

PACK 1860 – NEW DEN LEADER TIPS FOR 2015

I SIGNED UP – WHAT’S NEXT?

Now that you are registered as a Cub Scout den leader, you will receive Scouting magazine, which includes information to assist you as a leader. A digital copy of the current Den & Pack Meeting Resource Guide is attached with this message. (Additional program materials are available at the Scout Shop or online at www.scouting.org).

These steps will get you started:

1. Complete **Youth Protection Training, This is Scouting, Tiger Den Leader Position Specific Training** and the **Den Leader Fast Start**. You can complete the training online at <https://myscouting.org>. There is a significant amount of training available on this site, so take advantage of it!
2. Begin reading the **Cub Scout Leader Book**. This book describes your role as a den leader and will give more information on the following steps (available for purchase at the Scout Shop – the Pack will reimburse you for this).
3. A current handbook (there is a different one for each rank) should be among your primary guides. It will lay out exactly what is needed for the boys to achieve the rank they are working on. I just used my son’s handbook to do my planning.
4. Get acquainted with the families of the boys in your den. Hold a family orientation meeting. The Cub Scout Leader Book has a recommended agenda. You will need the families’ help, so get to know them early.
5. Get acquainted with the boys in your den. Establish a den code of conduct at your first den meeting so that they know what you expect of them.
6. Let me know if you would like for me to help you secure a den chief – there are a lot of boys in Troop 577 who are looking for leadership experience and being a Den Chief qualifies. ***Give your den chief meaningful responsibilities.***
7. Obtain and begin wearing the Cub Scout leader uniform before the first Pack meeting. Wearing the uniform properly is important in setting a good example for the boys. (Uniforms are available at the Scout Shop).
8. Attend the planning meetings held by the pack. These meetings are led by the pack committee chair and the Cubmaster, and are where pack plans are made. We typically meet every other month for an hour or so on a Sunday afternoon.
9. Consider attending the monthly District Cub Scout Roundtable. You will receive many good program ideas based on the monthly theme, and become acquainted with leaders from other packs.

ADVANCEMENT

When a boy is in his Tiger year (1st grade), the “requirements” to earn his badge are basically a check-list of fun and age-appropriate activities which are not difficult as long as they participate in most of the meetings. The first “rank” that **ALL** Scouts must earn is the Bobcat (details below).

Pack 1860 utilizes an online tracking website for tracking progress of our Scouts. <http://www.scouttrack.com>

Once you have registered with the Pack we will create an account for you on ScoutTrack.com where you can log in and check your Den’s progress, contact other leaders, or update items that the Den has completed.

When the boys have completed the requirements for their Bobcat badge we will hold a rank advancement ceremony at the October or November Pack meeting. I will dress in the Native American Headdress and perform the ceremony for them and their parents. The parents will receive a pin recognizing the rank, and the boys will receive their rank patch. We try to do this only once, but if a boy who has earned his rank cannot attend the Pack meeting we will do a special ceremony for him at the next Pack meeting.

After the boys have earned their Bobcat they can begin working on the requirements for their specific rank. I did my best to provide the opportunity to complete all of the requirements for their rank through Den meetings (with the exception of requirements specifically geared towards at-home completion. If a boy in the Den missed a meeting, I provided the materials I covered to the family so they could complete them at home before the next Den meeting. Note: Earning their rank is not a requirement for

continued participation in Scouting. We want the boys to have fun and learn some valuable skills, not grind them through requirements like they are going to Ranger School.

You have some time to get through all of the requirements. In years past we would do rank advancement ceremonies at almost every Pack meeting after the Blue & Gold in February. I made the decision to do all of the rank advancement ceremonies (other than Bobcat) at the Crossover Picnic in June, which gives everyone a little breathing room to get through the program and saves a lot of meeting time which can be better used having fun!

One last note on advancement. Each month, about a week before the Pack meeting, our Awards Chairperson (currently Jeanne Laszewski) will send out a request for any awards she needs to purchase for the meeting. I found it easiest to just generate a report from ScoutTrack.com and send it to her. I will be happy to walk you through that process. Additionally, the new program has a LOT of Immediate Recognition items, so if you know you are going to do one of the requirements at a Den meeting and you need Jeanne to get you the awards ahead of time, just let her know.

MEETINGS AND ACTIVITIES

As the Den Leader, you can pick the date and time for the meetings. Some Dens prefer to pick a specific day of the month (second Tuesday at 7:00PM, etc.) while others prefer to let the date float based on the availability of the other families. I would allow one hour for your Den meetings – anything longer and it gets hard to keep the boys engaged. As they get older you will need to extend the duration of the meetings in order to get through all of the material.

MEETING RESOURCES

The pack will reimburse you for any books or meeting guides you buy – just save your receipts. The pack would also likely reimburse you if you need equipment/materials for a craft idea that other dens will be able to use in the future (for example, the pack has a set of leatherworking tools you are free to use, although you would probably need to buy some leather). Stuff you buy and use for den meetings should be a shared cost for den families. (Some dens collect a fee each year for materials, others split the cost as they come up.)

THE TIGER PROGRAM (1ST GRADERS)

The Cub Scout program for 1st graders is called the Tiger program. They can join during the 1st grade or near the end of school when they are in kindergarten. A parent or guardian must accompany the boy at every den meeting, pack meeting, and other scouting event at that rank.

At the first Den meeting for Tigers they will work on earning their first badge – the Bobcat rank, which is required for ALL ranks.

