



BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA®

NORTH FLORIDA COUNCIL

New Leader Welcome Guide

THANK YOU for agreeing to serve as a leader with the Boy Scouts of America!



Your enthusiasm to selflessly serve others by dedicating time to lead fun experiences for young people is to be commended! We appreciate your willingness to spend time in training, learning the skills needed to excel at your position for the benefit of youth and other leaders around you.

This guide is designed to give you a quick and handy reference to get you up to speed on how to be most effective in your volunteer position – and where to turn when you have questions.

THE TOP 5

1. PURPOSE: Scouting is designed to be a FUN, FAMILY activity. A great question to ask on a regular basis: *what are we doing to engage our youth members and get them excited about Scouting?* The mission of the Boy Scouts of America is to prepare young people to make ethical and moral choices over their lifetimes by instilling in them the values of the Scout Oath and Law.

2. STEPS TO SCOUTING SUCCESS:

- ***Families have the best experience*** when they become involved and contribute in a substantial way in their Den or Pack. For best success, give them a specific task to assist with.
- ***Want to provide input?*** Join the Committee to help brainstorm activities and adventures that all Pack members will be able to enjoy together.
- ***Attend Roundtable***, a monthly meeting, where you'll have the opportunity to network with fellow volunteers from nearby units and learn additional program ideas and more about upcoming events. Roundtable is held the 1st Thursday of each month at 7pm.

- 3. TRAINING and SAFETY:** Make sure you complete a volunteer application with your newly-registered position and submit it to your Cubmaster or Committee Chair. You will also want to complete the training outlined below for your position; all trainings are available online at <http://my.scouting.org>.

Unit Type	Position	Required Courses to be Position Trained
Pack	Cubmaster Assistant Cubmaster	Safeguarding Youth Cubmaster Specifics Hazardous Weather
	Pack Committee Chair Pack Committee	Safeguarding Youth Pack Committee Specifics Hazardous Weather
	Den Leader	Safeguarding Youth Den Leader Specifics Hazardous Weather

Have a question as to whether your Scouts can participate in a certain activity? Check out the Age Appropriate Activities matrix. Additionally, the Guide to Safe Scouting has all your answers to any safety-related questions.



Age Appropriate
Activities



Guide to Safe
Scouting



4. Fund the Adventure in 2 Ways:

- The **Fall Popcorn Sale** raises funds for badges, uniforms, activities and camps.
- The **Spring Camp Card Sale** provides a pathway to earn FREE summer camp experiences.
- Scouts can sell at storefronts (*with permission*), to neighbors, co-workers, family & friends!
- **Ask your unit leader about these opportunities so the families in your Den can fully-fund a fun-filled Scouting year with nothing out of pocket!**



5. All About Den Meetings

What's A Den Meeting?

Dens typically meet 2-3 times per month, with activities lasting an hour or less. They are filled with hands-on, fun, age-specific activities for families of children in the same grade level. This is where Cub Scouts build friendships, work together to learn new things, and progress towards earning their common badge of rank. Serving as a Den Leader is providing an opportunity to make a positive life-long impact on your child and others in the Den.

Preparing for a Den Meeting

The Bobcat Adventure is designed to be done as your first required Adventure. It will teach families the basics of the Cub Scout program.

To prepare for den meetings, simply identify a Cub Scout Adventure within your child's grade-specific handbook that you want to complete. Use the QR code below to navigate to your child's rank and chosen adventure to find all the associated resources needed to complete the activity! You can also find many activities ideas from other leaders by searching online for the Adventure your families are preparing to work on.



*Den Leader
Resources*

After the Meeting

- Review with any other adults who helped with the meeting how the activity went and take note of any areas of improvement that can be applied to future activities.
- If the requirements for an Adventure are completed, make a plan to recognize each Cub Scout at the next meeting
- Make sure families who helped you with the meeting feel appreciated. A nice comment or text after the meeting will insure their continued engagement and support.
- Record – The Den Leader records any completed requirements in Scoutbook.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES:

- **North Florida Council** – www.nfcscouting.org has a calendar of District and Council events
- **North Florida Council on Facebook** – www.facebook.com/bsanfc
- **Volunteer Portal** – <http://my.scouting.org> has information regarding membership, training and other useful tools
- **Scoutbook** – <https://scoutbook.scouting.org> is the parent and leader portal to view your Scout's progress thru the program and any upcoming activities within your Den or Pack.
- **Forms** – use the QR code below to find commonly-used forms, such as the Annual Health and Medical Record and Financial Assistance for registrations, uniforms and activities.



*Commonly
Used Forms*