

HELP! I AM A WOLF DEN LEADER!

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Acknowledgments :

I hope you and your leaders find it useful.

It is longer than the "Year of the Bear!" as the leaders in our Pack have usually already read this booklet, and are more experienced by the time they get to the Bear year.

Take good care, and thanks for being in Scouting!
Bryon

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

Introduction:

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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YPG Pearls

KEY POINTS FROM YPG

- *Have a tour permit for all outings.
- *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 Council. You will be a better leader, and your Cubs will benefit from it!

Start with the "Fast Start Training." This can be found for your viewing convenience at:
<http://www.tecumsehcouncilbsa.org/CSfaststart.htm>

(Please note: all web sites were checked for accuracy and content at the time of the first printing-May, 2002.)

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. The information on these training sessions (and an on-line version!!) may also be found at our Council's web site.

Finally, ongoing training/ideas/inspiration comes in the form of the Cub Scout Pow Wow (Usually the first Sat. in March. This is filled with wonderful sessions on almost every aspect of Cub Scouting!), and the monthly District Roundtables (our Black Mountain District's Roundtables are just off of Carmel Mountain Road at 7:30 PM on the second Thursday of the month).

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.bsa.scouting.org>), 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, 17 a and e).

***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.

MEETINGS

Our two Dens did 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). The afternoon may be easier for boys to get to. I found that I got lots of help at our 6:30 PM evening meetings, as a parent attended with their son (especially if this is "strongly encouraged").

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 (see appendix), and your copy with you. If you have boys attending without a parent, carry a permission slip/medical form WITH you (please see appendix for a sample).

Usually, we have 2-3 Den Meetings and/or outings a month, plus a Pack meeting.

DEN SIZE: I know of a successful small Pack in Wash. State that has two boys in some Dens. We have found that more than eight in a Den becomes a lot for the leader(s) to deal with. It certainly can be done, with the right leaders and boys, but it gets tougher!

We did combine the Dens for special field trips (Police Station, Home Depot, Service Projects, Wild Animal Park, etc.). Having lots of parents along for these trips is essential!

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.).

SNACK: you can assign families a given meeting, or a given month to bring snack. You have enough to do without worrying about snack. This being said, we always had a bag of cookies along just in case someone forgot.

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:

1. Snack as a gathering activity
2. Opening: Flag Ceremony/Cub Scout Promise/Law of the Pack (you can use a small flag/laminated versions of these)
3. Learn something
4. Make something
5. Play a game
6. Closing

(In the evening meetings, we switched 1 and 5. . .the kids did not want to miss the game which was the "gathering activity," so they were on time!).

We often pulled our games from the WOLF BOOK achievements or electives (i.e. Ach. 10b/page 90, Elect. 4a-f/pp. 128-131, 18c & d/pg. 197.), so as to help the boys work toward their arrow points. Also, see The How-To-Book and the booklet of "Program Helps" (a new one is published each fall) for game/activity ideas.

A SAMPLE CALANDAR YEAR!

Both Dens worked on the achievements at Den Meetings. The PROGRAM HELPS book does not have these, but we both wanted to send as little "homework" home as possible. We did have the families do some of the achievements at home. One Den had the boys do achievements 4, 6, 8, and 10 at home. The other Den had them only do #11. Both schemes worked well!

Please note that all references to the WOLF BOOK are from the 2003 edition.

SEPTEMBER

We asked the families to do the Bobcat award at home, and for a parent to sign it off. We repeat these requirements all year at the opening of the Den Meetings to help remind the boys of these. Also, have them read and sign pp. 1-13.

Alert them of this by e-mail well before the first meeting, and remind them again a few days before the meeting. (I like to send a short e-mail out a day or so before each meeting/activity as a reminder).

Achievement 1 ("Feats of Skill"). Consider the outdoor mat at E. B. Scripps Elem. School, and/or a blanket on grass for the somersaults. They only need to do one of the options between 1f-1L.

