

APPENDIX 2

WORKING WITH CUB SCOUTS

CHILD BEHAVIOR

Rewarding positive behavior and not accepting negative behavior is the key to teaching Cub Scouts proper behavior. Remember that each child (just like all of us) has emotional needs that need to be fulfilled. These needs include being accepted, getting noticed, belonging, receiving praise and encouragement, feeling safe and sound, letting off steam, experimenting (and making some mistakes in the process), and having fun.

How each child tries to fulfill these needs is what makes them unique. One child may be timid and quiet, and another, loud and rowdy; but both are afraid they won't be accepted. Den leaders must plan ahead and be prepared to make Cub Scouting a positive experience for everyone in their den.

HOW TO ACHIEVE POSITIVE BEHAVIOR

The den meeting is a time when the den leader and Cub Scouts socialize and plan for future activities. For the den meeting to be productive for everyone, it must run smoothly. A good atmosphere is essential to managing behavior. Many times, that simply means recognizing and rewarding good behavior. Here are some suggestions for encouraging good behavior.

◆ EXPECTATIONS

Be sure that all Cub Scouts and their parents or guardians understand the purposes of Cub Scouting, the advancement system, the structure of the den and pack, and the expectations of the family in the program. A letter to parents and guardians with a follow-up face-to-face meeting within a couple of days of joining Cub Scouts will ensure this. Encouraging parents and guardians to stay for den meetings and involving them with their Cub Scout reinforces the family aspect of Scouting.

Den leaders wear their uniforms to strengthen a visual connection between the leader and the Cub Scouts in their den. The uniform serves as a reminder for Cub Scouts to be on their best behavior. The full uniform is a method of Scouting. It provides a level playing ground by covering up all differences of social or economic background. As the den leader, you set the example. The power of a uniform is also used in team sports. It shows that regardless of the position you play, you are a member of this team. In Scouting, you are part of not only a den, a pack, but also a worldwide movement.

◆ CODE OF CONDUCT

A code of conduct is a list of behavioral expectations and consequences if the code is broken. With your guidance, Cub Scouts in your den create the code of conduct. Three or four points will be sufficient, and they should be positive; the words *no* or *don't* have no place in a code of conduct. Include a final rule such as "Have fun!" Also consider including the 3 R's: Respect for others, Responsibility for yourself and your things, and Reasonable behavior. Members of the den, including the den leader, should sign the code of conduct, and it should be displayed at every den meeting. Using the 12 points of the Scout Law can serve as a strong foundation for a code of conduct, and also reinforce the values of Scouting.

◆ TWO-DEEP LEADERSHIP

For the most up-to-date information, see www.scouting.org.

◆ THE DEN CHIEF

The den chief is a wonderful resource for the success of a den. Although den chiefs are not part of the two-deep leadership because they are not adults, they can help manage the den by being prepared with a game, story, stunt, song, or other brief activity that provides some variety in the den program. See the *Cub Scout Leader Book* and *Den Chief Handbook* for more information on den chiefs.

◆ DEN MEETING STRUCTURE

Following the den meeting structure as outlined in this den leader guide will go a long way to making a meeting run smoothly. Every part of the den meeting structure plays a vital role in the success of the meeting.

◆ LEADER/SCOUT RELATIONSHIP

The relationship between a leader and the Scouts is central to managing behavior. For instance, if the den leader enjoys the den meeting, so will the Cub Scouts and their families. Children and parents model what they see, so be a good model by having a positive attitude.

