

# **WORKING WITH A DEN CHIEF**

September 24, 2016

# 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.

## **The Cub Scout Promise**

*Boy Scout Oath*

## **The Law of the Pack**

*Boy Scout Law*

**The Cub Scout Motto** - *Do Your Best*

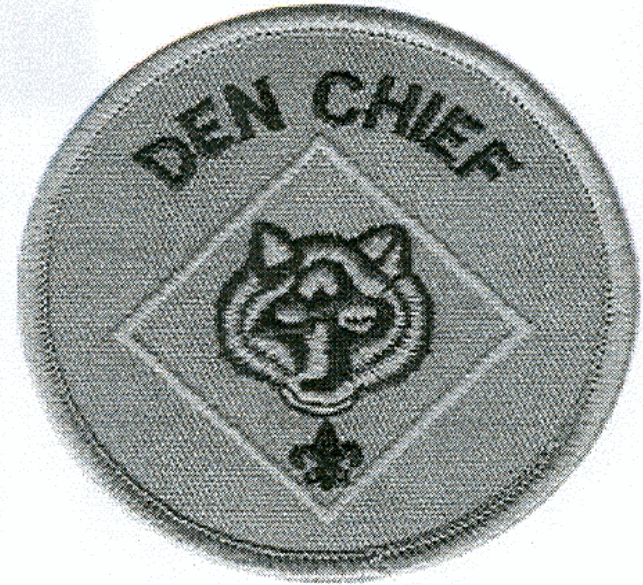
**The Meaning of Webelos** - *We'll be Loyal Scouts*

# Den Chief

**Qualifications:** (1) An older Boy Scout, Varsity Scout, or Venturer, (2) selected by the Senior Patrol Leader and Scoutmaster, Varsity Scout Coach, or Venturing Advisor at the request of the Cubmaster, (3) approved by the Cubmaster and Pack Committee for recommendation to the Den Leader, and (4) registered as a youth member of a Troop, Team, or Crew.

**Responsibilities:** The Den Chief's responsibilities are to

- Serve as the activities assistant at den meetings.
- Set a good example through attitude and uniforming.
- Be a friend 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. 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
2. Spiritual Growth
3. Good Citizenship
4. Sportsmanship and Fitness
5. Family Understanding
6. Respectful Relationships
7. Personal Achievement
8. Friendly Service
9. Fun and Adventure
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 BOY 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

# ADDITIONAL POINTS ON DEN CHIEF RESPONSIBILITIES (1)

- **ACTIVITIES ASSISTANT**

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

- **SETTING A GOOD EXAMPLE**

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



# ADDITIONAL POINTS ON 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

# ADDITIONAL POINTS ON 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

# ADDITIONAL POINTS ON 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 BOY KNOW WHAT THE LEADERS NEED AND EXPECT
  - GIVES THE BOY 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.**

# 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