Ach. 2 ("Your Flag"). Discuss what the Pledge of Allegiance means (on pg. 47), after using it to start the Den Meeting (2b). Have them display the flag a few ways (2c, pg. 49). Remind them

that this book can be their guide in years to come when they display a flag. Flags that touch the ground need not be burned, but should be washed. A "Flag Retirement Ceremony," when an American Flag is burned, is a solemn occasion.

The California Flag has a grizzly bear on it (pg. 50). There are no wild grizzly bears left in California, with the last one caught in the late 1800's. This bear died in captivity in the early 1900's. Its name was "Monarch." This bear is believed by many to have been the model for our state's flag. Monarch ("stuffed") is on display in San Francisco at the Museum of Natural History. For more information on the state flag, try:

http://www.netstate.com/states/symb/flags/ca_flag.htm

Practice folding a U.S. Flag, as shown on pg. 55 (have a foldable flag available, and you may be able to borrow one from the elementary school). Why do we fold it with three corners? See page 55 for the answer.

Consider starting or adding to a scrapbook of pictures/news stories for your Den.

OCTOBER

We played the game for Ach. 10b (pg. 90), and asked the parent to sign off any others in this achievement. For Ach. 10, only 10a and two other requirements are required for the Wolf Award.

Ach. 3, pp. 56-59. ("Keep Your Body Healthy"). We played charades for each of the points in 3a (pg. 57). Act out together the steps of 3b. We made a small red mark with a felt pen on a finger of each Cub Scout, and they practiced washing, putting on a topical antibiotic (i.e. neosporin), and placing a band-aid on each other.

Ach. 9, pp. 82-87. ("Be Safe. . . ."). Pam typed up a list of the safety rules on pp. 83-87. The boys checked them off as we covered them. We asked that each boy do the home inspection with a parent, as noted on these pages, and that the parent sign these two off (9b and 9c). We practiced the bike hand signals with the boys (pg. 87). We shared the "celery and the egg" analogy at a Den Meeting to help promote wearing a helmet: a piece of celery will bend when forced, but can be splinted back (i.e. with a popsicle stick and tape, not unlike an arm or a leg). However, a raw egg, once cracked and placed in a cup, is not so easy to fix (not unlike head trauma!). The kids all gave "ooh's" and "ugg's" over this one!

Ach. 4, pp. 60-63. ("Know Your Home and Community). Have the boys write down the phone numbers (including 911 for 4a. Talk about why never to call 911 unless it is an emergency! Role play 4b-4d. Make up the chart for 4e, and check the following week to see how it went.

Both the Poway and Scripps Ranch Fire Stations held "Open Houses" in October, 2001. We asked the boys to attend one of these. Other possible "Safety" and "Community" outings for this or later months are a special private trip to the Scripps Ranch Fire Station (i.e. Capt. Robert Hartnett at (858)538-8136), and the Penasquitos Police Station (Officer Paddy at 538-8120. She also discussed safe Halloween conduct.). Remember, if you go ANYWHERE as a "Den Outing," have a TOUR PERMIT!!!

NOVEMBER

Ach. 6, pp. 70-73. ("Start a Collection."). Have the boys bring in a collection. Some were large, and some were small. I got to see rocks, baseballs, space legos, model cars, etc. Really fun! It helps them practice talking to groups. Have the kids ask each other questions after each presentation ("What is your favorite/hardest to get/most valuable/etc.?).

Ach. 7, pp. 74-77. ("Your Living World"). Some possibilities include:

