



# Cub Scout Roundtable

Sagamore Council, Wabash Valley District

June 9, 2016

Planning your Cub Scouting DEN year

---

This assumes that you already have your major Pack events planned, so that you can schedule your den to meet your deadlines (Blue and Gold banquets, skits & songs at Pack meetings, etc.) Den-level planning is based around the adventures for that den level, plus the Bobcat badge for new boys (which includes all Tigers!)

## **Tigers**

The Tiger adventures are pretty easy. This makes it easy to do Tigers wrong! The goal is not only to get the boys into Scouting, but also to get the parents into helping out. Plan a den schedule around the adventures, but ask each scout-adult pair to plan a meeting or two. Obviously, they can't plan the first couple of meetings, so that's when you do your Bobcat work with the boys. You should have three meetings per month, including the field trip. Meetings should be no more than 1 hour.

## **Wolves/Bear**

Remember, you DON'T have to do the adventures in the order they are listed, or all of one before you do another. Parents are your friends – ask for help! Wolves and Bears need three meetings per month, including the field trip; usually every week until the Blue and Gold. Meetings are an hour long.

## **Webelos**

Webelos planning depends on whether you have separate Webelos 1 and 2 dens, or a mixed den. Both have advantages and disadvantages. Webelos should meet every week for 1 to 1 ½ hours

Be sure to expose your second-year boys to a number of different troops. First year boys can come too, including camping. It should encourage them!

## **General Advice for Den Leaders**

- For your first meeting, have a welcome/welcome back letter, your schedule for the year, and Bobcat stuff for new boys. Also, develop a code of conduct
- Boys need a fast-moving program. They learn self-control when given guidelines.
- Codes of conduct work when enforced consistently. The boys are invested in a code of conduct that they help develop. Keep it simple!
- Alternate energetic activities with quiet ones; hands-on is better than lecture
- Write a letter to your Den parents every week – keep them informed! Give it to them at the end of the meeting. It should be 1 page or less.
- Send home individual catch-up letters for each boy in January.
- Regarding the Religion/Faith requirements for each rank – have the boys do these at home. You can give them worksheets with the requirements.

- Leave space at the end of your Den schedule (in February, before the Blue and Gold banquet) for make-up sessions; boys will miss meetings, and there maybe snow days too. If no one misses, you can play games, or work on elective adventures.
- You will have boys out for sports – keep them informed!
- Don't be afraid to change the plan/meeting schedule!
- Start every Den meeting with a flag ceremony, and the Boy Scout Oath and Law. This hits requirements for all ranks. Make the ceremonies meaningful.
- Have option plans – indoor and outdoor activities, depending on the weather. Always do the outdoor, given a choice. There will be plenty of weeks when you have to be indoors.
- For each Den meeting, bring gathering activities – word searches, hidden picture puzzles, etc. Bring extras for siblings.
- Record advancement as soon as it is done. That way, you don't worry about losing anything.

## Resources

- Premade Den and Pack Meeting Resource Guide: no longer available as a PDF?
- Den Leader Resources:  
<http://www.scouting.org/scoutsource/CubScouts/Leaders/DenLeaderResources.aspx>
- Lots of different resources; scroll down to "Leader Resources"  
<http://www.scouting.org/scoutsource/CubScouts/Leaders/Forms.aspx>
- Den Meeting Attendance sheets – make them, use them!
- Cub Scout Leader Book
- Cub Scout Leader How-To Book