

# HELP!

## I AM A TIGER CUB LEADER!!!

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### Acknowledgments:

First, let us say "THANK YOU" for being a leader in Cub Scouts!!

No other organization teaches such a vast array of skills, including leadership, to our sons. You make this happen. The "Den Leader" is the most important adult in the Cub Scout Program. Thank you for being a Den Leader!

I have heard it said that "It is easier to build boys than it is to mend men." This quote is from a friend who was a Den Leader and a Scoutmaster, as well as a counselor in our nation's adult prison system. Thank you for being a Den Leader!

This booklet is an attempt to assist you in your roles of teacher, role model, and leader. Use this as a supplement to Program Helps (a new one is published each year). Pick and choose from these. Use these to spark new ideas. Make your Den Meetings even better than these!

And once again, THANK YOU for being a Den Leader!

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January, 2004.

### Introduction:

Welcome to Tiger Cubs!

Welcome to the Scouting Adventure...an adventure that your son can enjoy his whole life and that you can enjoy with him! You and your son do not sit in the bleachers or on the sideline in Scouting...you are both "In the game!"

From Cubmaster Bill Barnsley: "There is a ton that one can choose to learn. Do not panic, and do not try to learn it all this week, or even this year! If you can manage to learn the Pledge, buy a shirt, and make it to the Pack Meeting this month, you are ahead of the curve. If your son (or you) manage to get there with their/your shirt tucked in and hair combed, you are amazing."

Remember: K.I.S.S.M.I.F.! \*\*Keep It Safe and Simple, Make It Fun!\*\*

Once you look through the resources, you will realize that there is also a ton that you can do. You cannot do it all. Pick a few activities, outings and events, AND HAVE FUN!

### THE TIGER PROGRAM ("Fun with a purpose")

There are five achievements. Each achievement is in three parts - "Family, Den, and Go See It."

Electives may be done at anytime, but the yellow beads (ten electives for each bead) are awarded after the boy has earned his Tiger Rank.

We have put two different sample calendars in this publication. We encourage you to use these as a starting points, and to make your program even better than these using the Program Helps, as well as Pack, parental, and personal resources.

Spreadsheets for tracking the Cubs' progress are at: <http://www.geocities.com/cybercubber/cub-tracker.html>

### YPG Pearls

#### KEY POINTS FROM YPG

- \*Have a tour permit for all outings.
- \*Always have Two Deep Leadership (i.e. in case someone gets hurt or sick) in the Den, for meetings, and for outings.
- \*Never be alone with a child.
- \*Never share a tent, cabin, or room with a child (except your own children).
- \*Report any suspected abuse cases immediately to the Council Office ([619] 298-6121. State that it is a "YPG matter.").

### Some Early Musings . . .

**\*Plan & do: Fun with a purpose!**

**\*Keep it safe & simple, make it fun! (K.I.S.S.M.I.F.!)**

Make it fun for both you and the boys. If YOU are not having fun, then change how/what you are doing in/with the program. Hence the corollary: NO TEARS IN CUB SCOUTS (and this includes the leaders! Thanks Ben Polanski!).

**\*We do it for the boys!**

This is important to remember when confronted by competitive and/or critical parents. Plan and do things that your Cubs will both enjoy and learn from.

**\*Assign/ask your helpers early, and often!**

Have others bring the snack, work at and/or setup the stations you have planned, keep track of the advancement, etc., etc. You are the leader, not a slave. Do as much as you want, and help others help you out with different meetings, locations, games, snacks, activities, etc. Share your resources, web sites, and books with them to help them succeed in helping the Den. Every parent in your Den has talents...discover them and use them to improve the Den and lighten your load!

**\*\*Pre-Hike The Hike!!!\*\***

This means that you (and maybe your son) try it out BEFORE the Den/Pack Meeting. Whether it is: preparing the snack; having the Tigers practice the skit or yell, or holding the flag; making the craft; or walking the hike yourself in advance--> "JUST DO IT" before you use the activity in public and/or at a meeting. Huge THANKS to Philmont's Ben Polanski for this one!

