DEN LEADER GUIDE TO
CUB SCOUTING
Welcome
Thank you for being a Cub Scout Den Leader. This booklet will help you get off to a great start. There are a handful of things that every new den leader should know, and these are highlighted below. We all know how important first impressions are. To help you get started, the next several pages contain resources and suggestions that will help you plan a first den meeting that is fun for Scouts, parents, and you. Everyone will come back for more, and things will get easier as you get into a routine.

Eight Steps to Being a Successful Den Leader

1. Fill out the Adult Leader Application. Be sure to sign the Disclosure/Authorization Form inside the application.

2. Give the completed application to a pack leader. It needs to be approved, signed, and turned in to the Middle Tennessee Council.

3. To take online training, you will need to set up an account at www.My.Scouting.org. Later, you will get a BSA membership ID number from your Cubmaster or pack leader, but your new account will work fine until then. Add your membership number to your profile when you receive it.

4. Take Youth Protection Training at www.My.Scouting.org. Click on the “Youth Protection Training” link on the right. You must complete this training before you can be registered as an adult leader. Print a copy of your certificate upon completion, and give it to your pack leader who oversees training.

5. Organize 2-3 den meetings each month. The Den Leader Guide Book for your rank has detailed meeting plans.

6. Attend monthly pack leaders’ meetings. Learn how your den will participate at the upcoming pack meeting. Communicate news about upcoming events to parents in your den.

7. Attend the pack meeting each month with your den. Conduct any part of the pack meeting for which your den is responsible.

8. Get help and advice. The other leaders in your pack are great resources. In addition, your monthly Roundtable brings together leaders from around your district to share ideas. Ask your Cubmaster for details or visit www.mtcbusa.org/Districts. Then click on your district.

Resources and Support
The whole Scouting family wants you to succeed as a den leader. It is easiest to ask questions of the leaders closest to you, in your own pack. There are also people at the district level available to help. You can find contact information for your District Commissioner (volunteer) and District Executive (professional) on the “New Leaders” page at the council website, www.mtcbusa.org. If you are interested in online resources, they abound. Some are listed on page 5.

Prepared. For Life™
The Boy Scouts of America want to ensure that you have the training that you need to be successful as a new Cub Scout leader.

**Youth Protection Training**
The most important training is the required Youth Protection Training (YPT). The training is designed to help leaders keep our youth safe from abuse. Leaders will learn the BSA Youth Protection guidelines, signs of abuse and how to report suspected abuse. Leaders must complete YPT before they can be registered as an adult leader. The training can be taken online via the My.Scouting tool. It may also be offered as an in-person class. Youth Protection Training is valid for two years, and leaders must take it again to remain a registered adult leader.

**Leader Specific Training**
To help leaders deliver a quality Cub Scouting experience to the youth, BSA has developed a training curriculum specifically for den leaders. Training covers a variety of topics such as Cub Scout Ideals, Leading Den Meetings, How Dens & Packs Work, and Working with Parents & Families. Training is offered online through the My.Scouting tool or in person. If leaders take a class in person, they don’t need to take the online version and vice versa.

**BALOO**
Basic Adult Leader Outdoor Orientation is a one-day training event that introduces parents and leaders to the skills needed to plan and conduct pack outdoor activities, particularly pack camping.

**My.Scouting Tool**
The My.Scouting tool offers all of the courses that new Cub Scout leaders will need. Within the Den Leader Position Specific Training learning plan, there are 22 short courses ranging from 3 to 15 minutes long. Leaders do not need to take all of them at one time. All of the courses are individual lessons and can be taken all at once or spread out over several days. Courses are divided into three groupings based when they should be taken.

- Before the 1st Meeting – Four of the courses should be taken before the leader’s first den meeting. These four courses will take about 45 minutes to complete.
- First 30 Days – The seven courses that should be taken within the first 30 days will take just about an hour to finish.
- Position Trained – In order to be fully trained as a den leader, these eleven courses should be taken. They can be completed in 1 hour 23 minutes.

**In-Person Training**
In-person training is offered in local districts throughout the Council. Dates and times are listed on the Council’s website. Go to mtcbsa.org, and click on “training” at the top of the page.

**University of Scouting**
Every year (or twice a year), the Middle Tennessee Council offers the University of Scouting (UoS), our premier one-day supplemental training opportunity for all registered adult Scout leaders. Den leader specific training is offered at the UoS. To find out the date of the next UoS, go to mtcbsa.org, click on “Training” at the top of the page, then click “University of Scouting” in the left sidebar.
The Den
The Cub Scout pack is divided into several smaller groups called dens. Typically, a den has six to eight youth and meets two or three times a month. Den meeting activities vary based on the age of youth. Members of a den usually progress through Scouting together.

