

WELCOME! NEW WOLF, BEAR OR WEBELOS DEN LEADER



BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA®

Welcome to your new adventure!

Your time volunteering in Cub Scouting will be rewarding and fun, and the information here will help you get off to the right start. With the proper training, resources, and enthusiasm, you have the ability to make a positive difference in the lives of Cub Scouts.

A **den** is a small group of youth—an ideal size is eight, but you may have more or less. The ideal den is formed with Cub Scouts of the same school grade.

As a den leader of Wolves (second graders), Bears (third graders), or Webelos (fourth grade), simply use the den meeting resources found in the Wolf, Bear, or Webelos handbooks and on [scouting.org](https://www.scouting.org). Den meeting resources provide fun activities to do at meetings that meet requirements for Adventures.

BEFORE THE FIRST MEETING

- 1. Register as a Cub Scout Leader.** Fill out an adult application and attach your Youth Protection completion certificate. (See no. 2.) This form will register you with Scouting America and give Scouting America permission to initiate a background check for approving you as a leader.
- 2. Complete Youth Protection training and print the certificate of completion.** Youth Protection training, found online at [my.Scouting.org](https://www.my.scouting.org), will teach you Scouting America's policies for safely and appropriately interacting with youth.
- 3. Complete the "Before Your First Meeting" online training modules for Den Leader training.** The online training, found at [my.Scouting.org](https://www.my.scouting.org), will begin building the foundation you need to become an effective and successful leader.
- 4. After your den leader application has been approved, log in to Scoutbook.com as Den Leader.** Use the same username and password as the [my.Scouting.org](https://www.my.scouting.org) account that you set up for training. Logging in to [Scoutbook.com](https://www.scoutbook.com) as Den Leader will give you access to the administrative tools you need to run the den, including recording advancement.
- 5. Become acquainted with your Cubmaster and the pack committee.** These volunteer leaders will see that you have the information and materials you need to prepare for and conduct den meetings and activities.
- 6. Wear the Cub Scout leader uniform.** The uniform is a method of the Scouting program. Wearing the uniform properly is important in setting a good example. You can purchase a uniform through a local Scout shop or through www.scoutshop.org.



- 7. Prepare for your first meeting.** Use the den meeting resources found in the Wolf, Bear, or Webelos handbooks. The QR codes in these handbooks direct you to the resources to plan activities for your meetings.

WITHIN THE FIRST MONTH

- 1. Complete all of the online training modules for Den Leader training.** Once you have done this at [my.Scouting.org](https://www.my.scouting.org), you are considered trained and eligible to wear the Trained patch, worn below the Den Leader position patch.
- 2. Get acquainted with the families in your den.** Hold a family orientation meeting outlining the structure of den meetings and den outings, the time and location for meetings, and your den's role during the monthly pack meetings. It may not be required, as it is in Lion (kindergarten) or Tiger (first grade) meetings, for parents to attend with their Scouts, but a wise den leader will continue to have parents participate and assist with den meetings and activities.
- 3. Get acquainted with the children in your den.** Establish a den code of conduct so that everyone will know what you expect of them. This is a requirement for the required Bobcat Adventure.
- 4. Ask your Cubmaster to help you secure a den chief.** This den helper is a Scout from a troop, a Venturer, or a Sea Scout, who will set a good example for your Cub Scouts. Give your den chief meaningful responsibilities right away.
- 5. Attend the monthly pack planning committee meetings held by your pack leadership.** These meetings, led by the pack committee chair, are where pack plans are made.
- 6. Attend the monthly pack meeting with the members of your den and their families.** You'll receive helpful information and have your questions answered. In this meeting, Cub Scouts may be recognized for the Adventures they have completed since the last pack meeting. They may be asked to participate by performing flag ceremonies, displaying projects completed with your den, or acting out skits or run-ons.

7. **Stay informed.** Attend monthly Roundtable meetings; they might be conducted in person or virtually where you live. There are national Cub Scout Roundtable videos at www.scouting.org/commissioners/roundtable-support/roundtable-planning-resources/. And tune into *Scouting* magazine's weekly [Cub Chat Live!](#) weekly.

Don't hesitate to ask for help. There are many people who want to help you provide the finest possible Cub Scout experience for the families in your den. As a Cub Scout leader, you can also access the online [Scouting magazine](#), which includes information to assist you as a leader. A good source of information is www.scouting.org/programs/cub-scouts/. By the time you have completed the steps outlined here, you will be well on your way to becoming a successful den leader.

