING

- The meeting lasts no longer than an hour and 15 minutes. The meeting begins and ends on time.
- The meeting includes all seven parts of a den meeting.
- The meeting is conducted by a trained den leader with help from a trained assistant den leader and a trained den chief.
- Cub Scouts and leaders are properly uniformed.
- Before the meeting begins, all equipment and materials are ready for use.
- A well-planned, written program is conducted.
- Activities are related to the monthly theme and the next pack meeting.
- Projects are started, to be finished at home with help from family members.
- Opportunities for self-expression are provided through ceremonies, songs, skits, games, stunts, puzzles, and crafts.
- The meeting program allows for a change in pace—alternating loud and quiet activities.
- Leaders effectively manage boy behavior. The boys show proper respect for the leaders and the den chief.
- Boys bring their handbooks to each meeting.
- Den records are accurate and kept up-to-date.

- The Cub Scout ideals, including the Cub Scout Promise and the Law of the Pack, are emphasized.
- The Cub Scouts have fun.

## USING THE THEME OF THE MONTH

Each year, *Cub Scout Program Helps* suggests 12 monthly themes suitable for Cub Scouts and provides program ideas based on these themes. *Boys' Life* magazine also features program ideas each month on the recommended theme, as do the monthly roundtable meetings.

Packs are not obligated to use the recommended themes, although there are many benefits to be gained by using them. The themes are selected and planned to appeal to boys and to offer opportunities for achieving the purposes of Cub Scouting. Furthermore, more program support material is available associated with the themes.

You, as a den leader, may use the monthly theme in planning den meetings. You will begin developing the theme in the first den meeting of each month when you introduce it. The boys will become interested in that theme if you ask them leading questions about what they would *like* to do rather than *telling* them what to do.

For example, consider a Cub Scout circus theme. You could launch the theme in the first den meeting by telling the boys that the monthly pack meeting will be a pack circus, during which each den will perform a circus act (skit, song, or game) for their family and friends. You might then ask each boy to share one of his favorite things about the circus to get den members thinking about some of the directions they could go with their performance. After sharing ideas, ask the boys to decide what type of act they would like to prepare for the pack meeting. Once this is decided, the boys can plan the performance, including costumes and props they will need. Den meetings leading up to the pack meeting will provide boys with the opportunity to prepare props and costumes, as well as practice their circus act.

It is important that the boys come up with ideas that appeal to them and that they choose items they like best. They will be more eager to participate when they have been directly involved in the planning.

Introducing the monthly theme with a story is another way to get boys interested and thinking creatively. For a theme such as "A Jungle of Fun," a story from Rudyard Kipling's *Jungle Book* could suggest craft ideas, skit plots, and other activities that fit the theme.

## ADVANCEMENT

Cub Scout ranks are set up by grade and age, except for the Bobcat, which all boys must earn. The Tiger Cub rank is for those boys who have completed kindergarten (or are 7 years

old). If a boy joins Cub Scouting as a Tiger Cub, Wolf, Bear, or Webelos Scout, he must earn the Bobcat badge first before receiving any other award or rank.

The **Wolf** rank is for boys who have completed first grade (or are 8 years old). The **Bear** rank is for boys who have completed the second grade (or are 9 years old).

The Webelos rank is for boys who have completed the third grade. Boys work on the Arrow of Light Award after they complete the Webelos badge, usually during the second year of the Webelos program. A boy who enters Webelos Scouting as a fifth-grader (or who is 10 years old) may earn both the Webelos badge and Arrow of Light Award. (See Chapter 18, "Advancement.")


To ensure that prompt recognition is given for advancement, it is important that accurate, up-to-date den and pack advancement records be kept. (See "Den Records," in this chapter, and see Chapter 10, "Den and Pack Management.")

### Bobcat Badge



Before becoming a Wolf Cub Scout, a boy must complete the Bobcat requirements:

1. Learn and say the Cub Scout Promise and complete the Honesty Character Connection.
 



  - a. **Know:** Discuss these questions with your family: What is a promise? What does it mean to "keep your word?" What does honesty mean? What does it mean to "do your best?"
  - b. **Commit:** Discuss these questions with your family. Why is a promise important? Why is it important for people to trust you when you give your word? When might it be difficult to keep your word? List examples.
  - c. **Practice:** Discuss with family members why it is important to be trustworthy and honest and how you can do your best to be honest when you are doing the activities in Cub Scouting.
2. Say the Law of the Pack. Tell what it means.
3. Tell what *Webelos* means.
4. Make the Cub Scout sign. Tell what it means.
5. Show the Cub Scout handshake. Tell what it means.
6. Say the Cub Scout motto.
7. Give the Cub Scout salute. Tell what it means.