The Cub Scout ranks are organized by grade or age, so your children’s den will be part of the rank specific to their grade. A pack may have more than one den for a rank. For example, if your pack has 16 first graders, there will be at least two Tiger dens. Here are the ranks:
- **Lion Cubs** - Kindergarten. Lions must have an adult partner who attends all Cub Scout functions with them.
- **Tigers** - First grade. Tigers must have an adult partner who attends all Cub Scout functions with them.
- **Wolves** - Second grade.
- **Bears** - Third grade.
- **Webelos** - Fourth and fifth grades.

Available in select packs, Lion Cubs is a program of the Boy Scouts of America for kindergarten-aged youth. It is a family-oriented program in which a youth and their adult partner participate. The Lion badge is earned by completing five adventures.

When youth first join Cub Scouts, they earn the Bobcat rank. Then they work to complete seven fun “adventures” to earn their rank badge. Adventure activities are done at den meetings, at home and on field trips and outings. At the end of the school year, Cub Scouts graduate and move up to the next rank. Here is the progression:
- **Tigers** become **Wolves**.
- **Wolves** become **Bears**.
- **Bears** become **Webelos**.
- **Webelos** “cross over” to join a Scouts BSA troop at the end of their two year program.

While den meetings include games, skits and other activities that are fun for the kids, program delivery is the main goal. Youth participate in activities and work on projects that are related to an adventure and that help them learn the skills they need to progress in rank. Youth also prepare to do their part in the monthly pack meeting.

The Pack
All of the dens together make up the pack. Typically, packs meet monthly. These pack meetings bring together youth from every den, their leaders, and their families for a large-scale event that showcases all that the kids have learned and done in their individual den meetings. Such a gathering gives the kids a larger experience beyond their own den. It also helps them see how their individual activities fit into the bigger Cub Scout program.
The Cub Scout program relies on a variety of dedicated volunteers. These are the people that keep your pack running smoothly and having fun.

**COMMITTEE CHAIR** - Conducts monthly pack leaders’ meetings to help plan the program. Ensures that adequate support to run the program is given to the Cubmaster and Den Leaders by committee members. Helps recruit additional leaders as needed.

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS** - Attend monthly pack leaders’ meeting to help plan the program and take care of records, finances, advancement, activities and membership.

**TREASURER** - Ensures the pack’s finances are sound by establishing a budget, collecting dues, guiding fundraising projects, overseeing expenditures, and communicating financial reports.

**SECRETARY** - Makes sure proper records are kept. Keeps notes at leaders’ meetings. Handles pack correspondence. Maintains records of membership and pack properly.

**ADVANCEMENT CHAIR** - Maintains records of requirements completed and badges earned. Promotes the completion of rank badges by the Scouts. Purchases badges and awards and provides them to the Cubmaster for presentation. Helps coordinate the progression of Cub Scouts to Scouts BSA.

**OUTDOOR ACTIVITY CHAIR** - With outdoor adventures being a critical part of the Cub Scout program, this person plans outdoor activities and pack overnight trips for the entire pack. Camping in Cub Scouting is generally family-style car camping. Hiking and fishing are other outdoor activities that the children enjoy in Cub Scouting.

**PACK TRAINER** - Facilitates the training of new leaders. Encourages the use of online training tools. Leads live training courses. Promotes training opportunities provided by the district and Council. Maintains pack training records.

**CUBMASTER** - Conducts the monthly pack meeting with fun activities, impressive ceremonies, skits, and songs. Aids the Den Leaders by coordinating the monthly program for all leaders.

**DEN LEADERS** - Meet weekly for about one hour with dens of six to eight youth of the same age/rank. The Den Leader sets the daytime of the meeting and plans the program to ensure that the youth in the den advance in a timely manner, learn Scouting values, and have fun.

**LION GUIDES** (in select packs participating in this program) - Facilitates the den meetings, with the assistance from the Lion Cub adult partners, while focusing on the fun and excitement of Scouting. Enables each adult partner to share in leading the den meetings.

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**The Most Important Rule of CUB SCOUTING**

**KISMIF**: Keep it Simple; Make it Fun

**KEEP IT SIMPLE.** Cub Scouting does not need to be elaborate or complex. **MAKE IT FUN.** Cub Scouting is all about fun.

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NO EXPERIENCE NEEDED!

