

Den Chief Program & 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.

Why do we need Den Chief's

- Boy Scouts get leadership training and opportunities to use it
- Cub Scouts see what a Boy Scout is like
- Cub Scouts have a role model
- Cub Scouts are more likely to go into Boy Scouts
- Cub Scouts are more prepared for Boy Scouts
- Den Leaders have help controlling the Den
- Den Leaders can meet with parents while the Den Chief runs part of the meeting.
- Den Leaders are recognized by the Den, Pack, and Troop for the work they do.
- It makes our future leaders better leaders

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.
- Ensure that the Scouts attend Den Chief training
- SPL and or Scoutmaster attends the Pack's Den Chief's Induction Ceremony
- Present the Den Chief Service Award at a Court of Honor, invite the Cubmaster and Den Leaders to attend

Cubmaster

- At the beginning of the year (prep for first Leadership meeting), review with the Den Leaders the Den Chief program and determine (1) den needs and (2) meeting times
- Coordinate with appropriate Troop Leadership for appropriate Den Chiefs and ask the Scoutmaster to review our Scoutmaster Guidelines.
- Educate the new Tiger leader on the program and encourage participation
- Have all Den leaders review this document
- Lead the Den Chief induction ceremony at the first available Pack meeting
- Have the Den Leaders complete the "Den Chief Valuation Form" and the Den Chief's to complete "How am I doing" forms. Then forward the forms to the Troop Leadership.
- Attend the Troop Court of Honor that presents the Den Chief with his Service Award

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.
- At the beginning of the year, communicate the Den meeting dates to the Den Chief and have him identify any potential conflicts – he may need to ask his parents. Understand these are boys active in school, their Troops, and Sports so adjust meeting times or dates if possible
- 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 before each Den meeting 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

Den Chief Program Guidelines

Mustang District

Pack 48

Edina, MN

- Remember: the Den Chief is NOT 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!
- Complete the “Den Chief Valuation form” and have the Den Chief’s to complete “How am I doing” forms. Then forward the forms to the Troop Leadership.
- Attend the Troop Court of Honor that presents the Den Chief with his Service Award

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 to 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

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?

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?

Den Chief Induction

Pre-Planning. Obtain appropriate Den Chief Cords and Den Chief shoulder patch, invite the appropriate troops leadership (SPL – Scoutmaster) to attend, and ensure the presence of all Den Chiefs. Brief the Den Chiefs on responses, Scoutmaster & SPL of expectations, and Den Leaders on Cord placement.

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 / SPL are present than state Will the (stat position - Scoutmasters or Senior Patrol Leaders) 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 Tiger, Cub, or Webelos 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 48, in recognition of your high office and important service, wish to welcome you and say congratulations. Scoutmasters, Senior Patrol Leader, Den Leaders, Pack, and Parents, please welcome into Pack 48 our newly inducted Den Chiefs (leadership shakes hands)

What does the Den Chief represent to the Cub Scout

A good leader accepts each boy as they are and tries to be a friend to each and every one.
Remember;

He is just a Cub Scout.
He has many, many characteristics:
He is energetic, curious, noisy, silly, eager, and wild,
But he is full of Cub Scout Spirit.
He is that little boy in my den.
He is tomorrow.
He is the future.
And I am his Den Chief.

A Little Fellow Follows Me

By Lee Fisher

A careful leader I want to be
A little cub follows me;
I don not dare go astray,
For fear he'll go the self-same way.

I cannot once escape his eyes,
What'er he sees me do, he tries;
Like me he says he's going to be,
The little cub that follows me.

He thinks that I am good and fine,
Believes in every word of mine;
The base in be he must not see,
The little cub that follows me.

I must remember as I go,
Through summer's sun and winter's snow;
I am building for the years to be,
That little cub that follows me.

Remember that in **everything** you do, that young Scout is watching you.