

DEN CHIEF TRAINING

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MODULE 1 – THE DEN CHIEF’S ROLE AND UNDERSTANDING CUB SCOUTS

- Open Question – What makes Cub Scouts Fun?
- How does having fun apply to being a Den Chief?
- Helping Cub Scouts have fun is a part of the job of being a Den Chief. As an older Scout, Venturer or Sea Scout, you can assist in making the fun happen at Cub Scout events



WHAT DO DEN CHIEFS DO?



- Den Chiefs are there to help Cub Scouts achieve the purpose of Cub Scouting. To have fun, learn Scout skills and to support the Cub Scouts as they learn about the world and themselves
- As a Den Chief, you have a goal – Helping Cubs learn the purpose of Cub Scouting.
- How you do this – through taking a hike, playing a game, leading a craft activity helps the Den Chief achieve this goal
- Instilling the purposes of Cub Scouting may seem like a lot to do, but as Scouts BSA, Venturing or Sea Scout members, you bring skills and knowledge to the den that makes it easier!

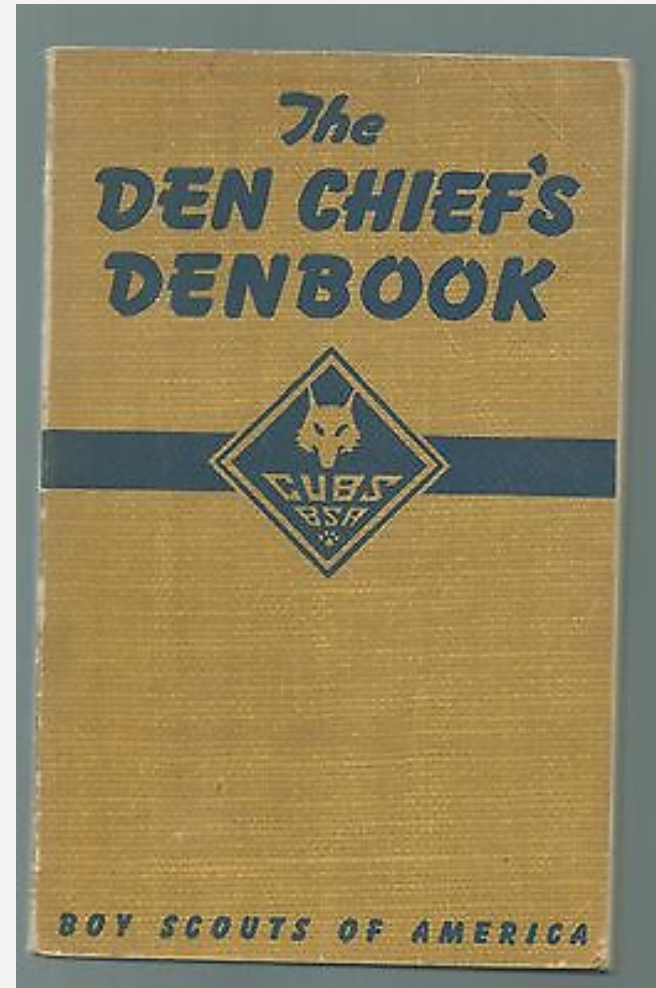
THE DEN CHIEF PLEDGE



- I promise to help the scouts in my den to the best of my ability., to encourage, guide and protect them in all den and pack activities and show them by example what the Boy Scouts of America stands for.
- I will strive to be prompt and dependable, and to cooperate with the leaders in carrying out the den program.
- As each Cub Scout becomes eligible to move along the Cub Scouting trail, I will encourage them and do all in my power to interest them in someday joining the Scouts BSA program.

WHAT DO YOU BRING TO THE DEN?

- Scouting and Campcraft Skills
- Hobby and Sports Skills
- Leadership Skills
- Scout Spirit
- You know the 'ropes'
- Understanding of Scouts' problems and fears
- You know what is fun and what works
- You are a Role Model for the Scouts in your Den



HOW DO YOU THINK YOU WILL HELP A CUB SCOUT DEN?

- Help the Den Leader with Den Meetings
 - Help lead activities, games and ceremonies
 - Help the members learn to be leaders
 - Set a good example as a role model
 - Encourage Cub Scouts and Webelos to move on to the next Scouting level
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- Having a Den Chief is one of the primary factors that leads Cub Scouts to continue on to the Scouts BSA program!



