

# Beginners Guide to Cub Scouting



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**WELCOME TO CUB SCOUTING** - whether you have joined Scouting for the first time or have decided to take on a leadership role after being a Member for a number of years.

The Cub Scout Section is well known for its great enthusiasm and love of adventure, and that includes the Leaders! Working with young people brings many rewards, including plenty of challenges and the increased friendship of adults from all walks of life, with similar interests to your own - we hope you will have lots of fun.

Whatever amount of time you can give to being a Leader, your help will be very welcome. This factsheet is to introduce you to the Cub Scout Pack. It will also help you find your way around the books and publications which are available to make Cub Scouting exciting and adventurous for the Cub Scouts in your Pack.

## WHAT IS THE SCOUT ASSOCIATION?

The Scout Association is a youth organisation, founded by Lord Baden-Powell, which now has approximately 500,000 members in the United Kingdom. All Beaver Scouts, Cub Scouts, Scouts, Explorer Scouts, Members of the Scout Network, Leaders, Commissioners and Members of the Scout Fellowship who have made their Promise and paid the Headquarters Membership Subscription are Members of The Association.

## YOU, THE LEADER IN SCOUTING

Every adult Member of The Scout Association who takes a warrant to be a Leader must also accept the Aim of The Scout Association and the Method of achieving the Aim.

The Aim of The Scout Association is to promote the development of young people in achieving their full physical, intellectual, social and spiritual potentials, as individuals, as responsible citizens and as members of their local, national and international communities. The Method of

achieving the Aim of The Scout Association is to provide an enjoyable and attractive Balanced Programme of activities that is based on the Scout Promise and Law and guided by adult Leadership.

To become a Warranted Leader, and a Member of The Association, you make **the Scout Promise**:  
On my Honour, I promise that I will do my best,  
to do my duty to God and the Queen,  
to help other people,  
and to keep the Scout Law.

## The Scout Law is:

1. A Scout is to be trusted
2. A Scout is loyal
3. A Scout is friendly and considerate
4. A Scout belongs to the worldwide family of Scouts
5. A Scout has courage in all difficulties
6. A Scout makes good use of time and is careful of possessions and property
7. A Scout has self respect and respect for others

The Scout Association's Members belong to many different faiths and religions. There are different forms of the Promise that can be made if the words above are not consistent with your religious obligations. Whatever the words though, the essential spirit of the Promise remains the same. Ask your Group Scout Leader if you are unsure about this.

Details of the Scout Sign and Salute are in Policy, Organisation and Rules.

**Good luck and many hours of happy Scouting!**

**The Scout Information Centre**

Gilwell Park Chingford London E4 7QW Tel + 44 (0)20 8433 7100 Fax + 44 (0)20 8433 7103 email info.centre@scout.org.uk www.scoutbase.org.uk

## The Cub Scout Pack

Cub Scouts are girls and boys between the ages of 8 and 10½. They meet together in a Pack, which may have from 6 Cub Scouts up to a maximum of 36. Most Packs organize Cub Scouts into Sixes. Sixes usually consist of around 6 Cubs with a Sixer in charge and a Secunder to support them.

The current Children Act 1989 means that no child under eight years of age is allowed to join a Cub Scout Pack.

They come wanting fun, adventure and friendship. Learning all their names can seem daunting at first, but it is important that you get to know their backgrounds and their parents/carers - you are taking on responsibility for their children!

A Cub Scout Leader and the Assistant Cub Scout Leaders are the adult team involved with the Pack and have the responsibility of running it throughout the year. At time, Helpers, Skills Instructors and parents/carers may help with particular activities and transport etc.

## So what are you taking on?

- The Pack will meet once a week for about an hour and a half.
- You will need to meet regularly with the team of Leaders in the Pack to plan ahead. Good planning will mean that everyone gets a chance to take part in the running of the meeting and some responsibilities can be shared out. It also helps you to be aware of the equipment you will need. Cub Scouting needs, wherever possible, to take place out of doors. You will find more information about programme planning on Page 4.
- The Pack does not function in isolation. There will be opportunities to meet and talk to the adults in the other Sections in your Group as well as the Group Scout Leader at regular Leaders' Meetings. It is here that you may wish to discuss progression of activities as well as individual Members who will be coming up from the Beaver Scout Colony or moving into the Scout Troop.
- There will be opportunities to meet together with other Cub Scout Leaders in your District at District meetings and events. This is always helpful in exchanging ideas and for finding out what is going on in Cub Scouting generally.

- There are also Leader Training opportunities where you will meet other Leaders from around your County to exchange ideas and develop your skills as a Cub Scout Leader.

## REMEMBER:

That parents/carers entrust their children to you. You will need to be at the meeting place in good time and ensure that their safety is uppermost in your mind at all times. Good programme planning will help you in this.

## THE CUB SCOUT PROGRAMME

When a young person joins the Pack, they are introduced to Cub Scouting and to the Balanced Programme, which has been designed to offer young people the opportunity to experience a wide range of subjects. Cub Scouts will have the opportunity to gain Awards and badges, which are given in recognition of both participating in a Balanced Programme, and the effort made by each Cub Scout at their own level of development and understanding.