1. SDGE's presentation (with video) on energy conservation. Contact Arne Garcia at (858) 636-6837.

2. 7b: Have the boys list pollution causes to you as you record them in the appropriate columns on a piece of paper on the wall or a board (chalk or dry erase).
3. 7c: Look under "Recyclers" in the yellow pages. Visit the one off Convoy (just north of Hi. 52). ** Use the flyer that the city sends out on recyclable materials to fill a box with recyclable things (bags, cans, newspapers, etc.) before the meeting. Have the boys go through the box and pick out the recyclable things that "Tommy Trashmaker" was going to throw out! Talk about the energy/resources saved, and the landfill/dump space protected by recycling.
4. 7d: Pick up litter around your school, park, Den Meeting area, Pack Meeting site, and/or sponsoring organization.
5. 7e: Have each boy bring in an article or a message from a program/presentation he has seen and/or you can watch the news for stories to video and show. Discuss as a group. In total, we discussed 9 (!) different stories this way.
6. 7f: Walk around your kitchen and have your kids shout when they see you wasting energy. They liked getting to yell! I aimlessly walked around and tried to act oblivious as I: left the water running while I looked out the window; left the refrigerator door open as I talked with them; turned the stove on, as I told them I still needed to prepare the dish to be cooked; turned on every light I could find; etc.

DECEMBER

The holiday season! And what would a holiday season be without food? At our first Den Meeting, we: planned a party (Elective 9a-c, pp. 152-153), and had activities on the food groups for Ach. 8a-page 79. These included:

1. A pile of foods (plastic and real) that we sorted into the food groups.
2. An "Expedition Food Auction." The story went that we were going on an expedition to the South Pole (i.e. there is no food there, and we cannot hunt penguins/other animals there!). I gave each of them some monopoly money (i.e. \$12-15), and told them that they needed to pool their money to buy boxes of food (at \$20 each). They realized that they had enough money to buy one each of the four food groups, and one additional box of junk food. They had to hold their money as "boxes" with labels of slurpees, candy, soda, etc. were paraded in front of them before the "real food" was brought out onto the auction block. I wore a top hat, and really tried to bait them into buying extra junk food boxes. Neat team work and discussions broke out between them, as they rationed their allotted money. Another variation on this idea has been used also: parents form their own group. It was interesting watching the boys in three groups compete with their parents.
3. We filled in Ach. 8b., and had the boys do 8c, and d at home with their parents signing it off.

At the next Den meeting, we had a party, cooked on the BBQ (Ach 8e), and played marbles (for the belt loop). Two parents came in and discussed different religious celebrations. I asked each family to complete Ach 11 ("Duty to God," pp. 94-99) with their son. For 11D, the answers varied considerably. Some families are still "Church shopping." I had them consider donating items to a local Church Thrift Shop, and learning about the various ministries that these shops support (the shop usually has a leaflet detailing these).

JANUARY

Ach. 5, pp. 64-69. ("Tools. . . ."). Have a bunch of tools out, and go through the names/uses of each. Gentle repetition works well. Consider a "Game Show" of "Name That Tool!" after you have been through the names a few times. Go out into the garage/yard and practice 5b, 5c, and 5d. Consider having the stations set up beforehand, and assign parents to each. That way, the boys can split up into small groups and rotate between the stations (less waiting time!).

Make sure that a parent is “invited/strongly encouraged” to be at the building meeting(s) to help their son. Options for Ach. 5e are kits from the Scout Shop or hobby houses, and the “Home Depot Saturday Morning Workshops.” Call ahead and register your Den, as you can find out what project they are offering on a given date. Sometimes, they may even schedule a special workshop for your Den (call Sue at [858] 547-2263 at the Mira Mesa location).

We also started our journey toward the “Cub Scout World Conservation Award” (page 226) this month. We met on a Saturday morning to pick up litter at a local park. We had donuts and milk/juice for a snack after the service project. Be sure to check the area for trash before you decide which area to do.

FEBRUARY

Pinewood Derby month for Pack 616!

At our Den Meetings, we did Ach. 12 (pp. 100-106). Some ideas to add fun to the discussing of this achievement include role plays by the parents, and/or using dry erase boards for the boys to write their answers. Having them write them in their book may give them something to look back at 30 or years later (my son loves reading/comparing/laughing at my Cub Scout Books!).

Consider making posters (Elect. 12f, pg. 173), for the Blue and Gold Dinner (a celebration of Scouting’s anniversary, and it is held in March).

