



Cub Scouts Parents' Guide



It starts with Scouts.

Thank you for searching for more information on the Cub Scouts program. Cub Scouting offers an exciting variety of creative activities to spark any Cub Scouts imagination. It also promotes wholesome personal development.

Scouts Canada believes that children learn by doing. Cub Scout activities encourage children to discover and understand their world through play and adventure. Briefly, let's talk about how you and Scouting can work together to help your child do his (or her) best.

SCOUTS CANADA AND YOUR CHILD

Scouts Canada is the largest youth educational organization in Canada. With a quarter of a million members across the country, we also form part of the world-wide Scouting Movement which includes over 16 million members in 150 countries.

Scouting runs youth programs specifically designed for each age grouping: **Beaver Scouts** (5–7 years old), **Cub Scouts** (8–10 years old), **Scouts** (11–14 years old), **Venturer Scouts** (15–17 years old) and **Rover Scouts** (18–26 years old).

To understand how Cub Scouts can meet your child's needs, let's look at what makes Scouting special.

SCOUTS CANADA PRINCIPLES

Scouting is based on three broad principles which represent its fundamental beliefs.

Duty to God:

This is defined as:

“Adherence to spiritual principles, loyalty to the religion that expresses them and acceptance of the duties resulting therefrom.”

Duty to Others:

This is defined as: “Loyalty to one's country in harmony with the promotion of local, national and international peace, understanding and cooperation”, and “Participation in the development of society, with recognition and respect for the dignity of one's fellow being and for the integrity of the natural world.”

Duty to Self:

This is defined as:

“Responsibility for the development of oneself.”

This is in harmony with the educational purpose of the Scout Movement whose aim is to assist young people in the full development of their potentials.

Scouting's core philosophy and values are expressed by the principles. These form a “code of ethics” for how Scouting expects all members to conduct themselves while participating in activities. The Cub Scouts Promise, Law and Motto are age-appropriate versions of Scouting's principles.

CUB SCOUT PROMISE, LAW AND MOTTO

Cub Scout Promise

*I promise to do my best
To love and serve God, to do my duty to the Queen;
To keep the law of the Wolf Cub pack,
And to do a good turn for somebody every day.*

Cub Scout Law

- (i) The Cub Scout respects the Old Wolf*,
- (ii) The Cub Scout respects himself.

* (an “Old Wolf” refers to a leader or any respected adult)

Cub Scout Motto:

Do Your Best

SCOUTS CANADA MISSION

Scouting's principles are put into action and focus through our mission statement.

Scouting's mission is:

“To help develop well rounded youth, better prepared for success in the world.”

Scouting's mission seeks to help develop the whole child. While some children may excel in school or when playing sports, to fit into society a person must be wellrounded mentally, physically, socially and spiritually to the best of their ability.

CUB SCOUT PROGRAM GOALS

In order to fulfil Scouting's principles and mission, the Cub Scout program is geared specifically to meet the developmental needs of most 8-10 year olds. The program emphasizes activities which encourage Cub Scouts to:

- express and respond to God's love in their daily lives
- do their best
- keep fit
- satisfy their curiosity, and need for adventure and new experiences
- be creative and develop a sense of accomplishment
- make choices
- develop a sense of fair play, trust and caring
- work together in small groups, and experience being a leader
- participate in outdoor activities
- learn about the natural world and their part in it.

In Cub Scouts, "Do Your Best" nicely sums up the approach to activities described in this book. Cub Scouts need adult support and approval as they play, learn and discover. Children need this for building self-esteem and self-confidence. It is critical for them to feel a sense of accomplishment for what they did, rather than being taught that only winning counts. Scouting believes that Cub Scouts who "do their best" in any activity deserve equal recognition and praise.

HOW PACKS ARE ORGANIZED

The Cub Scouts theme is based on Rudyard Kipling's *The Jungle Book*. It provides a sense of outdoor adventure and fantasy that appeals to a Cub Scout's imaginative mind. The "pack" refers to all members in your child's Cub Scout program. Within the pack, Cub Scouts are broken into small groups called "sixes". A Cub Scout who is asked to lead a "six" is called a "sixer". The Sixer has an assistant called a "second". Cub Scouts usually rotate through these early leadership jobs based on age and experience.

The primary adult leader of the pack is referred to as "Akela" — the name of the old wolf and leader of the pack in *The Jungle Book*. Other leaders take a "jungle name" such as Baloo (the bear), or Bagheera (the panther). Your pack may also have a "Kim" — a Scout

who works with the Cub Scouts. Kim is another Kipling character. Older Cub Scouts are sometimes invited to work with a Beaver Scout colony. Each Cub Scout helper working in a colony is called "Keeo", after a character in the Beaver Scout book *Friends of the Forest*.

The leaders in your Cub Scout's pack are supported by a group committee. The committee is responsible for ensuring the programs offered meet Scouts Canada's guidelines and that the pack has enough resources to operate effectively. The group committee represents a sponsor which is the overall partner with Scouts Canada. Sponsors are typically community centres, clubs, religious institutions or parent groups. The sponsor works closely with Scouts Canada to ensure Scouting programs and resources are meeting the needs of all its youth and adult members.