YOU, THE DEN LEADER

You were selected as a den leader and approved by the pack committee because of your abilities and character. By making the commitment to serve as a den leader, you have accepted the following responsibilities:

- Plan, prepare for, and conduct den meetings with the assistant den leader and den chief.
- Attend the pack leaders' meetings.
- Ensure Cub Scouts earn their badge of rank and continue in Cub Scouting.
- Help train and guide the den chief in working with Cub Scouts and see that they receive recognition for their efforts at den and pack meetings.
- Provide meaningful responsibilities for the denner and assistant denner so that they can learn responsibility and gain satisfaction from their efforts.

Assistant Cub Scout Den Leaders

The assistant den leaders share the responsibilities of the Cub Scout den leader and may assist with record keeping such as tracking advancement or handling other details of den operation. Each den should have at least one assistant den leader and more if needed.

Assistant den leaders must be 21 years of age or older, which helps ensure that there are two registered adult leaders who are 21 years of age or older at every meeting or activity. Additional assistant den leaders may be recruited to provide additional support as needed.

THE CUB SCOUT DEN MEETING

Den meetings are often twice a month, but the frequency is up to the den leader and the families in the den. The meeting day, time, and location are set by the den leader and should be the same day of the week to prevent confusion. Den meetings last approximately one hour. Leadership responsibilities are shared by the den leader, assistant den leader, and den chief.

The den meeting program includes the following parts; details for each Adventure are in the den meeting resources on Scouting.org/.

1. **Before the Meeting.** The den leader, assistant den leader, and den chief make final preparations.
2. **Gathering.** As Cub Scouts arrive, they join in a game or activity with help from the assistant den leader or den chief. The den leader takes attendance and checks on completion of requirements.
3. **Opening.** The den participates in a simple opening ceremony that includes the Scout Oath and Scout Law, plus the Pledge of Allegiance.
4. **Activities.** Cub Scouts do activities related to the completion of required or elective Adventures.
5. **Closing.** The den leader gives reminders and shares a closing thought, and the den holds a brief inspirational closing ceremony.
6. **After the Meeting.** The den leader, assistant den leader, and den chief discuss plans for the next week's meeting, while the denner leads the other Cub Scouts to put the room back in order.



THE CUB SCOUT UNIFORM

The uniform is a method of the Cub Scouting program. It identifies youth and adults as part of a team and provides a sense of belonging to the den, the pack, and Scouting America. It also instills a sense of pride as the uniform is where awards and achievements are displayed. Most Cub Scout-age children love wearing their Cub Scout uniform. Uniforms should be worn to all den meetings, pack meetings, and special pack activities.

The Cub Scout uniform for Wolves, Bears, and Webelos is the navy blue Cub Scout uniform shirt, navy blue pants or skorts, the blue web belt, and the appropriate neckerchief, slide, and cap.

Wolf—Red neckerchief, Wolf slide, navy and gold socks, and red Wolf cap.

Bear—Blue neckerchief, Bear slide, navy and gold socks, and blue Bear cap.

Webelos—Webelos neckerchief, Webelos slide, navy and gold socks, and Webelos cap. Webelos also have the Adventure Colors, which is used to display their Adventure pins.

WHAT DO YOU INVEST IN CUB SCOUTING?

- One afternoon or evening each week for either a den meeting, pack meeting, or pack committee meeting.
- One evening each month for the Cub Scout roundtable.
- Time spent choosing and preparing for activities to conduct during den meetings, including gathering supplies.
- Time spent in Cub Scout leader training.
- Cost of the Cub Scout leader uniform.
- 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 and your Cub Scout can expect to receive in return.

WHAT DO YOU RECEIVE IN RETURN?

- The opportunity to create the foundation for a strong lifelong bond with your child.
- Make new friends with families in your community.
- A monthly gathering of fun and fellowship with pack families, sharing their pride in their child's accomplishments.
- The opportunity to meet your child's peers and their parents to enable your child to form healthy friendships.
- A sense of pride as you watch the Cub Scouts receive recognition for their accomplishments.
- An opportunity to share your ideas and experiences with other adults who share your interest in and concern for youth.
- Watching Cub Scouts grow and mature as they strive to live up to the Scout Oath and Scout Law.
- The opportunity to help youth learn good citizenship and shape them into young adults who have strength of character and are sensitive to the needs of others.
- The satisfaction of being a member of a worldwide organization and pride in being publicly identified as a part of this organization by wearing the uniform, which is a visible means of showing that you believe in and stand for its ideals and objectives.

You will discover many other dividends that will enrich your life as you dedicate your time, talent, and enthusiasm to Cub Scouting.

All leaders bring to Cub Scouting their own talents, skills, backgrounds, and interests. Your key to becoming an effective leader is to use your own abilities and interests, along with what you learn about Cub Scouting, to plan and conduct the best possible program for the families in your den. What happens in the life of each child during the formative years will determine to a great extent the kind of adult they will become. What a tremendous opportunity and challenge for you, the den leader!

