So You're a New Tiger Cub Den Leader



Tiger Cubs is for first-grade boys (or those who are 7 years old) and their adult partners. In the Tiger Cub den, this team is introduced to the excitement of Cub Scouting as they "Search, Discover, and Share" together. The Tiger Cub den builds stronger families through involvement in a program that is flexible and fun for the boys and the adults. A shared leadership component, where a den leader works with the boy and adult partner teams, gives everyone input into the operation of the activities.

BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA®

Tiger Cub Den Leadership

The success of a Tiger Cub den depends on active, enthusiastic families working alongside a knowledgeable, well-trained den leader. The Tiger Cub den leader plans and carries out a year-round program of activities for the Tiger Cub den and gives the program continuity. Using the concept of shared leadership, the Tiger Cub den leader works with a different boy–adult partner team each month to plan two den meetings, a Go See It outing, and the den's part in the pack meeting. (Some teams may serve more than one month, depending on den size.)

Shared leadership is a key element of the Tiger Cub program because direct adult involvement is important for boys at this age. Through this sharing of leadership, each boy and adult partner team is given an opportunity to lead. Shared leadership also brings a wealth of knowledge and variety to the program as each host team has something different to bring to the program. As a Tiger Cub den leader, you will provide experience and continuity throughout the program year.





Leadership Training

Your pack leadership (pack trainer) should offer you an opportunity to complete video-based Fast Start training on CD-ROM or online under Cub Scouts/Adult Leaders/Training at www.scouting.org. This training will immediately orient you to the Tiger Cub program before your first meeting with your Tiger Cub den. A member of your pack leadership team will contact you within two or three days after you take the training to review the information with you and answer questions. Youth Protection training for all Scouting volunteers is available through your local council Web Site.

As soon as possible, you should plan to attend Cub Scout Leader Basic Training. Your pack leadership can provide you with dates and times of sessions in your district. There are two components to this training—Tiger Cub den leader specific training, a specialized session to help you successfully plan an exciting Tiger Cub den program, and New Leader Essentials, which is attended by leaders in all program areas.



Tiger Cub Uniform

The uniform is an important part of the Tiger Cub program. It identifies the boys and adults with the program and gives them a sense of belonging to the den, to the pack, and to the Boy Scouts of America. Most boys love wearing their Tiger Cub uniform. They should wear it to all den meetings, pack meetings, and special pack activities.

The Tiger Cub uniform is the navy blue Cub Scout uniform shirt, with the orange Tiger Cub neckerchief and slide. The official Tiger Cub cap and blue web belt with a Tiger Cub buckle are optional. Adult partners wear the orange activity T-shirt. The Tiger Cub den leader should wear the official Cub Scout leader uniform. The Tiger Cub cap and Tiger Cub den leader neckerchief are optional.



When Do Tiger Cub Dens Meet?

To experience the fun, excitement, and other benefits of Scouting, Tiger Cubs and their adult partners attend four meetings each month. Twice a month they will meet at the host family home or place of choice for a den meeting. Once a month they will take a field trip or outing, which is called a "Go See It." Once a month they will attend the Cub Scout pack meeting.

Tiger Cub den meetings are held at a time that is convenient for the adult partners and appropriate for Tiger Cub–age boys. Each meeting should last no longer than one hour.









Where Do Tiger Cub Dens Meet?

The den meeting place will vary depending on the resources of that month's host adult partner. If there is sufficient space in the home of the host team, this would be the ideal meeting place. Meetings could also be held in a backyard, park, or apartment activity room. Some dens meet at the chartered organization's meeting space or in a local school.

Eight Steps for a GRrrrEAT Tiger Cub Den Meeting

Tiger Cub den meetings are opportunities for Tiger Cubs and their adult partners to go somewhere or do something new. Den meetings are structured around the concept "Search, Discover, Share." The Tiger Cub den meeting plan in *Cub Scout Program Helps* uses the following pattern, which divides the meeting into eight parts. Activities are planned around the Cub Scout monthly theme.

