



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

**CUB 192: Worthy of Note – Cub Scout
Songs and Singing**

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WORTHY OF NOTE:

Cub Scout Songs and Singing

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Let's Sing!

Hi, Cub Scout

Tune: Hail, Hail, the Gang's All Here

Hi! Hi! Hello, Cub Scout!
We are glad to meet you,
We are glad to greet you.
Hi! Hi! Hello, Cub Scout!
You are welcome to our den (pack)

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AIMS OF SCOUTING

Character Development
Citizenship
Personal Fitness
Leadership Development

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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;
and to keep myself physically
strong, mentally awake, and morally
straight.

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SCOUT LAW

A scout is: trustworthy,
loyal, helpful, friendly,
courteous, kind, obedient,
cheerful thrifty, brave,
clean, and reverent.

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WHY WE SING WITH OUR SCOUTS

It's fun!

Teaches, fulfills goals of scouting
Shared experience, sense of community
Teaches new skills
Increases a scout's confidence
Helps concepts stick
Helps set tone for a meeting

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WHY WE SING WITH OUR SCOUTS

Did I mention it's fun?
Pumps up enthusiasm
Increases creativity
Gets the wiggles out
Reins in group focus
A filler with a purpose
Emotional regulation -

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LET'S SING A SONG THE JELLYFISH SONG

1st Verse: Arms up. Wrists together.
2nd Verse (above and): Elbows together.
3rd Verse (above and): Knees together.
4th Verse (above and): Feet together.
5th Verse (above and): Head back.
6th Verse (above and): Tongue out.

A jellyfish, a jellyfish,
a jellyfish, a jellyfish.

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WHO SHOULD SING? EVERYONE!

Leaders, parents, scouts,
siblings, guests...
"I can't sing" won't work here!
If you can't sing well... sing loud!
Have a culture of
full-participation singing!

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WHAT KINDS OF SONGS ARE THERE?

Opening/Greeting Songs
Rounds
Repeat After Me Songs
Silly Songs

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WHAT KINDS OF SONGS ARE THERE?

Action Songs (arm/leg gestures,
fast singing speed, etc.)
Patriotic Songs
Traditional Songs
Meaningful/Reflective Songs
Closing Songs

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WHAT KINDS OF SONGS ARE THERE?

Some fall into more than
one category, e.g., an
action song could also
be a repeat after me
song.

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HOW TO CHOOSE A TYPE OF SONG

THINGS TO THINK ABOUT...



Source: https://pooh.fandom.com/wiki/Think,_Think,_Think

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PURPOSE OF SINGING

Why are you singing?

Get the wiggles out
Filler with a purpose
Break
Enthusiasm

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WHERE ARE YOU?

Inside/Outside?
Den Meeting
Pack Meeting/Akela's Council
Hiking
Blue & Gold Banquet
Campfire

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WHAT MOOD DO YOU WANT TO SET?

Feelings you want to inspire?

Silly
Energetic
Focused
Thoughtful
Thankful
Reverent

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WHAT AGES ARE ATTENDING?

Mixed Ages
Single Den
Whole Pack
Families Present?

Lions
Tigers
Wolves
Bears
Webelos
AOLs

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FORMULA FOR CHOOSING SONGS

BEGINNING OF MEETINGS

Action songs

Repeat after me songs
Rounds

Energetic – Silly – Fun
Let's get the enthusiasm UP!

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FORMULA FOR CHOOSING SONGS MIDDLE OF MEETINGS

Songs that help focus
Lower energy than for
opening

Patriotic Songs
Songs with a Message
Faith Based

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FORMULA FOR CHOOSING SONGS END OF MEETINGS

Reverent Songs
Preparing for Bed
Slower Paced/Thoughtful

Patriotic Songs
Faith Based
Closing Songs

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WHAT MAKES A SONG GOOD TO SING?

Songs should be positive

Should help build up
confidence

Be age appropriate

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WHAT MAKES A SONG GOOD TO SING?

Patriotic Songs, Hymns,
and Spiritual Songs
should be sung
respectfully and with
unaltered lyrics.

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WHAT MAKES A SONG GOOD TO SING?

Explore changing
lyrics to other types
of songs to
encourage creativity
and fun.
For example...

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DOWN BY THE BAY

Down by the bay
Where the watermelons grow
Back to my home
I dare not go
For if I do
My mother will say
Did you ever you ever see a goose
kissing a moose?
Down by the bay

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DOWN BY THE BAY

It's fun and easy to change the last two lines that rhyme:

Have you ever seen a scout
fishing for trout?
Down by the bay

Or a den chasing a wren
Or a pack eating a snack
Or...

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ALTERING LYRICS

Just be sure to match the syllables and the meter of the original lyrics.

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SONGS SHOULD NOT HAVE

Name calling
Violence/physical harm
Body functions
Derogatory references
Put downs
Inside jokes

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SONGS SHOULD NOT HAVE

Alcohol
Drugs
Guns
Undergarments or nudity
Grossness
Insensitivity
Disgust/gore
Food/water wastage

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WHEN IN DOUBT

Skip it and don't sing it;
modify it; or choose something else.

