

## Is My Pack Program All It Could Be?

If you are reading this handout you have taken the first step in evaluating your program and making it better.

### Do you find any of these in your Pack program?

1. Excessive Den Leader “turnovers”
2. Your Program and crafts each month are not related to the monthly theme.
3. You use “outside” entertainment at your Pack Meetings to bring in families.
4. You have a small Pack Committee.
5. You use a month-by-month planning agenda-instead of having your Pack Committee plan a full year in the summer.
6. Your Pack Leaders lack parental support.
7. Pack Meetings that have delays, indecision or weak leadership.
8. Parent attendance is poor at Pack Meetings.
9. Large turnover of Cub Scouts or transfers.
10. Cub Scouts and Leaders who are not in uniform.
11. There is a lack of communication between Leaders, Parents and Cub Scouts.
12. Your leaders are not trained for their current positions.

Attending Cub Scout Leader Basic Training and our monthly Roundtables could eliminate many of these problems.

**Cub Scout Leader Basic** is designed for all Pack Leaders. It covers uniforming, pack structure and understanding boys. There is also a breakout session where leaders from each group (Den Leaders, Pack Committee, Cubmasters, Webelos Leaders and Tiger Cub Leaders) get specialized training for their jobs and can discuss questions with other Scout Leaders in similar positions.

This course will give you an overview of how your Pack leaders should work together smoothly, because everyone learns about the different positions.

**Monthly Roundtables** are held the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of every month at Camp

Berry at 7PM. Leaders pick up information on upcoming District and Council events.

During the breakout sessions, leaders break in to groups such as:

Cub Leaders	Cubmasters
Pack Committee	Webelos Leaders

The breakout sessions cover material based on the recommended monthly theme. Roundtables are the best source to learn a new craft, skill, or get advice on how to solve a problem.

You now know what your job is and you have the support each month from Roundtable. **What's next?**

### **Plan your work-Work your plan!**

Meet with Pack Committee during the summer months and put together a program for the whole year. Cub Scout Program Helps is published by the end of the school year and contains outline themes and activities for a full year beginning in September. Once your program is planned, leaders and parents will know in advance what they need to do.

Remember to **KISMIF**-Keep it simple-Make it fun! The theme plan keeps the activities for the month "on track" and den projects based on the central theme provide interesting activities for your Pack Meeting.

Your Pack Meeting should be a review of what has happened in the dens during the month. Also, by highlighting the projects of the dens at the Pack Meeting the parents are more interested in attending to see what the scouts have done to earn their advancements.

### **Extra support available!**

To gain the most leadership, enthusiasm and skills in a den meeting acquire a Den Chief. By planning and leading the den meeting together the scouts are assured the best possible Den Program. The Den Chief learns from both the Den Leader and the Cubmaster, the skills that help him do a good job. The Cubmaster needs to demonstrate to the Den Chief all games, stunts, songs, tricks or puzzles to insure that they work so that the Den Chief knows how to do them.

Den Chiefs should attend a **Den Chief Training Conference** held at a

University of Scouting so that they know the position they are about to hold and receive additional resources for their new job.

Not all Pack Meetings are exactly the same each month. You want variety. It's hard to get attendance up if your meetings are boring. The monthly themes offer a chance to work on achievements and electives. The Cubmaster or Pack Committee can select 1 or 2 electives for the monthly Pack Meeting. Den parents become the "**Elective coaches**" to explain what to do and how to do it with the scouts. This option gives the den leader support help. The scouts have greater learning and advancements opportunities. Also, parents feel more in touch with the scouts and the Program and are more apt to continue their involvement with the group.

### **Wrap-up Time!**

1. We've covered some of the problems encountered by Packs and Dens and gave you some ways to reduce or eliminate them.
2. We encouraged Training and Roundtable attendance to increase your support; not only through the additional training but the quality time you have to discuss topics pertaining to your position.
3. We tried to show you that by planning a yearly program and then working that plan, you gain a better-organized program for both you and the scouts.
4. Increasing parent communication and participation strengthens the Pack and Pack Committee.
5. Enthusiastic Leaders who are trained and have additional support give back more to their scouts and Pack.
6. The scouts gain new knowledge and skills from experiences that are provided by a well-rounded Pack.