



BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA[®]

DEN CHIEF TRAINING

FACILITATOR GUIDE



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INTRODUCTORY INFORMATION

A Den Chief is a Boy Scout, Venturer or Sea Scout assisting a Cub Scout den. But the story is far more important than those words suggest as the Den Chief:

- Serves as a Scouting role model for the Cub Scouts in the den, as well as the entire pack;
- Promotes Scouting in general and the local troop in particular;
- Encourages the transition of Webelos Scouts into Boy Scouting;
- Holds a leadership position in the troop or crew, thus fulfilling an advancement requirement in the unit.

In addition, a trained Den Chief:

- Assists the den leader with planning and conducting den meetings;
- Understands the Cub Scouting program and the differences between Cub Scouts and other Scouting programs;
- Understands the den leader's duties and confidently helps lead portions of the den meeting program;
- Knows a variety of resources for age-appropriate activities for Cub Scouts in the den;
- Brings a repertoire of activities that Cub Scouts enjoy.

This training is designed to build on each of these ideas using a framework that will allow the new Den Chief, or perhaps the experienced Den Chief looking for new ideas, to have fun and learn the role.

Adult leaders need to make sure the role is seen as important and necessary. In agreeing to accept a Den Chief's assistance, they ensure the Den Chief has meaningful opportunities to support the den and assist with activities, to the best of the Den Chief's ability. In this way, the den receives the many benefits of having a Den Chief while the Den Chief has opportunities to learn and grow as a leader and Scout.

Cubmasters request Den Chief help from Scoutmasters, Crew Advisors or Ship Skippers. These adults need to acknowledge the importance of Den Chiefs before the whole troop, crew or ship and make sure all members understand that the Den Chief holds a leadership position of responsibility.



WHY AND HOW WE TRAIN DEN CHIEFS

Den Chief Training is a meeting of Den Chiefs and prospective Den Chiefs on a council, district or pack basis. It is planned and operated by council or district trainers or adult leaders who are familiar with Cub Scouting.

Den Leaders are also encouraged to attend with their Den Chiefs, if already assigned, to begin learning how to work together effectively.

PURPOSE

How long and how effectively a Den Chief will serve depends upon how seriously the position is valued. That opinion will be based largely on how the Den Chief is treated by the adults in the troop, crew or ship and in the pack.

If the adults rate the Den Chief position highly, the Den Chief will take it more seriously. Den Chief Training is intended to build enthusiasm, develop higher morale among Den Chiefs, and provide the tools a new Den Chief will need to be successful.

The training agenda must be a combined good time and training experience. The Den Chief Training should provide plenty of hands-on activities that put into practice the basic skills being taught.

WHEN AND WHERE?

Den Chief Training can be delivered in approximately two hours. The time should match the needs of the young people to be trained as well as the availability of the trainers. An evening session, for example, might work better for a Cubmaster training a couple of Den Chiefs, or a weekend session for a district training for Den Chiefs at multiple packs. Multiple trainers are generally more effective when possible.

The training should be offered in a facility that provides suitable space and access, perhaps council camping or training facilities, or a local pack meeting location. A session held early in the program year is likely to prove more useful to beginning Den Chiefs and new Den Leaders, or Den leaders who have not previously had a Den Chief. Den Chief Training at summer camp might also be considered if trainers are available.



The training may be offered in whatever framework best suits the needs of the council and the new Den Chiefs. For example, while this training is designed to be a stand-alone offering, some councils may choose to offer the training in conjunction with a pow wow, university of Scouting, or some similar event. Just remember that it should only take about two hours!

When the training is done online, at the end of the learning module the youth must print a completion certificate that must be presented to the appropriate unit or training adults in order to receive the trained status awards received by those completing the face-to-face training. **(Please note online is not yet available)**

WHO ATTENDS?

The training is designed for Den Chiefs. However, all adult leaders who recruit or work with Den Chiefs are encouraged to attend with them. Den Leaders should be encouraged to attend to learn how to make the best use of a Den Chief. Adult leadership from units who want Den Chiefs or are responsible for providing Den Chiefs should be invited to attend and participate in the training as well. This helps promote a full understanding of the Den Chief role, and its many benefits to the Den Chiefs, Leaders and Scout Units.

Ideally, the training event is designed for participation of the Den Chiefs or prospective Den Chiefs of several packs, although it can be provided for use with Den Chiefs in a single pack. The training will be more impressive to the Den Chiefs when there is a larger number of participants. The Den Chiefs will feel less alone if they discover that there are many other Boy Scouts, Venturers or Sea Scouts serving as Den Chiefs.

Special Considerations

The pack, troop, crew or ship should cover any registration or food costs for the training. Snacks, if provided, should appeal to young people and should be provided in sufficient quantity.

HOW YOUTH LEARN

In developing this training program for Den Chiefs, remember that young people will best learn to be Den Chiefs with:

- Hands-on activities
- Diverse delivery methods
- Realistic examples
- A learn-practice-teach sequence (EDGE)
- Small-group practice and interaction
- A game-like framework
- FUN



OBJECTIVES OF THIS TRAINING

The Den Chief who completes this training session will be better able to function in the position, although the new Den Chief will certainly benefit from guidance and help from an understanding den leader while learning the role.

There are four overriding objectives for this training session. At its conclusion, participants should be able to:

1. Describe the role and responsibilities of a Den Chief.
2. Describe common characteristics of Cub Scouts and Webelos Scouts.
3. Describe the Den Chief's relationship to the adult den leaders, and how that relates to activities with the den.
4. Conduct and lead age appropriate activities, games and learning opportunities for Cub Scout aged youth as assigned by the Den Leader.

The training should be fun and provide the Den Chief with ideas for carrying out the responsibilities successfully. The training will provide many suggestions to ensure a smooth start and continued success for all Den Chiefs.

ORGANIZING THE TRAINING

For a council or district-wide Den Chief Training program, the event chair is appointed by the council or district training committee. The chair must have basic knowledge of Scouting's programs, must be organized; and must be a good trainer. Ideally, the chair will be assisted by a vice chair who shares those qualifications; this person will be well situated to become the next chair for Den Chief Training.

The chair and vice chair should recruit additional training staff as appropriate. Training staff members should be experienced leaders of Cub Scouts and Webelos Scouts. They are responsible for developing presentations and conducting training session modules in a way that ensures learning on the part of the Den Chiefs.

Typically, a council or district training event will have a professional adviser who will work with the chair to establish a budget to cover expenses, including rentals, supplies, snacks or meals, handouts (song sheets, planning forms, and the like), and the cost of training supplies, such as manuals.

A Cubmaster or other assigned leader in a Cub Scout Pack may also put on this training at the unit level if a council or district course is not readily available. When a Cub Scout leader intends to present the training at a local unit level, it is ideal to include assistants to ensure that all the tasks are covered.



Regardless of how the course is offered, a successful training experience is more likely if experienced den leaders are involved. Long-term experience as a Cub Scout leader is not necessary, but enthusiasm for and a solid understanding of the Cub Scouting program are musts. Leaders who have worked with Den Chiefs would also be a plus. Experienced and mature Den Chiefs might also help with the training. It is essential that two-deep leadership and Youth Protection rules be followed.

PREPARATION IS OF VITAL IMPORTANCE

Gather all materials and resources listed in each section under materials needed. Review the objective and any activity. Be sure to practice the activity and decide how best to be enthusiastic and energetic. Make any notes you need to remind yourself of what you will do to make this a fun session.

