

So, You're A New Cub Scout Leader



BUFFALO TRAIL COUNCIL, BSA

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WHAT DO I NEED TO DO TO BE A GOOD DEN LEADER?



How many Cub Scout leaders are recruited who already know the program? Almost none. For the most part, volunteering to be a leader in a pack is a brave step into uncharted territory for the majority of our leaders. Thank you for being a volunteer.

Knowing that this would be a new experience for almost everyone doing it, the Boy Scouts of America have developed many resources to help you. From training materials to program guides the BSA has been teaching new leaders how to do their job for over 90 years.

When asked ‘What do I need to do to be a good Den Leader?’ the following advice Was given:

“Think like an eight year old.”

“Be cheerful and fun. Be silly.”

“Don’t cancel meetings.”

“Visit another Den meeting.”

“It’s not school, it’s the Cub Scouts.”

“Less talk, more do. Boys don’t want Cub Scouting to be like school.”

“Get help. Talk to all your parents. Ask them to help with specific things.”

“You don’t need to know how to do everything in the book.”

“Basic training offered by the district makes a difference.”

“Go to District Roundtables. They were created for you.”

“If you need help, don’t stop asking until you get it.”

TRAINING

It is very important that you learn some of the basics as soon as you can. Training happens formally and informally. Each office has an internet café for training available to you. Some of the best things you will learn come from other leaders. Take the time to talk to other leaders as you meet them.

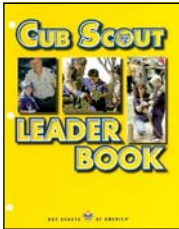
- **Pack Orientation.** The Committee Chairman or Cubmaster from your pack will spend some time with you to get you started in your position.
- **Fast Start Training.** A DVD is available from your pack or the council office that covers a lot of the basics. Available online at www.buffalotrailbsa.org
- **This Is Scouting.** The district that your pack belongs to will be conducting this 90 minute course locally or on-line. It is a must for new leaders like you. See the back of this booklet for dates.
- **Cub Leader Specific Training.** The district will also conduct this 4 hour course which is designed to teach the ins and outs of your specific leader position. This course is also a must for new leaders.
- **Youth Protection Training.** This course is designed to help you identify signs of child abuse, what to do if you suspect abuse, and the BSA policies that protect both the youth and you as a leader. Available online at www.buffalotrailbsa.org
- **Roundtable.** A district level meeting for all youth serving leaders which reviews the program theme for the next month and offers specialized training. If you are in need of assistance or you have a good idea you want to share, then this is a good meeting to attend. They are conducted monthly, and you are welcome to attend.
- **Pow-Wow.** A Cub Scout leader’s learning extravaganza! A big, fun-filled, experience where leaders increase their knowledge as a part of Scouting University.

BOOKS, MANUALS, AND RESOURCES

There's no need to come up with your own program. Scouting has a wealth of support materials that are designed to support you. They may be purchased from our scout shops. Check with your Cubmaster to see if your pack has a library before you buy new books.

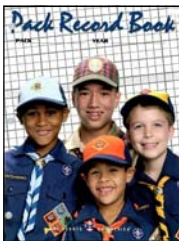
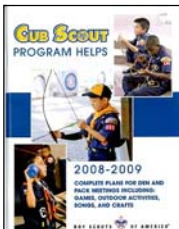


Essential Resources



- **The Cub Leader Book.** It has many features: Program Planning, Advancement and Recognition, Policies, Uniforms, and Den and Pack Management.
- **The How To Book.** This is a guide that shows leaders 'how to' do many things. Also included in the back of the book is a program called "Ethics in Action."
- **Program Helps.** It has specific monthly themes and meeting outlines for all den and pack meetings. To use it properly, you will need other reference books like the "How To Book." (Annual Publication)

Additional Resources



- **Den and Pack Ceremonies.** There are many opportunities to make your den or pack meeting a night to remember.
- **The Guide to Safe Scouting.** If you're ever wondering if a program is appropriate for Cub Scouts, here is the rule book.
- **Pack Record Book.** It organizes records for: Advancement, Membership, Finance, and Training.
- **Webelos Leader Guide.** It outlines how to instruct the Webelos Activity pins. A must for all Webelos Leaders.
- **Den Chief Handbook.** Commonly used by a Den Chief.
- **The Tiger Handbook.** Tiger Den Leaders need one.
- **The Wolf Handbook.** Wolf Den Leaders need one.
- **The Bear Handbook.** Bear Den Leaders need one.
- **The Webelos Handbook.** Webelos Leaders need one.