There are plenty of resources to help you succeed as an adult volunteer. Every registered adult takes Youth Protection Training. Other training courses available are: Before the 1st Meeting, 1st Thirty Days Training, Position Specific Training, Basic Adult Leader Outdoor Orientation (BALOO), and Outdoor Webelos Leader Skills (OWLS). Participation in District or Council events, such as the University of Scouting, will provide more resources to help new (and old) leaders succeed. And be sure not to miss the monthly District Roundtable Meetings, where you can learn about what is going on and share ideas and experiences with fellow leaders.

Contact Middle Tennessee Council office at 615-383-9724 or visit our website at www.mtcbsa.org for more information.
DEN LEADER FIRST 8 WEEKS OF RESPONSIBILITIES

This shows a sample schedule. Your pack calendar may be different.
*Before each meeting check the helpful hints at https://www.mtcbasa.org/Leaders/Den-Leader

Week 1

☐ Take online training (Youth Protection Training and Leader Specific Training).
☐ Welcome families to your den. Make sure you have good contact information, including parents’ names, phone numbers, and email addresses.
☐ Plan a convenient meeting time and location. Notify families of the schedule.
☐ Obtain a Den Leader Guide Book, a Cub Scout Handbook, and a uniform.
☐ Plan your first den meeting, follow the Bobcat Den meeting example in this booklet. (See page 10)

Week 2

☐ Attend the pack leaders’ meeting.
☐ Inform parents of any upcoming events.
☐ Recruit parents to help at the meetings. You must have two-deep leadership.
☐ Become familiar with the adventure requirements for your rank. Choose the first adventure you will work on.
☐ Hold your first den meeting, following the Bobcat Den meeting example. Remember to have FUN with it.
☐ Plan your second den meeting, using the example in this booklet on page 11-13 for Tiger, Wolf and Bear Rank, or the online resources at https://www.mtcbasa.org/Leaders/Den-Leader. This will be the start of your first adventure. For any new Scouts, plan to complete the Bobcat requirements.

Week 3 (Pack Meeting)

☐ Conduct second den meeting. This one will not be so stressful.
☐ Record advancements (requirements completed) online or report to the pack advancement chair.
☐ Inform parents of any requirements to be completed at home, and tell them about upcoming den and pack activities. (Pack meeting is next week.)

Week 4

☐ At the pack meeting, greet Cub Scouts and parents. (See page 16-17)
☐ Conduct your den’s portion of the pack meeting.
☐ Plan your third den meeting using the online resources at https://www.mtcbasa.org/Leaders/Den-Leader.
☐ Think ahead about den outings.
Week 5

☐ Conduct your third den meeting. You’re a pro!
☐ Record advancements online or report to the pack advancement chair.
☐ Inform parents of any requirements to be completed at home.
☐ Plan your fourth den meeting. You should be thinking about starting your second adventure. Are there skilled parents that can help?

Week 6

☐ Conduct your fourth den meeting.
☐ Record advancements online or report to the pack advancement chair.
☐ Attend the pack leaders’ meeting.
☐ Inform parents of any requirements to be completed at home, and tell them about upcoming den and pack activities. Cub and Family Camp Out and the popcorn sale should be happening. Visit mtcbsa.org for more information.
☐ Plan your fifth den meeting.

Week 7

☐ Conduct your fifth den meeting.
☐ Record advancements.
☐ Inform parents of any requirements to be completed at home. Keep communicating about pack activities.

Week 8

☐ Arrive early for the pack meeting, and make sure your Cub Scouts are ready for their part.
☐ Encourage the Cub Scouts to participate.
☐ Plan your sixth den meeting. Look ahead to your third adventure and plan for outings and needed supplies.
**Preparation**
- Flag
- Cards with Scout Oath and Law, one for each person (Scouts and adults).
- Balloons with Challenges: Write the Bobcat requirements on slips of paper. (For example, “Say the Scout Oath.” “Explain Thrifty.” “Give the Cub Scout Handshake.” etc.) Insert them into balloons. Blow up the balloons and tie them. Gather the balloons in a large trash bag or other container. Multiple balloons for each kid make for more fun.
- Refer to The Bobcat Trail in your Parent Orientation booklet, if needed. It is also listed in every Den Book.

