

WELCOME! NEW
ARROW
OF LIGHT
DEN LEADER



Welcome to your new adventure!

Your time volunteering in Cub Scouting will be rewarding and fun, and the information here will help you get off to the right start. With the proper training, resources, and enthusiasm, you have the ability to make a positive difference in the lives of Cub Scouts.

The Arrow of Light badge or rank is designed to prepare Cub Scouts to join a Scouts BSA troop.

A **den** is a small group of youth—an ideal size is eight, but you may have more or less. The ideal den is formed with Cub Scouts of the same school grade. Ideally, your Arrow of Light den is made up of only fifth graders who are preparing to join Scouts BSA.

As a den leader of a Arrow of Light den, you simply use den meeting resources found in the Arrow of Light handbook and on [scouting.org](https://www.scouting.org). Den meeting resources provide fun activities to do at meetings that meet requirements for Adventures.

Arrow of Light dens form Arrow of Light patrols as part of the Bobcat Adventure. Adult leaders are still den leaders and the Arrow of Light scouts are still formally a den. Patrols are used as a method in Scouts BSA.

Getting your Arrow of Light Scouts into a troop in January or February allows them to attend a couple of overnight or weekend campouts with the new troop and get accustomed to a troop setting; it also provides the opportunity to prepare financially for summer camp.

BEFORE THE FIRST MEETING

- 1. Register your position with the pack.** Fill out an adult application and attach your Youth Protection completion certificate. (See no. 2.) This form will register you with Scouting America and give Scouting America permission to initiate a background check for approving you as a leader. If you are already a registered leader in the pack, you still need to complete this step so your position can be approved by the pack committee and chartered organization representative.
- 2. Complete Youth Protection training and print the certificate of completion.** Youth Protection training, found online at [my.Scouting.org](https://www.my.scouting.org), will teach you Scouting America's policies for safely and appropriately interacting with youth. If you are already registered and have completed Youth Protection training within the past two years, you do not need to take the training again.
- 3. Complete the "Before Your First Meeting" online training modules for Den Leader training.** The online training, found at [my.Scouting.org](https://www.my.scouting.org), will begin building the foundation you need to become an effective and successful leader.



- 4. After your den leader application has been approved, log in to [Scoutbook.com](https://www.scoutbook.com) as Den Leader.** Use the same username and password as the [my.Scouting.org](https://www.my.scouting.org) account that you set up for training. Logging in to [Scoutbook.com](https://www.scoutbook.com) as Den Leader will give you access to the administrative tools you need to run the den, including recording advancement.
- 5. Become acquainted with your Cubmaster and the pack committee.** These leaders will see that you have the information and materials you need to prepare for and conduct den meetings and activities.
- 6. Wear the Cub Scout leader uniform.** The uniform is a method of the Scouting program. Wearing the uniform properly is important in setting a good example. You can purchase a uniform through a local Scout shop or through www.scoutshop.org.
- 7. Prepare for your first meeting.** Use the den meeting resources found in the Arrow of Light handbook. The QR codes in the handbook direct you to the resources to plan activities for your meetings.

WITHIN THE FIRST MONTH

- 1. Complete all of the online training modules for Den Leader training at [my.Scouting.org](https://www.my.scouting.org).**
- 2. Get acquainted with the families in your den.** Hold a family orientation meeting that outlines the structure of den meetings and den outings, the time and location for meetings, and your den's role during the monthly pack meetings. It may not be required for parents to attend with their Scouts; but a wise den leader will continue to have parents participate and assist with den meetings and activities.
- 3. Get acquainted with the children in your den.** Establish a den code of conduct so that everyone will know what you expect of them. See the den leader guide for details.
- 4. Ask your Cubmaster to help you secure a den chief.** This den helper is a Scout from a troop, a Venturer, or a Sea Scout, who will set a good example for your Cub Scouts. A den chief may serve either an all-boy den or an all-girl den regardless of their gender. Give your den chief meaningful responsibilities right away.

5. **Attend the monthly pack committee meetings held by your pack committee chair.** These meetings, led by the pack committee chair, are where pack plans are made.
6. **Attend the monthly pack meeting with the members of your den and their families.** In this meeting, Cub Scouts are recognized for the adventures they have completed since the last meeting. They may be asked to participate by performing flag ceremonies, displaying projects completed with your den, or acting out skits or run-ons.
7. **Stay informed.** Attend monthly Roundtable meetings; they might be conducted in person or virtually where you live. There are national Cub Scout Roundtable videos at www.scouting.org/commissioners/roundtable-support/roundtable-planning-resources/. And tune into *Scouting* magazine's weekly [Cub Chat Live!](#) weekly.
8. **Get to know your local troops and Scoutmasters.** By attending roundtables, you will quickly learn about the troops in your community. The chartered organization for your pack may have a troop, which is the preferred transition, but it may not have one. If not, this may provide an opportunity to start one with the families in your den. It only takes five Scouts to start a troop, so a den of five or more fifth grade Arrow of Light Scouts can form a new troop. Individuals select the troops they join and, in some cases, not all members of your den may join the same troop. Even if you have Scouts join a different troop, keep in touch with their parents to ensure they are enjoying their troop.

Don't hesitate to ask for help. There are many people who want to help you provide the finest possible Cub Scout experience for the families in your den. As a Cub Scout leader, you also have access to the online [Scouting magazine](#), which includes information to assist you as a leader. A good source of information is www.scouting.org/programs/cub-scouts/. By the time you have completed the steps outlined here, you will be well on your way to becoming a successful den leader.

