

**Den Chief Guidelines
&
Supporting Materials**

Den Chief Guidelines

Objectives

To facilitate coordination and understand requirements associated with the Den Chief Program thus ensuring successful implementation and operation of the Den Chief program

Rationale

The Den Chief Program has three interested parties that are responsible for the success of the Den Chief program. The Scoutmaster needs to understand the capabilities of each scout he is recommended as a Den Chief. He should ask and answer; is this mature enough to take on the role of Den Chief, guide the scout in areas for improvement, and facility the scouts leadership abilities within the Troop

The Den Leader needs to understand the needs of his Den as well as the needs of the Scout. He should visit with the Den Chief and understand where the scouts interests are and were the scout would like to help within the Den. The Den leader will then need to clearly identify the roles and responsibilities of both the Den Chief and himself. Clear communications of the expectations will lead to success.

The Den Chief must be willing to take on the additional time and responsibility of being a Den Chief. The Den Chief will be the primary role model that the Cubs or Webelos will look to and want to be. He must agree and willingly execute his roles and responsibilities. If questions or problems come up, he must go to the appropriate leadership for guidance and resolution

Guidelines

Scoutmaster

- Consider assigning, through the Troop Committee, a Den Chief or Cub Scout Liaison. This person can be the Troops "Pack relationship manager". By staying in touch with the local packs, the person will know where and when Den Chiefs are needed and will be available to help the Webelos decide on what Troop to join
- The Scoutmaster should be aware of the different age characteristics of Cub Scout Dens. This will facilitate Den Chief recommendations. (e.g. John may not be the best fit for the younger Wolf Den, but an excellent one for the Webelos)
- Interview the prospective Den Chief and ensure that the Den Chief understands and is willing to accept the requirements in both duties and time.

Den Leader

- Understand what training/instructions the Den Chief's are given. Attend the Den Chief Training with your Den Chief or read the Den Chief Handbook.
- Know the service requirements and projects that are needed for the Den Chief's service award.
- The Den Chief was most likely has been a Cub Scout & remembers what was good and not so good. Getting his input on ideas will help you, the Den Chief, and the Den
- Meet with the Den Chief to go over his roles and responsibilities. Use the Den Chief Handbook as a guide. Also add into that the Den Chief's interests and the den's needs
- Write down the identified responsibilities for both you and the Den Chief –
- Coach the Den Chief when asked or needed.
- The Den Chief will be the role model for your Cubs – use that to your advantage
- Remember: the Den Chief is NOT to a disciplinarian. Use him effectively and the Cubs will try to emulate him, more cubs will want to say in scouting and your Den will run smoother. You win, the Den Chief wins, but more importantly the Cub Scouts win!

Den Chief

- Interview with your Scoutmaster. Be sure that you are willing to accept the additional responsibility and time needed to support your Troop, the Den, school, and family.
- Attend Den Chief Training
- Attend Den and Pack meetings. If something interferes, notify the Den Leader in plenty of time.
- Learn and know the characteristics of the age group your Den is – they differ and, as a result, how you work with them will be different.
- Make a list of your interests that may be used within the Den – discuss with the Den Leader
- Meet with the Den Leader – understand his needs and discuss what you can help
- If you do not fully understand something the Den Leader is asking of you; ask for more help or direction.
- Work with the Den Leader to identify the service and project requirements you need for the Den Chief service award
- If you are unsure how do perform or do something, ask your Den Leader or Scoutmaster.
- Help the Scout have fun and advance in rank.
- Remember, the Den leader disciplines, not the Den Chief

Examples of Den Chief Duties

- Encourage the Scouts to wear and maintain the proper uniform
- Lead Den opening ceremonies: Pledge allegiance, Cub Scout Pledge and Motto (Boy Scout for Webelos)
- Flag etiquette: Saluting, folding
- Games
- Songs – new for each meeting
- Skits – new for each meeting (help with Pack Skit)
- Achievements – help cubs that are behind in learning
- If the Den Chief is qualified, he can help teach some Achievements
- Tracking Achievements is NOT recommended. Helping track is OK.
- Use the Den Chief to keep Scouts busy while you meet with parents (warn him so he can plan), keep all Scouts involved, help train, uniform inspections.
- Be a Boy Scout role model

Den Chief Induction

(Invite Troop SPL and Scoutmaster to the induction)

Den Chiefs

Webelos II	name	Troop #
Webelos I	name	Troop #
Bear	name	Troop #
Wolf	name	Troop #
Tiger	name	Troop #

Cubmaster: Cub Scouts and friends of Pack 48, we wish to recognize several new leaders who will serve as a den chief in our dens. Den Leaders; please come forward with your Den Chief. *If Scoutmasters are present that state* Will the Scoutmasters from Troop # and 102 come forward. *Den Leaders and Den Chief come forward, Den Leaders stand behind the Den Chiefs.*

Cubmaster: Before the den chief cord is placed on your shoulder, I ask you to pledge your support. Do you promise to help the Cub Scouts in your den to the best of your ability, to encourage, guide, and protect them in all den and pack activities, and show them, by your example, what a Boy Scout can be?

Den Chief: I do.

Cubmaster: Will you strive to be prompt and dependable, and to cooperate with the leaders in carrying out the den program?

Den Chief: I will.

Cubmaster: As each Scout becomes eligible, will you do all in your power to interest him in moving to the next rank or becoming a Boy Scout?

Den Chief: I will.

Cubmaster: Den leader; please place the cord on your den chiefs left shoulder and present his patch to him. Although this cord has little weight, the job it stands for places a large weight upon his shoulders. This cord also serves to recognize him as an officer in his troop.