- With your parent or guardian, complete the Bobcat Requirements section of "How to Protect Your Children from Child Abuse: A Parent's Guide." (The guide is a pull-out section that comes in the front of the *Wolf Handbook and Bear Handbook*.)

When a boy has completed these requirements, his parent or guardian approves his work and signs his book. The den leader indicates this on the Cub Scout and Webelos Scout Den Advancement Report and gives the report to the pack committee so awards can be purchased. The boy is then eligible to receive his Bobcat badge at a meaningful pack ceremony.

Boys who joined Scouting before second grade probably were in a Tiger Cub den, and they may have already earned their Bobcat badge. If not, they must earn the Bobcat badge before they can be awarded any other badge or rank in Cub Scouting. After the boy earns the Bobcat, he then begins working on the rank for his grade or age.

## Wolf Badge

The Wolf rank is for boys who have completed first grade (or who are 8 years old). To become a Wolf Cub Scout, a boy must pass 12 achievements involving simple physical and mental skills (see the *Wolf Handbook*). His parent or guardian approves each achievement by signing his book. The den leader keeps a record of his progress on the Cub Scout Den Advancement Chart and recognizes him at a den meeting for completing each milestone.



When a boy has completed the 12 achievements to the satisfaction of his parent or guardian, the den leader indicates this on the Cub Scout and Webelos Scout Den Advancement Report and gives it to the pack committee so awards can be purchased. The Wolf badge is presented to his parent or guardian at the next pack meeting in an impressive advancement ceremony, during which the parent or guardian in turn presents the badge to the boy.

After he has earned the Wolf badge, a boy is encouraged to work on the 23 Wolf electives until he completes second grade (or turns 9 years old). More than 100 elective projects are aimed at kindling his interest in new hobbies, as well as teaching him skills that will be useful during his Boy Scout years. When he completes 10 elective projects, he earns a Gold Arrow Point to wear under the Wolf badge. For each additional 10 elective projects completed, he earns a Silver Arrow Point. These are presented at the pack meeting in an advancement ceremony.

## Bear Badge

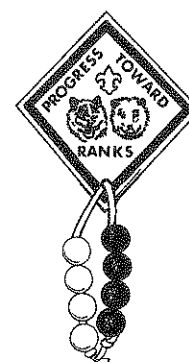
The Bear rank is for boys who have completed second grade (or are 9 years old). Some packs present the *Bear Handbook* and neckerchief to boys when they are eligible to begin work on this rank.



There are 24 Bear achievements in four categories; boys must complete 12 of these to earn the Bear badge. These requirements are more difficult and challenging than those for the Wolf badge. When the boy has earned his Bear badge, he may work on electives for credit toward Arrow Points. However, note that unused parts of achievements that were used for the Bear badge may *not* be counted toward Arrow Points. This guideline does not apply to the Wolf badge, as there are no extra achievements. His parent or guardian approves his work and signs his book. He may work on electives in the *Bear Handbook* for credit toward Arrow Points until he completes the third grade (or turns 10). When he completes third grade (or is 10), a Cub Scout may be recognized in a pack ceremony as he enters a Webelos den.

## Immediate Recognition

As a Cub Scout completes his achievements for the Wolf or Bear rank, you should make sure that he is recognized during a simple ceremony in the den meeting by using the Cub Scout Immediate Recognition Kit. When the boy completes three of the 12 Wolf achievements, he can be presented with the immediate recognition emblem, the thong, and a yellow Progress Toward Ranks bead to attach to it. The emblem is buttoned to his right shirt pocket.



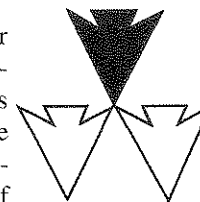
When he completes three more achievements, he receives a second Progress Toward Ranks bead. This procedure is continued until he completes all 12 achievements and has earned four yellow beads. He is then eligible to receive the Wolf badge in a pack ceremony. This step-by-step recognition is an incentive for boys to earn their badges.

Use the same procedure, with red beads, for recognizing Bear achievements. The beads are attached to the second thong on the immediate recognition emblem. Boys may wear this emblem along with the Wolf and Bear badges when they are earned. Webelos Scout do not wear this emblem.

Each Cub Scout den leader should be furnished with a Cub Scout Immediate Recognition Kit, which contains enough recognition materials for 10 boys.

## Arrow Points

Cub Scouts earn an Arrow Point for each 10 elective projects they complete. The first Arrow Point earned as a Wolf or Bear is gold; the rest of the Arrow Points earned that year are silver. There is no limit to the number of Arrow Points a boy may earn.



