

WORKING WITH A DEN CHIEF

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COMING UP ...

- Den Chief Objectives (as stated in the Den Chief Pledge)
- Den Chief Selection (Qualifications)
- Den Chief Responsibilities
- Purposes of Cub Scouting (a reminder to both Den Leaders and Den Chiefs)

Den Chief Pledge

I promise to help the boys in my den to the best of my ability; to encourage, guide, and protect them in all den and pack activities, and to show them by my example what Boy Scouts of America stands for.

I will strive to be prompt and dependable, and to cooperate with the leaders in carrying out the den program.

As each boy becomes eligible to move along the Cub Scouting trail, I will encourage him and do all in my power to interest him in someday becoming a Boy Scout.

- **Scout Oath**
- **Scout Law**
- **The Cub Scout Motto- Do Your Best**
- **The Meaning of Webelos- We'll be Loyal Scouts**

Den Chief - Qualifications

- An older Boy Scout, Varsity Scout or Venturer
- Selected by the Senior Patrol Leader and Scoutmaster, Varsity Scout Coach or Venturing Advisor at the request of the Cubmaster
- Approved by the Cubmaster and Pack Committee for recommendation to the Den Leader
- Registered as a youth member of a Troop Team or Crew



Den Chief – Responsibilities (1)

- Serve as the activities assistant at den meetings.
- Set a good example through attitude and uniforming.
- Be friendly to the boys in the den.
- Help lead weekly den meetings.
- Help the den in its part of the monthly pack meeting.
- Know the importance of the monthly theme and pack meeting plans.
- Meet regularly with the den leader to review den and pack meeting plans.



Den Chief – Responsibilities (2)

- Meet as needed with adult members of the den, pack and troop.
- Receive training from the den leader (and Cubmaster or assistant Cubmaster) and attend Den Chief Training.
- Encourage Cub Scouts to become Webelos Scouts when they are eligible.
- Encourage Webelos Scouts to become Boy Scouts when they are eligible.
- Help the denner and assistant denner to be leaders.
- Know the purposes of Cub Scouting.
- Help Cub Scouts achieve the purposes of Cub Scouting.



Purposes of Cub Scouting

The Cub Scouting program has 10 purposes related to the overall mission of the Boy Scouts of America– to build character, learn citizenship, and develop personal fitness:

- | | |
|------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1. Character Development | 6. Respectful Relationships |
| 2. Spiritual Growth | 7. Personal Achievement |
| 3. Good Citizenship | 8. Friendly Service |
| 4. Sportsmanship and Fitness | 9. Fun and Adventure |
| 5. Family Understanding | 10. Preparation for Boy Scouts |

Every Cub Scouting activity should help fulfill one of these purposes. When considering a new activity, think about which purpose or purposes it supports. Not everything in Cub Scouting has to be serious– far from it! Silly songs, energetic games, and yummy snacks all have their place in the program.

SOME ADDITIONAL THOUGHTS IN CHOOSING A DEN CHIEF

- **THE TRAP AWAITING US ALL WITH DEN CHIEFS:**
 - The Scout will drop down to the level of the Den and be a hindrance rather than a help
- **SO:**
 - Look for maturity in the candidate
 - Make the rank of First Class a requirement for Den Chief

ON THE NEXT FEW PAGES ...

DETAILS ABOUT DEN CHIEF
RESPONSIBILITIES

DEN CHIEF RESPONSIBILITIES (1)

ACTIVITIES ASSISTANT

- LEADING GAMES
- LEADING STUNTS AND SKITS
- LEADING SONGS
- LEADING SPORTS

SETTING A GOOD EXAMPLE

- ATTITUDES – GOOD OR BAD, THEY ARE INFECTIOUS
- UNIFORMING – IF YOU WEAR IT, SO WILL THEY
- TRUE FOR BOTH DEN CHIEFS AND DEN LEADERS

DEN CHIEF RESPONSIBILITIES (2)