Now, we of Pack #, in recognition of your high office and important service, wish to welcome you and say congratulations. Scoutmasters, Den Leaders, Pack, and Parents, please welcome into Pack # our newly inducted Den Chiefs.

Appendix A. Den Chief Role Play Scenarios

#1

The Den Leaders have asked you to do a uniform inspection of the den today.

- Jake is an avid football fan and has his favorite team's hat on.
- Stephen got his Bear badge at the last pack meeting. It is in his pocket but is isn't on his uniform.
- John put his soccer sports pin on the pocket to his uniform.
- Jay does not want to tuck in his uniform shirt.
- Richard has a "save the whales" button on his left pocket
- Brent is the Den Leaders son and his uniform is perfect.

When you give them the score, they accuse you of favoritism to the Den Leader by giving Brent the highest score.

What do you do?

#2

You have the Webelos Den outdoors working on the Athlete activity bade. While waiting to do the long jump, two Webelos Scouts, Richard and Stephen, begin leg wrestling. Richard is a lot bigger than Stephen. It looks like Stephen is going to get hurt.

What do you do?

#3

Your little brother is in the den where you are the Den Chief. Everyone is working on toolboxes for Fathers' Day. Your brother decides not to make one because dad already has the toolbox that you made when you were a Webelos Scout.

What do you do?

#4

There are six Cub Scouts in the den. Four boys have their Wolf badge, he other two do not. On of the boys starts crying, You go to the corner where he is standing, and find out that he is upset because he will not receive an award at the next pack meeting.

What do you do?

#5

The Webelos den has been asked to conduct the flag ceremony at the pack meeting. You have been asked to help. As the den practices, on of the boys accidentally drops the flag. Another boy screams at the top of his lungs, "We have to burn it now!" The den leaders' sop runs to the kitchen a brings back a box of matches.

What do you do now?

#6

Your den is visiting the local museum. You are with one group of two Cub Scouts. The den lead has three boys with him and the assistant den leader has the other three boys. You notice later that one of the groups now only has two boys.

What do you do?

#7

As a Den Chief, you have always tried to set the example and wear your uniform to every meeting. Last week you had to go to the dentist, and your mom dropped you off just in time for the meeting. You did not have your uniform on.

This week, you notice that half of the Cub Scouts are not wearing their uniforms.

What do you do?

#8

The Cub Scouts are playing a game outside and one of the boys falls and hits his knee on a rock. His knee is bleeding and he starts crying. One of the other boys hollers that he will call 911 and starts running inside to the telephone.

What do you do?

#9

Your Tiger den is not able to attend one of the den meetings. In his place, the Assistant Den Leader is running the meeting. The Tiger den senses the change and is very unruly at tonight's den meeting. The Asst. Den Leader pulls you aside and asks why you didn't discipline Jim and Nick, two of the wilder boys.

What do you do?

#10

Your Webelos den is going camping and the den leader has asked you to help get the Webelos ready – no other instructions.

What do you do?

Appendix B. Self Evaluation

How Am I Doing

(to be completed by the Den Chief)

Purpose: For the Den Chief to evaluate his own leadership progress, identify areas that additional training or leadership skills are needed. These are NOT turned in, they are to be used by the Den Chief for self-assessment – identify areas for additional skills needed.

1. Do I meet with the Den Leader prior to each meeting to plan my part?
2. Do I cooperate with my Den Leader every way possible?
3. Do I realize that the Den Leader is the person most responsible for the Den?
4. Do I consult with my Den Leader regarding disciplinary problems?
5. Do I always treat my Den Leader and Scouts with respect?
6. Do I carry my share of responsibilities for the Den?
7. Do I always arrive on time for the meetings?
8. Do I wear my uniform to all Den and Pack meetings?
9. Do I conduct my self in accordance with the Scout Law?
10. Do I “run the 12” if I need to make a decision or take an action?
11. Do I try to learn and apply new leadership skills whenever I can?
12. Do I find ways to make the denner feel important? How?

13. What activities do I use to help control and focus the Cub Scouts?

14. What have I learned while being a Den Chief?

15. What is my best Leadership Quality? How can I use this in my Troop or school?

16. What do I need to learn in order to be a better leader? How am I going to do it?

17. Where/who can a go to in order to learn more?

Appendix C. Den Leader Evaluation

Den Chief Valuation Form

(to be completed by the Den Leader)

Purpose: To provide constructive feed back to the Den Chief as well as the Pack and Troop leadership. This is to be used as a learning opportunity for the Den Chief.

Den: _____

Den Leader _____

Den Chief: _____

Troop #: _____

Leadership Accomplishments: What leadership attributes did the Den Chief show. Give examples his of effective leadership.

Strengths: What are his leadership strengths that you had him use to help the Cub Scouts and the Den.

Learning opportunities: Identify areas that you plan on working with the Den Chief to strengthen his abilities and improve the Den. Remember the Den Chief is your helper, but he must learn too.

Program Help: What has he done to encourage the Tigers, Cubs, or Webelos to stay involved and advance in the Scouting?

Appendix D. Resources

Boys Life

Den Chief's Handbook

Tiger, Wolf, Bear, Webelos Handbooks & <http://usscouts.org/advance/cubscout/intro.asp>

Northern Star Council's web site <http://www.northernstarbsa.org/>

Boy Scouts of America's web site <http://www.scouting.org/CubScouts.aspx>

Boy Scout Trail – Cub Scout Pack and Den ideas (games, songs, skits)

<http://www.boyscouttrail.com/cub-scouts/cub-scouts.asp>

Cub Scout Advancements