



# **2025 National Capital Area Council University of Scouting - College of Cub Scouting**

**CUB 102: Lions and Tigers, Oh My! – An  
Orientation for Den Leaders  
and Adult Partners**

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## CUB102: Lion and Tiger Leader Orientation

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## META DATA on the Course (FAST)

- **Hi! I'm Mike.**
  - Former Cubmaster, Lion guide, Den Leader at each level
  - Nova/Supernova Facilitator for all levels.
- **Method of Training**
  - Vince Lombardi (Famous Sportsball coach)
  - Fundamentals with repetition method
  - Famous for teaching NFL players "This is a football" annually
  - Not only evident in my briefing, but also in the scouting program

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## The Goals of Scouting

### BSA Mission Statement:

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.

### BSA Vision Statement

To prepare every eligible youth in America to become a responsible, participating citizen and leader who is guided by the Scout Oath and

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## The Goals of Scouting

### BSA Aims:

Character Development  
Citizenship  
Personal Fitness  
Outdoor Skills/Awareness  
Leadership Development

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## The Goals of Scouting (Values)

### Scout Oath

On my honor, I will do my best to do my duty to God and my country, and to obey the Scout Law; to help other people at all times; to keep myself physically strong, mentally awake, and morally straight.

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## The Goals of Scouting (Values)

### Scout Law

A Scout is Trustworthy, Loyal, Helpful,  
Friendly, Courteous, Kind,  
Obedient, Cheerful, Thrifty,  
Brave, Clean, and Reverent.

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## Audience: Lion and Tiger Scouts Why Start so young?

- Character Building – Habituation of Virtues, Development of Character is Best Started at Young Age.
- Performance + Longevity – Committing to Scouting as a Young Person Increases Retention and Improves Advancement.



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## Audience: Lion and Tiger Scouts Why Start so young?

- Behavior – Socialization at Early Age has Many Benefits Inside and Outside of Scouting.
- Growth – Lion/Tiger Program is Foundational for the Rest of Cub Scouting.



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## Who are the Lions and Tigers

### Youngest/Entry-Level Ranks in Scouting

1. World Larger Than the Home is New.
2. Interaction, Cooperation with Peers is New.
3. Concern for Others is New.
4. Short Attention Spans
5. Want to Have FUN!



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## Who are the Lions and Tigers

FUN is a coded word for...

Spirit!

Security/Safety

Succeeding

Energy

Discovery

Becoming Brave



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## Who are Lion and Tiger Leaders

- The Lion and Tiger leaders are US.
- Our goal is to provide a setting where Lions and Tigers can flourish.
- What does flourish mean?
  - Take Part.
  - Have FUN!
  - Meet Scouting goals.
  - Continue forward in Scouting: Lion->Tiger->Wolf->etc.



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## Who are Lion and Tiger Leaders -Roles-

- Lion Parents take turns leading the activity. Lion Den Leader runs the first few meetings and assists the parents.
- Tiger leadership is shared among parents. Tiger Den Leader provides guidance, oversight, and help.



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## Shared Leadership

### What does “shared leadership” mean?

- Every parent partner contributes to program delivery in front of the scouts.
- Parent partners take turns leading den meeting activities.
- Every parent thereby becomes a stakeholder in the den's success.
- Lion/Tiger Den Leader facilitates, administers, tracks advancement, provides experience, expertise.



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## The Lion Program

- At Least Five Years Old/In Kindergarten
- Five Core Adventures, Bobcat Activity and 2 Electives to Rank Badge
- One Meeting and One Outing per Month
- Leadership Shared Among Parent Partners
- Monthly Pack Meeting (as program allows)



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## The Lion Program

- **Lions can Participate in:**
  - PineWood Derby (PWD)!!
  - Scouting for Food (S4F)!!
  - Pack overnights (Parent Partners Willing)
- **Lions do not:**
  - Go to Scouts BSA Day Camp (Summer after Lion)



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## The Lion Program

### Role of Lion Den Leader

- Facilitator
- Administration, Advancement, Awards
- Liaison with Pack
- Den Participation in Pack Events
- Resource for Parents who are Leading Adventures
- Follows BSA Lion Scout / Leader



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## The Lion Program

### The Lion Den

- **Single gender or Family den\***
- **6-8 Scouts is optimal**
  - Create multiple dens of Lions if numbers increase
  - Keeping control of large groups of Lions can become difficult

\*Effective June 1, 2023, family packs that serve both girls and boys may now form dens with both girls and boys in kindergarten (Lion), first grade (Tiger), second grade (Wolf), third grade (Bear) and fourth grade Webelos dens. Fifth-grade Cub Scouts are to remain in gender-specific dens to prepare them for joining a gender-specific Scouts BSA Troop.



