

# HOW CUB SCOUTING IS ORGANIZED

Think of the BSA as an upside-down pyramid. At the base of the pyramid — the smallest part — is the national organization of the BSA. It is designed to support the sections above it. The **National Council** of the BSA is led by a volunteer group called the National Executive Committee along with the chief executive officer, or the **Chief Scout Executive**. Additional volunteers and staff members make up the National Council, which includes departments such as Scout shops, program development, information technology, and safety.



The next part of the pyramid is your local council, a geographic territory that the National Council has granted permission to deliver Scouting programs within that area. The local council is also led by a volunteer group and a council executive committee, along with a chief executive officer called the **Scout executive**.

On the left sleeve of the Cub Scout uniform is a patch that identifies your local council.

Some councils create geographic areas called **districts**. Districts are designed to provide service and support to local Scouting programs in the designated area. A district committee made up of volunteers does

this work and is often supported by a staff member called a **district executive**.

At the top of the pyramid — the largest part — are the local Scouting programs. Local councils partner with community organizations, called chartered organizations, to deliver Scouting programs. Chartered organizations have an annual agreement with the local council to sponsor one or more Scouting programs.

If a chartered organization wants to have a Cub Scout program, it organizes what is called a Cub Scout **pack**. Packs are organized to best serve the families to whom the chartered organization is looking to deliver the program. Often, this is a school, neighborhood, or community. Your Cub Scout pack is identified with a number. On the Cub Scout uniform, you put your pack number on the left sleeve under the council patch.

The **chartered organization representative** is just that: the person designated to represent the organization that has an agreement with the local council to deliver the Scouting program. The chartered organization approves all those who volunteer to be leaders in the pack, usually parents of Cub Scouts. Each pack has a pack committee made up of leaders and parents led by the **pack committee chair**. This volunteer, usually a parent, organizes the adults to plan and deliver the Cub Scouting program.

The **Cubmaster** is a volunteer, usually a parent, who coordinates the delivery of the program to the youth of all ages at the pack level with the help of **assistant Cubmaster(s)** and other parents.





A Cub Scout pack is made up of small groups called **dens**. How dens are formed is up to the pack. Packs ultimately form dens in a way that best serves the families in the pack. Ideally, a den has about eight Cub Scouts who are all in the same grade and are working on the same rank together. Dens can also be formed with different grades. A Cub Scout pack with three second-graders (Wolves) and two third-graders (Bears) may form a multi-rank den with those five Cub Scouts. Regardless of how dens are formed, Cub Scouts earn Adventures and the badge of rank only for their grade level.

The den is led by a volunteer **den leader** and **assistant den leader**, usually a parent. The den leader coordinates meetings and activities centered around Cub Scout **Adventures**. Adventures are made up of a group of activities. When the required activities for each Adventure are completed, the Cub Scout receives an **Adventure loop** that slides onto their Cub Scout belt as recognition for completing an Adventure.

**Advancement** refers to the progress your Cub Scout is making toward their badge of rank. Cub Scouts work only on the badge of rank associated with their grade level. For first grade, this is the Tiger badge of rank. Your Cub Scout earns their Tiger badge of rank by completing the six required Adventures and two elective Adventures. When they complete a badge of rank, they may not work on the next badge of rank until they have completed the grade level associated with that badge of rank. Cub Scouts may not work on a badge of rank for an earlier grade level.





# YOUR CUB SCOUT DEN

## Your Cub Scout Den

In Cub Scouting, a den is a small group of Cub Scouts. Cub Scouting uses different animals as mascots for different grade levels. There is no requirement for den size. We recommend that a den is no larger than 10 Cub Scouts. A den larger than 10 Cub Scouts is acceptable as long as everyone is working together and no one is left out.



**Kindergarten**



**First Grade**



**Second Grade**



**Third Grade**



**Webelos  
Fourth Grade**



**Arrow of Light  
Fifth Grade**



Your Tiger den will meet on a regular basis to have fun and complete Cub Scout Adventures together. The time, date, and location of den meetings are determined by the families in your den. How often you meet is also up to the families in your den. Den meetings for Tiger Cub Scouts should last between 45 minutes and an hour.

In your den, two adults who are 21 years of age or older will need to serve as the den leaders and assistant den leader. If your den has girls, then one of the two adult leaders must be female. The Tiger den leader and assistant den leader serve as team leaders and coordinate den meetings with the families in the den. Each Tiger adult partner is expected to help the den leader and assistant den leader by either hosting meetings, running an activity, or assisting with other tasks.

A den meeting is simple: a quick opening, some fun activities that help your Cub Scout earn an Adventure, and a closing.



Suggested activities for required and elective Adventures can be found on [Scouting.org](https://www.scouting.org) or by scanning this QR code.