YOU, THE DEN LEADER

You were selected as a den leader and approved by the pack committee because of your abilities and character. By making the commitment to serve as a den leader, you have accepted the following responsibilities:

- Plan, prepare for, and conduct den meetings with the assistant den leader and den chief.
- Attend the pack leaders' meetings.
- Make contact with a Scouts BSA troop to visit as soon as possible. This is a requirement for the Bobcat Adventure.
- Ensure Cub Scouts earn their Arrow of Light badge or rank and cross over into a Scouts BSA troop.

- Help train and guide the den chief in working with Cub Scouts and see that they receive recognition for their efforts at den and pack meetings.
- Provide meaningful responsibilities for the Arrow of Light patrol leader so that they can learn responsibility and gain satisfaction from their efforts.
- Plan and conduct, along with the Scoutmaster and assistant Scoutmaster, meaningful joint activities.
- Plan and carry out overnight campouts and other outdoor activities.

Assistant Cub Scout Den Leaders

The assistant den leaders share the responsibilities of the Cub Scout den leader and may assist with record keeping such as tracking advancement or handling other details of den operation. Each den should have at least one assistant den leader and more if needed.

Assistant den leaders must be 21 years of age or older, which helps ensure that there are two registered adult leaders who are 21 years of age or older at every meeting or activity. Additional assistant den leaders may be recruited to provide additional support as needed.

THE CUB SCOUT DEN MEETING

Den meetings are often twice a month, but the frequency is up to the den leader and the families in the den. The meeting day, time, and location are set by the den leader and should be the same day of the week to prevent confusion. Den meetings last approximately one hour. Leadership responsibilities are shared by the den leader, assistant den leader, den chief, and Arrow of Light patrol leader.

The den meeting program includes the following parts:

1. **Before the Meeting.** The den leader, assistant den leader, and den chief make final preparations, while the Arrow of Light patrol leader helps set up the meeting place.
2. **Gathering.** As Cub Scouts arrive, they join in a game or activity with help from the den chief or Arrow of Light patrol leader. The den leader and assistant den leader collect dues, take attendance, and check on completion of requirements.
3. **Opening.** The den participates in a simple opening ceremony that includes the Scout Oath, Scout Law, and the Pledge of Allegiance.
4. **Activities.** Cub Scouts do activities related to the completion of the den's current Adventure.
5. **Closing.** The den leader gives reminders and shares a closing thought, and the den holds a brief inspirational closing ceremony.
6. **After the Meeting.** The den leader, assistant den leader, and den chief discuss plans for next week's meeting, while the Arrow of Light patrol leader leads the other Cub Scouts to put the room back in order.

THE CUB SCOUT UNIFORM

The uniform is a method of the Cub Scouting program. It identifies youth and adults as part of a team and provides a sense of belonging to the den, the pack, and Scouting America. It also instills a sense of pride as the uniform is where awards and achievements are displayed. Most Cub Scout-age children love wearing their Cub Scout uniform. Uniforms should be worn to all den meetings, pack meetings, and special pack activities.

The Cub Scout uniform for Arrow of Light Scouts is preparing them for joining a troop. Arrow of Light Scouts wear the tan Scouts BSA uniform shirt, green shorts, pants or skorts, Scout belt, blue shoulder loops on their epaulettes and green Scout socks.

The Adventure colors, with their three colored ribbons, are devices upon which the Arrow of Light Adventure pins earned by the Arrow of Light Scouts may be displayed. If they do not use the Adventure colors, then they may display their Adventure pins on their cap.

WHAT DO YOU INVEST IN CUB SCOUTING?

- One meeting each week for either a den meeting, pack meeting, or pack committee meeting.
- One meeting each month for the Cub Scout roundtable.
- Time spent in reviewing den meeting plans in the den leader guide and gathering materials.
- Time spent communicating with families in your den.
- Time spent in Cub Scout leader training.
- Cost of the Cub Scout leader uniform.
- Time spent preparing for den meetings.
- Registration fee.

This adds up to a small investment, compared to the dividends you will receive. And, of course, the more you invest, the more you and your Cub Scout can expect to receive in return.

WHAT DO YOU RECEIVE IN RETURN?

- The opportunity to create the foundation for a strong lifelong bond with your child.
- Make new friends with families in your community.
- A monthly gathering of fun and fellowship with pack families, sharing their pride in their child's accomplishments.
- The opportunity to meet your child's peers and their parents to enable your child to form healthy friendships.
- A sense of pride as you watch the Cub Scouts receive recognition for their accomplishments.
- An opportunity to share your ideas and experiences with other adults who share your interest in and concern for youth.
- Watching Cub Scouts grow and mature as they strive to live up to the Scout Oath and Scout Law.
- The opportunity to help youth learn good citizenship and shape them into young adults who have strength of character and are sensitive to the needs of others.
- The satisfaction of being a member of a worldwide organization and pride in being publicly identified as a part of this organization by wearing the uniform, which is a visible means of showing that you believe in and stand for its ideals and objectives.

You will discover many other dividends that will enrich your life as you dedicate your time, talent, and enthusiasm to Cub Scouting.

All leaders bring to Cub Scouting their own talents, skills, backgrounds, and interests. Your key to becoming an effective leader is to use your own abilities and interests, along with what you learn about Cub Scouting, to plan and conduct the best possible program for the families in your den. What happens in the life of each child during the formative years will determine to a great extent the kind of adult they will become. What a tremendous opportunity and challenge for you, the den leader!