## A Balanced Programme

The Cub Scout Programme is based on Programme Zones. Each Zone represents a different development area in a young person's life.

Each Individual Programme Zone contains lots of ideas for activities, using a variety of methods. By including ideas from each zone on a regular basis, you will be delivering a Balanced Programme to Cub Scouts.

There are six Programme Zones in the Cub Scout Programme:

**Outdoor and Adventure Zone** . This offers scope for young people to experience a community or environment wider than the world of their scout meeting, home or local area.

**Fitness Zone** - In this Zone Cub Scouts learn how their bodies work, how to keep fit and healthy, and how to participate in physical activities.

**Creative Zone** . Provides opportunities for the Cub Scouts to try a wide range of arts and crafts. For example drama, music and writing.

**Beliefs and Attitudes Zone** . Helps Cub Scouts to develop spiritually and gain an understanding of different beliefs and attitudes.

Community Zone . Gives Cub Scouts the opportunity to explore their local community and all that happens within it.

Global Zone . Encourages Cub Scouts to discover more about the world and its environment to heighten their awareness of problems people face around the world.

## Awards and Badges

### The Cub Scout Membership Award

A young person joining the Cub Scout Pack after the age of eight, and who has not previously been a Beaver Scout will start work on their Cub Scout Membership Award. It covers the history, traditions and practices of Cub Scouting.

### Joining In Badges

These are special badges that are awarded at regular intervals of around a year to Cub Scouts as recognition for their participation in a Balanced Programme

### Challenges

There are seven Challenge Badges, which extend some of the activities explored in the Programme Zones. They offer a variety of activities so that Cub Scouts can develop personal interests and skills.

The Challenges are:

- The Outdoor Challenge
- The Creative Challenge
- The Fitness Challenge
- The Global Challenge
- The Community Challenge
- The Promise Challenge
- The Outdoor Plus Challenge

### The Chief Scout Silver Award

This is the highest Award in the Cub Scout Section. To complete the Chief Scouts Silver Award Cub Scouts must gain:

All of the Challenge Awards, except the Outdoor Plus Challenge, which is an optional extra.

### Activity Badges

There is a choice of 33 Activity Badges. These specialist interest badges build on the Programme Zones and are designed to further

develop a Cub Scout's interest in a variety of subjects.

### Staged Badges

There are also Six Staged Activity Badges that are graded and open to all Sections.

You can award the appropriate Staged Activity badge to Cub Scouts according to their expertise and skills shown. It is their expertise that is the key, not their age or Section that determines the Award.

### Partnership Awards

There are three Partnership Awards, International Friendship, Environment and Faith.

These Awards are to promote the working together of Sections. For example Cub Scouts working with the Scout Troop, which promotes activities within the Balanced Programme of each Section.

### The Cub Scout Moving On Award

This award is intended to help a Cub Scout make a smooth transfer to the Scout Troop. There are a number of requirements to complete before this Award is presented at a going up ceremony to Scouts.

Full details of all the requirements of all the Awards and Badges can be found in the Chapter 6 of *The Pack Programme*

### Cub Scouts with Special Needs

It is the policy of The Association, that all members of the Movement be seen as individuals and that they are regarded equally whatever their abilities or disabilities. They should be encouraged to undertake all activities in the programme, but in order to develop their full potential, some of these may need to be modified in consultation with the Cub Scout, all the Leaders involved and the parents/carers. Your Assistant District Commissioner or Assistant County Commissioner (Special Needs) can also offer advice. When admitting a young person with special needs into a Section, it is important to remember that if they are to progress through Scouting it will be necessary to discuss the situation with the Leaders in other Sections at the appropriate time.

### Camps and Pack Holidays

Ask any Cub Scout what they like best about being a Cub Scout and most of them will reply camping or Pack holidays. Most young people love being out of doors and the camps and Pack Holidays are very special and certainly very different from school trips! It is a chance to try some special activities that cannot be done at the regular Pack Meeting.

Leaders need to be specially qualified before they are allowed to take Cub Scouts away on a Camp or Pack holiday.

The Leaders will often need to take along extra adult help to assist with the catering or equipment. This extra help may be Scouts, Explorer Scouts, Skills Instructors (for special activities) or parents / carers to assist with general supervision.

Rules for Camps and Pack Holidays can be found in Policy, Organisation and Rules, but if taking Cub Scouts out on trips or expeditions a ratio of one adult to every eight Cub Scouts plus the Leader in charge is advisable.

For further information regarding Cub Scouts camps and Pack Holidays see the Nights away Resource.

### **Administration**

There are a few simple guidelines, which are the key to running a Pack.

- Keep administration to a minimum
- Share administration amongst your Leaders

### **Records**

A record of each Cub Scout's personal details and progress is needed. These may be kept on the Cub Scout Record Cards (available from Scout Shops) to be kept in a loose-leaf folder by the Cub Scout Leader. Some Packs also use a Points System, which they have devised and use as a motivation in inspection, games, attendance at events and any other way the Pack Leader or Pack Leadership Forum decide.

