

## **VOLUNTEER SUPPORT FOR PACK SIGN-UP NIGHT OR PARENT ORIENTATION MEETING**

**Note:** This item is identified in the 2025 AWC Membership Book as the “Fun Activity” on page 18. If it is desired to adhere to the “in-and-out in less than 10 minutes” based on the venue, this would be done at the Parent Orientation Meeting as the “Cub Activity” on page 19.

Arrive at least 1/2 hour prior to the meeting to set up the room and have enough copies of the following handouts available based on estimated attendance (families). “Masters” of these are attached to this document. This includes:

1. Meeting sign-in sheet(s)
2. Den Meeting Agenda
3. “Getting to Know You Bingo”
4. Scout Oath and Law
5. “Cub Scout Spirit” Song Lyrics (optional)
6. Scout Law Emoji Game Cards
7. Emergency Broadcast System Skit
8. History of the “Grand Howl”

Also, make sure that a healthy snack is available at the end of the meeting. Motts or Welches Fruit Snacks and Capri-Sun drinks are good for this.

The remainder of this document describes how the meeting should be run. You can add items at your discretion based on your comfort level of den or pack “pizazz”. Remember that your target audience ranges in age of 5 to 10, so the more you can interact at their level the better time will be had by all.

For the Gathering Activity as people were arriving, provide copies of "Getting to Know You Bingo" so that the families have an activity before the actual meeting. This is one of the requirements for each of the Bobcat ranks even though the activity comes from the Wolf rank.

Start the meeting by leading parents and youth together with the opening (Pledge, Oath, and Law) using the handouts as a guide.

[2]

If you are comfortable leading a song, have everyone stand up and join you in singing “Cub Scout Spirit” with the hand motions (“up in my head”, “deep in my heart”, “down in my feet”, “all over me”). If not, no problem, it’s not for everyone.

The next items are referenced in the 2025 AWC Membership Book on page 19 “Parent Orientation Program” Item 3c “Cub Activity”. If desired so that the professional may conduct the parent presentation in parallel with the following, take the youth to another room with you and at least one parent (more are always welcome so long as there is at least one parent from each family staying with the professional to receive information). If there are enough youth available to split into dens by grade, great! Many times, there will not be enough youth to form a den, so, in this case, you will serve as the “Den Leader” and the parent(s) will be your designated assistant(s) (who should be encouraged to step forward as dens leader once they are familiar with the meeting format and how it is done).

Review and work on the Bobcat requirements introducing the Scout sign, salute, and handshake as well as playing the Scout Law Emoji and have the youth "vote" by holding up the emoji when you ask which one best describes the point of the Scout Law. If a parent is willing, after describing how it works, have them conduct this activity.

If there are enough youth and adults present and there is time, conduct a “Bobcat Relay” as follows:

You’ll need two adults for this activity. Identify those people and ask them to assist during the meeting.

Decide on a starting point and an ending point for the relay.

Ask the volunteers to station themselves at the ending point

[3]

Divide Cub Scouts into two teams.

Tell Cub Scouts that they're going to play Scout Law Relay. When the relay starts, the first person on each team will run to their volunteer. The volunteer asks the Cub Scout to say or demonstrate one of the following:

1. Cub Scout Sign
2. Cub Scout Salute
3. Cub Scout Handshake
4. Cub Scout Motto ("Do Your Best")

If the Cub Scout is already familiar with the above (transferring into the pack), you can optionally ask them to recite the Scout Oath or Law instead of one of the above.

When done, work on learning the "Emergency Broadcast System" skit. Work it so that your assistant will be the announcer. This skit is extremely easy to learn and it can be done in less than 5-8 minutes.

Check on the status of the parent meeting and if it is nearing the end, have the "den" rejoin their parents.

Once the parent portion concludes, have the youth share what we did at the den meeting and had them perform the skit they learned to the delight of all in attendance. Have the other parent share the level of effort put in to make the meeting fun and what they got out of it. Share that the meeting plans and activities are all done for them and all the parent committee and leadership need to do is select the "theme" for the month that corresponds to the adventures leading to rank advancement, and obtain the materials needed for the meeting.

Conduct the closing by talking about the Grand Howl as part of Cub Scout history and the closing Scout Benediction ("May the Great Master of all Scouts be with us until we meet again.").

Distribute the snacks and enjoy the after meeting meeting.

[4]

Once you've identified the parents who would assume the primary role of Committee Chair, Cubmaster, and Den Leader(s), work with the district executive to conduct a parent committee meeting to plan the pack calendar for the next 90-120 days using the council planning calendar with the themes based on the adventures for that month (see: <https://www.scouting.org/programs/cub-scouts/adventures/>) with the first month primarily being Bobcat, then going from there. Work with the Cubmaster and Den Leader(s) on how to use the Den (Pack) Meeting Plan worksheet using the one from our initial meeting as an example.

The current program permits combined dens in the case of not enough youth or adults to have individual dens at this early stage. It is described at: [https://www.scouting.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/03/Cub-Scout-Program-Updates-for-Scouting.org\\_.pdf](https://www.scouting.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/03/Cub-Scout-Program-Updates-for-Scouting.org_.pdf) on how to do this. This resource should be a handout at the parent/leader orientation meeting.

After these initial meetings, be available to assist the parent volunteers as required but do not run the den or pack meeting. You may need to attend the first few meetings stay in the background and provide helpful suggestions if needed (after the meeting) until the parents and leadership become familiar and more confident with the program. Many of the pack outdoor activities come from the district council calendars but packs may also follow the program with community service and other activities (e.g. visit the local fire and police stations, or visit local radio stations, pick up trash in the local community park, etc.)

One item that I would add to this given that we always have a shortage of New Unit Commissioners is that we might invite a parent(s) to be the a "New Member Coordinator" for the pack and "Pack Trainer" positions (see: <https://filestore.scouting.org/filestore/cubscouts/pdf/13-152.pdf>). The commissioner working with the unit would "Train the Trainer" using on-line training available and provide them with the "Training Umbrella" to assist the other leaders in completing their training in the 90–120-day window.

[5]

Ideally the Pack Trainer would be an experienced Cub Scout leader, but with the assistance of the commissioner, they should be able to track the unit leadership and report back to the commissioner on any issues or concerns. The two would work together to see that all pack leadership is fully trained in that period. We would expect them and the other pack leadership to attend roundtables to share what is working for their pack and show them that they are not alone in the pack startup stages. They would also work with the pack advancement and recognition chair to see that leaders are awarded knots at the appropriate time.

Down the road (perhaps 6 months to a year later, there would be an opportunity to invite them to join the commissioner corps along with the other pack trainers to form a New Unit Commissioner "Army" to "pay it forward", but that is a longer-term goal.