Finish up any achievements that may have been missed. I had a “make-up” session at my house, where we did things that boys had missed. The whole Den actually showed up, as I had many of the games/activities set up, and the kids had fun redoing some fun things!

MARCH

Finish up any achievements that may have been missed. I had a another “make-up” session at my house, where we did things that boys had missed. Most of the Den actually showed up again, as I had many of the games/activities set up, and the kids had fun redoing some fun things! Every Cub Scout had earned his Wolf Award before the Blue and Gold Dinner!!! We continued working on the “Cub Scout World Conservation Award” on pg. 226. We chose to do the electives in the “Birds” and “Grow Something” categories.

At one Den meeting, we did electives 13 b, e and f. The Boy Scout BIRD STUDY MERIT BADGE BOOK has lots of useful information, and is in many libraries. Book stores, R.E.I., and the State Parks have nice plastic cards for identifying birds.

13b (Nesting material). Birds use natural materials, like grass, plant fibers, weed stems, and animal hair. We can supplement the natural elements in the spring and summer. We hung berry containers and margarine containers with holes punched in them, and had the following nesting materials sticking out: cotton (goldfinches); human or animal hair (sparrows); small pieces of cloth and string (not longer than 5-6 inches, otherwise the bird may become entangled). Also, robins and swallows use mud (put in a small mud hole or hanging cup).

13e (Feeding). We had the boys put peanut butter on paper cups, and then roll them in bird seed. Then, they hung them in a safe place (where cats cannot get the birds), where the boys could watch the feeding. They described the birds they did not already know, and we found the picture of the birds on the plastic card to identify them.

13f (Bird house). Cavity nesters are the birds most likely to use a birdhouse. Advantages for cavity nesters include protection from the elements, protection from predators, and added warmth for the chicks. Bluebirds, wrens, tree swallows, chickadees, some ducks, hawks, and owls are

cavity nesters. The size of the birdhouse obviously affects which birds will use it. It is important to pick a spot for the house where it will not be attacked by predators, nor get too hot. Also, leave the birdhouse a light color, so it will not absorb heat/get too hot.

We also planted outdoor vegetables (carrots and radishes work best this early in the season), used bright plastic cups with small rocks in the bottom (for keeping the roots from getting too wet) to transplant marigolds for a "Mother's Day " present.

We did the above discussions and made the nesting material holder together as a Den, then split into small groups. The Cubs rotated between the stations, and we had a parent at each station (two planting stations, and one station making the bird feeder).

At the next Den meeting, we finished our planting requirements with seeds, tomato plants, and flowers.

MARCH/APRIL

We completed our "World Conservation Award" by visiting the Wild Animal Park. One Den went on a school vacation day (a Tuesday, as the teachers were having training), and the other Den went on a Sunday afternoon (some of the first Den's boys came on the Sunday outing). 13a and d were fun and easy to do in the various aviaries, especially with so many birds there, and with the colorful signs to identify them. We gave each boy a paper and pen, and away they went. After they had done 30 birds (they only need to identify ten), we said "ENOUGH!" For 13 c, we went to the "Bird Show," and the "Hawk Talk." We also fed the lorikeets.

As for the rest of the year, have fun doing electives, earning arrow points, and maybe even look at the BEAR BOOK!

Some things to look forward to: April-Scout Fair for the whole Council; May-Pack camping trip; Memorial Day Weekend (Saturday morning) -the placement of flags at Rosecrans Armed Forces Cemetery; June-"Graduation" at the Pack Meeting, where the boys move up to the "Bear" year; July 4th-Scripps Ranch Parade; July-the Pack goes to a Padre game; August-the Pack goes ice skating; June or July or August-Cub Scout Day Camp (various dates throughout the Council at both District chosen sites and Camp Balboa.

Take good care, and thanks again for being a DEN LEADER!

Sample Medical Release/Permission Sheet

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 Wild Animal Park with Den 8, Pack 616, and understand that if emergency medical treatment is needed, I give my permission to the physician selected to secure proper medical attention for my son.

Sign name/relation to Cub Scout: _____

Date: _____

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