But I sang it when I was a scout!

Many traditional songs, cheers, and skits are no longer appropriate.
Remember, you are serving today's scouts, not your memories.

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ALTERING LYRICS

Bear in Tennis Shoes

He said to me, why don't you run,
Because you ain't got any gun

Change second line to:
Away from here, we'll have some fun.

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DIFFERENT VERSIONS OF THE SAME SONG

Depending on where and when you learned a song, the lyrics may be slightly different than other people's versions.

That's okay. Pick one and make that your pack's version.

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WHAT IF I CAN'T SING

It doesn't matter.
We are singing to have fun.

This is not a competition.

Practice.
Even practice singing with a funny voice.

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HOW TO LEAD SONGS

Know the song really well.

Have the tune and the lyrics memorized.

Practice at home with your family or your pets.

BE CONFIDENT

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TEACH IT

Announce name of song

Pass out lyric sheets, or written on a white board or projector

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TEACH IT

Pack Song Book to use at meetings

Complex lyrics: leaders sing complex verses;
scouts sing simpler chorus

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SING IT

New song: sing through once for audience

All songs: practice before-hand

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LEAD IT

Be enthusiastic in leading!

BELIEVE
in the value and fun of singing.
If you don't, no one else will!

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LEAD IT

Keep a beat with your arm. You set the pace.

If singing in rounds, split the audience into groups before starting.

Point to group when it's their turn to sing.

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LEAD IT

Walk around as you sing.
Get everyone involved.

Silly is more than okay –
Cubs appreciate when
adults are silly with them.

They will follow you.

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LEAD IT

Don't overdo it. It's
supposed to be fun.

One or two songs per
meeting is enough.

Sing in a middle key, think of
the ages of your audience.

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LEAD IT

It will take time to build up
the songs they know.

Bring back favorites.

Don't repeat ones they don't
enjoy (even if they are your
favorites).

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WHERE DO I FIND SONGS

Cub Scout Song Book

Boy Scout Song Book

Wood Badge Song Book

NYLT Song Book

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WHERE DO I FIND SONGS

- Old Cub Scout leader Pow Wow/Akela's Trail books/discs
- Roundtable handouts
- Nursery rhymes
- Folk song collections
- Internet – such as Baloo's Bugle www.ussscouts.org/bbugle
- Other leaders

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SCOUT VESPERS

TUNE: "O TANNENBAUM"

Softly falls the light of day,
While our campfire fades away.

Silently each Scout should ask:
"Have I done my daily task?"

Have I kept my honor bright?
Can I guiltless sleep tonight?

Have I done and have I dared
Everything to be prepared?"

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QUESTIONS

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THANK YOU

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CUB192 **Worthy of Note – Cub Scout Songs and Singing:** Cub Scouts and singing have always gone together! Singing builds pack and den spirit, makes everyone feel welcome, allows Cub Scouts to have fun expressing themselves, and drives home Scouting virtues and camaraderie in a meaningful way. This course will explore both the fun and importance of singing in Cub Scouts, how to select the right song for the occasion, and how to lead a song with confidence even if your singing voice is not exactly pitch-perfect!

Presented by Susannah Conrad
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The Importance of Singing with our Scouts

- ~Aims & Methods of Scouting: Citizenship training, character development, personal fitness, outdoor awareness, and leadership training.
- ~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.
- ~Scout Law: A scout is: trustworthy, loyal, helpful, friendly, courteous, kind, obedient, cheerful thrifty, brave, clean, and reverent.

Why We Sing with our Scouts

- ~Singing can teach new skills
- ~It's fun!
- ~Pump up enthusiasm
- ~Increase creativity
- ~Get the wiggles out
- ~Can be used as a filler
- ~Help set the tone for a meeting
- ~Calm down/pump up
- ~Increase a scout's confidence
- ~Give a shared experience and sense of community
- ~Allows us to teach and fulfill the goals of scouting as shown in law, oath, aims of scouting.

Everyone should sing! Make it fun. Don't force it.



What kind of songs are there?

- ~Opening/Greeting Songs
- ~Rounds
- ~Repeat After Me Songs
- ~Action Songs
- ~Patriotic Songs
- ~Closing Songs
- ~Some songs will fall into more than one category. For example an action song could also be a repeat after me song.

How to Choose a Type Song – Think about...