**\*Take pictures from the start!**

You will love having these for the Cubs' scrapbooks, Pack displays, and for news releases. Find a parent to do this for you and the Den!

**\*Send e-mails often!**

As all this Cub Scouting may be new to your families, frequent reminders of upcoming Den and Pack meetings, activities, and things to bring/do for the meetings are very helpful. Make up a Den e-mail list, so all you have to do is type the reminders and send it out a few days before each activity.

## TRAINING

Make your life easier! Take training sessions from the District and/or Council. You will be a better parent and leader, you will find the meetings are easier for you, and your Cubs will benefit from it too! (Thank you to Philmont's Allen Walker for this one!).

Start with the "Fast Start Training." This can be found for your viewing convenience at: [www.tecumsehCouncilBSA.org/CSfaststart.htm](http://www.tecumsehCouncilBSA.org/CSfaststart.htm)

(Please note: all web sites were checked for accuracy and content at the time of this printing: January, 2004.)

The next training step for Den Leaders is at the "Cub Scout Specific" sessions, and the dates/times/places for these may be found at our Council's web site under the training heading: <http://www.bsadpc.org/main.asp> Our Pack will reimburse any expenses incurred for these local training sessions.

You need to have a Y.P.G. ("Youth Protection Guideline") trained person on any outing to have your tour permit approved (and therefore activate your Pack's insurance policy). The information on these training sessions (and an on-line version!!) may also be found at our Council's web site. The certification lasts for three years. If possible, go to a "Live" version for your first session, so you can ask questions.

Finally, ongoing training/ideas/inspiration come in the forms of a visit to Philmont Scout Ranch in New Mexico, the local Cub Scout Pow Wow (usually the first Sat. in March), and the local "University of Scouting" (usually in the fall). These are filled with wonderful sessions on almost every aspect of Cub Scouting!. Also, the monthly District Roundtables (our Scripps-Mesa District's Roundtables are held at the Mira Mesa LDS Stake Center on Pegasus Ave at 7:30 PM on the second Thursday of the month), are filled with ideas, skills, and practical activities to help you with your Den!

## MISCELLANEOUS PEARLS

### **\*WHERE TO SHOP!**

In addition to the Scout Service Center Shop on Upas Street near the zoo, there is a Mobile Trading Post that comes to the Michael's and Miller's Outpost parking lot on the corner of Pomerado and Poway Road. This takes cash or check (as of my last visit, they do not take credit cards). The van is there from 3-7PM each Tuesday, EXCEPT for the first and second Tuesdays of the month. It is also there on the second Monday of the month. To check on stock, or to order something unusual, contact Vicki Jacobs at: (619) 298-6121, ext. 219. For the rest of the schedule, please see the appendix.

### **\*THE ACADEMICS AND SPORTS PROGRAM.**

The Cubs earn way cool belt loops (easier) and pins (harder) for many different areas, ranging from chess to soccer! There is a book you can buy listing all of the requirements. These requirements are also at the official Boy Scouts of America Web Site <http://www.usscouts.org/advance/cubscout/a-s.html> and at a Florida Pack's site <http://members.tripod.com/pack485/beltloops.htm>. I have the parents print out the requirement list from the latter site, and then sign/date/give it to me. We award the belt loops and pins at the Pack Meetings. Order these (and rank/arrow point awards) from the Pack's Advancement Committee Member well before the Pack Meeting.

### **\*RANK BEADS.**

For every three achievements the Cub completes, he receives a yellow bead (for Wolf) to wear off of a diamond shaped plastic patch on the right pocket of the Cub Scout shirt. When he has all four, he has earned his Wolf Award. This helps give recognition to the boy as he moves along the Wolf Trail! We award these to the Cub at the Den Meetings. Order this kit (one kit has enough for 8 Cubs for both the Wolf and Bear years!) from the Pack's Advancement Committee Member.