Boys can do several Wolf and Bear electives more than once. In this way, boys can explore in more detail an area in which they may be especially interested. For example, a Wolf

Cub Scout may make as many kites or model boats as he wishes (Wolf Elective 5); however, this practice can be abused when families don't understand how the program works. *The purpose of Cub Scout electives is to broaden a boy's horizons, not encourage him to earn a shirt full of Arrow Points.* When a boy repeats an elective project, he should be given credit only when he has done a better job on the new project than on the previous project.

The elective plan provides advancement opportunities and recognition for boys until they are eligible to begin working on the next rank. Boys may work on elective projects concurrently with achievement projects; however, a boy can't receive Arrow Points until he has earned the badge for his grade level.

Mark the Cub Scout and Webelos Den Advancement Report to show the Arrow Points a boy has earned. These are presented to the parent or guardian during a pack advancement ceremony, who in turn presents them to the boy.

### Helpful Advancement Suggestions

- Achievements or parts of achievements that were not used to earn the Bear badge may be used as electives.
- If a boy completes a project as an achievement requirement to earn the Wolf or Bear badge, he may not use it again to earn Arrow Points.
- Only designated elective requirements may be repeated to earn Arrow Points.
- If a boy earns all the requirements for a particular achievement, requirements not used for the achievement can be used as elective requirements.
- For Wolf Achievement 1, "Feats of Skill," the following substitution can be made: If a physician certifies that a Cub Scout's condition for an indefinite amount of time won't permit him to do three of the requirements, the Cubmaster and pack committee may authorize substitution of any three Arrow Point projects.
- At the end of the school year, and once a boy moves to the next Cub Scouting level, he may not "go back" and earn Arrow Points from the earlier rank.

## THE CUB SCOUT DENNER AND ASSISTANT DENNER

The **Cub Scout denner** is a den member elected by the den for a short period, usually one or two months. The den leader and den chief determine his responsibilities. Duties might include helping to set up the den meeting place and cleanup; helping with games, ceremonies, tricks, and puzzles; leading a song; or acting as den cheerleader.

The Cub Scout denner should be given meaningful responsibilities and recognition to help him learn how to be a leader, so all boys will look forward to their turn as denner. (The short term of office is to give all boys the opportunity to serve.) The denner wears a shoulder cord on the left shoulder.

The **Cub Scout assistant denner** is a den member elected by the den for a term of office that coincides with the denner's term. He helps the denner and usually becomes denner for the next term.

## DEN ADULTS' MEETING

Three or four times a year, you as den leader should hold a den adults' meeting to keep families informed and supportive of the boys—and to support the families. Lead these meetings with the help of the assistant den leader. One of these meetings would be held as an orientation meeting in conjunction with a Rally Night for Cub Scouting. (See Chapter 10, "Den and Pack Management.")

The first meeting with den parents and guardians is important because it sets a first impression of your program. This meeting might be held at the Rally Night for Cub Scouting or at a separate time. There will be a lot of business to cover during this first den adults' meeting, so it is best if boys don't attend. If any families can't be represented at the meeting, you will want to make a call or pay a personal visit to be sure they have all the information.

Subsequent den adults' meetings might cover information that is more specific to the den calendar at the time.

These meetings provide you with opportunities to involve families in planning and leading special den activities, to find out whether any families are having specific problems with their boys' Cub Scout work, and to exchange ideas and plans.

Den adults' meetings should be informal; you can hold them at your home or at the den meeting place. You could also meet at members' homes on a rotating basis. Schedule the meetings at a time that is as convenient as possible for all-families.

Consider writing an agenda so that you don't forget to cover anything. The meeting is usually followed by refreshments and fellowship.

During a family orientation (see Chapter 5), Rally Night for Cub Scouting (see Chapter 10), or separate meeting, parents and guardians must get pertinent information so that they know how the program works and their level of involvement. Here is a suggested agenda:

## Den Adult's Meeting Agenda

### I. Welcome and Introductions

1. Thank everyone for coming. Welcome them to the fellowship of Cub Scouting.
2. Have den adults tell a little about themselves—ages of children, Scouting background, what type of work they do, etc.

### II. Den and Pack Meetings

1. Announce the den and pack meeting dates and times. (If the den meeting day has not already been determined, make that decision now.)
2. Explain the den meeting format.
3. Review attendance at meetings.
  - Adults usually don't attend den meetings unless they are asked to help in some special way.
  - All family members are encouraged to attend pack meetings.
  - Regular attendance of boys at den and pack meetings is important if they are to get the most benefit.
  - Families are responsible for seeing that boys get to meetings on time and are picked up immediately afterward.