**Gathering**
- Photograph the Scouts in uniform.

**Opening**
- Learn the Cub Scout Salute and what it means.  
Bobcat 6
- Pledge of Allegiance.

**Talk Time**
- Come to Bobcat Day, Pack Overnight, or Cub and Family.
- Don’t forget to sell popcorn.

**Activities**
- Learn the Cub Scout Sign and what it means.  
Bobcat 3
- Learn what the Cub Scout Handshake means. Have the Scouts practice the handshake and introduce themselves to each other.  
Bobcat 4
- Learn the Cub Scout Motto.  
Bobcat 5
- Say the Scout Oath. (Use the Cub Scout Sign)  
Bobcat 1
- Discuss what the Scout Oath means.  
Bobcat 1
- Say the Scout Law. (Use the Cub Scout Sign)  
Bobcat 2
- Discuss what the Scout Law means.  
Bobcat 2
- Play the Balloon Challenge Game: Each Scout gets a balloon. They sit on it to break it. After completing the challenge on the slip of paper, they can have another balloon. This is good practice since they don’t know the information well yet. Let them use the cards if they need to for the Scout Oath and Law. Everything will need to be reinforced in future meetings. Expect chaos.

**Closing**
- Living Circle: Stand in a circle. Everyone extend your right hand. Make a fist and stick out your thumb.
- Hold the thumb of the person to your right. Everyone’s hands should make a circle. Together, raise and lower our hands as we say the Cub Scout Motto: “Do your Best!” (up, down, up).
- Clean up. Pick up all the balloon shreds. Leave our meeting place better than we found it.

**Homework**
- Complete youth protection pamphlet in handbook.  
Bobcat 7
- Sell popcorn.
PREPARATION AND MATERIALS NEEDED

- U.S. and den flags.
- Poster of the Scout Oath and Scout Law.
- Index cards with each principle of the Outdoor Code.
- Materials for building a birdhouse (See Activity 1.)
- One large towel, such as a beach towel, for each Scout and partner team
- One inflated beach ball for each team.
- A talking stick (See Closing.)
- Read the Backyard Jungle adventure in the Tiger Handbook.

GATHERING

Play the Beach Ball Toss game. Divide the players into two-member teams, and give each team a towel and a ball. They hold the two ends of their towel so it spreads wide between them. Then, without touching the ball, they use the towel to toss it to other teams. As the game progresses, to make it more challenging, put four players on one towel or have the teams toss the ball over a net or rope stretched across the room.

OPENING

- Conduct a flag ceremony of your choosing that includes the Pledge of Allegiance and, as appropriate, the Scout Oath and Scout Law.
- Using a poster showing the 12 points of the Scout Law, have Tigers recite the Scout Law together with you. (A hand-lettered poster will suffice if a printed one is not available.) Have the Tigers identify which points of the Scout Law apply to protecting the environment. Then ask them why they chose those points.

TALK TIME

- Carry out business items for the den.
- Introduce the Backyard Jungle adventure to the den. Build interest by describing the goals of the adventure and some of the activities that are planned.
- Introduce the Outdoor Code, which appears in the back of each Scout’s handbook. As Tigers, the focus will be on one principle: “Be clean in my outdoor manners.”
- Have the Tigers pair up. Give each pair a card with one of the principles of the Outdoor Code, and ask them to talk about their principle and how it might be explained or demonstrated to everyone. After a minute or two, each Tiger pair should give a brief summary. Tell the Tigers that they will explore their living world during this adventure and will need to think about ways to take care of it.

ACTIVITIES

Icon Activity 1: Make and Hang a Birdhouse (Requirements 2 and 4)

Step 1: Build a Birdhouse (Requirement 4)

Milk or Juice Carton Bird Feeder. This is one option for making a birdhouse. Have each Tiger and their adult partner cut the sides out of a rinsed-out, cardboard milk or juice container while leaving the corners in place. If time permits, paint and decorate the carton. Punch a hole in the top large enough for a piece of yarn or ribbon to pass through, and form a loop large enough to go around a tree branch. Poke small holes in the bottom. Fill the bottom of the carton with bird seed, if you choose.

Step 2: Hang the Birdhouses (Requirement 4)

Once each Tiger and adult partner pair has made a feeder, discuss with your den where to hang the feeders to attract the most birds. Also discuss how you may observe birds feeding without disturbing them.

Step 3: Bird Walk (Requirement 2)

Go outside, and choose a safe path where Tigers are likely to spot birds. Walk the path quietly, and watch for birds as you walk. When you spot a bird, ask the Tigers and their partners to answer the following questions in their jungle notebooks:
- What color is the bird?
- How big is it?
- Can you see the bird’s home? What kind of home does this bird live in?

Share that many birds’ homes are called nests. Birds make their own nests to help keep them warm and to hold their babies or eggs when they are away from the nest. Ask: What are their nests made of? Do you see any babies in the nest? What sounds do they make?

Guide Tigers and their partners to resources such as a library or the Internet to learn about birds that migrate through their area. If your area is home to several species of birds, be sure to include them in the conversation.

Icon Activity 2: Outdoor Sounds (Requirement 5)

This activity can be held after the bird watching, with the bird feeders hanging in trees. Allow the den members to continue their walk, following the directions below.