### **\*ACTIVITY PATCHES.**

The Cub will often receive patches for various activities he attends (i.e. Scout Fair, Grave Decoration, Day Camp, etc.). These may be worn on the right pocket of the Cub Scout Shirt, and/or the Cub Scout Red Vest.

### **\*ACTIVITY BEADS.**

This is not an official Cub Scout program. It is however used by many programs within Scouting, such as Order of the Arrow Lodges, Roundtables, and Adult Training Programs. We have used a leather lace (with a plastic arrow point or bear claw) for the displaying of beads the Cub earns for attending functions wearing his uniform. For example: blue (Den Meeting), yellow (Pack Meeting), red (special field trip), white (service project or fund raiser), and green (outdoor activity/Day Camp/campout). These beads are very important to the Cubs in my Den, and they are very inexpensive (\$1 buys a whole bag!). The Cubs practice their knots, as they untie and tie the lace with each new bead. This article is also a representation of Native American jewelry (please see Wolf electives 10c, 17a and 17e).

### **\*RECORD KEEPING.**

You can have a parent in charge of signing/recording the advancement in the books and on a spread sheet or you can collect the books periodically to fill them in /record them yourself. I have seen a number of different recording sheets, both homemade and from web sites. I have included one in the appendix. I keep a spreadsheet for each boy with pencil check marks, and I yellow the check mark on the spreadsheet with a pen when I have recorded/signed it off in his book.

Spreadsheets for tracking the Cubs' progress are at: <http://trax.boy-scouts.net/cubtrax.htm>

## MEETINGS

Our Dens in the past have done some things the same and some things very differently. The key here is that it all can work, depending on the various demographics of the Den (i.e. working parents, single parent families, siblings, after school programs, etc.), your individual skills, and the Cubs themselves.

**WHEN:** usually afternoon or evenings, depending on your (and the boys') schedule(s). We would suggest trying to keep the meetings on the same day(s) each month, as it is easier for the parents to remember the schedule.

**\*\*REMEMBER TO SEND OUT E-MAIL REMINDERS A FEW DAYS BEFORE EACH MEETING/OUTING\*\***

Den outings can be evenings, on Thursday afternoons (the partial school days in Scripps Ranch), and/or on a weekend (one Den has found Sunday afternoons to be the best for its families' schedules). Make sure you have a "Tour Permit" approved by the Council office, and your copy with you. If you have boys attending without a parent (try to avoid this in the Tiger year), carry a permission slip/medical form WITH you (please see appendix for a sample). Usually, we have one Tiger Den Meeting and a "Go See It" each month, plus a Pack meeting.

Remind parents what they signed up for. For example, if a parent signed up to run the activity in December, give them a note at the November meeting, and TALK with them two weeks before to see how it is going. Communication and schedule help to build an active den. Also, this Tiger year allows the parent(s) to realize their importance in their boy's growth.

**DEN SIZE:** I know of a successful small Pack in Wash. State that has two boys in some Dens, and we have successfully navigated the Tiger year with twelve in a Den. We have found that more than eight in a Den becomes a lot for the leader(s) to deal with, although it certainly can be done with the right leader.

**DEN FLAG:** Make one of wood, cloth, leather, etc. with the boys each identified on it. Use it for your boys to sit with at Pack Meetings, and to display awards the Den earns (from Pack games, inspections, spirit awards, etc.). You can buy an orange "Tiger" flag to use as a basis. I have seen plastic arrow points, pieces of wood rounds, and even noise activated lights hanging from Den flags. Stands may be made of wood, PVC pipe, or even 5 gallon buckets!

**SNACK:** Consider having the "Host Family" be responsible for this. If the meeting is at your house, ask another family to bring the snack. You have enough to do without worrying about snack. This being said, we always had a bag of pretzels along just in case someone forgot.