Youth participants should bring a Den Chief Handbook. If not, the instructor can make arrangements if so desired on getting one for each boy (may add to cost of course).

Handouts

Materials and identified items can be found below and in the appendix of this course manual. Each section identifies various handouts and resources that should be used in the training process.

Registration Supplies

- Training Attendance Report
- Nametags
- Marking pens

Session Supplies and Equipment

- Flip chart and easel(s) or whiteboard
- 3x5 and/or 4x6 index cards
- 5x7 index cards
- Markers, pens, pencils
- Scissors, tape, stapler, paper punch, poster board as desired
- Notebook paper



Supplies for Displays

- American flag on pole
- Pack flag
- Den Chief Pledge poster (homemade)
- Display of Webelos Activity Badges
- Den Chief cord, No. 00388
- Webelos Den Chief cord, No. 00457
- Den Chief Service Award certificate, No. 33826
- Den Chief Service Award cord, No. 00388
- Den Chief "Trained" certificate (homemade)
- White candle, holder, and matches or electric candle/cord
- Cub Scout Leader Training Poster set, No. 34876

WHERE TO FIND INFORMATION

In addition to the material in this training guide, complete information on the Den Chief's position is available in the Den Chief Handbook. Ideas for activities may be found in the handbooks (Wolf, Bear, Webelos), the Den Leader Guides for each rank, or in the resources designed especially for Den Chiefs.

Other resources are listed as References below and might be displayed to showcase the many resources for ideas that Den Chiefs and Den Leaders might use in creating fun and successful den meetings.



References

These reference materials may be displayed to help participants see the large variety of resources available in addition to the Cub Scout handbooks and Den Leader Guides. Participants should be encouraged to look at these materials for ideas and resources to expand their available Den Meeting ideas and meet the needs of Cub Scouts in their dens.

- Den Chief Handbook, No. 33211
- Group Meeting Sparklers, No. 33122
- Cub Scout Songbook, No. 33222
- Cub Scout Ceremonies for Dens & Packs, No. 33212
- Cub Scout Leader Book, No. 33221
- Cub Scout Leader How-To-Book, No. 33832
- Wolf Handbook, No. 33450
- Bear Handbook, No. 33451
- Webelos Handbook, No. 33452
- Wolf Den Leader Guide, No. 620487
- Bear Den Leader Guide, No. 620489
- Webelos Den Leader Guide, No. 620491
- Boy Scout Handbook, No. 34554
- Recent copies of Boys' Life and Scouter magazines

Additional Resources

- <https://cubscouts.org/library/parts-of-a-den-meeting/>
- <https://cubscouts.org/library/welcome-to-webelos-cub-Scouting/>
- <https://www.Scouting.org/programs/cub-scouts/youth/uniforms-and-awards/>
- <http://www.Scouting.org/programs/cub-scouts/youth/things-to-do/camping>

ABOUT THIS COURSE

This facilitator guide is organized into three modules, each of which should take 35 to 45 minutes to complete.

MODULE ONE— THE DEN CHIEF’S ROLE AND UNDERSTANDING CUB SCOUTS

MODULE TWO— THE DEN MEETING

MODULE THREE— HOW TO LEAD ACTIVITIES



INSTRUCTIONAL SYMBOLS

These symbols are used throughout this guide to alert you to the method and materials needed to facilitate the sessions successfully.



2 Group



3 Group



Class Size



Game



**Group
Activity**



Handout



Key Points



**Materials for
Distribution**



Objectives



Q&A



Reflection



Roleplay



Say



**Team-Based
Learning**



Timeframe



Flip Chart



Website



**Writing
Assignment**



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MODULE 1

The Den Chief's Role and Understanding Cub Scouts



MODULE OVERVIEW



CONTENT TIME (45 Minutes)

Opening – 5 minutes
Den Chief Roles and Responsibilities - 15 minutes
Understanding Members of the Den - 10 minutes
Den Chief Training Scenarios - 8 minutes
Stairs to Success - 4 minutes



OBJECTIVES

After this session participants will be able to:

- Define the Den Chief's roles and responsibilities
- Explain the purposes of Cub Scouting
- Describe some of the characteristics of Cub Scout-aged children
- Discover the role of the Den Chief through examples and activities



MATERIALS NEEDED

- 5X7 Index Cards
- Markers, pens, pencils
- Flip Chart or White Board
- Den Chief Pledge Cards
- Scout Skills Poster
- Den Chief Role Flipchart/Handout
- Den Chief Responsibilities Chart Handout
- Wolf Adventure Howling at the Moon Handout
- Characteristics of Cub Scouts and Webelos Cards
- Den Chief Planning Sheet Handout
- Cub Scout Webelos Chart Handout
- Den Chief Scenarios Handout
- Stairs Handout





Pre-Session Activity & Registration:

- Have Den Chiefs and den leaders sign in with first and last name, unit, number and den rank they plan to assist.
- Give each Den Chief a 5x7 card and ask them to write down their favorite Cub Scout Adventure and what made it fun.
- Encourage Scouts assigned to same dens to sit together and compare what makes Cub Scouting fun.

MODULE OPENING (5 MIN)

Welcome the group. Introduce yourself and why you are here. Be positive and enthusiastic! Ask Scouts to introduce themselves and the den they will support. Tell them you are glad they are here today to learn how to use their talents and help younger Scouts with their Scouting adventures. Thank them for choosing to work with younger Scouts!



WHAT IS A DEN CHIEF?



Instructor Note: Engagement - Find out what they know. Get them involved.

ASK Den Chiefs to share what they wrote on their cards or, if they just arrived, ask them what makes Cub Scouts fun. How does it apply to being a Den Chief?

Explain that helping Cub Scouts have fun is part of their role. Then share what a Den Chief is: an older Boy Scout, Venturer or member of a Ship who assists a den leader at meetings and outings.



Show the Den Chief Handbook to the group and explain that they can get a copy at their council scout shop or online at www.scoutstuff.org/handbook-den-chief.html.

PASS OUT cards with the Den Chief Pledge. Explain the pledge helps Den Chiefs understand what is expected of them. Ask Scouts to read the pledge and discuss its meaning.



DEN CHIEF ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES (15 MIN)

Den Chief Role: Help Scouts Achieve the Purposes of Cub Scouting.



Instructor Note: *Exploration - Help them make sense of what they know and give them the opportunity to explain in their own words.*



SAY: As a Den Chief you have a goal to accomplish. Just like taking a hike, knowing your destination is important in leading a den meeting, too. Helping Cub Scouts achieve the Purposes of Cub Scouting is the Den Chief's role. This is what we want to accomplish. Understanding these outcomes helps us to do a better job as a Den Chief.



POST the Den Chief Role Flipchart (or use handout). Go thru this list. Talk with the Den Chiefs about what these mean and how den meetings bring to life the purposes of Cub Scouting.



Instructor Note: *Explanation - Break down the role into steps they can understand and do.*



STATE: "Instilling the Purposes of Cub Scouting may seem like a lot to do, but as Boy Scouts you bring skills and knowledge to the den that make this easier."



Instructor Note: *Application - Build self-confidence by connecting what they can do in the Den Chief role.*



SHOW the Scout Skills poster found in the appendix as a flip chart, white board or handout prepared in advance of the class.

Poll the class for the skills they believe they bring to the den. Ask Den Chiefs to raise their hand for each skill they feel they can share with the den.

- Scouting and Campcraft Skills
- Hobby and Sports Skills
- Leadership Skills
- Scout Spirit
- You Know the "Ropes"
- Understand the Scouts' Problems, Fears
- Know What's Fun, What "Works"
- Sense of Discovery
- a Role Model for the Scouts in your den.



