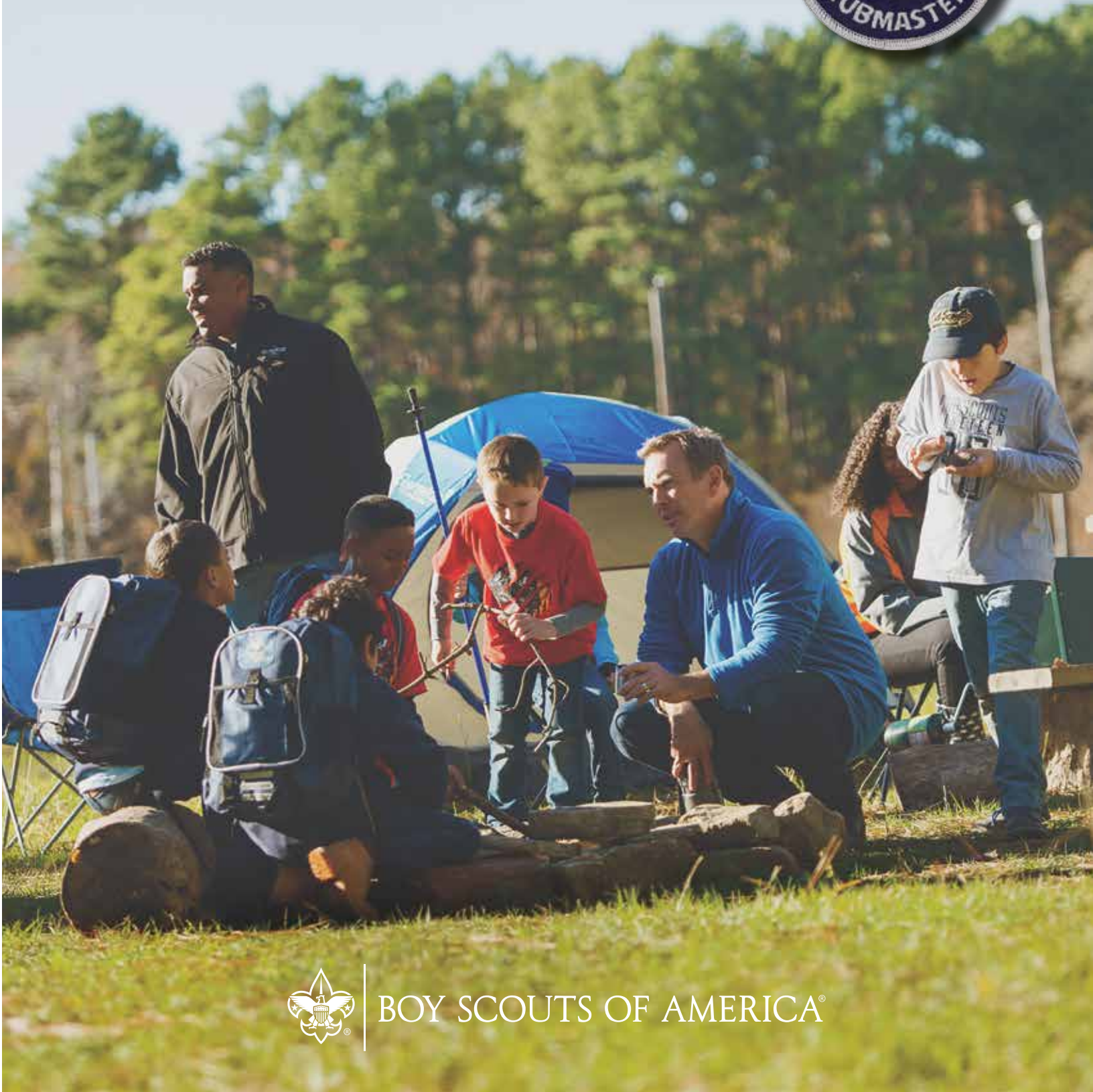


C U B  S C O U T S

# So You're a New Cubmaster



BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA®

## Welcome to your new adventure!

With the proper training, resources, and excitement, you have the ability to make a positive difference in the life of the Cub Scouts you will work with.