The main thing to remember with records is to keep them simple, understandable, pick the one that works for you and ignore the rest!

### **Money**

The Cub Scout Pack is not expected to keep complicated accounts. A precise way of recording money matters will be explained by the Group Treasurer. It is necessary to keep

simple credit / debit records to cover money involved in Pack activities. Separate funds and accounts may also be kept, e.g. a Cub Scout camp. The Group Treasurer will inspect these records at regular intervals.

For further information see Pack Essentials.

### **PROGRAMME PLANNING**

A good Programme does not happen by accident. The key is to plan the Programme for your weekly meetings, outings and camps. Programme planning should involve all adults in the Pack, that way you will be able to share ideas and work as a team.

Planning in itself is a skill, and like all skills, you become better at it the more you practice it. You can learn from your mistakes and build on your successes to achieve better Cub Scouting for your Pack.

You will need to encourage planning in three stages:

- Long Term - A year's programme, which may lead up to the activities for the annual Cub Scout camp.
- Medium Term - An overall theme for a few weeks or advanced planning for seasonal activities.
- Short-term - Planning detailed programmes for Cub Scout Meetings.

This method will help you and your Leaders to set targets and then consider what progress is made, both in terms of the activities and the development of the individual Cub Scout.

### **Methods**

As part of providing a Balanced Programme, you should aim to use a variety of methods with the Pack. They will make meetings more varied and provide interesting themes.

Cub Scout methods for example include: Games, Outdoors, Team challenges, Visits and Visitors, Prayer worship and reflection, and Make things.

Whatever theme or activities you try in your programme, the following underlying ways of working should always be used.

- fun
- getting on with others
- activity
- keeping the Promise
- personal development

- working together
- responsibility

## RESOURCES - WHERE CAN I GET HELP?

### People

As a Leader in Scouting, you will receive a lot of help and support from other Leaders. The first person you will be able to turn to will be your Training Adviser (T.A.) a more experienced Leader who will be your support, during and after your training. Of course, other Leaders in your Group, especially your Group Scout Leader, are there to encourage, advise and support you. There is the opportunity to meet Leaders from all Sections in Scouting and to share their ideas and experiences through Leader Training. Leader Training builds on the skills you already have and helps you to develop new ones. It is also challenging, practical, relevant and above all, enjoyable. Any of the following people will be pleased to be of help:

- Other Leaders in your Pack
- Your Training Adviser (T.A.)
- Beaver Scout Leader
- Scout Leader
- Group Scout Leader
- Assistant District Commissioner (Cub Scouts)
- District Cub Scout Leader
- Other Leaders, parents/carers and teachers
- Specialist organisations, e.g. Police, Fire Brigade, RSPCA, etc.
- Young Leaders- are an integral part of your Leadership team and should be used to their full potential.

**The Young Leadership Scheme-** This scheme is open to Explorer Scouts aged 14 to 18 who work with Beavers, Cubs or Scouts. It gives Young People the opportunity to further develop their personal skill and equip themselves with the knowledge and skills to give them more confidence as Leaders.

## PUBLICATIONS AND SUPPORT MATERIAL

In addition to Policy, Organisation and Rules, there are many resources available. The following have been specially written to support the Cub Scout Section and can be obtained from The Scout Information Centre or Outdoors Ltd.

### **The Pack Programme -an Adults guide to the Cub Scout Programme**

### **Pack Essentials- a guide to running your Cub Scout Pack**

### **The Pack Programme Plus – A selection of ready to go programmes for the Cub Pack.**

### **The Cub Scout Powerpack - is targeted at Cub Scouts**

### **Scouting**

Scouting is a national bi-monthly magazine supporting the Movement and is essential reading for all Section Leaders.

Scouting is available free to all adults who pay a Membership Fee to Headquarter (this fee may be paid by your Group/District). To ensure you receive your copy either; log onto [www.scouts.org.uk](http://www.scouts.org.uk) and update your details on the new to Scouting pages or contact the Information Centre on 0845 3001818

Fill in the details below as a ready reference

We are here to help you:

Name: Phone number:

1. Your Training Adviser
2. Cub Scout Leader
3. Beaver Scout Leader
4. Scout Leader
5. Group Scout Leader
6. Assistant District Commissioner (Cub Scouts)
7. Assistant District Commissioner (Leader Training)
8. District Commissioner
9. Scout Fellowship
10. Assistant County Commissioner (Cub Scouts)

11. The Cub Scout Office  
Programme and Development Department  
The Scout Association  
Gilwell Park  
London  
E4 7QW  
Tel: (020) 8433 7120  
Fax: (020) 8 433 7114

Tel: (020) 8433 7153

Fax: (020) 8433 7103

12. The Information Centre  
The Scout Association  
Gilwell Park  
London  
E4 7QW  
Tel: 0845 300 1818  
Fax: (020) 8433 7103

Tel: 0845 300 18 18

Fax: (020) 8433 7103