STATE: "Having a Den Chief is one of the primary factors that leads Cub Scouts to continue on to Boy Scouts! It is an important role."

ASK: "How do you think you will help in a Cub Scout den?" Give the participants time to come up with ideas. As they share their ideas, write them on sticky notes or index cards.





SHOW: The Den Chief Responsibilities Chart found in the appendix as a poster or handout.



Instructor Note: *Engagement - Identify what they know about helping a den leader*

Explain each of the roles and responsibilities.



When the responsibilities on the stickies correspond to one listed on the chart, have Scouts put their sticky note or index on it. Share why it fits. Below are the Den Chief responsibilities.

- 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.



STATE: “Let’s see what responsibilities might be done for a den meeting.” Form Scouts into two or more teams, or one team if a small group.



HAND OUT copies of the Wolf Adventure Howling at the Moon (meeting 1 resources from the den leader handbook).

Have each group to identify tasks they can help with. Share them as a group. Discuss any differences.



Instructor Note: *Exploration - Help them make sense of what they know.*

ASK: “What will success as a Den Chief look like to you?”

ASK: “How will serving as a Den Chief help you to become a better leader?”



STATE: “The responsibilities of Webelos Den Chiefs are similar to those of Cub Scout Den Chiefs. They are all basically activities assistants. They assist the den leader at meetings and on outings.”





DISCUSS the Den Chief's responsibilities shared earlier on the Den Chief Responsibilities Chart from the appendix as a flip chart display or handout.

- Help the den leader with den meetings and outings You can be a great help by being prepared to do what you planned with the den leader.
- Help lead activities, games and ceremonies. Your own experiences in a troop, ship, or crew uses peer to peer leadership and teaching. You have this same opportunity to help younger members.
- Help the members learn to be leaders. You can help Cub Scouts to grow as leaders by showing how you serve as a leader with their den at meetings and when outdoors. More suggestions are in the *Den Chief handbook*.
- Set a good example as a role model. Be an example in cheerful service, preparedness, punctuality, wearing your uniform, and living by the Scout Oath and Law.
- Share your knowledge of the outdoors with den members. They may not have hiked or camped before, so guide them in preparing for hikes or setting up tents. You can also show them how to respect nature as you help them learn to practice the Outdoor Code and 7 Principles of Leave No Trace.
- Encourage Cub Scouts and Webelos to move on to the next Scouting level. Share the fun you had on a patrol outing. It may be just what it takes to encourage a Scout to remain in Cub Scouts or to move ahead into Boy Scouting.



Instructor Note: *Application - Help them understand how to apply what they have learned.*



ASK: *“How does knowing the roles and responsibilities of a Den Chief help you to do a better job? Are there other things that a Den Chief might also do?”*

Conclude by reviewing any additional thoughts the Den Chiefs offered.



STATE: *“There are additional things that Den Chiefs do to fulfill their role.”*



ASK one of the group to read this list to the other Den Chiefs. Review the stickies from the topic before and see if any fit this list.

- Always come prepared to assist with agreed upon tasks.
- Set a good example and role model by attitude and uniforming.
- Take part in weekly den meetings.
- Assist the den in its part of the monthly pack meeting program.
- Be a friend to the youth in the den.
- Meet as needed with the adult leaders of the den, pack, and troop.



ASK: "Which of these items do you feel ready to do or have questions about?"



STATE: "You have just learned about your responsibilities. It may seem like a lot, but here is the good news. There are resources to help you and you don't have to find these or plan the meeting!!!"

SHOW copies of the items listed in the Den Chief resources list in the introduction. Tell them they will not need all of the books, just the ones for their den or the meeting subject. Some packs may have these to borrow or Den Chiefs may own a copy of a Cub Scout handbook that they could use.

MENTION that their den leader will probably have a copy of the appropriate den leader guide. They will share with you what is needed as they plan and prepare for upcoming meetings.



SHOW the Den Chief Planning Sheet as found in the Den Chief Handbook. Tell them this resource is to help you stay organized. You discuss what you need to do for the next week with the Den Leader and record it on this sheet.



ASK: How can the resources listed help you to become a successful Den Chief?

UNDERSTANDING MEMBERS OF THE DEN (10 MIN)



Instructor Note: *Engagement - Find out what the learners know.*



Divide the group into teams. Provide each team with two stacks of cards. One stack has characteristics of Cub Scouts (one per card) and the other stack has a list of characteristics of Webelos Scouts (one per card). Provide a drawing of a Cub Scout and a Webelos Scout. *These items are included in the appendix.*

Tell the learners to place the cards on the figure that they feel best matches the characteristic on the card.

Once the learners have placed the cards on each figure, show them the list of differences between Cub Scouts and Webelos Scouts using the chart in the Appendix.



Instructor Note: *Exploration - Help the scouts make sense of what they know.*

Start a discussion using the following questions:





ASK: *What are some differences in characteristics between Cub Scouts and Webelos Scouts?*

ASK: *What do characteristics tell us about why we need to be aware of differences between individuals?*



Instructor Note: *Application - Help them understand how to apply what they have learned.*

ASK: *How do different characteristics help us plan den meetings that best fit the needs of different age groups?*

If time permits, discuss a few of these examples of characteristics and possible actions:

- Energy levels and how soon they get tired – be aware of and adapt activities
- Clumsiness and accident prone – keep activity supplies in order and safety in mind
- Being impulsive or able to think ahead and make plans – encourage, but set boundaries
- Ready to take on responsibility – break tasks into parts to build confidence, give challenges when successful
- Ability to tell or judge time passing – remind them of time left for task or activity
- Development of planning skills – give steps to do to some, encourage ideas for others
- Attention span – be ready with shorter tasks and also longer ones
- Need for personal connection – give all attention, vary amounts of individual time
- Sensitivity to criticism and teasing – listen to what is said, be positive and supportive
- Need to win – explain rules clearly and support best efforts, teamwork, sportsmanship
- Control of emotions – it is ok to express feelings in non-physical ways
- Feedback – provide positive feedback on how they are doing without singling them out
- Imagination and daydreams - help direct energy into positive creative actions



STATE: *“While these trends exist, we need to approach all members of the den as individuals. These characteristics represent general trends over time. Individuals will also show maturity in some settings and will sometimes be less mature. Remember that each individual member deserves to be treated with respect.”*





SAY: Understanding the characteristics of Cub Scouts and Webelos Scouts is a good start in helping you to lead them. The next step is to understand their needs. This segment will begin with the definition of need.



Instructor Note: *Engagement - Identify what they know about helping a den leader*



ASK: *What is a need?*

Allow the participants to discuss, then state: "A need is something we want or desire or is necessary to us."

Needs include:

- Recognition
- Understanding and caring from leaders
- Being part of a group



Instructor Note: *Exploration - Help the scouts make sense of what they know.*

ASK teams of Den Chiefs to explain how involvement in Cub Scouting helps them to meet these needs and what a Den Chief can do to help support that need.



STATE: "Differences don't just occur among Cub Scouts based on age grouping. There are also likely to be differences between members of their den. Examples include:

- attitudes, customs, language and belief
- system of faith and worship
- type of school they attend
- differences in how they learn, their ability to pay attention, interact with others and how their muscles work
- that Scouting includes both male and female Scouts."



Instructor Note: *Application - Help them understand how to apply what they have learned.*



ASK: *What should the Den Chief do if someone seems uncomfortable in the den meeting based on a custom of eating different food than most of the den members.*

Encourage the group to share an experience they had. How did they feel?