1. Go outside for a short walk. Explain to the Tigers that when you are outside, you should not talk, just listen. In a safe place, have them stop and close their eyes. Ask them, “How does closing your eyes make it easier to hear the sounds?”
2. See how many non-human sounds they can identify. Ask if they can hear any animal noises. Can they identify which animal is making the sound?

Have the Tigers record what they observed either by writing or drawing pictures in their jungle notebooks to illustrate it. If a nest is spotted, have them identify the type of material the birds used to build the nest, making sure not to disturb it.

CLOSING

If Tigers are not familiar with a talking stick, introduce the concept here. Gather the Tigers into a circle. Explain that only the person holding the “talking stick” or “object from nature” will be able to speak. The rest of the den listens as each Tiger and partner share one favorite thing about the bird walk.

AFTER THE MEETING

- Share a snack and drink, if appropriate.
- Make sure all participate in cleaning up from the craft and the snack, as necessary.
- Record completion of requirements 2, 4, and 5.
**PREPARATION AND MATERIALS NEEDED**

- U.S. and den flags.
- Plans for the upcoming pack campout—location, fees, gear list, food arrangements, etc.
- Assorted flying discs and targets for the Gathering activity (see Meeting 1 Resources at https://www.mtcbsa.org/Leaders/Den-Leader).
- Information about how to identify animals, including photos or illustrations (Activity 1).
- Slips of paper for the “Camping Charades” game (Activity 2).
- Sample gear items for the campout, including the Cub Scout Six Essentials (Activity 3).

**GATHERING**

- As Scouts arrive, have them practice throwing discs at targets. (See Meeting 1 Resources at https://www.mtcbsa.org/Leaders/Den-Leader).
- Have each Scout write their favorite camping activity on a slip of paper, and put all of the papers in a hat, bowl, or other container.

**OPENING**

- Conduct a flag ceremony of your choosing that includes the Pledge of Allegiance and, as appropriate, the Scout Oath and Scout Law.
- Recite the Outdoor Code (requirement 7a; see the Wolf Handbook).
- Recite the Leave No Trace Principles for Kids (requirement 7b; see the Wolf Handbook).

**TALK TIME**

- Introduce the Call of the Wild 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.
- Share plans for the pack campout (see above). If some Scouts will be camping out with their families, discuss possible locations with the youth and their parents, and review everything they will need to bring.

**ACTIVITIES**

**Icon Activity 1: Animal Identification** (Requirement 3)

- Using photos or illustrations, teach the Scouts how to identify four types of wild animals they may be able to see near their homes or on the campout. If possible, include examples of mammals, birds, insects, reptiles, and amphibians. (See Meeting 1 Resources at https://www.mtcbsa.org/Leaders/Den-Leader).
- Have them go to requirement 3 in their Wolf Handbooks and write the name of each animal and how to identify it.
- Show the youth some additional pictures that look similar, but are clearly not the types of animals that they will see on the campout. Have them pick out the differences.

**Icon Activity 2: Camping Charades Game**

- Have each Scout pick one of the slips of paper they filled out during the Gathering and pretend to be doing that activity while the other Scouts try to guess what it is. Tell them not to use words or props—only actions—and give them time to plan the charade with help from adult leaders.
- Ideas from this game can be worked into the campfire skit or song the Scouts will perform later with the den or their families (requirement 6). Suggest ways they might do this.

**Icon Activity 3: Camping Gear**

Discuss with the Scouts what gear they should bring on the campout for their own personal care and comfort, based on where and when they are camping. Don’t forget the Cub Scout Six Essentials! (See Meeting 1 Resources at https://www.mtcbsa.org/Leaders/Den-Leader) You should also cover items like tents, sleeping bags, ground cloths, pillows, sleeping pads or mattresses, warm clothes, raincoats, eating utensils, hats or caps, toothpaste, toothbrushes, etc.

**CLOSING**

The Grand Howl. To recognize their achievements during this meeting, form a circle and have each Scout squat, make the Cub Scout sign with both hands, then lean forward and touch the ground between their feet. Then, like young wolves, all the Scouts raise their heads and give a long howl. When this is done, they all jump to their feet, raise their right hands high above their heads, and give the Cub Scout sign again, shouting, “Akela! We’ll-do-our-best!”

**AFTER THE MEETING**

- Serve refreshments, if desired.
- Record completion of requirements 3, 7a and 7b.
- Work together to clean up the meeting place.
- Prepare thank-you notes for the Scouts to sign at the next meeting.

