

PACK MEETING TIPS

Pack Meetings

The pack meeting is the culmination of four or five weeks of den activities. Dens may participate in the pack meeting by presenting a song, skit, ceremony, or other presentation. Boys will receive their advancement and other recognition items, such as adventure loops and pins, patches for day camp participation, and other awards. Every boy has a chance to be individually recognized. Be sure to recognize parents who have helped during the month, either in the dens or with the pack committee.

In each month's pack planning pages, there are suggestions for topics for the pack leaders' planning meeting. All leaders—den leaders, assistant den leaders, Cubmasters and assistants, and all committee members—are invited to this monthly meeting. Make the meeting fun as well as informative.

During the monthly pack leaders' planning meeting, you will finalize the upcoming pack meeting and will plan in detail the next month's pack meeting. This meeting is usually held one or two weeks before the pack meeting.

Plan Your Meetings

Use the meeting plan outlines. Solicit additional adult help for activities and tasks. Shared leadership of the pack benefits everyone by getting other parents involved and creating opportunities for adults to share their skills and interests with boys.

Planning for den involvement in pack meetings is most important. Each den should have its participation scheduled in advance. The order of their contribution is important to share as well. For instance, if a den has props for their activity or event, knowing when they are up next will give them time to get ready. Coordinate all skits and contributions at the pack leaders' meeting so that events are approved in advance and are not duplicated.

Ceremonies

Each boy will accomplish milestones along his advancement trail during the program year. Each of these is a very special and significant moment. Make these moments special by planning recognition presentations. Also, you may choose to present the parent's pin representing each rank to recognize parental involvement in the advancement process.

Staging Events

Events at your pack meetings add to the fun and memories. Families will be taking many pictures of their sons receiving awards and recognitions. Take a little extra effort to arrange things in a way that will allow a clear shot for the perfect picture of the Cubmaster presenting the award. Provide a consistent area at your meeting place where the den displays are placed. When den skits are performed, have a plan for the manner in which dens will enter and exit. This makes for a smooth show, and everyone will look great!

Recognize Your Volunteers

Occasional recognition of the pack leadership and parental involvement in activities will be welcomed by all. Everyone deserves a thank you, and boys will proudly see the adults in their lives being recognized and appreciated.

Family Involvement

Cub Scouts need good pack leaders. They also need family support because Cub Scouting is a family program. Families can be involved by working with their Cub Scouts on advancement at home, providing ways for their Cub Scouts to earn money for den dues, helping at den meetings when needed, providing transportation, attending pack meetings, and presenting advancement awards to their Cub Scouts at pack meetings. Leaders should encourage family involvement throughout their son's Cub Scouting years.

Service Projects

As noted in an early edition of the *Boy Scout Handbook*: “To people who know about Scouting, the daily Good Turn is one of the finest features of our movement.” The record of Good Turns, small and large, that Scouts have done since the day Scouting was founded is truly impressive. Many den adventures are designed to encourage Cub Scouts to Do a Good Turn as part of their requirements. Work with your chartered organization on a project.

Announcements

The pack meeting is a good time to remind Scouts of upcoming pack activities to enhance the excitement for, and promote family discussion of, these events. But because you are dealing with young boys—and parents who may not have brought note-taking materials—reminders should be in written form and handed out to parents. Too many announcements can be very boring and consume precious time. Effective and frequent communication with parents is a very important—if not critical—ingredient in the success of the pack. A pack newsletter, fliers for events, email, and other social media are important communication tools. Knowing about issues, meetings, and activities well in advance will be appreciated and will yield positive results for both packs and families.

Unit Commissioners

A unit commissioner is a volunteer Scouter who represents the councils and works with the pack to help it successfully deliver a quality program. He or she can offer suggestions for solving problems. A unit commissioner is a friend. Pack leaders should get to know him or her. If your pack does not have a unit commissioner, talk to your district executive, the district commissioner, or the district chair.

National Summertime Pack Award

Summer activities will center on the out-of-doors. Plan and conduct fun pack activities for June, July, and August, and qualify for the National Summertime Pack Award. Boys who participate in all three summer pack events are eligible to receive the National Summertime Pack Award pin. Dens with an average attendance of at least half their members at the three summer pack events will be eligible for a den participation ribbon. A qualifying pack receives a colorful streamer for their pack flag.

National Den Award

Cub Scouting happens in the den. The National Den Award creates an incentive for a year-round, fun, quality program in the den. The National Den Award may be earned only once in any 12-month period (charter year or calendar year, as determined by the pack committee).