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## The Lion Program (tools)

### Tools used in Lion Scouts

- **Uniform:**
  - t-shirt, belt, cap, neckerchief, neckerchief slide (some dens award on completing Gizmos and Gadgets)
  - Pack numerals, Council patch not part of uniform
- **Den Chiefs allowed, but**
  - a) all must understand Den Chief's role, and
  - b) Den Chief must not interfere with parent partner shared leadership.
- **BSA Literature: Lion Scout / Leader Guidebooks**



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## The Tiger Program

- First Grade
- 5 Core Adventures, 1 Bobcat Adventure and 2 Elective Adventures to Rank
- Den Meetings Twice Per Month, Plus Den Outings (Variable, Depends on Pack traditions)
- Monthly Pack Meeting
  - Participation with Parent Partners

Leadership Shared Among Parent Partners

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## The Tiger Program


### Role of Tiger Den Leader

- Same as for Lion
- Runs Den Meetings in Absence of Shared Leadership
- Uses Tiger Scout / Den Leader Guidebooks

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## The Tiger Program

### The Tiger Den


- Single gender or Family den\*
- 6-8 Scouts
  - Create multiple dens of Tigers if numbers increase
  - It is easier to split dens at the Tiger level
    - Parent partner participation provides future leaders

\*Effective June 1, 2023, family packs that serve both girls and boys may now form dens with both girls and boys in kindergarten (Lion), first grade (Tiger), second grade (Wolf), third grade (Bear) and fourth-grade Webelos dens. Fifth-grade Cub Scouts are to remain in gender-specific dens to prepare them for joining a gender-specific Scouts BSA Troop.

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## The Tiger Program (tools)

### Tools used in Tiger Scouts

- Uniform:
  - Full field uniform, Council patch, pack numerals, neckerchief/slide
- Den Chiefs allowed, but
  - a) all must understand Den Chief's role, and
  - b) Den Chief must not interfere with parent partner shared leadership.
- BSA Literature: Tiger Scout / Leader Guidebooks

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## Den Leader Focus – FUN!


### Mission: Make Sure the Program is FUN!

- Goal 1: Create a No-Pressure Environment
- Goal 2: Keep Advancement on Track – With No Pressure!
- Goal 3: Ensure Leadership is Shared
- Goal 4: Ensure Shared Leadership is Enthusiastic

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## Den Leader Focus – FUN!

### How? Take All Problems on Yourself?

Not Really...But Appear To...Actively Seek to Identify Concerns, Then Seek Solutions.

- Seek Help from Pack, Committee, Previous Leaders
- Take Training from Scouts BSA – Be Position-Trained
- Use Scoutbook – Before and After Each Meeting (lists requirements, goals for advancement)
- Use Program Literature (Leader and Scout Guides)

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## Den Leader Focus – FUN!

### Meetings:

- Length: Lions - 30 Minutes  
Tigers - No more than an hour
- Activity level: HIGH! Keep them moving  
\*\*Change activity every 10 minutes\*\*
- Inclusion: Give every scout a role
- Rules: Have and announce + simple
- Code: "Dens can be LAIRs for Lions and Tigers"



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## Den Leader Focus – FUN!

### Common Participation Constraints:

- Young Scouts Liable to Fear Participation at First
- Dominant Scouts Encourage Others' Submissiveness

Priority: Make Sure All Get to Take Part!

### Solutions:

- Challenge Scouts Within Ages-and-Stages
- Make Sure Den is Seen by Entire Pack
- Encourage, Praise, Recognize!
- Engage & Energize Scouts, Parents



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## Den Leader Focus – FUN!

Common External Constraint: Parents Liable to Snowplow

### Channel Parents Into Shared Leadership Roles

- Survey Interests, Capabilities
- Register Them as **Adult Leaders!**
  - Parents who aren't registered don't count towards 2-deep leadership
- **Communication with Parents is Vital**



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## THE FUTURE! Where next?

Lion Scouts transition to Tiger Scouts at the end of the scouting year.

### Tiger Scouts transition to Wolf Scouts.

- Wolf scouts do not require parent partners but do require at least 2 registered adults to be present for youth protection requirements.

The Program allows for 1 rank per scouting year.



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## Summary

- **Who: Lions are Kindergarteners**
  - **Who (else):** Parents participate and rotate leadership
  - **Who (more):** Lion Den Leader is a facilitator and liaison with Pack
  - **What (Do):** 6 core adventures + 2 elective adventures = Lion Rank
  - **When:** One meeting and one outing a month.



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## Summary

- **Who: Tigers are First graders**
  - **Who (else):** Parents share leadership (parent partners)
  - **Who (more):** Tiger Den Leaders lead and liaise where needed
  - **What (Do):** 6 core adventures +2 elective adventures = Tiger Rank
  - **When:** Two Den meetings, one Den outing and a Pack meeting a month.



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## Final Word

### Perspective:

**Success is measured in terms of participation and FUN.**

**Keep achievement and advancement in perspective.**

**Cub Scouting is a safe place to try new things and.....**

**Fail... and try again...until success and mastery happen.**



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## Resources online (Provide to your Pack)

- **Lion briefing (3:20) Video**
  - <https://www.scouting.org/programs/cub-scouts/den-meeting-resources/lion-resources/>
- **Tiger Briefing (4:53) Video**
  - <https://www.scouting.org/programs/cub-scouts/den-meeting-resources/tiger-resources/>
- **Article on Family Dens**
  - <https://blog.scoutingmagazine.org/2023/06/22/cub-scout-family-dens-what-they-are-and-how-they-could-work-for-your-pack/>



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