For more meeting plan or other resources please visit https://www.mtcbsa.org/Leaders/Den-Leader
**PREPARATION AND MATERIALS NEEDED**

- U.S. and den flags.
- Copies of the Knife Know-How Quiz; one for each youth, plus a pencil or pen (See Meeting 1 Resources at [https://www.mtcbasa.org/Leaders/Den-Leader](https://www.mtcbasa.org/Leaders/Den-Leader)).
- Materials for Bag of Air Relay game (See Meeting 1 Resources at [https://www.mtcbasa.org/Leaders/Den-Leader](https://www.mtcbasa.org/Leaders/Den-Leader)).
- One of each of the three knives from the Bear Handbook (Referencing the pictures in the handbook is an option if actual knives are not available).
- Whittling Chip cards.
- Sharpening stones, and old rags for wiping down knife blades.
- Pocketknife for sharpening in Activity 1.
- First-aid kit.

This meeting could easily be converted into an outing at a local museum that has a knife exhibit.

**GATHERING**

Have Scouts take the Knife Know-How Quiz (See Meeting 1 Resources at [https://www.mtcbasa.org/Leaders/Den-Leader](https://www.mtcbasa.org/Leaders/Den-Leader)). The answers are as follows: 1. True; 2. False; 3. False; 4. True; 5. False; 6. False; 7. False; 8. False; 9. True. (Doing this activity before the knife safety talk will serve as a benchmark for reflection on what was learned.) Cub Scouts are not expected to know the answers in advance.

**OPENING**

- Conduct a flag ceremony of your choosing that includes the Pledge of Allegiance and, as appropriate, the Scout Oath and Scout Law.
- Then call the den roll by asking each youth to respond with one thing a pocketknife might be used for.
- Recite the Scout Law.

**TALK TIME**

- Carry out business items for the den.
- Introduce the Bear Claws adventure to the den. Build interest by describing the goals of the adventure and some of the activities that are planned.
- Present the three common pocketknives that are referenced in the Bear Handbook. (Requirement 1)
- Review the knife safety rules—be certain there is complete understanding about why each rule is in place. This is also a good time to reinforce the two Scout Law points of being trustworthy and obedient.
- Discuss how well the Bears did on the Knife Know-How Quiz. Help them reflect on any new information that was learned after reviewing the knife safety rules.

**ACTIVITIES**

**Icon Activity 1: Knife Sharpening and Safety** (Requirement 2)

- Following the knife safety rules, demonstrate the proper way to sharpen a knife.
- Have extra parents assist Scouts to ensure safety and comprehension.

**Icon Activity 2: Bag of Air Relay**

**Needed:** An even number of players (one kid may go twice to even up the teams), enough small paper bags for each player.

**Instructions:** Place a stack of small paper bags at a goal line about 25 feet from each team. Each Scout in turn races to the stack, blows up a paper bag, bursts it with their hand, and races back to touch off the next player.

An alternative could be to have the Scouts walk backward on one of the trips either to the bag or back to the line.

**CLOSING**

- Present Whittling Chip cards to the Scouts. (Requirement 2).
- Have the group recite together the Pocketknife Pledge on the back of the Whittling Chip card.

**AFTER THE MEETING**

- Thank any guests who have assisted at the meeting.
- Serve refreshments, if desired.
- Record completion of requirements 1 and 2.
- Work together to clean up the meeting place.

For more meeting plan or other resources please visit [https://www.mtcbasa.org/Leaders/Den-Leader](https://www.mtcbasa.org/Leaders/Den-Leader).
COMMITTEE MEMBERS OPPORTUNITIES

**Secretary/Communications**
- Maintain a contact list of all Cub Scouts and parents for communications purposes. The secretary and den leaders should serve as the only leaders sending out information from the pack.
- Maintain minutes from committee/leader meetings.

**Activities/Special Events Coordinator**
Arrange pack activities throughout the year and special events. Some activities are:
- Pinewood Derby
- Blue and Gold Banquet
- Community Service Project

**Membership**
- Maintain registration and fee records of all Cub Scouts and parents.
- Orient new families on the registration process as they join throughout the year.
- Organize with district representatives to plan the fall/spring new Cub Scout recruitment event.

**Training**
- Ensure all leaders have access to training on-line.
- Maintain training records for all leaders in the pack.

**Treasurer**
- Maintain and present budgets, accounts, and financial statements to the pack committee.
- Maintain a record of each Cub Scout's account if pack credits youth for product sales.
- Work with the fundraising chairman to coordinate sales.
- Reimburse leaders for expenses they might incur for approved den projects.
Camping
- Work with Cubmaster to plan and execute pack camping trips.
- Communicate camping trip supply list with pack parents.
- Coordinate registration of Cub Scouts for Cubs and Family weekends.
- Serve as the trained BALOO leader for pack camping trips.