The steps below will get you started.



## BEFORE THE FIRST MEETING

- 1. Register as a Cub Scout Leader.** Fill out the Boy Scouts of America (BSA) adult application, and attach your Youth Protection completion certificate. (See no. 2.) This form will register you with the BSA and give the BSA permission to initiate a background check for approving you as a leader.
- 2. Complete Youth Protection training and print the certificate of completion.** Youth Protection training, found online at [my.Scouting.org](http://my.Scouting.org), will teach you the BSA's policies for safely and appropriately interacting with youth.
- 3. Attend leader position-specific training in person or complete the online learning plans for the training "Before the First Meeting."** The online training, found at [my.Scouting.org](http://my.Scouting.org), will begin building the foundation you need to become an effective and successful leader.
- 4. Obtain a copy of the *Cub Scout Leader Book*.** This resource will describe your role as a Cubmaster and will give you more information about the following steps. Your pack may have a pack library or another leader may let you borrow a copy of this resource to allow you to get started right away.
- 5. Become acquainted with the other leaders in your pack.** You will need their assistance in carrying out a successful pack program. You will work closely with the pack committee chair and pack trainer.
- 6. Become acquainted with your unit commissioner.** The commissioner is a friend to your pack and will be glad to answer questions and help in other ways to make your pack program successful. (See the *Cub Scout Leader Book*.)
- 7. Become acquainted with your unit-serving executive.** This professional Scouter is employed by the council to serve all Scouting units in your district and will do everything possible to help you be successful.
- 8. Obtain and begin wearing the Cub Scout leader uniform as soon as possible.** The uniform is comfortable and suitable for all Cub Scout meetings and activities. Wearing the uniform properly is important in setting a good example for the boys. You can purchase a uniform through a local Scout shop or through [www.scoutstuff.org](http://www.scoutstuff.org). Male leaders wear a tan BSA shirt with olive green pants. Female Cub Scout leaders

have the option of wearing the tan BSA shirt with olive green pants or the yellow Cub Scout shirt with blue pants. Your unit commissioner or unit-serving executive can give you more information about where to obtain the uniform and insignia.

- 9. Plan your first pack meeting.** Download the pack meeting plans from [www.scouting.org/programupdates](http://www.scouting.org/programupdates). You can follow the plan for the monthly theme. This is much easier with the help of the pack committee and the pack trainer. The key to success is "KISMIF" (Keep It Simple, Make It Fun).

## WITHIN THE FIRST MONTH

- 1. Attend leader position-specific training in person, or complete the online learning plans for the training "Within the First 30 Days" and "Position Trained."** Once you have attended leader position-specific training in person or have completed all online training at [my.Scouting.org](http://my.Scouting.org), you are considered trained and eligible to wear the Trained patch. Remember, every boy deserves a trained and qualified leader.
- 2. Attend the monthly pack planning meetings held by your pack leadership.** You will assist the pack committee chair with these meetings, which are where pack plans are made.
- 3. Attend the monthly district Cub Scout leaders' roundtable.** You will receive many good program ideas based on the point of the Scout Law for that month and become acquainted with Cubmasters from other packs. They will share ideas and experiences with you. Your unit commissioner or unit-serving executive can tell you when and where the roundtable meets.
- 4. As soon as possible, establish a working relationship with a neighborhood Boy Scout troop and Scoutmaster.** You will need their help in obtaining den chiefs (older Boy Scouts or Venturers) and graduating Webelos Scouts into Boy Scouts.

**Don't hesitate to ask for help.** There are many people who want to help you provide the finest possible Cub Scouting experience for the boys in your pack. By the time you have completed these steps, you will be well on your way to becoming a successful Cubmaster. As a registered Cub Scout leader you will also receive *Scouting* magazine, which includes information to assist you as a leader.

