



BUILDING PARENT AND FAMILY PARTICIPATION

TO: THE NEW CUB SCOUT FAMILY

You are reading this because you have shown an interest in becoming a Cub Scout or Tiger Cub Scout family. To be a Tiger Cub, your boy needs to be in first grade. To be a Cub Scout, he needs to be in second through fifth grade.

You have chosen Cub Scouting because you know it is home and neighborhood centered. You know that Cub Scouting is designed to support family life. The program also helps to meet your boy's growth needs, such as:

1. **Learning new physical skills:** He can do this through sports, games, woodworking and other crafts. As he develops his coordination, he gains a sense of worthiness and acceptance by his peers.
2. **Learning to get along with boys of his same age:** He needs to form friendships with other boys, and to learn how to balance giving and receiving affection if he is to relate well to his peers. He needs to belong to a group of boys his own age.
3. **Developing his mental processes:** He will begin to develop these by reading, writing and calculating. He needs opportunities to use language, to express ideas and to influence others. He must move from a preoccupation with self to an understanding of how and what others think of him. Opportunities for observation and experimentation will help him learn to rely on himself more than on adults.
4. **Developing a conscience:** He must begin to develop a sense of what is right and wrong and what is fair and unfair. He will do this by cooperating with other boys, by being taught, by examples of adults and from positive reinforcement, through which he will begin to develop democratic social attitudes.
5. **Developing personal independence:** He needs to be less dependent on adults. His same-age buddies will become his models and he will learn to see adults as not being perfect, while still providing guidance.

These are the developmental tasks on which a boy of this age needs to begin working. At this time, his behavior may be changing. He may become unruly or question your authority. He may show hostility to girls. What he needs is a "gang" of boys of his own age to which to belong and this is exactly where Cub Scouting comes in. A Den is like a neighborhood gang of 6 to 8 boys, in which he will obtain status and recognition.

As you learn more about how Cub Scouting works and what goes on in a den and a pack, you will see that the program helps your boy in these five important developmental needs. **The uniqueness of Cub Scouting is that you, as his family, join the program with him.** You will help him along the way.

To find out how you can help your boy by becoming a Cub Scout family, please turn the page and fill in the Parent and Family Talent Survey Form and return it to your Cubmaster or Membership Coordinator.