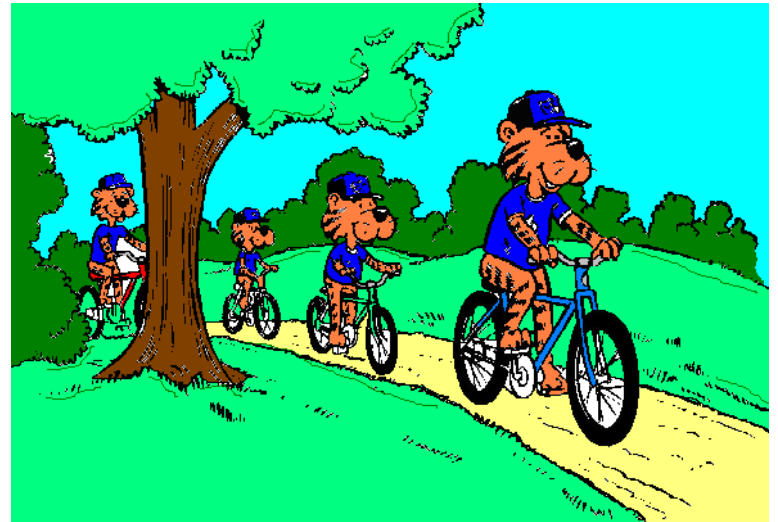


PARENT PARTICIPATION



In the Cub Scout
Pack 1020
Program

A HOME AND NEIGHBORHOOD PROGRAM

The Cub Scout program of the Boy Scouts of America stresses the relationship of the family to the Scouting program and importance of the family in the development of the Cub Scout age boy. Cub Scouting gives families a set of age appropriate activities structured so that parents and other family members have considerable control of how the Cub Scout grows.

The Cub Scout program of the Boy Scouts of America is unique among the various Cub programs in the World Scouting movement. Our method is based on activities a boy could do around his own home or in his immediate neighborhood. While most other Cub organizations conducted a sort of "junior Boy Scout" program with a few leaders in each pack, the BSA opts for something quite different: fun stuff right near home with adult leaders for each den.

YOUR SON

WHO INFLUENCES HIM AS HE GROWS?

People in his home influence boys up to the age of 9 more than by any others. Parents or others there have had the greatest power in his life since he was born and he reacts mostly to them. The importance of peer pressure will typically not start to take over until around age 10, as he makes close friends, and it will grow through the early teens when the peers replace the parents as the main force in his life.

The influence of other adults: neighbors, teachers, leaders in Scouts, religion and sports will also start about age 10 and often will overshadow peer influence by the late teen years. As he grows, he reaches out to his community for acceptance and companions.

Flexible program:

Scouting is designed to fit the needs of the individual boy and his family. Although the Boy Scouts of America has firm policies to protect its members and to ensure we achieve the aims of our program: character development, citizenship training and fitness, our methods are varied and are adaptable to many situations.

Self paced advancement: Boys advance at their own rate. We believe that each individual should be judged, not by arbitrary standards, but whether or not he did his best.

PARENT AGREEMENT

I have read the Cub Scout Promise and I want my son to join the pack. I will assist him in observing the policies of the Boy Scouts of America and of his pack's chartered organization. I will:

1. While he is a Tiger Cub, serve as his adult partner and participate in all meetings and activities and approve his advancement.
2. While he is a Cub Scout, help him and approve his Cub Scout advancement.
3. While he is a Tiger Cub, Cub Scout or Webelos Scout, attend monthly pack meetings and take part in other activities; assist pack leaders as needed.

SOME MORE OF SCOUTING'S VALUES FOR FAMILIES

Educational Goals:

Scouting is primarily, an educational program.

- The program teaches boys a complex of moral and ethical traits that promote self-reliance, self-discipline, self-confidence and self respect.
- We teach young men the duties, obligations, privileges and functions of citizenship.
- We promote healthy, drug free, growth and developing physical skills.
- We practice mental skills of judgment, problem solving, concentration and imagination.

Citizenship training:

- From the very beginning, Scouts are taught to love, and do their duty to their country.
- Citizenship is taught in many ways: to understand how government works, to participate in representative government, to handle responsibilities.
- We expect each Scout to grow up to be a valuable member of his community.

