

# CHARACTERISTICS OF CUB SCOUTS

(Compiled from various child development sources)

## 6-Year-Old Boys

- Six-year-old Tigers have longer attention spans and continue to prefer structured activities to more open-ended experiences.
- They enjoy taking on new roles and responsibilities but still require much direction from adults and frequently ask questions to ensure that they are completing tasks the right way.
- The language skills of 6-year-olds become increasingly sophisticated throughout the year.
- Scientific discovery for children this age is affected by their tendency to straddle the world between make-believe and reality.
- Tigers continue to enjoy moving in a variety of ways. Although far from proficient in motor skills, this does little to dampen their enthusiasm for trying out new activities and sports.
- Their hand-eye and foot-eye coordination is still developing, so skills like throwing, catching, kicking, and striking are still emerging.
- Six-year-olds are confident and delight in showing off their talents.
- They start to display an increasing awareness of their own and others' emotions and begin to develop better techniques for self-control.
- Predictable routines are important sources of stability and security for children this age.
- Six-year-olds draw emotional stability from their interactions with adults with whom they feel secure, particularly during challenging situations and circumstances.

## 7-Year-Old Boys

- The 7-year-old Wolf can have a wide range of development levels and interests.
- Seven-year-olds are usually beginning to really develop motor skills in combination—such as running up to a ball to kick it. Physical play is important at this age to help them enhance coordination.

- They enjoy working with simple tools and small items.
- Wolf Cub Scouts are curious and looking to learn new things. Problem-solving skills are becoming a part of their makeup.
- Seven-year-olds are better at sharing. “Mine” is being replaced by interests in playing together.
- They are not yet independent and like structure. Rules make sense to them and they tend to think in terms of right and wrong, good or bad, with little middle ground.
- Attention spans in 7-year-olds are increasing, but they are still looking for a variety of activities.
- Wolf Cub Scouts are developing a serious interest in the world around them and in nature.

## **Eight-Year-Old Boys**

- The 8-year-old Bear is full of energy but tires easily. He is restless and fidgety. He will develop some skill in activities and games played frequently.
- Eight-year-olds seldom get into real fights. They usually resort to name-calling. They like responsibility and independence and want to do well. They usually play in groups but also like to play alone.
- They want adventure. If it isn't available, they make their own. They may exaggerate something real, imagine an experience, or simply brag. Remember that these tall tales are not lies. They are a reflection of a boy's need to be big, strong, and brave when in reality he is not. A den leader can use this thirst for adventure in helping boys explore new things.
- They are eager for learning and are beginning to solve more complex problems. They like to be challenged and take time in completing a task.
- Their attention span is good. They enjoy hobbies and like to collect anything and everything. Value is much less important than quantity. A few may organize their collections; others will merely mess up their rooms with assorted treasures.
- They dislike criticism and are eager for peer approval. They want to be like others of their age. They are often self-critical and perfectionists.
- They are sometimes dreamy, absorbed, and withdrawn. They are less impulsive than younger children.
- They enjoy learning and practicing moral values and are aware of right and wrong, good and bad.

## 9-Year-Old Boys

- Nine-year-old boys like active, rough play.
- They tend to have good body control and are interested in strength, skill, and speed.
- They tend to like more complicated crafts and work-related tasks. They like to collect things.
- They will be curious and have definite interests. Their attention spans become longer, and they can do more abstract thinking and reasoning.
- Individual differences in your Scouts will become more obvious.
- Nine-year-olds might have some behavior problems, especially if not accepted by others.
- They are aware of right and wrong and want to do right.
- You will see them begin to test boundaries and exercise a great deal of independence.
- They enjoy team games and are very interested in friends and social activities. They like group adventures and cooperative play. They are competitive, and you will often hear “Not fair!”
- They are becoming very independent, dependable, and trustworthy.
- They have difficulty admitting they made mistakes, but they are becoming more capable of accepting mistakes and taking responsibility.
- Nine-year-olds are acquiring consciences.

## 10-Year-Old Boys

- Ten-year-old boys are more active and rough with well-developed motor skills.
- They have many interests, often of a short duration, but they might begin to show talents.
- They are alert, poised, concerned with fads, able to argue logically, and concerned with style.
- They are close and affectionate with their parents. They show pride in their fathers and consider their mothers all-important.
- They like privacy and are selective in friendships. A 10-year-old might have one best friend.
- This is not an angry age. Anger, when it comes, is often violent and immediate.
- They worry mainly about school and peer relationships. It is important to be “in” with their peers.
- Ten-year-olds tend to have a strong sense of justice and a strict moral code. They are usually more concerned with what is wrong than with what is right.