STATE: "Remember that we are guided by the Scout Oath and Scout Law. These values direct our actions to be one group that includes and welcomes all, not focusing on differences."



DEN CHIEF TRAINING SCENARIOS (8 MIN)

Time permitting, assign one or more Den Chief training scenarios to read.



Instructor Note: *Be aware that there may be a need to gently guide the youth to give positive responses.*

Ask each individual or small group to come up with what the Den Chief should do to address the situation.

Give two minutes to discuss possible responses.

STAIRS TO SUCCESS (4 MIN)



Describe: “In your role as a Den Chief – think of STAIRS as you reviewed the sample den meeting – you were involved with each of these elements.”



Pass out copies of the STAIRS handout in the appendix. Have Scouts each read a section of the STAIRS to Success. At the end have them chant SPIRIT, SPIRIT!

SUMMARY



The Den Chief role is important. To be successful and effective, Den Chiefs need to know their role and responsibilities. Basically, you are activities assistants. You assist the den leader at meetings and on outings.

You can be most successful as Den Chiefs if you are aware of both the characteristics of Cub Scouts and their needs. Use your understanding of these to help them be successful.

Don't forget, the adult leadership of the pack, troop, crew or ship are there to help Den Chiefs learn to be leaders.



MODULE 2

The Den Meeting



MODULE OVERVIEW



CONTENT TIME (35 Minutes)

Introduction – 5 minutes
Parts of a Den Meeting - 25 minutes
Summary – 5 minutes



OBJECTIVES

After this session participants will be able to:

- List the parts of a den meeting.
- Describe the Den Chief's duties in different parts of the meeting.
- List resources for use in each part of the den meeting.



MATERIALS NEEDED

- 5X7 Index Cards
- Markers, pens, pencils
- Pre-printed Flip Charts or White Board
- Den Chief Planning Worksheet
- Pre-printed Index Cards
- Opening Activities Flip Chart

INTRODUCTION (5 MIN)



INTRODUCE THE TOPIC OF DEN MEETINGS by asking "What is a den?" Listen for these concepts to emerge:

- Part of a pack
- Group of Cub Scouts (about 6-8)
- Cub Scouts of about the same age or grade
- Typically meet once per week
- Den meetings last about 60-90 minutes

Ask: "Who is present at a den meeting?"



Develop a general sense of the different responsibilities of each person present who interacts with the Den Chief directly. Point out that there may be others present such as parents, guardians or siblings who don't have a leadership role in the den meeting.

- Den leader: an adult in charge of the den who plans the meeting activities
- Assistant den leader: an adult who helps the den leader as required, including planning.
- Den Chief: a Boy Scout, Venturer or Sea Scout who helps the den leader conduct activities at the den meeting, leads activities as agreed upon with the den leader and also helps plan activities.
- Denner and assistant denner: members of the den who have been elected to carry out assigned duties.
- Other den members: participate in the den meetings.

Point out that a good meeting takes careful planning, and to plan a meeting well, you need to understand what activities make up each part of the meeting.

In addition, ensure that no one-on-one contact occurs during activities as in accordance with Youth Protection Policies.




STATE: "Plan your work, work your plan."

PARTS OF A DEN MEETING (25 MIN)

INTRODUCE THIS SECTION BY SAYING "Cub Scout and Webelos den meetings may be different in some ways, but they have the same basic structure.



 **Instructor Note:** *Engagement – review what the learners know about the den meeting parts.*

ASK: "What are the parts of a den meeting?"



You can prompt them by asking them to think of their own troop and patrol meeting structures.

USE a white board or flip chart to place a pre-printed large card with the part in the correct order as participants name them. Do this exercise quickly. Keep this visible throughout the training.



Parts of the den meeting:

- Before the Meeting
- Gathering
- Opening
- Talk Time
- Activities
- Closing
- After the Meeting





Instructor Note: Exploration – Review the den meeting and how the Den Chief will be integrated into the activities.

After the list is created, discuss each of the parts of the den meeting, giving a brief description. Move quickly toward the list of activities suitable for that portion of the meeting, a short explanation or discussion of the Den Chief's role and then use pre-printed large cards to have participants place the Den Chief's role by each activity of the part of the den meeting being discussed.



Instructor Note: Engagement – Find out what the learners know about the various activities in a den meeting as they are introduced.



Before the Meeting

Explain that this is what happens before any of the Cub or Webelos Scouts arrive and ask for some thoughts on what might happen at this time. Be sure to include:

- Setting up the room
- Leaders and Den Chief review meeting plans to be sure everything and everyone is ready
- Set up any needed materials

Gathering

Gathering begins when the first Cub Scout arrives and runs until the actual meeting gets underway. Ask for ideas of activities that could be carried out during the gathering. Have a pre-printed flip chart page with these activities listed as you elicit ideas from the group, then after a few minutes, show them the list which includes:

- Collect dues
- Check and record advancement
- Play a game
- Work on puzzles or word searches
- Uniform inspection
- Teach a skill
- Collect paperwork (permission slips, Blue & Gold reservations etc.)



ASK "What would a Den Chief's role be during the gathering?"





PASS OUT THESE POINTS PRE-PRINTED ON INDEX CARDS OR CARD STOCK PAPER.

Have participants place each by the appropriate activity. Keep this moving crisply and ask if all agree with what was placed.

- Tasks agreed upon with the den leader (could go on multiple activities)
- Help a Cub Scout who is stuck on a puzzle
- Teach Cub Scouts how to tie a friendship knot
- Lead Cub Scouts in a new game that goes with their Adventure in the den meeting.
- Look at the Cub Scouts' placement of their patches, belts, hats, neckerchiefs.
- Help a Cub Scout find their Adventures completed on the Advancement board or in their book.
- Ask Cub Scouts if they have anything they need to turn in to the den leader.

Opening



STATE "Once the gathering ends, we move to the opening which marks the beginning of the meeting and signals a change to a more organized set of activities."



ASK "What are some activities that could be carried out during the opening?"

Have a pre-printed flip chart page with these activities listed as you elicit ideas from the group, then after a few minutes, show them the list which includes:

- Roll call
- Uniform inspection
- Pledge of Allegiance
- Scout Oath and/or Law
- Flag ceremony

ASK "What would a Den Chief's role be during the gathering?"



PASS OUT THESE POINTS PRE-PRINTED ON INDEX CARDS OR CARD STOCK PAPER.

Have participants place each by the appropriate activity. Keep this moving crisply and ask if all agree with what was placed.

- Tasks agreed upon with the den leader
- Help denner or assistant denner lead the Scout Oath and Law.
- Lead or teach an outdoor flag ceremony.
- Show a Cub Scout how to tuck in their shirt.
- Make sure the American flag is in the meeting and place it in the right place.



Talk Time

STATE "Let's look at the talk time portion of the den meeting."

Explain that right after the opening is the time to conduct formal den business and orient the Cubs/Webelos to the remainder of the meeting. It is a desirable goal to keep the Talk Time part of the meeting under five minutes in length.





ASK "What are some topics or themes that would be covered during Talk Time?"

HAVE A PRE-PRINTED FLIP CHART PAGE with these activities listed as you elicit ideas from the group, then after a few minutes, show them the list which includes:

- Pack and den meeting ideas
- Den's part in an upcoming pack meeting
- Plans for special den activities and earning adventure loops and pins
- Selection of a new denner and assistant denner
- Creating a yell or cheer
- Check on advancement and record progress (if not done during gathering)

ASK "What would a Den Chief's role be during the gathering?"



