



CUB SCOUTING AND YOUR FAMILY

TO: THE NEW CUB SCOUT FAMILY

You are reading this because you have shown an interest in becoming a Cub Scout family. To be a Cub Scout, your boy needs to have completed the first grade, or be at least 8 years old.

You have chosen Cub Scouting because you know it is home- and neighborhood-centered. You know that Cub Scouting is designed to support family life. The program also helps to meet your boy's growth needs such as:

- 1** To learn new physical skills. He can do this through games, sports and crafts. As he develops his coordination, he gains a sense of worthiness and acceptance by his peers.
- 2** To learn to get along with boys of his same age. He needs to form friendships with other boys. He needs to learn how to balance giving and receiving affection if he is to relate well to his peers. He needs to belong to a group of boys his own age.
- 3** To develop his mental processes. He can develop his mental process by reading, writing, and calculating. He needs opportunities to use language to express ideas and to influence others. He must move from a preoccupation with self to understanding how and what others think of him. Opportunities for observation and experimentation will help him learn self-reliance.
- 4** To develop a conscience. He must begin to develop a sense of what is right and wrong and what is fair and unfair. He will do this by cooperating with other boys, by being taught, by examples of adults, and from positive reinforcement. He begins to develop democratic social attitudes.
- 5** To develop personal independence. He needs to be less dependent on adults. His same-age buddies become important to him.

These are the developmental tasks a boy of this age needs to begin working on. He needs to belong to a "gang" of boys his own age. This is exactly where Cub Scouting comes in. A den is like a neighborhood gang of six or eight boys in which he will achieve status and recognition.

As you learn more about how Cub Scouting works and what goes on in a den and a pack, you will see that the program helps your boy in these five important developmental needs. The uniqueness of Cub Scouting is that you, as his family, join the program with your boy. You will help him all along the way.

To find out how you can help your boy by becoming a Cub Scout family, please turn the page and fill in the Parent and Family Talent Survey Sheet. Hand it in at this meeting.

PARENT AND FAMILY TALENT SURVEY SHEET

Each parent or adult family member should fill out a separate sheet
and turn it in at this meeting.

Pack _____ Chartered Organization _____ Date _____

Welcome to the Cub Scout family of our pack. As explained to you, Cub Scouting is for parents as well as boys. We have a fine group of families who have indicated willingness to help, according to their abilities. We invite you to add your talents and interests so that the best possible program can be developed for your boy and his friends.

Den leaders and Webelos den leaders are always busy with den activities. Our pack leaders and committee members know you have some talent that will help in the operation of our pack. Although your help may not be on a full-time basis, whatever you can do will be appreciated.

In making this survey, your pack committee wants to uncover ways you can enjoy giving assistance. Please answer the following as completely as possible:

1. My hobbies are: _____
2. I can play and teach these sports: _____
3. My job, business, or profession would be of interest to Cub Scouts: _____
4. I am willing to help my boy and the pack as: pack committee member, den leader or assistant, den leader coach, assistant Cubmaster, Webelos den leader or assistant, Cubmaster.
5. My Scouting experience: Cub Scout _____ Boy scout _____
Explorer _____ Rank attained _____
Adult leader _____
6. I can help in these areas:

General Activities

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Carpentry | <input type="checkbox"/> Typing |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Swimming | <input type="checkbox"/> Drawing/art |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Games | <input type="checkbox"/> Radio/electricity |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Nature | <input type="checkbox"/> Dramatics/skits |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sports | <input type="checkbox"/> Cooking/banquets |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Outdoor activities | <input type="checkbox"/> Sewing |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Crafts | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Music/songs | <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bookkeeping | _____ |

Special Program Assistance

- I have a station wagon or van or truck.
- I have a workshop.
- I have family camping gear.
- I can make contacts for special trips and activities.
- I have access to a cottage or camping property or a boat.
- I can help Webelos Scouts with Scouting skills.
- I can, or know others who can, help with our Cub Scout Sports and Academics program.
- I can give other help. _____

Webelos Activity Areas

- | | | |
|---------------------------------------|---|------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aquanaut | <input type="checkbox"/> Family Member | <input type="checkbox"/> Readyman |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Artist | <input type="checkbox"/> Fitness | <input type="checkbox"/> Scholar |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Athlete | <input type="checkbox"/> Forester | <input type="checkbox"/> Scientist |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Citizen | <input type="checkbox"/> Geologist | <input type="checkbox"/> Showman |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communicator | <input type="checkbox"/> Handyman | <input type="checkbox"/> Sportsman |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Craftsman | <input type="checkbox"/> Naturalist | <input type="checkbox"/> Traveler |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Engineer | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Outdoorsman | |

Name _____ Home phone _____
 Street address _____ Business phone _____
 City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Your cooperation and help are appreciated.

Your Pack Committee

TIPS FOR INVOLVING PARENTS

- **Get to know your pack and den parents.**

It is easier to ask someone you know to help, rather than a complete stranger. Likewise, it is harder for someone to say no to someone they know. One of the best places to visit with your parents is at the monthly pack meetings. Introduce yourself and follow-up with a phone call or a note.

- **Have a specific request/task in mind when you contact a parent.**

It is much more successful to ask, "Can you help with the roller skating party in two weeks by driving four of the boys to and from the rink," than to say, "I need help next month with whatever it is we decide to do." Everyone can identify with a specific request, but vague questions deal with the unknown and will be easily answered with a negative response.

- **If the parent cannot help with the current request, have another activity in mind.**

Always have alternatives. If they are unavailable for the current activity, ask them at that time to help with a specific future activity. For instance, if they cannot attend the roller skating party, they might be available the following month to help drive during Scouting for Food. Keep asking-give them lots of opportunities to participate and continue to let them know they are needed.

- **Be fair and honest with your requests.**

If you ask a parent to take the boys skating, explain the exact times and what will be expected (drive, supervise snacks, skate with the boys, etc.) Don't abuse anyone's willingness to get involved. In addition, we are responsible for the health and safety of the boys and must ensure the involved parents appreciate the rules (seat belts, two deep leadership, appropriate activities, etc.)

- **Acknowledge the help you receive when someone volunteers.**

A short note or telephone call after the activity, thanking someone for helping you with the boys will go a long way to ensuring you continue to have help when you need it. A simple certificate or other recognition at a pack meeting may also be appropriate. Thank-yous, while not time consuming on your part, show your volunteers you appreciate the time they have to help you.

- **Don't put people on the spot.**

No matter how much we need help for projects and activities, we must leave room for a parent to gracefully decline without experiencing severe guilt when not helping with a son's activities.

- **If a parent offers help in a specific area, ask for help in that area**

Use the **parent's** help as it was offered, not in a different capacity or unfamiliar area. If you put someone in an uncomfortable situation, you will eventually lose their talents.

- **Don't assume everyone has the same attitude and interest in Cub Scouting that you have.**

This certainly does not mean we should in any way refrain from offering parents opportunities to become active and involved. After becoming familiar with the program interest and excitement may develop and grow.