WEBELOS DEN CHIEFS

- A Webelos Den Chief is a little different from a normal Den Chief
- They still help the Den Leader, however they also go on camping trips with the Den and may help the Webelos learn more skills such as cooking, how to set up a tent and using a pocketknife.



UNDERSTANDING THE MEMBERS OF YOUR DEN

- Cub Scouts are....
 - Between 7 and 9 years old
 - Active and eager
 - Tire quickly
 - Can be clumsy and accident prone
 - Have short attention spans
 - Have a limited understanding of time
 - Worry about being liked
 - Are sensitive to differences
 - Do not like teasing
 - Are easily embarrassed
 - May cry easily
 - Have a vivid imagination
 - Can be impulsive



UNDERSTANDING MEMBERS OF YOUR DEN

- Webelos Scouts are...
 - Between 9 and 10 years old
 - Have more stamina
 - Better body control
 - Understand rules
 - Are more organized
 - Manage time better
 - Devoted to friends
 - Understand consequences
 - Do not like being singled out
 - Better emotional control
 - More specialized interests
 - More independent



WHAT DO THESE DIFFERENCES TELL US ABOUT ACTIVITIES?

- Cub Scout activities need to be shorter and simpler and SAFER for Cub Scouts than Webelos
- When planning an event or activity you need to set clear boundaries
- Break tasks up into smaller parts for younger Cub Scouts to build confidence
- Remind them of how much time is left to do something
- Give your attention to ALL of the Scouts, limit one on one time
- Be mindful of criticism – listen to what is said, be positive and supportive
- Be mindful of emotions – it is okay to express feelings in non-physical ways
- Remember – All members of the Den are INDIVIDUALS. Treat them with respect



UNDERSTANDING NEEDS

- What is a need?
- A need is something we want or desire, or is necessary to us.
- Needs can include recognition, understanding and caring from leaders, being a part of a group
- How does being part of the Cub Scouts meet these needs? How can a Den Chief support these needs?



DIFFERENCES



Indonesian Scouts



Botswanan Scouts



Canadian Scout

- Differences between Cub Scouts can also have to do with more than just grade level or rank.
- What are some other possible differences?
 - Attitudes, Customs, Languages, Religions
 - The school they attend and the type of school
 - Differences in how they learn, how they pay attention and how they interact with others
- Remember, the Scouts are welcoming to ALL, just because someone worships a different God, or eats different food doesn't mean they are not welcome.



END OF DAY 1

SEE YOU TOMORROW!

MODULE 2 – THE DEN MEETING

- What IS a Den Meeting?
 - A Cub Scout PACK is made up of many Dens
 - A Den is usually Cub Scouts of the same age / grade
 - Meetings are once per week
 - Usually around 60-90 minutes

WHOS WHO AT THE DEN MEETING

- The Den Leader – The Adult in charge of the Den who plans the meeting activity
- The Assistant Den Leader – Another Adult present who helps the Den Leader
- The Den Chief – A Scout, Venturer or Sea Scout who assists the Den
- The Denner / Assistant Denner – A member of the Den elected to carry out assigned duties
- Other Den Members

MEETING STRUCTURE

- Meetings are structured very closely with Scout meetings
 - Before the Meeting
 - Gathering
 - Opening
 - Talk Time
 - Activities
 - Closing
 - After the Meeting
- What does the Den Chief Do during these parts of the meeting?

BEFORE THE MEETING

- The Den Chief will...
 - Help set up the room
 - Review the meeting plan to make sure everything is ready
 - Set up any needed materials

GATHERING

- Before the meeting starts, but after some Cub Scouts are there is the Den Chief's time to shine. At this time a Den Chief shall –
 - Check and record advancement
 - Play a game with the Cub Scouts
 - Work on puzzles or word searches with the Cub Scouts
 - Inspect uniforms
 - Teach a skill
 - Collect paperwork
 - DO NOT collect money. Allow the Den Leader / Assistant Den Leader to collect money

OPENING

- During the Opening the Den Chief can help with or preform –
 - Roll Call
 - Uniform Inspection
 - How to tuck in your shirt
 - Pledge of Allegiance
 - Scout Oath / Scout Law
 - Help the Denner remember the Oat and Law
 - Lead flag ceremony
 - Make sure the flag is in the right place

TALK TIME?