Scan this QR code to learn more about leading a den meeting.





# TIGER DEN LEADER AND ASSISTANT DEN LEADER

Cub Scout den leaders and assistant den leaders work directly with Cub Scouts and their parents or legal guardians to execute the Cub Scouting program in the den.

Dens must have two registered leaders: a den leader and assistant den leader or two den co-leaders. In all situations, den leaders work with parents or legal guardians as a team to deliver the program.

## Qualifications for adult leaders:

- ▶ At least 21 years old.
- ▶ Typically, a parent or legal guardian of a child in the den.
- ▶ Recommended by the Cubmaster after consultation with the parents or legal guardians of the involved Cub Scouts and approved by the pack committee and chartered organization.
- ▶ Registered as an adult leader of the BSA and completed Youth Protection training.



## Den leader responsibilities:

- ▶ Carry out the activities listed for each rank in the handbook for Cub Scouts in the den to earn their badge of rank.
- ▶ Work directly with other den and pack leaders to ensure that the den is an active and successful part of the pack.
- ▶ Plan and conduct den meetings with the assistant den leader and Tiger adult partners.
- ▶ Attend the monthly pack committee meetings.
- ▶ Lead the den at pack activities.
- ▶ Coordinate shared leadership among the adult partners in the den.
- ▶ Ensure that each child and their Tiger adult partner have the opportunity to be the host team, planning and executing the den activities. Rotate responsibilities monthly.
- ▶ Complete den leader position-specific training.

Core to succeeding with these responsibilities is the concept that every Cub Scout deserves a trained leader. Being a trained leader helps you deliver the program in a way that is effective and efficient with a focus on the core objectives of Scouting. Becoming a trained leader requires completion of the following:

- ▶ Youth Protection Training (required to be a registered leader)
- ▶ Leader position-specific training

Both training courses are available online at [my.scouting.org](https://my.scouting.org) and offered in person through your local council service center. Leaders who have completed these two trainings qualify to wear the Trained Leader emblem.



My.Scouting.org



# TIGER DEN MEETINGS



Meeting Place  
Inspection  
Checklist

## Den Meeting Location

Den meetings should be held in a safe location that the den has permission to use. This can be a private residence, a public facility, or another location. All den meeting locations are to be inspected annually using the Meeting Place Inspection Checklist.

## Den Meeting Schedule

Together, the den leader and the families in the den decide when and how often the den should meet. A typical den meeting schedule is once a week or twice a month.

Your pack may have access to a meeting location that may determine den meeting dates and time.

Your den should meet as frequently as required to meet the needs of the families in the den and provide an opportunity for each Cub Scout to earn their Tiger badge of rank.

For Tiger den meetings, it is recommended to keep the meeting to an hour.

In addition to den meetings in a given month, your pack will likely have a pack meeting or activity once a month.

Tip: It is best to be consistent with date, time, and location of your den meetings.



Guide to  
Safe Scouting

## Den Meeting Safety

In conducting activities, Cub Scout den leaders must maintain adequate and active adult supervision. As a Tiger adult partner, you have a primary responsibility to keep yourself and your Cub Scout safe.

Keeping your Cub Scout safe includes both physical and emotional safety. There may be things that you allow at home that are not approved activities in Scouting. The BSA has developed the

**Guide to Safe Scouting** for information on policies relating to the many activities in which your den may participate. The *Guide to Safe Scouting* is available on the National Council website at [www.scouting.org/health-and-safety/gss/](http://www.scouting.org/health-and-safety/gss/).

# SHARED LEADERSHIP



Tiger den meetings work best with a shared leadership model. Each Tiger adult partner should agree to help with either hosting a meeting, conducting an activity at a meeting, or assisting with other tasks.

The Tiger den leader and assistant den leader coordinate den meetings, but the den will be at its best when every Tiger adult partner is helping to the best of their ability. This can be as simple as working with the den leader to gather materials, contacting families to remind them of meetings, leading a game or a craft, or planning for the den to visit a special location. The idea is to work with the Tiger den leader and share the load. What that looks like will be different for each den.

# PLANNING ADVENTURES FOR DEN MEETINGS

As you plan your den's program for the year, there are a few important points to consider.

## Bobcat Adventure

Bobcat is designed to be the first required Adventure that a Cub Scout earns each year. The Adventure is designed to be the first meeting with your den.

It does not have to be the first Adventure your Tiger Cub Scout earns. Plan to complete all of the six required Adventures and any two elective Adventures. You may complete these in any order to ensure each Cub Scout has the opportunity to earn their Tiger badge of rank.

## Required Adventures

All required Adventures must be completed to earn the Tiger badge of rank. The required Adventures are based on the aims and focus areas of the BSA: character, leadership, citizenship, personal fitness, the outdoors, personal safety, and family & reverence. Required Adventures may be done in any order. Elective Adventures may be completed prior to completing all required Adventures.

