

Program Planning

A leader's prime objective is to deliver high-quality Cub Scouting. A well-rounded, year-long program will meet the needs and desires of each boy—the sports-minded boy, the outdoorsman, the arts enthusiast, or the avid reader.

Planning provides direction for the program, a sense of satisfaction for those participating, and a feeling of accomplishment in seeing boys grow in knowledge, skills, and expanded interests. Planning also helps make the best use of the time and resources available.

NINE ELEMENTS OF PLANNING

When planning the Cub Scouting program, include the following elements:

- 1. Objective.** Program activities should meet the purposes of Cub Scouting and provide opportunities for physical, spiritual, mental/ emotional, and social growth.
- 2. Fun.** Cub Scouting must be fun, not only for the boys, but for the whole family. If the program is fun, boys will continue to attend.
- 3. Variety.** A variety of activities is used to achieve the purposes of Cub Scouting. Include games, crafts, skits, songs, stunts, ceremonies, trips, and outdoor activities for a well-rounded program.
- 4. Action.** Activities that require action and participation help boys enjoy the experience. Boys need to do, not just watch. Action does not necessarily mean running around (although boys love to do so). It means being engaged in an activity versus passively receiving information.
- 5. Boy Appeal.** Plan activities that are appropriate for Cub Scout-age boys, such as those that include action, experimenting, mystery, and excitement.
- 6. Family Appeal.** Cub Scouting is a family program, with families working and playing together. Activities should help strengthen and enrich families.
- 7. Achievement.** Boys need recognition so that they will feel a sense of achievement while they are having fun.
- 8. Resources.** Make good use of all people, facilities, materials, and equipment available. Use the talents and skills of leaders, families, boys, and neighborhood friends.
- 9. Flexibility.** Have a backup plan for unexpected changes or surprises. Be prepared to change the program for special circumstances that affect the local community or area.

PROGRAM PLANNING STEPS

Planning a Cub Scout program can seem daunting at first, but don't be intimidated. By working as a team and breaking planning down into steps, leaders can create a great program for Cub Scouts.

Cub Scout program planning involves two main steps:

1. Conducting an annual pack program planning conference
2. Conducting monthly pack leaders' planning meetings

Annual Pack Program Planning Conference

The annual pack program planning conference brings together all pack leaders to establish the year's program. The pack committee chair and Cubmaster are jointly responsible, and the pack committee chair conducts the meeting. All den and pack leaders, den chiefs, and interested parents or guardians attend. The unit commissioner also should be invited.

Assuming the program year begins in September, the annual pack program planning conference should be scheduled for July or August, allowing leaders time to gather ideas and resources and families time to incorporate Cub Scouting activities into their schedules.