- **Be consistent and fair in all your dealings.** Treat all members of your den the same when they break any rules, but do this in a manner that allows Cub Scouts to keep their dignity. Give them a chance to tell their side of the story. Allow them the opportunity to apologize. Your example of fairness will carry over into other aspects of the Cub Scouts' lives.
- **Be a good listener.** When a Cub Scout wants your attention, look them in the eye. If you are busy, look them in the eye and ask them to wait a minute. Honor their patient waiting by turning to them with your full attention as soon as possible.
- **Give each Cub Scout a chance to participate in discussions.** To encourage members of your den to speak one at a time and to listen carefully, you might try a "talking stick." Only the person holding the talking stick is allowed to speak, and everyone else must listen respectfully without interrupting. A talking stick can be a dead branch from a tree, a dowel rod, or even a shortened broomstick handle.
- **When you notice a Cub Scout's good behavior, comment on it!** Let everyone know exactly what you liked. Soon, you'll have all the den members copying that behavior. Comments such as "I like the way you kept trying," or "Good thinking," or "Now you have the hang of it" encourage and build self-esteem. The more specific you are, the more likely the communication has been effective and the activity will be repeated. When you see a Cub Scout's parent or guardian before or after meetings, be sure to let them know about positive behavior. The Cub Scout may get additional positive reinforcement at home.

TRACKING BEHAVIOR

The methods below highlight the use of positive reinforcement to encourage good behavior. Positive reinforcement is giving something, such as a reward, to promote the behavior you want. Taking something away after it has been earned is not part of positive reinforcement and is not a method used in Cub Scouting.

◆ CONDUCT CANDLE

Use the same candle each week. The den leader or assistant den leader lights the candle at the beginning of the den meeting, and the candle is allowed to burn as long as all den members show good behavior. But if someone misbehaves or breaks the code of conduct, the candle must be blown out for the rest of the meeting. As soon as the candle burns down, the den is entitled to a special outing or special treat that they have chosen. On average, a den meeting lasts for a little over an hour. Be sure to use a candle that will take four hours to burn uninterrupted. The key to this method is making sure there is not too much time between the positive behavior and the reward. A large candle that takes six months' worth of den meetings to burn will not be as effective as a candle that only takes two months.

◆ TICKETS

Buy tickets at teacher or party supply stores, or make them yourself. Give those in a den a ticket when they do something good. (Try to give each person in the den an opportunity to receive a ticket during a meeting.) They write their names on the back of their tickets. The tickets are placed in a jar, and a drawing is held at the end of the den meeting for a small treat (gum, candy, stickers, small toy, etc.). At the end of the month, hold a drawing for a "big" winner.

◆ MARBLE JAR

Use a glass jar so it makes lots of noise when you put a marble in. Draw a line on the jar high enough so that it will take the Cub Scouts in your den six weeks or so to earn enough marbles to fill it to that point. Explain that when marbles reach the line, the den will get a treat. Drop a marble in the jar when someone in the den does something good. Make a production out of it. Celebrate with the den when they reach their goal. Do not take out marbles for bad behavior. This is not consistent with the positive reinforcement method of working with Cub Scouts.

◆ STICKERS AND CERTIFICATES

Give big flashy stickers for good behavior. Use them only occasionally, or they lose their appeal. Make certificates by hand or with a computer. Use gold seals or other decorative stickers. You can also purchase certificates at teacher supply stores.

◆ SUPERSTAR PINS

Decorate clothespins, one for each Cub Scout, with stars. As you notice good behavior, pin one on the Scout. At the end of the meeting, Cub Scouts with pins on can pick something from a "treat bag" consisting of a variety of food items; a small, healthy snack; or inexpensive items that appeal to the Cub Scouts in your den (stickers, old patches, small toys, pencils). Vary the items in the treat bag often.

◆ SUPERSTAR NOTES

These notes to parents and guardians are good for praising Cub Scouts when they get back home. You can make your own by hand or with a computer or buy them at a teacher supply store. The Cub Scouts in your den will know you really appreciate it if you tell their families how well they did.

◆ COUP STICK

Some American Indian tribes used coup sticks (“coo sticks”) as a way to display accomplishments. Items such as beads, feathers, bear claws, or eagle claws were awarded at tribal meetings for deeds of note (not unlike badges Cub Scouts earn!). These were attached to the coup stick for display, bringing honor to the coup stick owner.