Advancement
- Work with each den leader to ensure that advancements are turned in each month prior to pack meeting.
- Track and maintain records of each Cub Scout so that all leaders know the status of each Cub Scout’s rank.
- Purchase ranks and advancements patches from Scout Shop each month prior to the pack meeting advancement ceremony.

Fundraising Chairman
- Coordinate Popcorn Sale/Camp Card Sale kickoff with the Cubmaster.
- Encourage parents to participate in all pack’s product sales.
- Work with pack treasurer to maintain sale records.
- Serve as the pack contact person for fundraising sales.
Each Den is involved in the monthly pack meeting which brings together leaders, Scouts from every den and their families, to showcase everything the Scouts have learned and done in their individual den meetings. The pack meeting gives the youth a larger experience beyond their own den, and helps them to connect their individual activities to the entire Cub Scout Scouting program.

THE PACK MEETINGS

While the Cubmaster is responsible for leading the pack meeting, he or she plans and conducts it with the help of other leaders. Every den shares the responsibility by doing its assigned part. The challenge is to conduct a brisk, fast-moving meeting that will hold the interest of youth and family members. The secret to a good pack meeting is planning carefully to include a balance of seriousness and fun, the involvement of many people, and a lively pace.

Ask your Cubmaster how your den can help with the pack meeting. Each meeting must be planned individually, keeping in mind the business items to be covered, the ceremonies to be held, and what is necessary for balance in the way of games, songs, and other fun. Some elements of a successful pack meeting are these:

- A detailed, well-planned, written program is conducted without delays.
- All equipment and materials are on hand before the meeting begins.
- The meeting place is safe, clean, and large enough.
- A good seating arrangement is provided.
- The meeting is no longer than an hour while opening and closing on time. Announcements and speeches are not too long.
- The meeting is planned so that every den participates in some way.
- Impressive recognition, advancement, and graduation ceremonies are held.

HERE IS AN EXAMPLE OF HOW THE PACK MEETING WILL RUN

Before the Meeting

Adult leaders in the pack gather to be sure the meeting place is prepared; the room is set up, exhibits and displays are prepared and equipment is ready. Hold a gathering that provides interesting things for Scouts and families to do while waiting for everyone else to arrive.

Opening

A brief ceremony marks the beginning of the meeting. Pack ceremonies often consist of a flag presentation, a brief prayer, or a song.
Skit/Song/Game
The program section of the meeting may include presentations and performances by the dens that demonstrate things the Scouts learned during the month, activities that involve the entire audience, or a featured event (i.e. local fire truck, zoo presentation or magic show).

Recognition
An important part of the pack meeting is formal recognition given to the Cub Scouts who have earned badges, adventure loops, adventure pins or other awards, and the leaders who have earned training awards, religious emblems, or other community awards.

Closing
The closing begins with announcements about special events, coming activities, and the date of the next pack meeting, followed by a closing ceremony.

After the Meeting
After the pack meeting, many packs provide refreshments for an informal fellowship session, and the leaders and Scouts help to put the meeting space back in order.

CEREMONY SUGGESTIONS
Simple ceremonies open and close pack meetings and mark important events or accomplishments in the lives of the Scouts and families. These are some typical kinds of pack ceremonies:

- Flag ceremonies teach Scouts how to handle and display the American flag.
- Induction ceremonies welcome new youth and their families into the pack.
- Advancement ceremonies celebrate the completion of requirements for Tiger, Bobcat, Wolf, Bear and Webelos ranks and the Arrow of Light award.
- Closing ceremonies bring the meeting to a close and send everyone home with inspirational ideas to remember.
**BOBCAT DAY**
Jump start your family’s year of Scouting by attending your district Bobcat Day! This fun-filled day of Scouting begins with your Scouts earning their rank (Bobcat) and ends with fun for the entire family. This event is open to all Scouts and their families.

**CUB AND FAMILY**
The Cub and Family Campouts are designed to give your Cub Scout or Webelos Scout and their family an opportunity to spend a fun-filled weekend together in the outdoors. They will learn more about each other by working and playing together within a planned program of activities. These weekends during the fall are held at Boxwell Reservation just east of Nashville.

**CUB DAY CAMP**
Day Camp is a fun-filled week of adventure for Cub Scouts who will be in the 1st-5th grades. The Middle Tennessee Council holds the Monday through Friday summer day camps in various geographic locations. These camps offer a range of activities which may include archery, arts and crafts, BB’s, field sports, nature, Scout skills and many other themed activities. All camps place a special emphasis on safety procedures.