BOBCAT REQUIREMENTS

1. Learn and say the Scout Oath, with help if needed.
2. Learn and say the Scout Law, with help if needed.
3. Show the Cub Scout sign. Tell what it means.
4. Show the Cub Scout handshake. Tell what it means.
5. Say the Cub Scout Motto. Tell what it means.
6. Show the Cub Scout Salute. Tell what it means.
7. With your parent or guardian, complete the exercises in the pamphlet How to Protect Your Children From Child Abuse: A Parent's Guide—Bobcat Requirements.

The Tiger program relies on shared leadership from parents, and the meetings are typically rotated among the members with each adult taking part in planning or organizing over the course of the year. The den can decide as a group if it would like to meet on a specified day each month or let that be up to each “host” family.

TIGER REQUIRED ADVENTURES

TIGER ADVENTURE: BACKYARD JUNGLE

1. Take a 1-foot hike. Make a list of the living things you find on your 1-foot hike.
2. Point out two different kinds of birds that live in your area.
3. Be helpful to plants and animals by planting a tree or other plant in your neighborhood.
4. Build and hang a birdhouse.
5. With your adult partner, go on a walk, and pick out two sounds you hear in your “jungle.”

TIGER ADVENTURE: GAMES TIGERS PLAY

1. Do the following:
 - a. Play two initiative or team-building games with the members of your den.
 - b. Listen carefully to your leader while the rules are being explained, and follow directions when playing.
 - c. At the end of the game, talk with the leader about what you learned when you played the game. Tell how you helped the den by playing your part.
2. Make up a game with the members of your den.
3. Make up a new game, and play it with your family or members of your den or pack.
4. While at a sporting event, ask a player or coach why he or she thinks it is important to be active.
5. Bring a nutritious snack to a den meeting. Share why you picked it and what makes it a good snack choice.

TIGER ADVENTURE: MY FAMILY'S DUTY TO GOD

Complete requirement 1 and at least two from requirements 2–4.

1. With your adult partner, find out what duty to God means to your family.
2. Find out what makes each member of your family special.
3. With your family, make a project that shows your family's beliefs about God.
4. Participate in a worship experience or activity with your family.

TIGER ADVENTURE: TEAM TIGER

1. List the different teams of which you are a part.
2. With your den, make a den job chart that shows everyone doing something to help. As one of the den jobs, lead the Pledge of Allegiance at a den meeting.
3. Pick two chores you will do at home once a week for a month.
4. Make a chart to show three ways that members of your Tiger team are different from each other.
5. Do an activity to help your community or neighborhood team.

TIGER ADVENTURE: TIGER BITES

1. Identify three good food choices and three foods that would not be good choices.
2. Show that you know the difference between a fruit and a vegetable. Eat one of each.
3. With your adult partner, pick a job to help your family at mealtime. Do it every day for one week.
4. Show you can keep yourself and your personal area clean.
5. Talk with your adult partner about what foods you can eat with your fingers. Practice your manners when eating them.
6. With your adult partner, plan and make a good snack choice or other nutritious food to share with your den.

TIGER ADVENTURE: TIGERS IN THE WILD

1. With your adult partner, name and collect the Cub Scout Six Essentials you need for a hike. Tell your den leader what you would need to add to your list if it rains.
2. Go for a short hike with your den or family, and carry your own gear. Show you know how to get ready for this hike.
3. Do the following:
 - a. Listen while your leader reads the Outdoor Code. Talk about how you can be clean in your outdoor manners.
 - b. Listen while your leader reads the Leave No Trace Principles for Kids. Discuss why you should “Trash Your Trash.”
 - c. Apply the Outdoor Code and Leave No Trace Principles for Kids on your Tiger den and pack outings. After one outing, share what you did to demonstrate the principles you discussed.
4. While on the hike, find three different kinds of plants, animals, or signs that animals have been on the trail. List what you saw in your *Tiger Handbook*.
5. Participate in an outdoor pack meeting or pack campout campfire. Sing a song and act out a skit with your Tiger den as part of the program.
6. Find two different trees and two different types of plants that grow in your area. Write their names in your *Tiger Handbook*.
7. Visit a nearby nature center, zoo, or another outside place with your family or den. Learn more about two animals, and write down two interesting things about them in your *Tiger Handbook*.

In addition, Tiger dens have elective adventures that they may choose to complete if time permits.

CUB SCOUT LEADER UNIFORM

Available at the Northern Virginia Scout Shop just off Braddock Road at the Beltway in the shopping center at Port Royal Road.

Northern Virginia Scout Shop
5232 Port Royal Rd
Springfield, VA 22151
(703) 321-4836

There is also a Scout Shop in Bethesda.

National Capital Scout Shop
9190 Rockville Pike
Bethesda, MD 20814
(301) 564-1091

You can also purchase everything you need online at <http://www.Scoutstuff.org>)

REQUIRED UNIFORM

- ✓ **Khaki Cub Scout Leader Shirt** – (uniform pants are not required, but feel free to get them if you like)
- ✓ **Blue Cub Scout Shoulder Epaulets**

REQUIRED PATCHES

- ✓ **National Capital Area Council Shoulder Patch** (several styles are available, if you see more than one kind, feel free to pick the one you like best)
- ✓ **World Scouting Crest** (purple oval patch with silver stitching)

- ✓ **Den Numeral** (small rectangular patch – you may need to wait on this to find out your assigned den #, but the first Tiger Den to form will probably be #5)
- ✓ **Tiger Den Leader Patch**

Do not get pack numerals (we provide those special ordered as one patch), neckerchief or neckerchief slide – these will be provided to you by the Pack.

OPTIONAL

- ✓ **Leader “Knots” for any previous Scouting Experience (Eagle Scout, Order of the Arrow, etc.)** Volunteers

LEADERSHIP TEAM

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Please do not hesitate to reach out to any of us for assistance if you need anything at all – we are here to help!