• HELP LEAD DEN MEETINGS

- HELP THE BOYS ADVANCE
- HELP THEM MAKE THINGS
- LEAD ACTIVITIES
- HELP THEM GET READY FOR THEIR PART IN THE PACK MEETINGS

DEN CHIEF RESPONSIBILITIES (3)

• HELP THE DEN AT THE PACK MEETING-

- HELP GET THE BOYS AND THEIR FAMILIES SEATED IN THEIR ASSIGNED PLACES
- HELP YOUR DEN DO WHATEVER IT WAS ASKED TO DO FOR THE MEETING SUCH AS-
 - PUTTING ON A SKIT
 - CONDUCTING THE OPENING OR CLOSING CEREMONY
 - LEADING A SONG
 - JUST BEING READY TO HELP IN ANY WAY
 - AND KEEPING AN EYE ON YOUR BOYS TO SEE THAT THEY BEHAVE

DEN CHIEF RESPONSIBILITIES (4)

BE A FRIEND TO THE BOYS IN YOUR DEN –

BEING A FRIEND TO YOUNGER BOYS TAKES SOME SPECIAL SKILLS, BUT PAYS OFF WITH A BOND LIKE NO OTHER.

IT IS AKIN TO HERO WORSHIP AND IS EXTREMELY SATISFYING.

MEET WITH ADULT LEADERS – TWO-WAY STREET

LETS THE DEN CHIEF KNOW WHAT THE LEADERS NEED AND EXPECT

GIVES THE DEN CHIEF AN OPPORTUNITY TO INTERACT WITH ADULTS ON AN ALMOST EQUAL LEVEL

A Den Chief is NOT ...

- The Primary Planner of the Den Meeting
- In Charge of Correcting Behavior
- A Substitute for an Adult Leader

Adult Leaders Whom Den Chiefs Work With

- At The Pack
 - Den Leader – primary contact
 - Cubmaster (occasionally)
 - Pack Committee Chair (rarely)
- At Your Troop
 - Scoutmaster (needs to approve your appointment as a Den Chief)
 - Troop-Designated Liaison with Pack
 - may be an Assistant Scoutmaster or a Troop Committee Member (e.g., Advancement Chair, Membership Chair)
 - Den Chief Coordinator (possibly the same person)

You and Your Den Chief

Here is what we teach Den Chiefs about their specific role-

What You and the Den Leader Determine What It Will Be

This means that before (at least “days”) each meeting, you've discussed with your Den Chief exactly what he'll be doing, teaching, or leading at your next meeting.

Such communication is especially important prior to the first meeting of the year, so that he and you have actually met, and he knows what he'll be doing.

Finally, understand that your Den Chief may be using his service to meet the *Position of Responsibility* requirement for his next Boy Scout rank. Please try to provide opportunities for him to take and discharge such responsibility.

You and Your Den Chief (Finances)

All items that a Den Chief needs or expenses that he incurs need to be purchased or reimbursed by the Pack. These include-

- The Cub Scout Handbook used by the Den
- Any event admission and transportation costs (e.g., bus, train) when accompanying the Den or Pack in his role as Den Chief
 - Note that for Council or District events, such as Cub Scout Camporees, it may be possible, upon request, that the organizers will treat a Den Chief as "event staff," in which case, his admission fee will be waived
- Any supplies or materials he needs for games, crafts, or meeting room setup (e.g., American flag)

ABOUT TROOP CONTACTS ...

Make sure that the Den Chief's Troop has in fact named the person who is the liaison with your Pack.

You'll need to have somebody in his Troop whom you can contact for anything from

- (1) expressing praise for the Den Chief and
- (2) coordinating your Webelos and Arrow of Light Den activities and crossover with the Troop, to
- (3) questions, issues, or concerns about the Den Chief.

**GOOD DEN CHIEFS ARE
INVALUABLE
CHOOSE THEM WELL**