PASS OUT THESE POINTS PRE-PRINTED ON INDEX CARDS OR CARD STOCK PAPER.

Have participants place each by the appropriate activity. Keep this moving crisply and ask if all agree with what was placed.

- Tasks agreed upon with the den leader
- Suggest an appropriate skit or song
- Help den leader with election process of denner and assistant denner
- Help Cub Scouts decide about a cool yell for their den to do in the pack meeting
- Help a Cub Scout find their name on the Advancement chart
- Have materials ready to hand to the den leader to use in the Adventure activity

Activities



TELL participants that Cub Scouts want to have fun and to do fun things with their friends. The games and activities chosen will be related to the adventures the den is working on and the den meeting plan chosen by the den leader. This is the heart of the adventure in each den meeting. This is where fun and learning take place, and the Cub Scout completes most of the advancement requirements.

ASK "What are some activities that might be done?"



HAVE A PRE-PRINTED FLIP CHART PAGE with these activities listed as you elicit ideas from the group, then after a few minutes, show them the list which includes:

- Games
- Crafts related to the Adventure they are working on in the den meeting
- Storytelling
- Tricks or stunts
- Skits or songs
- Practice for the pack meeting
- Prepare for a pack campout

ASK, "What would a Den Chief's role be during Activities?"





PASS OUT THESE POINTS PRE-PRINTED ON INDEX CARDS OR CARD STOCK PAPER.

Have participants place each by the appropriate activity. Keep this moving crisply and ask if all agree with what was placed.

- Tasks agreed upon with the den leader
- Lead/teach Cub Scouts and Webelos Scouts part of an Adventure loop or pin
- Help anyone who is having difficulty
- Help prepare materials for the Adventures
- Show Cub Scouts and Webelos Scouts your backpack and gear to get ready for a campout (sleeping bag, mess kit, clothing etc.)
- Get out the things the Cub Scouts and Webelos Scouts need for a game.
- Show the Cub Scouts and Webelos Scouts a song in the Cub Scout songbook.
- Find a good story to tell Cub Scouts and Webelos Scouts about doing a “good turn”.



Closing

STATE that just as openings are important to start a meeting, closings are important to conclude meetings and a good time to get important messages across to the Cub Scouts. Explain that a good den meeting closing can provide time for a Cub Scout to reflect, be recognized for achievement, and maybe even learn a new skill like folding an American flag. Den meeting closings can be solemn, patriotic, inspirational, or fun. Parents or guardians might arrive before the closing, so this is a good time to show them how the Cub Scouts are learning about good ceremonies and closings.



ASK: “What would make a good closing?”

- Flag ceremony
- Scout Oath and Law
- Closing thought by den leader



ASK: “Who is responsible for the closing?”

- Den leader may assign it to the Den Chief
- Den Chief may help the denner and assistant denner with the closing
- Den leader needs help with props



After the Meeting

SHARE with participants that immediately following the den meeting is the time for the den leader, assistant den leader and the Den Chief to evaluate the meeting, talk about and plan for the next meeting, and update records while things are still fresh in their minds. A den might go to an outing as part of a meeting or the outing may be the entire meeting, such as a visit to a Fire Station or a short nature hike around the neighborhood, so not all parts of a den meeting might happen exactly as usual. Here is a handy tool for planning the next den meeting and assigning duties for all involved.



The Planning Worksheet

PROVIDE copies of the Den Chief Planning Worksheet found in the appendix.



Instructor Note: Application – Show the planning sheet as a map to applying what they have heard to the function of serving as Den Chief in a den meeting.





DISCUSS how the Den Chief and Den Leader discuss plans and assignments for future meetings and how this worksheet can help the Den Chief be prepared for his role.

SUMMARY (5 MIN)



RESTATE importance of Den Chiefs understanding the parts of the den meeting and their role in each part.

Review learning objectives. Discuss each of these briefly.



ASK *“Did we successfully cover each of the following topics?”*

- List the parts of a den meeting.
- Describe the Den Chief’s duties in different parts of the meeting.
- List resources for use in each part of the den meeting.



MODULE 3

HOW TO LEAD ACTIVITIES



MODULE OVERVIEW



CONTENT TIME (45 Minutes)

Introduction – 5 minutes

Tips on Leading Activities - 10 minutes

Practice – 20 minutes

Summary and Recognition – 10 minutes



OBJECTIVES

After this session participants will be able to:

- List the kinds of activities a Den Chief might be asked to do.
- Describe tips for leading activities.
- Demonstrate being a leader in a small-group setting.



MATERIALS NEEDED

- 5X7 Index Cards
- Markers, pens, pencils
- Flip Chart or White Board
- Leading an Activity Strips
- Den Chief Service Award Handout
- Resources Handout

INTRODUCTION (5 MIN)



ASK participants to find the second duty of the Den Chief in the *Den Chief Handbook: Help lead activities, games and ceremonies.*



SAY "During this session, we are going to talk about activities you can do with the scouts in the den. We will discuss the kinds of activities you might be asked to do, and we will cover some tips to help you with those activities."





Instructor Note: Engagement- Find out what they know and get them involved.

Kinds of Activities

Have the Den Chiefs brainstorm and list on a flip chart or chalk/white board the kinds of activities the Den Chief might be asked to lead:

- Games-indoor, outdoor, fitness, quiet
- Songs
- Openings and Closings

TIPS ON LEADING ACTIVITIES (10 MIN)



Instructor Note: Exploration – Help them make use of what they know.

Looking at the activities list just created explain that together you are going to analyze them and come up with some tips that will help them lead these activities.

Games

Cub Scouts and Webelos Scouts love to play games, especially action games. But remember there are also indoor and quiet games as well as rough-and-tumble outdoor games.

- Think about the space available when choosing the game.
- Make sure you understand and clearly explain the rules to the Scouts
- Make sure choosing sides is fairly done by changing the process from time to time:
 - drawing names from a box
 - alphabetical by first or last name
 - birthday month
- Stress playing fairly and watch for fairness
- Be the referee, not a player.

Songs

Leading songs can be fun. You may not be a great singer, but you can show enthusiasm.

- Be sure that you know the tune and the words.
- Practice singing the song at home before leading it.
- If it's a new song to the group, teach two or three lines at a time.
- Put the words on a poster or chalkboard.
- Have fun!



Openings and Closings

Explain that, an opening ceremony can set the tone for the meeting and the closing ceremony is a great ending. Each can be done in a lot of ways that are explained in detail in Den Leader Guides and other resources. Brainstorm with the Den Chiefs the kinds of activities that can be done. Ideas could include:

- Flag ceremonies
- Oath and Law.
- Outdoor Code.
- Brotherhood Circle
- Flag folding
- Leaders minute.

Other activities could include stunts, skits, and yells which are found in other resources that have already been reviewed.



Ready, Set, Lead!



Instructor Note: Explanation – Break this down into steps they can understand.



ASK how they would prepare for doing the activities just covered.

DISCUSS each of these title words briefly.

Ready

Emphasize that to be ready, you must do some things ahead of time. Brainstorm with the Den Chiefs what to do to be ready: Write their answers on a flip chart or chalk/white board. Be sure to include and discuss:

- Choose an activity that fits the place, number of scouts, and time available.
- Have the supplies and equipment needed.
- Practice before the den meeting.