UNIFORMS

It is important for all volunteers who work directly with the boys to wear a Boy Scout uniform. As leaders you will need to set the example for the boys. Uniforms are available at any Council Scout Shops.



PERIODICALS

- **"The Buffalo Tracks"** - This is the quarterly newsletter that the council sends to registered leaders. It contains news on various program opportunities. Look under your district's column for activities or training opportunities.
- **"Scouting Magazine"** - This is a magazine provided free to all registered leaders from our national office. It will cover stories from around the country, and address issues that are of concern to our leaders. There are 6 issues per year.
- **"Boys' Life Magazine"** - This is a monthly periodical for our boys with age appropriate reading levels and stories that interest a young reader. Some leaders use it as a regular part of their meeting.

DISTRICT & COUNCIL

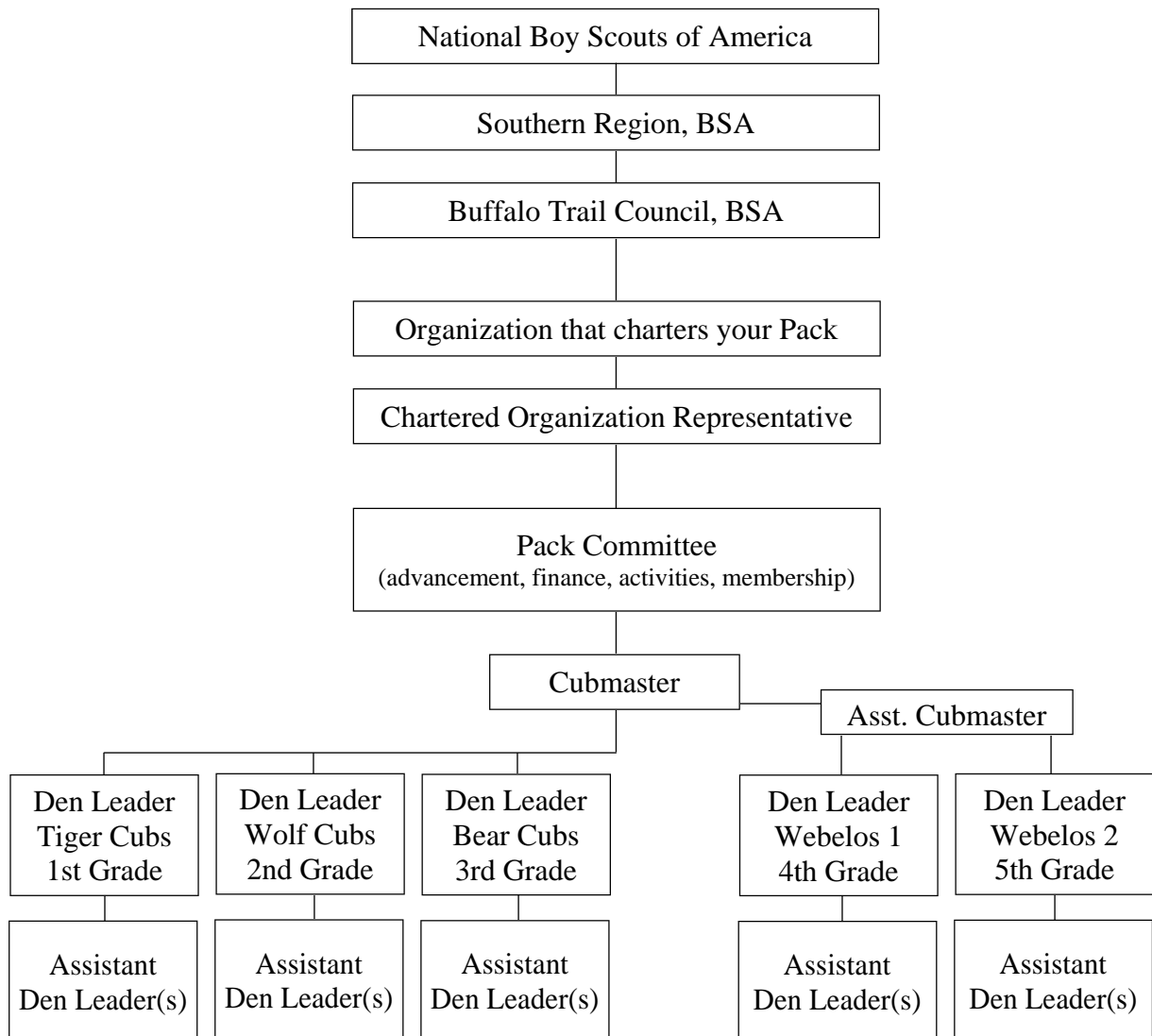
A district is a group of Packs, Troops and Crews in a geographic area. A Council is a group of Districts in a geographic area. Our council name is The Buffalo Trail Council. The Districts are:

- Big Bend District: Ft. Davis, Marfa, Alpine, Presidio, Marathon
- Chaparral District: Midland, Greenwood, Stanton, Lenorah, Tarzan,
- Comanche Trails District: Odessa, Andrews
- Lone Star District: Big Spring, Coahoma, Colorado City, Forsan, Gail, Garden City, Ira, Snyder, Sterling City, Westbrook
- Sand Hills District: Monahans, Kermit, Wink, Pecos, Balmorhea, Van Horn, Grandfalls

PACK ORGANIZATION & LEADERSHIP

As a Cub Scout leader you are part of a pack leadership team (illustrated below) that includes the Cubmaster, assistant Cubmaster, pack committee chairperson and members, Tiger Cub Den Leaders, Cub Scout Den Leaders and assistants, Webelos Den Leaders and assistants, and den chiefs. You might also be a part of a den leadership team. The importance of the team approach to leadership in the den and pack cannot be overemphasized.

No one can do the job successfully alone.





CUBMASTER

A Cubmaster oversees all Pack level activities and coordinates the efforts of the adult leaders in charge of each Den. Though he or she works mainly with adults, a Cubmaster is ultimately in charge of the youth program.

- Conduct a program planning session to include monthly pack meetings and pack activities for one year.
- Coordinate the existing pack leadership, parents of boys, and outside assets to staff your pack program.
- Lead the monthly pack meeting.
- Work with the Den Leaders to make sure each den has a quality program.
- Attend monthly pack committee meetings and district Roundtables.

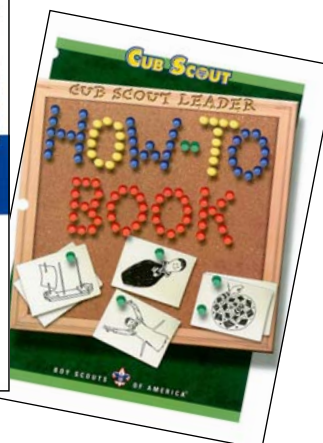
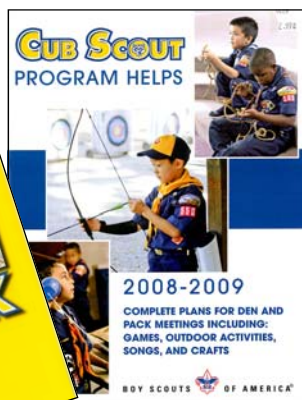
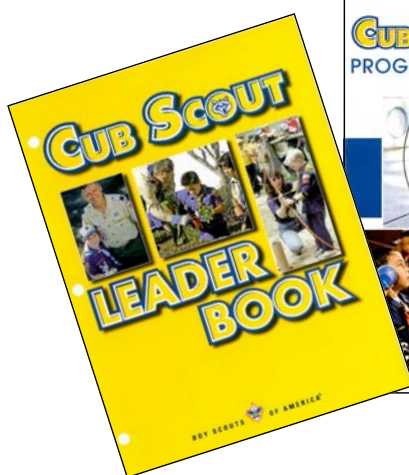
Time commitment: 1-two hour meetings per month which you will need to prepare for; a monthly Pack Committee meeting (at the discretion of the committee Chairman); pack activities (about every other month); a one-day training course; some phone time.

DEN LEADER (TIGERS, WOLF, BEAR, AND WEBELOS)

A Den Leader works directly with the boys. He or she will conduct a weekly meeting for their den (a group of 6-8 boys in the same age group). A den meeting is typically a 1 - 1.5 hour meeting.

- Conduct a weekly den meeting.
- Coordinate the efforts of Assistant Den Leaders and parents to support your den program.
- Plan out your den program and organize your materials to support the monthly pack theme prior to your meeting.
- Keep accurate records of youth advancement.
- Prepare for and support the program needs of the pack.
- Attend a one-day training course and complete on-line training.