Tip: Place the required Adventures on the den calendar first to ensure adequate time to complete.

## Elective Adventures

Elective Adventures add to the fun of Cub Scouting. Two elective Adventures are required for the Tiger badge of rank. Some elective Adventures may be planned by your pack, such as fishing, cycling, or the Pinewood Derby®. You may also find that some elective Adventures can be done as an activity with other dens. Elective Adventures may be done at home, working with the Tiger Cub Scout's family.

Before starting an elective Adventure at home, check with the den and pack to ensure that the Adventure is not already on the den or pack calendar. Cub Scouts who miss a den meeting for an elective Adventure may complete the Adventure at home.

When working on elective Adventures at home, check with the den and pack to know how the purchase of Adventure loops will be handled. Packs may have a budget for recognition pieces. The budget may allow for an unlimited number of Adventure loops or may limit the number that the pack will purchase.

Important: When planning the den calendar, keep in mind that six required Adventures and at least two elective Adventures are required for the Tiger badge of rank. Adventure loops may be awarded at any time within the Scout's rank year by grade.

Once a Cub Scout has moved (graduated) to their next den level (grade level), **a Cub Scout may not earn Adventures or the rank of their previous grade.**



# TIGER DEN MEETING PLANS

The den meeting is critical to the Cub Scout's success and enjoyment of the Scouting program. It is in and through the den that the aims of the BSA are delivered. Along the way, Cub Scouts make social connections and enjoy exploring a wide variety of ideas.

Den meetings that are fun, organized, and interesting provide a great experience for youth. The structured but fun nature of den meetings sets the tone for a Cub Scout experience in which youth thrive.

When planning Tiger den meetings, Tiger adult partners are active participants with their Tiger Cub Scouts. Den meetings should be fun for both the Cub Scouts and Tiger adult partners.

Each den meeting consists of three basic elements:

## Opening (five minutes)

Den meetings should begin on time and with an opening. The opening serves as a clear indication that the meeting has started. Youth and adults stand respectfully for the opening.



Den Flag  
Ceremony

- ▶ Opening flag ceremony
- ▶ Pledge of Allegiance
- ▶ Recite the Scout Oath and the Scout Law together
- ▶ Introduce the Adventure for the meeting

## Adventures (45 minutes or more)



Tiger Badge  
of Rank Page

Most Adventures can be completed in 60 to 90 minutes.

Go to the Tiger badge of rank page on Scouting.org and pick the Adventure you are working on for the meeting. Select one activity for each requirement to complete the Adventure. At times, the den may complete the activities faster or slower than expected. Just be flexible and adjust the next den meeting.

## Closing (five minutes)

A closing serves as a clear indication that the meeting is officially over.

- ▶ Present Adventure loop if Adventure is completed
- ▶ Reflection
- ▶ Reminder of next Cub Scout activity
- ▶ Closing flag ceremony

# PREPARING FOR A DEN MEETING



Tiger Badge  
of Rank Page

From the list of Adventures on page 22, determine the Adventure to be worked on during the den meeting. Requirements to complete the Adventure can be found online. Use the QR code or go online to Scouting.org and locate the Tiger badge of rank page. Click on the desired Adventure for your den meeting. This will take you to the Adventure page that contains the requirements to complete the Adventure. Each requirement will have one or more activities to choose from and is completed by doing a single activity. For more information about the activity, click on it.

## Picking Activities

Each activity has four icons designed to help you identify the activity that is right for your den.

The first icon indicates the meeting space: indoor, outdoor, or an outing for which travel is required. Indoor activities are marked with a house, outdoor activities with a tree, and outings with travel display a car.



The second icon indicates the level of energy Cub Scouts will use on a scale of 1 to 5.

1. Very low energy – talking, listening, sharing, and sitting
2. Low energy – arts and crafts, sitting
3. Moderate energy – skilled crafts, hand tools, sitting or standing
4. High energy – walking, moving, and active movements
5. Very high energy – walking or moving long distances, or running



The third icon indicates the supplies needed for the activity.

1. None – no supplies are needed
2. Very little – common household items
3. Average – recycled items or low-cost craft supplies
4. Above average – common craft supplies
5. Custom – items for the activity are custom or uncommon



The fourth icon indicates the time required to prepare for the activity.

1. Minimal prep time needed
2. Something needs to be done one to three days ahead of time
3. Something needs to be done three to five days ahead of time
4. Something needs to be done a week ahead of time
5. Something needs to be done more than a week ahead of time



## REVIEW EACH ACTIVITY FOR THE MEETING

### Safety Moment

This is the first part of the Adventure page for each activity. Read this section to identify the things to have in place to keep the Adventure safe and in accordance with BSA guidelines.