Make a den coup stick by drilling a hole through a wooden dowel at the top and bottom. Loop a long piece of heavy-duty string or leather cord through the holes so it runs the length of the dowel. Award small items at den meetings for good behavior. Use beads, feathers, stamped leather pieces, stamps on poster board pieces, etc., and attach them to the string on the coup stick. Take the coup stick to pack meetings to bring honor to your den!



DEN DOODLES AND DEN FLAGS

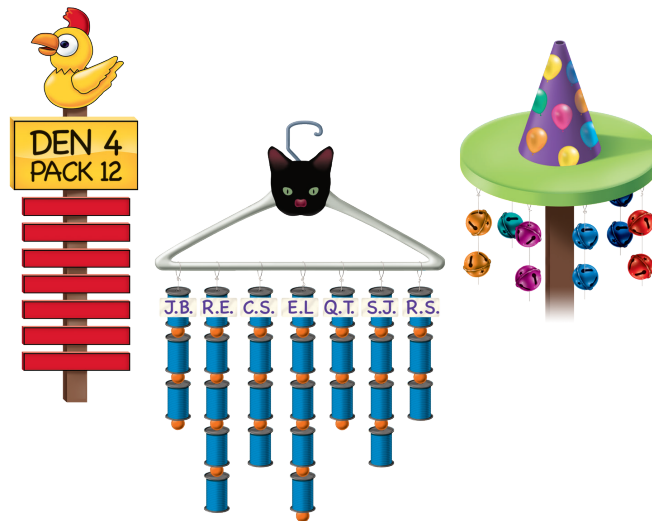
◆ DEN DOODLES

A den doodle is a clever way to record advancement progress and other accomplishments of the Scouts as well as a colorful decoration for the den meeting place. It can be something as simple as a chart, much like the den advancement chart, or it can be a simple structure consisting of a cutout mounted on a stand. No two den doodles are alike.

With the help of members of your den, choose a design that “fits” the den. Den doodles can be made from wood, cardboard, foam board, or other materials; they can be a tabletop or floor design; or they can hang on the wall or from the ceiling. Include the den’s number and advancement record or accomplishment.

Add something to the den doodle at each meeting, recognizing attendance, proper uniforming, and behavior as well as completed adventures. Colored beads and shells slipped onto leather lacing are common items for symbols of progress.

Dens may earn simple awards (sometimes called dingle dangles) for a variety of things, such as perfect attendance, good behavior, participation in service projects, or responsibilities at the pack meeting. For example, the den leading the flag ceremony at the pack meeting or at school might earn a small flag to hang on their den doodle; the den that leads a song might earn a musical note made of felt. You can find more examples of den doodles in *Cub Scout Ceremonies for Dens and Packs*.

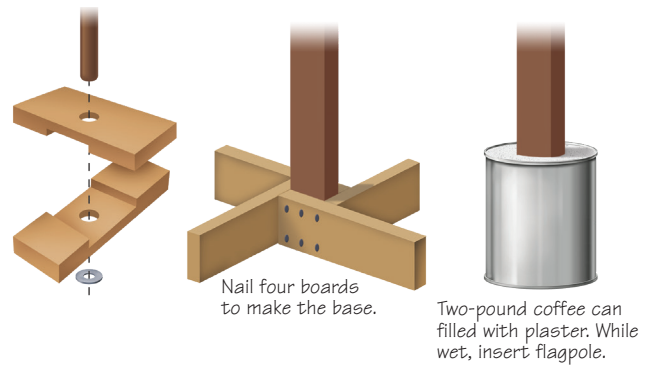


◆ DEN FLAGS

Den flags are simple flags that represent each den and give den members a sense of camaraderie and identification. The flag is blue and yellow with the den number on it. Den flags are available at your local Scout shop or at www.scoutshop.org. The flag may go home with a different Cub Scout family after each meeting or may be the responsibility of the denner for the month. The flag should be brought to each pack meeting and mark the place where the den sits.