Set

To be set is to prepare the scouts in advance of actually conducting the activity. Brainstorm with the Den Chiefs what to do to be set. Write their answers on a flip chart or chalk/white board. Be sure to include and discuss:

- Giving Instructions (how to do it; clear but brief)
- Setting Ground rules
- Demonstration, if necessary



Lead

The last step is to "just do it"— lead the activity.

Brainstorm with the Den Chiefs some steps in doing the activity. Write their answers on a flip chart or chalk/white board. Be sure to include and discuss:

- Oversee the activity.
- Maintain control. (Use the Cub Scout sign for getting attention.)
- Afterward, briefly discuss how it went.



SAY: EACH step of "Ready, Set, Lead" is important for you to be successful. If you leave out one part, like not having the equipment available, the activity will probably not be successful. Or if you let an outdoor game get out of control, someone could get their feelings hurt or even get hurt physically. That is why you must be prepared.

PRACTICE (20 MIN)



Instructor Note: *Application – Help them apply what they have learned.*



EXPLAIN that it is now time to put "Ready, Set, Lead" into practice. Divide the scouts into groups of three or four.



DISTRIBUTE THE ACTIVITY STRIPS FOUND IN THE APPENDIX. Each scout gets one strip. (You can use additional activities, songs, skits, or puzzles, but must watch out for time.)



Select one scout in the group to be the Den Chief, the rest are the den. The Den Chief gives instructions and has the scouts do the task or skill. The next scout then becomes the Den Chief and teaches his skill. This continues until each scout has been the Den Chief.

Come back into the large group and talk about in general what makes a good leader from what they observed from their group. Challenge them to think about what they need to work on to enhance their own skills to be a better and more effective leader.



SUMMARY AND RECOGNITION (10 MIN)



BRIEFLY RESTATE the importance of the Den Chief's role and challenge the participants as follows:

- To do the best at your role as a Den Chief:
- You will meet with your den leaders to help plan your part in the den meeting programs.
- You will wear your uniform to all den and pack meetings.
- You will make Cub Scouting fun, using different games and ceremonies each week.
- You will be an example.
- You will find opportunities to tell your den members about Boy Scouting activities.
- You will realize the den leader is the one most responsible for the den because he or she is the adult leader.
- You will encourage the members of your den to move on to the next level of the program.



BRIEFLY EXPLAIN the Den Chief Service Award – provide the handout of the requirements. Refer them to their *Den Chief Handbooks* for more information.



BRIEFLY REVIEW available resources to assist them- provide the handout. Refer them to their *Den Chief Handbooks* for more information.



Recognition Ceremony

Light a white candle (or battery-operated candle if facility does not allow open flames) and refer to it as the spirit of Scouting through which, with their help as Den Chiefs, more and more Cub Scouts and Webelos Scouts will be given the opportunity to enjoy Cub Scouting.

Have everyone stand. Say or read:

"Akela's candle, symbol of the spirit of Scouting, will always burn brightly. Just as Akela is ready at all times to guide the footsteps of you Den Chiefs, you, as good Scouts will be guiding the Cub Scouts or Webelos Scouts of your den. The spirit of this candle will brighten the path of each of us. By handling your role well, you are strengthening your pack and helping Cub Scouts and Webelos Scouts to grow and give goodwill. Through you, more youth will have the opportunity to enjoy Cub Scouting and, later, Boy Scouting.

Have all participants stand and recite the "Den Chiefs Pledge" as a group.

Hand out award certificates and then thank all who helped.





SAY "Goodbye and good Scouting!"




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APPENDIX

DEN CHIEF PLEDGE

Copy and affix to a 3 x 5 index card



DEN CHIEF PLEDGE

I promise to help the Scouts of my den to the best of my ability; to encourage, guide, and protect them in all den and pack activities, and to show them by my example what 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 Scout becomes eligible to move along the Cub Scouting trail, I will encourage the member and do all in my power to interest the Cub Scout in some day becoming a Boy Scout.



DEN CHIEF ROLE

Den Chief Role: Help Scouts Achieve Purposes of Cub Scouting

- Character development – learning to be a worthy person.
- Spiritual growth – coming to understand your relationship with God.
- Good citizenship – obeying the law and helping out in the community.
- Sportsmanship and fitness – playing fair and taking care of your body.
- Family understanding – all families are different, knowing how yours works is very important.
- Respectful relationships – every single human being deserves respect.
- Personal achievement – trying your best at all times is one way to make it to your goals.
- Friendly service – help others at all times with a smile.
- Fun and adventure – good times are what make life exciting.
- Preparation for the Boy Scouts – help den members understand why it is great to be a Boy Scout.



DEN CHIEF ROLE CARDS

Den Chief Role: Help Scouts Achieve Purposes of Cub Scouting	Den Chief Role: Help Scouts Achieve Purposes of Cub Scouting
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Character development – learning to be a worthy person. ● Spiritual growth – coming to understand your relationship with God. ● Good citizenship – obeying the law and helping out in the community. ● Sportsmanship and fitness – playing fair and taking care of your body. ● Family understanding – all families are different, knowing how yours works is very important. ● Respectful relationships – every single human being deserves respect. ● Personal achievement – trying your best at all times is one way to make it to your goals. ● Friendly service – help others at all times with a smile. ● Fun and adventure – good times are what make life exciting. ● Preparation for the Boy Scouts – help den members understand why it is great to be a Boy Scout. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Character development – learning to be a worthy person. ● Spiritual growth – coming to understand your relationship with God. ● Good citizenship – obeying the law and helping out in the community. ● Sportsmanship and fitness – playing fair and taking care of your body. ● Family understanding – all families are different, knowing how yours works is very important. ● Respectful relationships – every single human being deserves respect. ● Personal achievement – trying your best at all times is one way to make it to your goals. ● Friendly service – help others at all times with a smile. ● Fun and adventure – good times are what make life exciting. ● Preparation for the Boy Scouts – help den members understand why it is great to be a Boy Scout.



Scout Skills Poster

Scout Skills: What you Bring to the Den

- Scouting and Campcraft Skills
- Hobby and Sports Skills
- Leadership Skills
- Scout Spirit
- You Know the "Ropes"
- Understand the Scouts' Problems, Fears
- Know What's Fun, What "Works"
- Sense of Discovery
- A Role Model for the Scouts in your Den



Den Chief Responsibilities Chart

Den Chief Responsibilities

- 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.




HOWLING AT THE MOON

RATIONALE FOR ADVENTURE

This adventure will give Cub Scouts an opportunity to become comfortable speaking in front of others. It will also serve as a foundation for organizing and performing a campfire program.

TAKEAWAYS FOR CUB SCOUTS

- Working together to share ideas
- Being part of a team
- Learning to cope with stress, fear, and anxiety
- Participating in a campfire
- A Scout is helpful, cheerful, trustworthy. 

Wolf Handbook, page 80

ADVENTURE REQUIREMENTS

1. Show you can communicate in at least two different ways.
2. Work with your den to create an original skit.
3. Work together with your den to plan, prepare, and rehearse a campfire program to present to your families at a den meeting.
4. Practice and perform your role for a pack campfire program.

NOTES TO DEN LEADER

Meeting 3 will be a Wolf den campfire. Make sure that all of the Scouts' families are invited as soon as the time and location are arranged, and that any needed props are provided or brought by the boys. Wolf Scouts will also practice and perform their roles at an upcoming pack meeting.

See the Appendix for optional den meeting activities, including openings, gatherings, and closings.