- Talk Time is the announcements of a Den Meeting, it is done at the beginning of the meeting
- Should be no more than 5 minutes, focuses on future events or advancements
- How does a Den Chief help?
 - Help the Den Leader selected the Denner for the night
 - Create a Den Cheer
 - Help Cub Scouts find their name on the advancement chart
 - Have materials for the activity ready and in place

ACTIVITIES

- A Den Chief's Role during the Activities time greatly depends on what the activity is, and how much responsibility you have EARNED from the Den Leader
- Playing a game or telling a story or doing a skit is great for getting the Cub Scouts excited and prepared
- Practicing flags, or Scout skills to show off at the Pack Meeting
- Helping them earn their Whittlin' Chit or other adventures
- Preparing for a Pack Campout by showing them how to put up a tent, use a camp stove etc.

ACTIVITIES

- Something to consider – Many Cub Scout parents have never been camping
- You will be teaching them how to put up tents, light lanterns etc. as well.
- Be sure to work with your Den Leader to assist in teaching these skills
- Use the EDGE method. Bring an example of your own backpack to show them!

CLOSING

- Closing is a great time to reflect on what was learned, and to drive important points
- Adults will be arriving to pick up their children, so try to make sure the Cub Scouts are in good order, and recognize their achievements in front of their parents
- Recognition is an important part of Scouting. Be sure to say 'goodbye' to the Cub Scouts as they leave, by name if possible

AFTER THE MEETING

- After the meeting is usually centered around cleaning up and putting items away
- Be sure to speak with the Den Leader to check on anything that will be needed at the next Den Meeting, or if it will be at an alternate location such as a Fire Station
- Be sure to update any advancement records before you leave so you do not forget!



END OF DAY 2

SEE YOU TOMORROW

MODULE 3: HOW TO LEAD ACTIVITIES

- As a Den Chief, you will be asked to lead many types of activities for your den.
 - Games – Cub Scouts love to play games, especially action games.
 - Indoor –
 - Outdoor –
 - Fitness –
 - Quiet -

ACTIVITIES

- When choosing a game
 - Consider the space and the loudness
 - Make sure to you explain the rules
 - Choose sides fairly
 - Change the choosing process
 - Draw names from a hat
 - Alphabetically by first or last name
 - By birthday month
 - Stress fair play and watch for fairness
 - Be the referee, not a player

ACTIVITIES

- Songs
 - Types of Songs
 - Call and Response
 - The other day....I saw a bear....
 - I sing, you sing
 - I know Billy don't wear no sock! A Ding-Dong!

ACTIVITIES

- When leading a song
 - Know the tune / the words Practice a few times at home before leading it
 - If its new to the group, teach a little at a time
 - Put the words on a poster or chalkboard
 - Have FUN!
 - You cannot look dignified while having fun

ACTIVITIES

- Skits
 - Funny skits for campfires
 - The Legend of Falling Rock
 - More serious skits for teaching moments
 - Cyber Chip, Bullying and Youth Protection

ACTIVITIES

- Activities also include knowing the Opening and Closings of the meeting.
- How can we as Den Chiefs make openings and closing more fun?
 - Flag Ceremonies
 - Scout Oath and Law
 - Outdoor Code
 - Flag Folding
 - Leaders Minute

READY? SET? LEAD!

- Ready?
- To be ready, you need to Be Prepared
- How would you Be Prepared for...
 - A flag ceremony?
 - A song?
 - Building a model volcano?
 - Planting a tree?

READY? SET? LEAD!

- Set is all about preparing the Cub Scouts in advance of actually doing the activity
- How will you give instructions?
 - Simple, brief and encourage safety
- Setting ground rules
 - Again, safety, who can use what, who is doing what
- Demonstrate
 - Use the EDGE method and show the Cub Scouts what you will be doing

READY? SET? LEAD!

- Lead is the last, and often easiest step
 - Do the activity
 - How would you lead the activity?
 - How do you maintain control of the room?
 - If you feel it went well (or poorly) how can you be better next time?

ARE YOU READY?

- When taking the plunge as a Den Chief, meet with the Den Leader before the meeting to define your role so you can be an effective leader
- Wear your uniform to all Den and Pack events – Be an Example
- Play different games and sing different songs
- Talk about Scouts BSA with your Den and what ‘the big kids’ do
- By doing these things, you will be encouraging your Den to move on to the next state of the Scouting program. Possibly your Troop!



**CONGRATULATIONS
NEW DEN CHIEFS**

**GREAT WORK! YOU DID IT. NOW GET OUT
THERE AND MAKE YOUR DEN AWESOME**