◆ BASES FOR DEN DOODLE OR DEN FLAG

Make bases from wood or from a 2-pound coffee can filled with plaster, as shown. Cover the end of the flagpole with aluminum foil and grease with a thick layer of petroleum jelly so it will slip out easily after the plaster hardens. Or use a piece of PVC pipe that has an opening slightly larger than the diameter of the flagpole. Cover the bottom end of the PVC with foil and set it into the wet plaster. It should stick several inches out of the plaster. When dry, the pole will slip easily into the PVC pipe.



DEN LEADER “SURVIVAL” KIT

At times, even the best plans go awry. A bag packed as a leader “survival” kit comes in handy when unexpected things happen, all your planned activities for the meeting have been exhausted, or the den just needs a change of pace. Your survival kit will grow as you and your den work together and discover the things the den likes best—you will base your survival kit on those activities. The goal is to pack your bag with lightweight, multiple-use objects—and take it to every den meeting.

Here are some suggestions for your leader survival kit. Remember that each item should have multiple uses. Newspapers, for example, can be rolled and taped to become bats or batons to pass during a relay; left flat, they can become a “base” for use during a game; opened, they can act as a drop cloth for messy projects; folded, they can become hats. Newspapers can also be torn and taped and shaped into instant costumes. Your imagination is the only limit.

- Balls—a couple of tennis balls and at least one soccer ball
- Blindfolds—at least two
- Safety pins
- Duct tape
- Newspapers
- Markers, pens, pencils, chalk
- Blank paper, various colors
- Lightweight rope
- Scissors
- Balloons
- Empty 16-ounce drink bottles with caps—at least six
- Magic tricks
- Puzzles

GUIDELINES FOR SPECIFIC TYPES OF SPECIAL NEEDS AND DISABILITIES

Every child has needs. Three important ones are to feel accepted by a group, to feel a sense of competence when approaching a task, and to feel a sense of self-satisfaction at its completion.

For some, these needs are easily met. For others, it takes a little more thought and planning on the part of families and leaders. The parents or guardians of a Cub Scout with special needs will be the best resource for information about the Cub Scout’s abilities, limits, and goals. Other resources include the Cub Scout’s teachers and the *Cub Scout Leader Book*.

Many people wonder how children who are different from other members of the den will be accepted. You will find that with proper preparation of the den, they will be accepted into the fellowship of the den easily.

If a Cub Scout has any of the following disabilities, these ideas might be helpful. Always ask if they need, or want, help. Ask *how* you can help.

◆ MOBILITY IMPAIRMENTS

- Remember that people who use adaptive equipment (wheelchairs, crutches, etc.) often consider their equipment an extension of their bodies.
- Never move equipment out of the person's reach.
- Before you go out with someone who has a mobility impairment, make sure facilities at the destination are accessible.
- Never pat a person in a wheelchair on the head. This is a sign of disrespect for adults.
- When helping, ask how equipment works if you are unfamiliar with it.
- Prevent strained necks by standing a few feet away when talking to someone in a wheelchair.
- Find a place to sit down for long talks.

◆ HEARING LOSS

- Make sure the person is looking at you before you begin to talk.
- Speak slowly and enunciate clearly.
- Use gestures to help make your points.
- Ask for directions to be repeated, or watch to make sure directions are understood correctly.
- Use visual demonstration to assist verbal direction.
- In a large group, remember that it's important for only one person to speak at a time.
- Speakers should never stand with their backs to the sun or light when addressing people with hearing loss.
- Shouting at a person who is deaf very seldom helps. It distorts your speech and makes lipreading difficult.

◆ VISION IMPAIRMENTS

- Identify yourself to people with vision impairments by speaking up.
- Offer your arm, but don't try to lead the person.
- Volunteer information by reading aloud signs, news, changing street lights, or warnings about street construction.
- When you stop helping, announce your departure.
- If you meet someone who has a guide dog, never distract the dog by petting or feeding it; keep other pets away.
- If you meet someone who is using a white cane, don't touch the cane. If the cane should touch you, step out of the way and allow the person to pass.

