



An Introduction to the Cub Scout Section

Introduction

Cub Scouting began in 1916, and has gone from strength to strength ever since. Currently there are somewhere in the region of 140,000 Cubs in nearly 8,000 Packs! Many Cub Scouts will have been Beaver Scouts, but some will join Scouting for the first time as Cubs looking for fun, adventure and friendship.

Who is Cub Scouting for?

Cub Scouts is open to young people aged between eight and ten and a half years old who want to join and can make the Cub Scout Promise.

The Cub Scout Promise

Scouting differs from many organisations in that it requires its Members to make a Promise, the wording for Cub Scouts is slightly simpler than that of the Scout Promise. It is:

I promise that I will do my best
to do my duty to God and to the Queen,
to help other people
and to keep the Cub Scout Law.

Different wordings of the Promise are available for those of different faiths who may prefer not to use the word 'God' and for those with special needs and circumstances.

By making the Promise a young person becomes a Member of the worldwide Movement; they become a Scout.

The Cub Scout Law

Every Cub should know their Cub Scout Law, put simply it is something they should try to remember in their everyday lives. The Cub Scout Law is:

Cub Scouts always do their best,
think of others before themselves
and do a good turn every day.

The Motto

The motto for all Members of the Movement is: *Be Prepared.*

The Cub Scout Uniform

Cub Scouts wear a green sweatshirt. They will also wear a scarf (sometimes called a "necker"), the colour of which varies from Scout Group to Scout Group. They will also have a woggle, to keep their scarf up. The woggle will normally be of the colour of the six they are in (see below on how Cub Scouts are organised). There are many other items of optional uniform.

How are Cub Scouts organised?

Wolf Cubs, as they were originally called in 1916, used Rudyard Kipling's story *The Jungle Book* as their theme. Some Packs continue to do this today. They use characters and events as an inspiration for the names of Leaders (such as Akela for the Cub Scout Leader) and activities.

Cub Scouts meet together as a Pack and work within a variety of small groups called "Sixes". A team of adults will run the Cub Scout Pack, usually led by an Akela. Some will be Uniformed Leaders, others may be informal Assistants or helpers. Explorer Scouts who are Young Leaders might also assist the Leadership team in the Pack.

Investiture

Making the Promise is the most important act in Scouting and is common to every Section. Scouting has a special ceremony for making the Promise called Investiture or being invested. When a young person makes their Promise they receive their Group Scarf and the Membership Award or their Moving-On Award and are welcomed as a new Member into the Scout Family.

What do Cubs do?

Cubs take part in a wide range of activities that are designed to be interesting and to challenge them. At the same time they have fun, adventure and make friends along the way. They do this through taking part in a programme of activities provided by the Leadership team such as: camping, playing games, trying new things and exploring the outdoors.

Cub Scout Programme

Every Cub Scout participates in a Balanced Programme over a period of time. This ensures that all young people experience a quality programme covering a wide range of subjects. To help, the Balanced Programme is divided into a number of Programme Zones and Methods to ensure Cubs develop in all the Personal Development Areas.

Programme Zones

The following are the six Programme Zones for Cub Scouts. As part of the Balanced Programme they will take part in activities from all the zones regularly.

- *Beliefs and Attitudes*
- *Community*
- *Fitness*
- *Creative*
- *Global*
- *Outdoor and Adventure*

Methods

These Zones are delivered using 11 methods, which give the programme variety and range. The Methods are:

- Make things
- Games
- Singing, stories and drama
- Visits and visitors
- Outdoors
- Activities with others
- Help other people
- Themes
- Prayer, worship and reflection
- Team challenges
- Try new things

Badges and Awards

Even though the emphasis is on a Balanced Programme of activities, there are still badges and awards for Cub Scouts to aim for during their time with the Pack. Badges and awards are given in recognition of the effort made by each young person at their own level.

- The Membership Award

This award helps the young person understand the commitment they are making when they make the promise and become a Member of the Movement, if they have not been a Beaver Scout. It covers the history, traditions and practices of Scouting.

- Joining In Awards

The Joining In Awards recognise a commitment to Scouting. They celebrate Cub Scouts participating in a Balanced Programme over a period of time. They are awarded on the anniversary of the young person joining Scouting.

- Challenges

The Challenges complement the Balanced Programme. These have been developed to extend Cub Scouts' skills and experience in a particular area. The seven Challenges in the Cub Scout Section are:

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

- Activity Badges

Activity Badges are optional, but they provide an opportunity to reward a young person who has taken part in an activity over a period of time. They should raise interest and extend a young person's skills throughout their time in Scouting. There are 33 Cub Scout Activity Badges, ranging from Book Reader to Navigator to Water Activities

- Staged Activity Badges

In addition to the Cub Scout Activity Badges, there are six Activity Badges staged across all of the Sections, which gives a young person the opportunity to develop an area of interest throughout their time in Scouting from 6 –18. These are:

- Emergency Aid
- Hikes Away
- Information Technology
- Musician
- Nights Away
- Swimmer

- Partnership Awards

Partnership Awards are designed to encourage the Sections to work together, and for Scouts to work with other young people in their community. There are three Partnership Awards:

- The International Friendship Award
- The Environment Award
- The Faith Award

- Chief Scout's Silver Award

This badge is the highest award available in the Cub Scout Section. It is gained by completing:

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

The Chief Scout's Silver Award can be worn on the Scout Uniform once the Cub moves onto Scouts.

- The Moving-On Award

This badge helps ease the transfer of a Cub Scout to the Scout Troop. It also allows the Cub Scout to be invested into the Troop immediately, recognising that they are already Members of the Scout Movement.

Pack Holidays and Camping

Ask any current or former Cub about what they remember most (and enjoyed most!) about being in Cubs and they will probably say Pack holidays or going camping. Camps give the Pack the opportunity to go away together. Camps and Pack holidays are an opportunity for Cubs to take part in activities that they would not otherwise be able to do at regular Pack meetings. The experience of being away with the Pack is a very special experience for Cubs.

Why get involved?

Cubs gives young people a taster of the exciting activities they will do more of in Scouts. They will go camping, try adventurous activities outdoors, make new friends and enjoy themselves whatever they are doing!

Cubs on-line

Cub Scouts have their own exciting pages on The Scout Association's website where they can play games, do quizzes and complete puzzles. Find out more at:

www.scouts.org.uk/cubs

Resources for Cubs

Cubs have their own special handbook called the *Powerpack* - full of useful information about badges and what Cubs do. It's full of stickers, facts and fun things to do!