After learning a bit about Cub Scouts, your child will be ready to become "invested", or formally welcomed, into the pack. You will be invited to attend the "investiture ceremony" to help welcome your child into the Cub Scout pack.

YOUR ROLE IN CUB SCOUTING

Scouting is a family-based organization. Activities we offer, plus the values and skills we provide, are aimed at supporting your efforts to teach your child what is needed to become a well-rounded person. Your personal involvement is important to help reinforce the lessons your Cub Scout learns. Here are some suggestions to help you become involved:

- Sit down with your child and look through the Cub Scout book together. What activities do you find interesting or appealing? How could you work on these activities as a family?
- Find out what activities leaders plan to run in your child's pack. Most leaders set aside time at the first meeting to ask Cub Scouts what they would like to do. They draw up program plans from the children's input.
- Get to know leaders by their real names. Too often parents only know leaders by their "jungle" names. Leaders are truly interested in your child's welfare. Tell them what your child likes to do. This will help them plan fun activities.

- If your Cub Scout is interested in working on an activity outside of the meeting, or you want to make it a family project, talk over your plans with the leaders. They can provide useful tips and tell you how well it fits into the weekly programs.
- Your talents, hobbies and interests are great program assets worth sharing with children. Find out how you can become a resource for the pack's programs. This will let you spend valuable time with your child and share experience. Cub Scouts really enjoy showing off for an adult family member who attends a meeting. This sense of pride helps strengthen adult-child relations. When your child joins Cub Scouts, you become part of the pack's support team.
- Become a leader. Scouts Canada offers up-to-date training and resource materials. Leadership is fun and exciting. You will be with your Cub Scout during a special time and see him (or her) develop and grow before your eyes. As well, the friendship and camaraderie you'll share with other parents can lead to lasting relationships and memories.

HELPING CUB SCOUTS STAY SAFE AND HEALTHY

A child's health and safety are the most important issues facing any parent. The world is quickly changing and the stress on today's Cub Scout is growing daily. The Cub Scouts program has specific activities which help a child explore important social issues, such as alcohol and drug abuse, smoking and personal safety. Take the opportunity to discuss these issues openly. It is a perfect chance to share your insights, values and experience with your child.

The Cub Scout Book will introduce your child participation within six activity areas. While your Cub Scout will only see the fun and excitement the activities present, each area focuses on a clear purpose and goal.

The purpose and goals for each activity area set out how the activities are relevant to today's child while meeting developmental needs.

THE NATURAL WORLD ACTIVITY AREA

Purpose:

To create a feeling of care and concern for the natural world and an interest in nature study.

Goals:

- To provide practical environmental activities that explore the wonders of nature.
- To develop an understanding that all life requires food, water, shelter and space.
- To explore and develop an understanding of the positive and negative impacts people have on the environment.
- To give direct ideas on how to help the environment in everyday situations.

THE OUTDOOR ACTIVITY AREA

Purpose:

To provide opportunities for Cub Scouts to develop self-confidence and early leadership skills through the introduction of basic camping and other outdoor pursuits.

Goals:

- To instruct Cub Scouts on how to enjoy the outdoors safely.
- To introduce Cub Scouts to various outdoor pursuits through age-appropriate activities based on simple skill learning and fun.

THE CREATIVE EXPRESSION ACTIVITY AREA

Purpose:

To encourage Cub Scouts to creatively explore and express themselves through activities which utilize imagination and innovation.

Goals:

- To develop a creative outlet for child interests through the use of music, arts, and crafts in the Cub Scout program.
- To enhance Cub Scout awareness of how modern technology can be used for creative expression.
- To stimulate and foster Cub Scout literacy through activities which promote, or require, reading skills.
- To provide opportunities for Cub Scouts to pursue a project from start to finish, thereby producing a sense of accomplishment.

THE HEALTH AND FITNESS ACTIVITY AREA

Purpose:

To encourage Cub Scouts to lead active and healthy lives and to have a positive image of themselves.

Goals:

- To encourage Cub Scouts to have healthy lifestyle attitudes through developing active living habits.
- To promote the positive benefits of being involved in physical activities.
- To educate Cub Scouts about health risks associated with tobacco products.
- To educate Cub Scouts about health risks associated with drug and alcohol abuse.
- To encourage the practice of good hygiene habits for maintaining personal health and promoting self-reliance.

THE HOME AND COMMUNITY ACTIVITY AREA

Purpose:

To create in a Cub Scout a positive feeling of family and community responsibility, as well as personal self-reliance through opportunities to develop home care skills and knowledge about various community services.

Goals:

- To provide support to the Cub Scout's family by teaching skills related to home care,

- To explore and appreciate the challenges facing disabled people in the community.
- To explore what services are needed to support a community, and how a person would access these services if required.

CANADA AND THE WORLD ACTIVITY AREA

Purpose:

To provide opportunities for Cub Scouts to better understand how to actively participate in Canadian society and the world we live in.

Goals:

- To learn about and appreciate Canadian society through active participation in community service projects.
- To discover and learn about their own faith and the various world religions.
- To participate in programs which highlight people and their cultures that make up Canada and the world.
- To demonstrate the inter-relationships Canadians have with people in other countries.

CUB SCOUTS UNIFORM