**FAMILY SCOUTING AT CUBWORLD**
Are you ready for an adventure of a lifetime? During June and July, Cub Scouts and Webelos Scouts are given the opportunity to enjoy a long-term camping experience at Resident Camp, located at Boxwell Scout Reservation’s Cub World.

What kinds of activities will you get to do while at camp? Swimming, fishing, archery, BB’s, and Belt Loop activities throughout the camp. Scout staff are on hand to assist with these programs. During your free time, you will be able to hike and explore Boxwell Reservation.

All the meals are served in an air-conditioned dining hall. You will sleep in a provided wall tent with a platform and a cot. Restrooms are available throughout the camp.

For more information about all of the Council camping opportunities and other adventure activities, please contact your district executive or visit our website at www.mtcbsa.org.
If I’m a parent, and would like to know how I can help, or want to know more about Cub Scouts, how do I get more information?
You can go to the www.mtcbsa.org website and click on the “Volunteer button” then “New Leader button”. The resource will explain the steps in becoming a new leader.

I just signed up to be a leader in the pack. What do I need to get started?
The Middle Tennessee Council has many opportunities to take training. First, check out the www.mtcbsa.org website for the latest training opportunities. Youth Protection is required. You can set up an account at my.scouting.org.

How often do we meet and may parents attend those meetings?
Cub Scouts meet in their own dens about once each week, and a pack meeting is held for all Cub Scouts and their families once a month. It is important for parents to pitch in at meetings. Sometimes parents will be asked to lead a den meeting or pack meeting.

Where can I purchase BSA uniforms and other program materials?
The Middle Tennessee Council has three Scout Shops that can service your uniform, handbook, and other program needs. They are located in Clarksville, Murfreesboro and Nashville. The Scout Shop has a section under the www.mtcbsa.org website. You can find the directions, hours of operation and contact information.

If a youth joins as a Bear or Webelos, may they go back and earn previous ranks?
The simple answer is no. A new Cub Scout will first earn the Bobcat badge, regardless of age, and then begin working on the rank appropriate to their den/grade level.

I have just registered for an event at Boxwell Scout Reservation. How do I get there and do you have a map of the camp?
Under the camping tab of the mtcbsa.org website, you can get a map of Boxwell Scout Reservation and directions on how to get there.

How do I get information from my District Executive?
Under the www.mtcbsa.org site, go to the District page or call the Council office at 615-383-9724.

Is Financial Assistance available for families?
In certain situations, financial assistance may be requested. You should contact your unit leader to inquire as to what funds may be available. They can follow up with professional staff as needed.
Middle Tennessee Council Scout Shops

Your complete one-stop Scout Shops
Lion Cubs/Tiger Cubs/Cub Scouts/Webelos Scouts/Boy Scouts Uniforms, Insignia & Badges, Flags & Accessories, Literature, Trophies & Awards, Banquet Supplies, Crafts, Camping Equipment, Gift Items & Much more.

NASHVILLE SCOUT SHOP
First floor of Scout Service Center
3414 Hillsboro Pike
NASHVILLE, Tennessee 37215
Phone: 615-383-0753 Fax 615-385-1646
1-800-899-6622
email: scoutshop@mtcbsa.org

Nashville Scout Shop Hours *
Monday-Friday 8:00 AM - 5:30 PM
Saturdays 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM
*SEPTEMBER ONLY - Tuesday nights we will remain open until 6:00 PM

MURFREESBORO SCOUT SHOP
Inside Haynes Hardware Store
1807 Memorial Blvd
MURFREESBORO, Tennessee 37129
Phone: 615-867-4690 Fax: 615-867-4689

Murfreesboro Scout Shop Hours
Monday, Wednesday, and Friday
1:00 PM - 5:30 PM
Saturdays 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM

CLARKSVILLE SCOUT SHOP
Inside Clarksville Office Now
1860 Wilma Rudolph Boulevard
CLARKSVILLE, Tennessee 37040
Phone: (931) 230-0930

Clarksville Scout Shop Hours
Monday, Wednesday, and Friday
1:00 PM - 5:30 PM
Saturdays 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM

MAIL ORDERS
P. O. BOX 150409 NASHVILLE, TN 37215
ATTN: SCOUT SHOP

AREA DISTRIBUTORS

Cumberland Mountain Outdoor Sports
Cookeville, Tennessee
931-526-6239

Ted’s Sporting Goods
Columbia, Tennessee
931-388-6387

Taylor’s Archery and Outdoors
100 East Lauderdale St.
Tullahoma, TN 37388
931-563-7706