MEETING 1 PLAN

PREPARATION AND MATERIALS NEEDED

- U.S. and den flags
- "Paper Route" game items (Gathering)
 - One door mat or small rug
 - One newspaper per Scout, rolled and secured with tape
- Items for the obstacle course activity (e.g., pool noodles, hula-hoops, rope, sports cones) and one blindfold for each pair of Scouts (Activity 1)
- Copies of the Cub Scout motto sign language demonstration from the *Wolf Handbook* (one per Scout, Activity 2)
- One talking stick, prepared before the meeting (see Meeting 1 Resources)
- Poster board or whiteboard for recording the den's campfire plans (Activity 3)

GATHERING

Play the "Paper Route" game (see Meeting 1 Resources).



OPENING

- Conduct a flag ceremony of your choosing that includes the Pledge of Allegiance and, as appropriate, the Scout Oath and Scout Law.
- Have the denner call roll. Each Scout should respond with a different friendly greeting.

TALK TIME

- Introduce the Howling at the Moon adventure to the den. Build interest by describing the goals of the adventure and some of the activities that are planned.
- Carry out business items for the den.
- Allow time for sharing among Cub Scouts.
- Introduce the talking stick (see Meeting 1 Resources for instructions on how to make one). Then have the boys take turns sharing something about their favorite song or movie while they are holding the stick. Remind them that the holder of the stick is the only one who can talk at that time.

ACTIVITIES (REQUIREMENT 1)

First, invite the Wolf Scouts to howl like wolves. Then say: "Howling is one way that wolves communicate. Let's find other ways to communicate with each other."

◆ Activity 1: Obstacle Course

- Have the Scouts go through an obstacle course around the room or outdoors, using the items you collected. Divide them into teams of two—one boy wearing a blindfold while the other leads him through the course.
- The first time around, the seeing player holds his partner's arm and can speak directions. Then they switch roles and go through the course again. This time, the seeing player DOES NOT speak and uses only his hand to guide his partner.
- Remind everyone that a Scout is helpful and trustworthy. The blindfolded Scout should be able to trust that he is being led in the right direction.
- After each team has gone through the course twice, ask these questions:
 - "What did it feel like to close your eyes not knowing where you were going?"
 - "How did you feel when you had to be the 'eyes' of your buddy?"

◆ Activity 2: Silent Howl

- Now it's time for the "silent howl"—speaking with our hands. Pass out copies of the Cub Scout motto in American Sign Language (ASL) from the *Wolf Handbook*. Talk about times when this language is needed (communicating when one person is deaf or hard of hearing). Then learn together how to say the motto using ASL.
- Next, divide the Scouts again into teams of two. Have each pair come up with a word, phrase, or sentence using hand signals. Then spend some time reflecting together on how easy or difficult this was to do.

◆ Activity 3: Story of the Lone Wolf

- Gather the boys around a "pretend" campfire. Tell them the Lone Wolf story and how the magical tradition of campfires began.
- As Wolf Scouts, the boys will plan, prepare, and present their own campfire. Start a discussion about this by asking, "What do we need to do first?" Chart their ideas on the poster board or whiteboard and save it for the next meeting, when the Scouts will complete their plan.

CLOSING

- Gather everyone in a circle. Then pass the talking stick around, and have each Scout share his favorite thing that they did at the meeting.
- Close with a grand howl.



AFTER THE MEETING

- Serve refreshments, if desired.
- Work together to clean up the meeting place.
- Record completion of requirement 1.
- If plans are in place for the time and location of the Wolf den campfire (Meeting 3), share this information with the Scouts' families.

MEETING 1 RESOURCES

PAPER ROUTE (GATHERING)

Materials needed: one door mat or small rug; one newspaper per Scout, rolled and secured with tape

Set up the mat or rug—or an area marked off as “door mat”—and a throw line before starting. The Scouts line up single file behind the throw line. Then each boy takes a turn throwing, trying to hit the door mat with his newspaper. See who can get the most accurate throw. (You can also give one point for each time the newspaper lands on the mat.)

TALK TIME

This is one option for making your talking stick.

Materials needed:

- 10-12" piece of $\frac{3}{4}$ " dowel
- Thin cord (jute twine will work)
- Feathers
- 30 craft beads (colors of your choice)
- Paint pen
- Hot glue gun and glue



Directions:

- Decorate the dowel with designs of your choice using the paint pen. Cut a 12-inch piece of cord lacing. Fold the lacing in half and slide the open ends through the loop, securing the lacing to one end of the dowel. Slide three beads over both halves of the cord and push them close to the dowel. Then slide an equal number of beads over the two sides of the cord and tie off each side with a knot.
- Now, cut an 18-inch piece of cord lacing, fold it in half, and secure it in the same way to the opposite end of the dowel. Slide one bead over both halves of the cord, and push that bead all the way to the dowel. Then slide three beads onto each end of the lacing and tie small knots to secure them. Hot glue the feathers to the last bead on each end.

Note: If you use jute twine, tape each end of the cut pieces with a narrow piece of tape to keep it from unraveling while you work. Remove the tape before tying the knots. Dab a drop of hot glue on each tip after you tie the knots.

◆ Activity 3: The Story of Lone Wolf Cub

Once upon a time, many, many years ago, a wolf cub lived in a forest near some tall mountains. This wolf cub belonged to a pack. Then one night there was a terrible storm. All of the wolves ran to seek shelter, but this wolf cub was not a fast runner. He became separated from the pack and was left behind in the woods. All of the trees began to look alike, and he did not know which way his friends had run.

The wolf cub lived by himself and felt very alone. One cool, dark night he looked around and was surprised to see something shining at the top of a mountain. He decided to climb the mountain to find out where the light was coming from. As he climbed, he felt the light getting brighter. When he reached the top, he saw a campfire. He found light and warmth, and these made him happy. He let out a long howl to say, “Look at me here, with this warm fire. Everyone is welcome to join me.”



As if by magic, a small pack of wolves appeared from the dark forest. They gathered around the fire. The lone cub was so happy to see them that he let out a howl and they all joined in, as if in song. Their song was a happy one. They howled and danced around the fire. This was the first campfire song! After their howling song, one of the wolves went to the center of their circle. He raised his paws and applauded with joy. He told his friends their song was fun. This was the first campfire cheer!

The lone cub wanted to know where these wolves had come from. The pack was excited to tell their story. But their way of telling the lone cub their story was new to him. Each of the members of the pack acted out a part. The lone cub liked watching each of the wolves help tell their story. This new way to tell a story became known as a skit.

In fact, he was so happy to watch their story that, after their tale, he jumped up and did a flip! This was the first stunt ever to be performed at a campfire!

When they asked the lone cub why he was alone, he told his story. He said he was sad to be alone. He told his new friends that his story had a happy ending since he had so much fun at their campfire.

The wolves fell asleep until the sun tickled their noses to signal the morning. They gathered together and invited the lone wolf cub to join their pack. They all prepared to find their way down the mountain.

The lone cub stayed for a little longer, thinking about the fun night he had spent with his friends. He felt as if the campfire had been magical, and he did not want to lose that magic.

He paused. Before leaving, he scooped up some of the cool ashes from the campfire and placed them carefully in his neckerchief. He tied a square knot in the neckerchief and put it around his neck. He thought, "I will carry the spirit of the campfire with me always. The next time I have a campfire, I will put these ashes in it so that campfire will be full of this cheerful spirit." And then he ran away to join his new pack!