Snacks at this age need to be low in sugar, healthy and "just enough." Try to keep them simple and fun, because nobody likes a messy cleanup. Some fun ideas include (all with adult supervision of course!): "Jiffy Pop" or "Air-popped" popcorn, ready to bake cookies, and "Stone Soup Trail Mix" (Each Tiger brings something for trail mix. These are dumped into a large plastic bowl, and then the servings may be ladled out with a plastic spoon into small paper cups. If there are food allergy considerations, serve these boys their trail mix before the respective offending foods are added to the large bowl.).

**FINANCES:** For supplies, you can collect dues every week (i.e. \$2 a week, except for outings), or a fixed amount up front (i.e. \$25 for the year). One Den Leader used the "Scout Bucks" his Den earned from selling popcorn for buying Den supplies at the Scout Service Center, and did not need to collect any other dues.

**MEETING FORMAT:** one possible order is (see page 14 of the Tiger Cub Handbook):

1. Before the meeting (Preparations of the Den Leader with the host partner).
2. Snack as a gathering activity.
3. Opening: Flag Ceremony/Cub Scout Promise/Law of the Pack (you can use a small flag/laminated versions of these).
4. SHARE something (helpful chore, favorite color/game/video/costume, etc.).
5. DISCOVER/learn/make something.
6. SEARCH: talk about future plans.
7. Play a game.
8. Closing.
9. After the meeting (review with/thank the host partner and Tiger Cub!).

(In the evening meetings, we switched 2 and 7...the kids did not want to miss the game which was the "gathering activity," so they were on time!). Crafts/puzzles/word searches/mazes (see <http://puzzlemaker.com>) also work well as gathering activities).

We often used Program Helps (a new one is published each fall), The How to Book, ideas from Roundtable/Trainings, and Scouting web sites for game/activity ideas.

## A SAMPLE CALENDAR YEAR!

We have included two sample calendars. "A" completes the "Tiger Rank" in April, and "B" completes it in February before the "Blue And Gold Dinner." In the latter, the remainder of the year is used for belt loops and electives (One may choose to follow the themes in Program Helps).

These are just suggestions. These formats will accomplish all Family, Den and Go See Its. These formats also include quite a few electives, so the yellow beads may be earned as well. You could also replace some electives to earn a belt loop if you like ie: map and compass, soccer, baseball, and/or computers. Elect 45 (visit a bakery), can be added as well.

You can mix any of this up and move things as time permits or disappears. Just make sure all 5 Family (F) all 5 Den (D) and Go See Its (G) are done.

## SAMPLE CALENDAR "A"

### **NOVEMBER**

- Den: Discuss Soccer Game idea (see January Go See It).  
 Pack: Elect 17 Space Derby  
 Family: 1F Home Chore with Adult  
 Go see it: 2G Fire or Police station.

### **DECEMBER**

- Den: 2D Opening Flag Ceremony with Pledge  
 Take Pictures of Boys by self and group shot (For Feb.).  
 3G Discuss rules of Soccer  
 Snack  
 Elect 6 Learn songs for Caroling Closing
- Pack: Caroling and Elect 11 Food Drive
- Family: 3Fa and 3Fb Fire Drill and lost discussion. "What to do if lost" (game/practice this at the Den Meeting, with the Tigers going into a safe back yard area hugging a tree (or other object), and then calling out/whistling three times while the partner comes and "Finds" the Tiger.

Go see it: 4G TV, Radio or Newspaper idea. Consider "Radio Live Remote." (A lot of radio stations do live broadcasts throughout the year at stores, fairs, and festivals. During the holiday time, you have stations do live remotes for donations of food for food banks, blanket drives etc. These are usually during the daylight hours on a weekend to bring the most people.)

## **JANUARY**

Den: Opening  
Elect 1 Discuss how celebrate  
3D Food Pyramid (use ads from grocery stores)  
Snack  
Elect 11 Make Change (have parents bring \$3.00 coins)  
Closing

Pack:

Family: 2F Map of area where live and landmarks

Go see it: 3G Soccer Game with Scouts.

## **FEBRUARY**

Den: Opening Ceremony  
1D Make Scrapbook (Use pictures taken Dec to start)  
Snack  
4D Play a game  
Closing

Pack: Blue and Gold Dinner Feb.