Time commitment: 4-two hour meetings per month, which you will need to prepare for; a monthly Pack Committee meeting (at the discretion of the committee Chairman); pack activities (about every other month); a one-day training course; some phone time.





COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN

A Committee Chairman oversees the pack committee that supports the pack program. He or she is also responsible for recruiting or dismissing pack leadership. The Committee Chairman governs the unit.

- Recruit for and fill all vacant leadership positions in the pack.
- Conduct a monthly committee meeting to coordinate pack assets to help the Cubmaster and Den Leaders. (Advancement, Finance, Activities, Membership).
- Ensure that the pack program meets the aims and methods of the BSA, and that all activities follow our safety guidelines.
- Oversee the financial needs of the pack through a Treasurer and Fundraising Chairman, and support the Council Friends of Scouting effort.
- Oversee the recognition of youth through a Pack Advancement Chairman.
- Attend a one-day training course.

Time commitment: A two hour meeting per month which you will need to spend time preparing for; a one day training course; a fair amount of phone time.



MEMBER OF COMMITTEE

A Member of the Pack Committee serves to assist with a specific function on the committee. Some of these are: Advancement, Treasurer, Fundraising, Activities, and Membership.

- Attend the Pack meeting and the monthly committee meeting.
- Assist the Cubmaster and Den Leaders through your assigned function:
 - Advancement**—Gather advancement records from Den Leaders monthly. Complete an Advancement report on-line. Turn in copy of the report to the store when you purchase the awards. Work with the Cubmaster on ceremonies to honor the boys when they receive their awards.
 - Treasurer**—Maintain the pack checkbook (2 signatures required) and provide a balance statement at each pack committee meeting and parent meetings. Be available to issue checks to the Cubmaster or Den Leaders.
 - Fundraiser**—Coordinate all fundraising projects and the Popcorn Sale. Provide instructions and materials at Den and Pack meetings. Oversee the product distribution and the money collection. Assist with the prize distribution to top sales leaders. File the BSA Unit Money Earning Application for all fundraisers.
 - Activities**—Assist the Cubmaster by coordinating all off site activities and trips. Provide advance information on all such events to all parents in the pack (a newsletter is a good format). Collect fees, forms, and permission slips from participants. File the necessary BSA Tour Permits on-line. If patches or recognitions were earned. distribute them at the pack meeting.
 - Membership**—Maintain accurate records of all youth and leaders who are in the pack. Make sure that everyone is properly registered with the Boy Scouts. Conduct recruitment efforts to add new boys. Assist with the re-charter process ensuring paperwork is completed correctly and on time.

Time commitment: A two hour meeting per month which you will need to spend time preparing for; a one day training course; a fair amount of phone time.

ADULT LEADER TRAINING DISTRICT TRAINING DATES FALL 2009

BIG BEND DISTRICT:

Training Chair: Ben Ormsby (432) 254-8650 Email: Ben.Ormsby@scouting.org

Dates: October 8th Training, Alpine
September 26th Scouting University

Training held at the Holy Cross Anglican Church in Alpine except Scouting University

CHAPARRAL DISTRICT:

Training Chair: Gary Simmons (432) 689-3359 Email: gbsimmons@gmail.com

Dates: Roundtable Held the 2nd Thursday of each month
September 17th New Leader Training
September 21st New Leader Training
September 24th New Leader Training
September 26th Scouting University
October 8th New Leader Training
November 12th New Leader Training
December 10th New Leader Training

All trainings held at the George T. Abell Scout Service Center in Midland, except Scouting University

COMANCHE TRAILS DISTRICT:

Training Chair: Barry Donner (432) 272-3469 Email: bdonner@abbottco.com

Dates: September 26th Scouting University
October 6th CS Leader & Specifics

All trainings held at The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints in Odessa, except Scouting University

LONE STAR DISTRICT:

Training Chair: Greg Hartman (432) 212-3577 Email: Greg.Hartman@scouting.org

Dates: September 19th New Leader Training at Hughes Aquatic Base (HAB)
September 26th Scouting University
October 8th New Leader Training

All trainings held at the Big Spring Satellite Office, except Scouting University

SAND HILLS DISTRICT:

Training Chair: Carolyn Welch (940) 391-2059 Email: cwelch88@yahoo.com

Dates: September 26th Scouting University
October 5th New Leader Training, Kermit

All trainings held at the First Baptist Church in Kermit except Scouting University

You are welcome to attend any of the trainings in any district that meets your schedule. More opportunities may become available. Check with our Training Chair listed above.

TRAINING

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