UNDERSTANDING MEMBERS OF THE DEN



Characteristics of Cub Scouts

Write out on index cards the characteristics of Cub Scouts (one per card) and characteristics of Webelos (one per card)

Cub Scouts They are between 7 and 9 years old. They are in first through third grade (Den Chiefs serve 2nd - 3rd grade) and are	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• active and eager• tire quickly• clumsy and accident prone• short attention spans• little understanding of time• do best with shorter projects• may be cling• worry about being liked• sensitive to differences	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• do not like teasing• hate to lose• like feedback• easily embarrassed• may cry easily• vivid imagination• may take risks.• can act impulsively

Webelos/AOL Scouts They are between 9 and 10 years old. They are in fourth and fifth grades and	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• have more stamina• better body control• understand rules• more independent• ready for more responsibility• planning skills are evolving• are more organized• better manage time	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• devoted to friends• more tolerant of criticism• understand consequences• do not like to be singled out• better control of emotions.• more specialized interests• like challenging projects



Den Chief Scenarios: What do you do?

Print and have available, one per group.

- Your den is visiting the local museum. You are with one group of two Cub Scouts. The den leader has three Cub Scouts with her, and the assistant den leader has three den members with him. You notice later that one of the groups now only has two Cub Scouts.

What do you do?

- You have the Webelos den outdoors working on the Athlete activity badge. Two Webelos Scouts, Richard and Stephen, begin leg wrestling while waiting to do the long jump. Richard is a lot bigger than Stephen. It looks like Stephen is going to get hurt.

What do you do?

- There are six Cub Scouts in the den. Four den members have their Wolf badge, the other two do not. One of the Cub Scouts starts crying. You go to the corner where they are standing and find out that the youth is upset because they will not receive an award at the next pack meeting.

What do you do?

- LNT ethical dilemma: – you are on a hike with the den when one of the members chooses to leave the path and take a short cut thru a newly planted area. The rest start to follow.

What do you do?



Stairs to Success

S is for Spirit. You've Got Spirit, Yes, You Do...In spite of:

- Your tough school day
- Your mountain of homework
- Your sports schedule
- Your attitude about your parents, siblings, friends

Your den deserves your:

- Involvement
- Commitment
- Smiles
- Energy
- Positive Attitude

T is for Teamwork: Be a team player:

- Listen to what you're to do
- Do what is asked of you
- Communicate – Let your den leader know when you're ready or you need help

A is for Activity Planning: Meet with your den leader before meetings

- Contribute your ideas
- Prepare and Rehearse - even if you think you know what you're doing!
- Communicate – Let your den leader know when you're ready or you need help

I is for Ideas - Make activities fun and exciting – use imagination!

- Put on a Show – Use Costumes – Do Magic
- Make it a Game or Contest – Award Prizes – Add Extra Challenge
- Make it a Team Activity
- Make it a Show-and-Tell
- Go Someplace Special
- Beat or Stump the Den Chief and den leader

R is for Role Model – demonstrate scout behaviors

- The Cub Scouts watch what you do, so watch what you do.
- What does it take to be a good role model? Obey the Scout Oath and Law ALL OF THE TIME.
- Your actions, good and bad, affect the lives of others.

S is for Safety:

- Try to prevent accidents before they happen
- If you think it's unsafe, it is. Report unsafe activities to the den leader
- Set an example - always show & teach safety

Chant: As a group spell out SPIRIT, then say SPIRIT, SPIRIT, SPIRIT, we've got Spirit, yes we do, We've got spirit – how 'bout you. (use as chant between each training group.)



Den Chief Planning Worksheet

	Activity	Supplies Needed/Reference	Den Chief	Den Leader
Meeting Date				
Adventure				
Before the meeting				
Gathering				
Opening				
Talk Time				
Activities				
Closing				
After the meeting				
Notes for future activities				

Contacts:

Den Leader: Name: _____ Phone: _____

Email _____

Meeting location: Address: _____ Phone: _____



LEADING AN ACTIVITY STRIPS

Gathering:

CONCENTRATION

Select pairs from a deck of cards depending on the size of the den. Lay the cards out on the top of the table face down. Each player turns over two cards. If they match, the scout keeps the pair and wins a point. If they do not match, the scout turns the cards selected face down in the same place, and the game continues to the next player. The Scouts can make their own sets of cards by selecting pictures from magazines to cut in half and mount on card stock.

Opening:

HANDSHAKE OPENING

The denner calls the roll, and each member of the den comes forward and gives the denner the Scout handshake

Song:

"A-K-E-L-A"

Tune: "B-I-N-G-O"

We have a leader we all love,
Akela is his name-o.

A-K-E-L-A

A-K-E-L-A

A-K-E-L-A

Akela is his name-o.

Repeat the verses, replacing the letters with clapping, as in the song "B-I-N-G-O."

Yell:

Lead a yell that would be appropriate after a den game, such as: "2, 4, 6, 8, *Cub Scouts are really great!*" or the Bow and Arrow Cheer: *Scouts motion as if shooting an arrow while saying, "Zing, Zing, Zing."*

Game:

BEAR IN THE PIT

Activity Level: High

Needed: Any number of players

Scouts form a circle. One player inside the circle is the Bear. While the others hold hands tightly, the Bear tries to get through the ring by force or by dodging under their arms. They may not use their hands to break the grip of the players in the ring. When they do break through, the others try to catch them. The first one to tag them is the next Bear



Den Chief Service Award

Requirements:

___ When you take on the job of Den Chief, discuss the following with your den leader and either the Cubmaster or your troop, crew, or ship leader:

- The importance of the attitude of service and leadership within Scouting
- The attitude regarding service and leadership within the den
- The length of service to the pack
- The need to carry and use this book

___ Serve the Pack faithfully for one year

___ Complete the in person or online Den Chief training

___ Know and understand the purposes of Cub Scouting

___ Help Cub Scouts achieve the purposes of Cub Scouting

___ Be the activities assistant in Den meetings (lead five songs, five stunts or skits, five games, five sports activities)

___ Set a good example by attitude and uniforming

___ Be a friend to the youth in the Den

___ Take part in weekly meetings (for a minimum of six months)

___ Assist the Den in the monthly Pack meeting (at least three times)

___ Meet as needed with adult members of Den, Pack, Troop, crew or ship

Complete four of these projects:

___ Serve as a staff member of a special Cub Scouting event, such as a Scouting show, bicycle rodeo, etc.

___ Serve as staff member of a Cub Scout day camp or resident camp

___ Advance one rank

___ Assist in recruiting three new youth into Cub Scouting

___ Assist three Cub Scouts to become Webelos Scouts

___ Help plan and carry out a joint Pack/Troop activity

___ Recommend to your Scoutmaster, Venturing Advisor, or Skipper another Boy Scout, Venturer, or Sea Scout to be a Den Chief.

Work with your Den Leader to plan and track your progress by using the "Your Service Record" pages in the Den Chief Handbook.

Award Recognition:

- Den Chief Service Award Cord and Certificate



Where Do I Go for H-E-L-P!?

- **About *Cub, Cub Scout, Den, and Pack* stuff:**
 - Den Leader
 - Other Den Chiefs
 - Assistant Cubmaster or Cubmaster

- **About *Boy Scout and Den Chief* stuff:**
 - Scoutmaster, Crew Advisor or Ship Skipper
 - Other Den Chiefs
 - Patrol Advisor

- **The Den Chief Handbook - Your Best Resource**
 - The *Den Chief Handbook* covers:
 - You and the Den
 - Responsibilities of Den Chiefs
 - The Cub Scout Den Chief
 - The Webelos Scout Den Chief
 - Leading Activities
 - Your Service Record





Certificate of Completion

Has successfully completed

Den Chief Training

Instructor _____

Date _____

Prepared. For Life.®