### III. Advancement

1. Review the *Wolf Handbook* and/or the *Bear Handbook*.
  - Ask each adult participant to read the "Parent Guide" in the boys' handbooks. Review it with them sufficiently so that they understand their role in Cub Scout advancement. Ask them to study the guide more carefully at home.
  - Some packs furnish the boys' handbooks. If your pack doesn't, let the participants know where they can get them and encourage them to do so promptly.
2. Explain that the boys should always bring their handbooks to den meetings so that their advancement progress can be recorded.
3. Discuss the advancement plan.
  - Review the appropriate sections in the boys' handbooks:
    - Bobcat trail
    - Wolf trail and electives
    - Bear trail and electives

- Emphasize that the family is expected to approve the boy's work. "Do Your Best" is the criterion for approving a project. Show how and where they sign the book.
  - Explain that boys need continuing encouragement and motivation.
  - Explain what modifications might be necessary to help boys with disabilities in their advancement.
4. Explain the Immediate Recognition Kit used in den meetings and show the immediate recognition emblem, den advancement chart, and den doodle.
  5. Tell how awards are presented at pack meetings and that families are expected to attend and to present the awards to their boys.

### IV. Den Dues

1. Explain that the annual registration fee is for membership in the national organization and is not used by the den or pack.
2. Tell how den dues are used—to buy advancement badges, equipment, and materials for den projects.
3. Tell how much den dues are and when they are collected. Encourage families to find ways for the boys to earn this money at home so that they can help pay their own way. Emphasize the importance of paying dues regularly.

### V. Uniform

1. Explain why the uniform is important (see Chapter 12, "Uniforms and Insignia").
2. Explain that boys should wear uniforms to all den and pack meetings and other Cub Scout activities.
3. Explain what comprises a complete uniform. Show a picture of the uniform in the boys' handbook and describe the parts.
4. Tell where to buy the uniform—providing the names and addresses of local Scouting distributors—and how much it costs.
5. Explain what insignia boys should wear. Give each family a copy of the Cub Scout and Webelos Scout Uniform Inspection Sheet (see page 34-53).
6. Tell about the pack uniform exchange and other places that boys can get "experienced" uniforms.

### VI. Boy Behavior

1. Explain what type of behavior is expected during den meetings.
2. Tell how behavior problems will be handled.

3. Explain the den code of conduct (see Chapter 16, "Managing Boys").

## VII. Parent or Guardian Responsibilities

1. Ask each parent or guardian to fill out a Family Talent Survey Sheet for the den (see page 34-11).
2. Review the religious emblems program and show how families can encourage their boys to earn the emblem appropriate for their family's beliefs.
3. Make specific assignments or ask for volunteers for refreshments, telephoning, transportation, etc.

## VIII. Medical Information

1. Explain the importance of knowing about any medical problems Cub Scouts may have.
2. Suggest to parents and guardians that you would like to talk privately with anyone whose Cub Scout has a medical problem.
3. If not already on file, have the parents or guardians of each Cub Scout complete a Class 1 Personal Health and Medical Record for their boy (No. 34414, page 34-51). This information should be readily accessible to you, the den leader, in case of an emergency.

## IX. Wolf or Bear Den Program

1. Briefly review the Wolf or Bear program, including dates of field trips, Scouting shows, day or resident camps, and other activities that relate to the den's program.

## X. Fellowship and Refreshments

1. Take time for all participants to get to know the families of their Cub Scout's friends.
2. Exchange telephone numbers and e-mail addresses and encourage den families to get better acquainted.

# JOINING A WEBELOS DEN

When a boy completes second grade (or reaches age 9), he is eligible to enter a Bear den. Then, when he completes third grade (or reaches age 10), he is eligible to enter a Webelos den. Ensure that these transitions are smooth and that the boy moves directly from den to den without any problems.

When a boy leaves a Bear den to enter a Webelos den, he is entering a new part of Cub Scouting. His uniform will change, he will face different advancement requirements, and he will have new experiences with camping. He should lose no time or opportunities in Scouting during this transition.

Make the transition into the Webelos den special for the boy with a meaningful ceremony during a pack meeting. The Cub Scout den leader could remove the boy's Cub Scout neckerchief and hand it to his family while wishing them well. The Webelos den leader then could hand the Webelos Scout neckerchief to a parent to put around the boy's neck. The Cubmaster could also present the boy with the *Webelos Scout Book*. The Webelos den might greet him with special welcoming cheer, or the Webelos den chief could extend his personal welcome.

See *Cub Scout Ceremonies for Dens and Packs* (No. 33212) for graduation ceremony ideas.