1. **Before the Meeting.** The den leader and the host adult partner take time to make preparations, to gather supplies, set out the U.S. flag and den flag, and to take care of any last-minute items before the boys and adult partners arrive.
2. **Gathering.** Before the meeting begins, have a game, puzzle, or other activity to keep the Tiger Cubs busy until everyone has arrived.
3. **Opening.** At the first few meetings, you might want to recite the Cub Scout motto or Cub Scout Promise in unison. Later in the year, vary the opening by using the Pledge of Allegiance, by singing a song, or by conducting your own ceremony.
4. **Sharing.** Let each boy tell about some of the activities he and his family have done together.
5. **Discovering.** See something together. Do something together. You will find many theme-related suggestions in *Cub Scout Program Helps*. This den activity should occupy the greatest part of your meeting time. Make it active and fun for both the Tiger Cubs and their adult partners. They joined Tiger Cubs as a team; they should participate as a team.
6. **Searching.** Plan for the monthly Go See It outing. The boys love getting out seeing new things. This activity could fulfill one of the achievement requirements or one of the elective requirements, and/or it could relate to the monthly theme. Make sure everyone knows the time, date, and place of the next meeting.
7. **Closing.** This time is usually more serious and quiet. Some den leaders like to present a thought for the day, have the boys say the Cub Scout motto or the Cub Scout Promise together, and/or give everyone last-minute reminders about coming events. Leaders can also use this time to reinforce the core values of Cub Scouting.
8. **After the Meeting.** The den leader and host adult partner review the events of this meeting and finalize plans for the next meeting and the coming pack meeting.

Tiger Cub Advancement Plan

Tiger Cubs are presented the Tiger Cub immediate recognition emblem when they learn the first three requirements for the Bobcat badge: the Cub Scout motto, Cub Scout salute, and Cub Scout sign. When a Tiger Cub has accomplished these tasks, he should be awarded his Tiger Cub immediate recognition emblem at the next pack meeting. The emblem is worn buttoned to the right pocket of the uniform shirt.

Tiger Cubs then complete the remaining requirements for the Bobcat badge, which will be presented at the next pack meeting.

The *Tiger Cub Handbook* outlines achievements to be completed in five areas. In each of these five areas, the Tiger Cub will complete one family activity, one den activity, and one Go See It outing. As each of the 15 achievements is completed, the boy is awarded an orange, white, or black bead during a simple den meeting ceremony. These beads go on the first three strands of the Tiger Cub immediate recognition emblem. When all fifteen achievements are completed, the boy has earned the Tiger Cub badge. The badge should be presented to the adult partner at the next pack meeting, who in turn presents the badge to his Tiger Cub. The Tiger Cub badge is sewn on the left pocket of the uniform shirt.

After a boy has earned the Tiger Cub badge, he can earn Tiger Track beads by completing elective activities described in the *Tiger Cub Handbook*. When a boy completes 10 electives, he has earned a Tiger Track bead, which is to be placed on the fourth strand of the immediate recognition emblem. The Tiger Tracks are presented to the adult partners at the next pack meeting, who in turn present them to the boys.

Resources

Several resources are available to help the Tiger Cub den leader and the host adult partner plan the den meetings and the Go See It outing. The printed resources should be available through your pack library or may be purchased at your local Scout shop.

Cub Scout leader roundtable, monthly supplemental training for Cub Scout leaders in your district, provides program ideas, policy guidelines, and information on events in your district and council. Check with your pack leaders for the time and place of your district roundtable.

Cub Scout Leader Pow Wow and University of Scouting are additional supplemental training opportunities that provide a wealth of age-appropriate program ideas for Tiger Cubs.

Cub Scout Leader Book, No. 33221, is a guide for all Cub Scout leaders. It contains the basic information needed to operate and support Cub Scouting, such as information on Cub Scout policies, leadership duties, program planning, and youth protection.

Cub Scout Program Helps, No. 34304, provides den-meeting outlines based on the monthly themes. The activities planned for the Tiger Cubs and their adult partners are designed to be age-appropriate for first-grade boys.

Cub Scout Leader How-To Book, No. 33822, is a resource with program ideas for games, crafts, skits and songs.

Other BSA literature and helps are also available. Check your pack library and your local Scout shop for appropriate materials on songs, sports, ceremonies, academics, family programs, and outdoor opportunities that could be used with your den.





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