◆ SPEECH/LANGUAGE DISORDERS

- Stay calm. The person with the speech disorder has been in this situation before.
- Don't shout. People with speech disorders often have perfect hearing.
- Be patient. People with speech disorders want to be understood as badly as you want to understand.
- Don't interrupt by finishing sentences or supplying words.
- Give your full attention.
- Ask short questions that can be answered by a simple yes or no.
- Ask people with speech disorders to repeat themselves if you don't understand.
- Avoid noisy situations. Background noise makes communication hard for everyone.
- Model slow speech with short phrases.

◆ COGNITIVE DISABILITIES

People whose cognitive performance is affected may learn slowly and have a hard time using their knowledge.

- Be clear and concise.
- Don't use complex sentences or difficult words.
- Don't talk down to the person. "Baby talk" won't make you easier to understand.
- Don't take advantage. Never ask the person to do anything you wouldn't do yourself.
- Be understanding. People with below-average cognitive performance are often aware of their limitations, but they have the same needs and desires as those without the disability.

◆ SOCIAL/EMOTIONAL IMPAIRMENTS

People with social/emotional impairments have disorders of the mind that can make daily life difficult. If someone is obviously upset,

- Stay calm. People with mental illness are rarely violent.
- Offer to get help. Offer to contact a family member, friend, or counselor.

◆ AUTISM SPECTRUM DISORDER

Here are some tips for leaders.

- Provide consistent, predictable structure. Be patient. Allow extra time for activities.
- Provide a visual schedule with words and pictures. All Scouts will find this useful. Don't put times in the schedule because a Scout with autism may expect you to follow it to the minute!
- Let the Scout know about transitions early by saying, "In five minutes we'll be ending this activity and starting another."
- Give the Scout information about new activities ahead of time.
- Break up tasks into smaller steps.
- Alert the Scout's parents if there is going to be an activity that may cause sensory difficulties for their child. Consider moving noisy activities outside where the noise can dissipate. If the Scout has issues with food taste and texture, carefully plan the menus around these issues so the Scout can eat the same things as other members of the unit as much as possible.

◆ ATTENTION DEFICIT DISORDER

Leaders can have a positive effect on children with attention deficit disorder (ADD). Here are some ways leaders can help.

- Structure Scout meeting time, activities, and rules so that the Scout with ADD knows what to expect. Post a calendar of events.
- Be positive. Praise appropriate behavior and completion of tasks to help build the Scout's self-esteem.
- Be realistic about behavior and assignments. Many children with ADD simply can't sit for long periods or follow detailed instructions. Make learning interesting with plenty of hands-on activities.
- Monitor behavior through charts and explain expectations for behavior and rewards for reaching goals. This system of positive reinforcement can help the Scout stay focused.
- Begin a formal achievement program. Weekly reports to parents could increase their involvement.
- Work closely with parents and members of the education team. People working together can make a big difference.
- Be sensitive to the Scout about taking their medication. Avoid statements such as, "Johnny, go take a pill."
- Simplify complex directions. Give one or two steps at a time.

◆ LEARNING DISABILITIES

Learning disabilities (including minimal brain damage, perceptual abilities, communication disorders, and others) are usually disorders of the central nervous system that interfere with basic learning functions.

- Listen and observe carefully to find clues as to how this Scout approaches problems and what their difficulties are.
- Remember that praise and encouragement can help build self-esteem.
- Let other den members use their friendship and support to show the Scout that they belong.
- Use short, direct instructions that help the Scout know what is expected of them.
- As much as possible, stay with a regular den schedule, allowing the Scout to help with assigned duties.
- Give the Scout extra time when needed. Don't rush their answers. Rephrase instructions if necessary.
- Introduce and recite new materials (such as new songs or the Scout Oath and Scout Law) together as a group. Provide repeated opportunities for Scouts to practice and learn them.