### Supply List

This will provide a list of supplies needed for the meeting. Note the items, such as art supplies, which might be needed for each Cub Scout, or that might be shared.

### Directions

Written directions on how to conduct the activity.



## Additional Resources

Some activities will have additional images, PDF files, or even videos to help either the adult leading the activity or to help instruct the Cub Scouts.

Most Adventures can be completed in 60 to 90 minutes; however, based on your den size and other factors, it may take more or less time. Review each activity prior to the den meeting. It may take some trial and error to determine how many activities your den can do in a typical meeting.

## Tips and Tricks for Running a Den Meeting

### ► Gathering activities

Gathering activities are things for the Scouts to do while they are waiting for everyone to arrive and the meeting to officially start. These can be games, puzzles, crafts, or anything that takes only a few minutes and keeps the Tiger Cub Scouts busy. Gathering activities can relate to the Adventure or just be something fun. The Tiger Handbook contains gathering activities for some of the Adventures.

### ► Adventure requirements take less time than you planned

Have a game or activity ready to go for those occasions when the Adventure is completed quicker than anticipated. These do not have to be related to the Adventure, simply a little extra fun.

### ► Backup plan

Have a backup plan in the event that a den meeting cannot take place as planned. For example, the den meeting was to take a walk outside and a sudden downpour occurs. This could be moving onto another Adventure that is designed to be done indoors or just do a fun game or activity with the Scouts.

# YOUR FIRST DEN MEETING

Your first den meeting should be working on the Bobcat Adventure.

You may be the den leader or a parent or legal guardian who is helping with an activity; you are going to do great!

The first den meeting is designed to get to know each Tiger Cub Scout and their family. Have a conversation with the other Tiger adult partners and discuss what volunteering looks like for your den.

Here are some tips for your first meeting. This will help set a positive atmosphere for everyone.

- Make a personal phone call and text reminder to each family about the meeting date, time, and location.
- If you are the den leader or assistant den leader, wear your adult uniform to all meetings and remind Scouts to wear their uniforms.
- Be organized before the start of the meeting.
- Set clear behavior expectations with the Tiger Cub Scouts and Tiger adult partners.



Marble Jar

The BSA provides some ideas on how to help create a positive atmosphere. Check out the “**marble jar**” idea. Another option is to develop a den code of conduct with the Tiger Cub Scouts and their Tiger adult partners. The den code of conduct can be handwritten on poster board. Or use the den code of conduct poster, No. 32068, which may be purchased at your local Scout shop.



When setting expectations:

- ▶ Be consistent and friendly but firm.
- ▶ Explain that Scouts should bring their handbooks to each meeting.
- ▶ Remember to set high expectations, so the Cub Scouts in your den can learn how to achieve them. Setting low expectations will lower everyone's performance and not meet the expectations families have of the program.
- ▶ If you are the den leader, ask the assistant den leader(s) to arrive at least 15 minutes before the meeting is to begin. They can help you with final preparations before everyone else arrives.
- ▶ Have something constructive for those who arrive early to do (known as a gathering activity) while you are making final preparations for the den meeting; you might even have them help set up some parts of the meeting.

## DEN OUTINGS

Den outings are an important part of the Cub Scout experience. Outings are a time not only for fun, but also for learning. It is important that you plan in advance for these den outings. At a minimum, planning should include the following:

- ▶ Arrange for the visit with the point of contact at your destination (if needed).
- ▶ Work with the parents or legal guardians in the den to arrange transportation or get an adult to carry out the planning.

An activity consent form is available to use at the den level, which parents or legal guardians can sign to indicate that they allow their children to attend the outing. The activity consent form is available at [www.scouting.org/programs/cub-scouts/leaders/forms](http://www.scouting.org/programs/cub-scouts/leaders/forms).



Activity Consent Form



Annual Health and Medical Record

Everyone who participates in a Scouting activity, including adults, is to complete a BSA Annual Health and Medical Form. This does not require a doctor's visit. It is a form that is kept by the pack that contains emergency information and other critical health information such as allergies. To learn more about the BSA Annual Health and Medical Form, go to <https://www.scouting.org/health-and-safety/ahmr/>.

## YOUR CUB SCOUT PACK



Family Talent Survey

Cub Scouting can build a community of support for you and your Cub Scout. Parents and legal guardians come together to deliver the Cub Scouting program. Everyone has a talent they can apply to support the den and the pack. When you and your Cub Scout are active members, you will start to see opportunities to provide your talents to make the program the best it can be.

What are your talents? Letting the other parents and leaders in your pack know your talents helps to match the right people with the right tasks. If you have not already done so, complete the Family Talent Survey and submit it to your pack committee.