Family: 4F Talk about your day: everyone share and listen, work on Pinewood Derby

Go see it: 1G Visit Library or historic building/place  
(Penasquitos Ranch House, Poway Historic Railroad, Balboa Park museums, Star of India, Old Town, etc.).

## **MARCH**

Den: Opening Ceremony  
5D leaf rubbing (Have Tigers bring leaves to the Den meeting.)  
Snack  
Elect 16 Share your collection tell about hobby  
Closing

Pack: Elect 17 Pinewood Derby

Family: 5F Watch and discuss weather  
Elect.14 Reading Fun

Go see it: Elect. 22 make a den picnic (potluck)

## **APRIL**

Den: Opening  
Elect 21 Make a puppet  
Snack  
Elect 26 Phone manners  
Closing

Pack:

Family: Elect 3 Play game do puzzle

Go see it: 5G take a hike! Consider FLAT hikes at Penasquitos Canyon, Miramar or Poway Lake, Old Town. ("PRE-HIKE THE HIKE!")

Scout Fair

## **MAY**

Den: Opening  
Elect 31: learn about an animal (Go to the Zoo, Sea World, or Wild Animal Park?).  
Elect 35: play game outside with the Den.  
Snack  
Elect 47: learn what you can recycle.  
Closing

Pack:

Family Elect 27: talk about emergencies  
Elect 29: safety in the sun.

Go see it: Elect 36: go see a live performance.

## CALENDAR B

### **OCTOBER (Achievement 3).**

Family: \*Plan a fire drill (share this at Den Meeting).  
\*What to do if lost (game/practice this at the Den Meeting, with the Tigers going into a safe back yard area, hugging a tree (or other object), and then calling out/whistling three times while the partner comes and "Finds" the Tiger.

Den: Food pyramid (Hint: first, hold up various types of food, and have the Tigers tell what food groups they are in. Then, have cut out food pictures from grocery store ads, and have the Tigers place them on a triangle poster).

Go See It: Sockers/Chargers/high school/college game. (Padres or Surf Dawgs Baseball if done during the summer).

### **NOVEMBER (Achievement 5).**

Family: Discover/share about the weather outside.

Den: Have the Tigers bring leaves to do leaf rubbings.

Go See It: Take a hike! Consider FLAT hikes at Penasquitos Canyon, Miramar or Poway Lake, Old Town. ("PRE-HIKE THE HIKE!")

### **DECEMBER (Achievement 4).**

Family: Conversation at the dinner table.

Den: "Whisper game/operator/telephone."

Go See It: Visit TV or Radio station/"Radio live remote." (A lot of radio stations do live broadcasts throughout the year at stores, fairs, and festivals. During the holiday time, you have stations do live remotes for donations of food for food

banks, blanket drives etc. These are usually during the daylight hours on a weekend to bring the most people.) Ham radio operators can also act as a live radio station.

### **JANUARY (Achievement 2).**

Family: Look at a map together.  
Den: Practice the Pledge of Allegiance.  
Go See it: Police or Fire Station (Use their large area maps-usually on the wall- to review maps again).

### **FEBRUARY (Achievement 1)**

Family: Do a chore together.  
Den: Start a scrapbook.  
Go see it: Library or historic building/place (Penasquitos Ranch House, Poway Historic Railroad, Balboa Park, Star of India, Old Town, etc.).

Upcoming activities with the Pack include: March (Blue and Gold Dinner), April (Pack Campout), May (Eco-challenge and/or Cub-Annapolis 500, Memorial Day grave flag placement), June (Pack Graduation), and summer (hiking, kite flying, day camp, Surf Dawg's and Padres' baseball games, swimming, July 4th parade, etc.).

## SAMPLE HANDOUTS/E-MAILS

### Tiger Parent Letter Sample #1

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Hi Den 1 Tiger Parents!