Character development:

- We expect all members to do their best, to help other people, and to be trustworthy.
- As the boy grows older, we expect him to live by the Scout Oath and Law at all times.
- No activity, no course of action is acceptable if he violates these ideals.

Parents and other close family members have a relatively narrow window of a few years to open the door to their boy's future - to shape his character, help set his life's goals and how he will react to his next set of influencers. These Tiger and Cub Scout years are the time for parents to spend as much time as they can with him, to lead him into positive activities, to get to know his friends and his friends' families. Cub Scouting gives parents a wonderful set of tools to do exactly these things.

The life of a six-to-ten year old is centered on his home. He is just learning how to form close friends and explore new places. He still looks to mom and dad for approval, support and advice. Typically, he doesn't start reaching out to other adults away from his home until the middle school years. Those Cub Scout years are recognized as an opportunity window for parents to exercise the greatest influence on their sons. Fathers who wait until their sons are in Boy Scouts to become involved are often rudely disappointed - by then, the boys are usually looking elsewhere for guidance and inspiration. Do it now in Cub Scouting!

DO YOU BOTH COMMUNICATE?

Much of Cub Scouting involves lots of short activities where a boy and his parents do things together. These activities: getting ready for a Tiger meeting, building a Pine Wood Derby Car, working on achievements and electives - automatically involve TALKING. They TALK, they listen to each other, they plan, they express their hopes, their concerns, and their jokes. They learn to respect each others moods and styles. They create special communication channels that remain vital and valuable for all their lives.

Each Tiger Track Bead and Arrow Point on his shirt is a sign that says "We spent hours doing neat things together!"

WHO IS HIS ROLE MODEL?

A Role Model is someone the boy sees as an image of his future acts in life. At Cub Scout age, this is a person he presently knows, someone he loves and admires - usually an adult or older sibling in his home. He will grow up with many of the traits - the ethics and the life goals - that he perceives in that role model.

Don't confuse role models with heroes such as the sports star, the great statesman or the military figure. These can become important beacons in a boy's growing up but rarely will he copy their day-to-day life styles. A role model tends to be the person he sees every day. The boy's talk, his walk, the way he thinks and the way he solves problems become images of how that person acts. That person, usually his parent, is the true role model.

Cub Scouting gives parents opportunities to show their sons examples of leadership and responsibility. It may be a leading a den or pack meeting, or organizing the Blue & Gold banquet or Fourth of July Parade or Friends of Scouting campaign, but every parent should take on a visible job in his Cub Scout pack where the Cub Scout can see his role model doing something important. **Every Cub Scout deserves to see his parent be a hero.**

BEING AT MEETINGS

Younger Cub Scouts, and especially Tigers, are much more comfortable having a parent with them at meetings and activities. Pack meetings are where the boys get a chance to show off - where they are recognized for Doing Their Best, for living up to all those ideals in the Cub Scout Promise and Motto. It's important those adults who love him are there to share in this recognition and be part of the celebration.

One of the huge benefits of Cub Scouting is that parents are forced to meet and communicate with other neighborhood parents which puts you one good step ahead as your boy enters his teen years. You know and talk to his friends' parents.

WORKING IN THE BOOKS

The achievements - represent those things a growing boy should be doing as he learns to be a better citizen and a more responsible and capable human being. They give parents and others ample opportunities to observe and understand how this boy is growing up: what sort of adult he will be, what kind of husband, what type of father, and what quality of community member he will become.

Informed parents and leaders can - and should - make the achievements fun experiences for the boys.

But there is a lot more to it. The electives automatically involve TALKING. The boy and his parent TALK, they listen to each other, they plan; they express their hopes, their concerns, and their jokes. They learn to respect each others moods, ideas and styles. They create special communication channels that remain vital and valuable for all their lives.

HELPING LEADERS

Cub Scouting gives parents opportunities to show their sons examples of leadership and responsibility.

It may be leading a den or pack meeting, or organizing the Blue & Gold banquet or a Holiday Parade or Scouting for Food, regardless of the event, every parent should take on a visible job in his Cub Scout pack where the Cub Scout can see his role model doing something important.