## YOU, THE CUBMASTER

You were selected as a Cubmaster and approved by the pack committee because of your interest in helping boys. It is your pack's responsibility to coordinate the efforts of all the leaders in the pack so that the Cub Scouting program works the way it should. By making the commitment to serve as a Cubmaster, you have accepted the following responsibilities:

- Attend monthly roundtables.
- Plan and help carry out the Cub Scouting program in the pack according to the policies of the BSA.
- With the pack committee, develop and execute a year-round recruitment plan for recruiting boys into Cub Scouting.
- Know about and use the appropriate and available literature, including the den leader guides and this resource.
- See that the pack program, leaders, and Cub Scouts positively reflect the interests and objectives of the chartered organization and the BSA.
- Work with the pack committee on developing program ideas, selecting and recruiting adult leaders, and establishing a budget plan.
- Guide and support den leaders, and see that they receive the required training for their positions.
- Help organize and encourage graduation into a Boy Scout troop by establishing and maintaining good relationships with Boy Scout troops.
- Meet with the unit commissioner, Webelos den leader, and Scoutmaster to establish plans for the Webelos Scouts' transition to Boy Scouting.
- Help bring families together at joint activities for Webelos dens (or packs) and Boy Scout troops.
- Maintain good relationships with parents and guardians. Seek their support and include them in activities.

- See that Cub Scouts receive a quality, year-round program filled with fun and activities that qualify the dens and pack for the National Summertime Pack Award.
- See that the responsibilities specified for the assistant Cubmaster are carried out.
- Help the pack committee chair conduct the annual pack program planning conference and the monthly pack leaders' meetings.
- Work as a team with the pack committee chair to cultivate, educate, and motivate all pack leaders and parents or guardians in Cub Scouting.
- Take part in the charter review meeting and annual charter presentation ceremony.
- Request den chiefs for all Cub Scout dens and, after selection, see that they are trained.
- Recognize the den chiefs at pack meetings.
- Conduct impressive advancement, recognition, and graduation ceremonies. For Webelos ceremonies, involve Scoutmasters and other Boy Scout leaders.
- Encourage high advancement standards from all Cub Scouts.
- Support the policies of the BSA.

Your unit commissioner will be glad to explain any of these responsibilities that you do not understand.

## THE PACK MEETING

Pack meetings are usually held in a location provided by the chartered organization, once a month, in the evening. The meeting day and time are set by the pack committee and should be the same each month to prevent confusion. Pack meetings are led by the Cubmaster and last approximately one hour. All dens and their families attend the pack meeting.

The pack meeting program includes the following:

1. **The Gathering Period.** Families are welcomed as they arrive. They view den displays and participate in a pre-opening activity such as a game or stunt.
2. **Main Part of the Meeting.** Dens sit together. One den usually leads the opening ceremony, which can be a pledge to the flag, a song, or some other activity in which everyone takes part. There are games, den stunts or skits, demonstrations, recognition ceremonies, and songs, with families participating.
3. **Closing.** Make announcements and reminders about upcoming pack activities and business, and hold a closing ceremony that is short and inspirational.





## WHAT DO YOU RECEIVE IN RETURN?

- An evening each month of fun and fellowship with pack families, sharing their pride in their sons' accomplishments
- The privilege of helping to enrich and strengthen families
- An opportunity to share your ideas and experiences with other adults and put your talents into action at pack meetings
- A growing admiration for boys and their growing respect for you as their leader and friend
- A chance to help boys learn good citizenship and help shape them into men with strength of character who are sensitive to the needs of others
- The opportunity to make a difference in the lives of boys as they grow strong in mind and body
- A code to live by that will set a worthwhile example for boys and adults as you do your duty to God and our country
- 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 and skills, their own 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 boys. What happens in the life of each boy during the formative years will determine to a great extent the kind of man he will become. What a tremendous opportunity and challenge for you, the Cubmaster!

The Cubmaster ensures that there is a pack meeting (or special pack activity) every month that is enjoyed by Cub Scouting families and provides an opportunity for recognition for the boys' accomplishments.

Other common pack activities include a blue and gold banquet in February, pinewood derby and space derby, physical fitness competitions, and bicycle safety programs. Your unit commissioner can give you information about these activities.

## WHAT DO YOU INVEST IN CUB SCOUTING?

- One evening each month for the pack meeting
- One evening each month for the pack leaders' planning meeting
- One evening each month for the Cub Scout roundtable
- Time spent in Cub Scout leader basic training
- Cost of the Cub Scout leader uniform
- The 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 can expect to receive in return.