Hope you are having a terrific summer. I want to give you a "heads up" about our September meeting. We have a full den at 8 cubs. Give me a head count if you need to bring siblings, so I know how many snacks to have on hand. If there are siblings, please bring something for them to do (quietly) while the cubs meet. The meeting will be held outside. One parent partner should stay with each cub.

September 11th, 2 pm to 3 pm in my backyard. (Address and phone number here).

1. Achievement # 3 covers a healthy lifestyle, including the food pyramid. If you can, have your son do the family activities: 3Fa and 3Fb, on pages 48 and 49, prior to the meeting. I will be recording their progress.

2. The GO SEE IT for this achievement is to attend a sporting event. If all of you attended one of the Padres games this summer, that will do it. Or, maybe we want to take the kids to see the Scripps Ranch High School Falcons play football? Let me know what you want to do.

3. To earn the Tiger cub belt totem, your cub needs to:

- 1) tell me the motto (p, 14),
- 2) show me the cub scout sign (p. 147) and
- 3) show me the cub salute (p, 149).

If he can do these three things at the Den meeting, he can wear the belt totem to the first Pack meeting on \_\_\_\_\_! Let's try to have all Den 1 Cubs wearing the totems!

Note: Please set aside an empty shoe box for your Tiger mementos. You will want to keep photos, ribbons, articles, etc. about your cub in it, and then we'll start our Cub Scout scrapbooks in January.

The Coming Months in October, \_\_\_\_\_ are planning achievement # 5, Let's Go Outdoors. Can't wait!

November is achievement # 4, being run by \_\_\_\_\_. She is setting up a visit to a TV station or radio station. Cool!

\*\* Put this date on your calendar: \_\_\_\_\_ is Tiger Safari. It's a day event at Lake Poway —tons of fun!

December is achievement # 2, being run by \_\_\_\_\_. Put this date on your calendar: \_\_\_\_\_ has arranged a tour of the local fire station on Dec. 4th at 2 pm. Hooray!

Note: Every time we visit a place outside of our homes, I need to file a tour permit with the Council. So, if I have the dates and details early, I can get the permit in plenty of time.

I will need parents to sign up to help with the Feb., Mar, Apr. and May meetings and special events. There is plenty to do, so please get involved! It makes it fun for your cub and for the rest of us Tigers!

For Tigers from the Spring Roundup: did your cub participate in 3 scout activities this summer? If so, let me know! He will have earned the "Summer Pin" award!

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## Tiger Handout Sample #1

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### Belt Loops & Pins

Here is the way to get information about belt loops and pins.

Go to [cubmaster.org](http://cubmaster.org)

Scroll down on the right side of the page and see

Cub Scout Advancement

Click on that

Scroll down to

Cub Scout Academic program

Beginning with "art" you can see what the requirements are for each belt loop. You will also see: Cub Scout Sports program for sports belt loops.

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## Sample Medical Release/Permission Sheet

(also downloadable from [http://www.pack616.com/Medical\\_Release\\_Form.pdf](http://www.pack616.com/Medical_Release_Form.pdf))

Cub Scouts name: \_\_\_\_\_

Medical problems:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Medications: \_\_\_\_\_

Last Tetanus immunization ("DPT or "Td"): \_\_\_\_\_

Allergies (food and/or medications):

\_\_\_\_\_

Any previous anesthetics:

\_\_\_\_\_

Have there been any adverse reactions to anesthesia in this Cub Scout or a relative?

\_\_\_\_\_

Medical insurance carrier/phone number: \_\_\_\_\_

Medical I.D. number and group number: \_\_\_\_\_

I hereby give permission for my son to attend the \_\_\_\_\_ with Den \_\_\_\_\_, Pack \_\_\_\_\_. I understand that all efforts will be made to contact a guardian in the case of an emergency. I understand and agree that if emergency medical treatment is needed and the leaders are unable to contact a guardian, I give my permission to the physician selected to secure proper medical attention for my son, including but not limited to: hospitalization, medications, anesthesia, and surgical treatment.

Sign name/relation to Cub Scout \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Emergency contact numbers (Home, cellphone, beepers, relatives, etc.):

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_