- ~Purpose of Singing: Why are you signing: Getting wiggles out, filler, break, enthusiasm
- ~Where are you?: Den/pack meeting-inside/outside; hiking, formal meetings (Blue & Gold), campfire
- ~What tone do you want to create?: Excitement, silly, reverent
- ~What ages?: Lions, AOLs, whole pack, families

Formula for Choosing

- ~Beginning of meetings: Energetic, silly, fun songs to get enthusiasm up
Action songs, repeat after me songs, rounds
- ~Middle of meetings: Songs that help focus, not as high an energy as the beginning of meeting.
Patriotic songs, songs with a message
- ~End of meetings: Reverent songs, preparing for bed, slower paced, thoughtful
Closing songs, patriotic songs

What makes a Song Good to Sing

- ~Songs should be positive, help build up confidence, be age appropriate
- ~Patriotic songs, hymns, and spiritual songs should be sung respectfully and not have lyrics changed

Songs should not have

~Name calling, physical harm (no one can die or be shot), body functions, derogatory references, put downs, inside jokes, alcohol, drugs, guns, references to undergarments or nudity, insensitivity, disgust/gore, food wastage

When in Doubt about a Song

- ~Skip it. Don't sing it. Choose something else.
- ~Change the lyrics to make it appropriate

What if I can't Sing

- ~It doesn't matter. We are singing to have fun. This is not a competition
- ~Practice
- ~Purposely sing funny

How to Lead Songs

- ~Know the song really well. Have the tune and the lyrics memorized
 - Practice at home with your family or your pets
 - Be confident
- ~Teach It
 - Announce the name of the song
- ~Have lyric sheets to pass out, written on a white board or projector
- ~Consider having a Pack Song Book that can be handed out and collected at meetings
- ~Sing It
 - If it's a new song, sing it through once for your audience
- ~Lead It
 - Be enthusiastic in leading – BELIEVE in the value and fun of singing. If you don't, no one will!
 - Keep a beat with your arm. You set the pace
 - If singing in rounds, split the audience into groups before starting. Point to group when it's their turn to sing.
 - Don't be afraid to walk around as you sing and get everyone involved. Cubs appreciate when adults are silly with them.
 - Don't overdo it. It's supposed to be fun. One or two songs per meeting is enough.
 - Sing in a middle key, think of the ages of your audience.
 - It will take time to build up the songs they know. Bring back favorites. Don't repeat ones they really don't enjoy (even if it's your favorite).

Where to Find Songs

- ~Cub Scout Song Book
- ~Boy Scout Song Book
- ~Woodbadge or NYLT World Famous Song Books
- ~Nursery rhymes/folk songs
- ~The internet
- ~Other leaders

Song Lyrics

Hi, Cub Scout!

Tune: "Hail, Hail, the Gang's All Here"

Hi! Hi! Hello, Cub Scout!

We are glad to meet you,

We are glad to greet you .

Hi! Hi! Hello, Cub Scout!

You are welcome to our den (pack).

Recognition Song

Tune: "Farmer in the Dell"

Our honored guests are here, Our honored guests are here, Stand up now and take a bow, Our honored guests are here .

Continue by replacing "honored guests" with: "den leaders," "pack leaders," "fathers," "mothers," "sisters," "brothers,"

"Tiger Cubs," "den chiefs," "Cub Scouts," "Wolf Cub Scouts," "Bear Cub Scouts," "Webelos Scouts," and so on.

The Jellyfish Song

Arms up.

Wrists together.

A jellyfish, a jellyfish, a jellyfish, a jellyfish.

Arms up.

Wrists together.

Elbows together.

A jellyfish, a jellyfish, a jellyfish, a jellyfish.

Arms up.

Wrists together.

Elbows together.

Knees together.

A jellyfish, a jellyfish, a jellyfish, a jellyfish.

Arms up.

Wrists together.
Elbows together.
Knees together.
Feet together.
A jellyfish, a jellyfish, a jellyfish, a jellyfish.

Arms up.
Wrists together.
Elbows together.
Knees together.
Feet together.
Head back.
A jellyfish, a jellyfish, a jellyfish, a jellyfish.

Arms up.
Wrists together.
Elbows together.
Knees together.
Feet together.
Head back.
Tongue out.
A jellyfish, a jellyfish, a jellyfish, a jellyfish.

Bear in Tennis Shoes

The other day, I met a bear
A great big bear, in tennis shoes

He looked at me, I looked at him
He sized me up, I sized up him

He said to me, why don't you run
Away from here, we'll have some fun

And so I ran, away from there
But right behind me was that bear

Ahead of me, I saw a tree
A great big tree, oh golly-gee

The only branch was ten feet up
I'd have to jump and trust my luck

And so I jumped into the air
But I missed that branch oh way up there

Now don't you fret, now don't you frown

Cause I caught that branch on my way down

The moral of the story is
Don't talk to bears in tennis shoes

That's all there is, there is no more
Unless I meet that bear once more

The end, the end, the end, the end
The end, the end, the end, the end

Scout Vesper Song

Tune: "O Tannenbaum"

Softly falls the light of day, While our campfire fades away . Silently each Scout should
ask: "Have I done my daily task?
Have I kept my honor bright? Can I guiltless sleep tonight? Have I done and have I
dared Everything to be prepared?"

Taps

Day is done,
Gone the sun,
From the lake,
From the hills,
From the sky;
All is well, safely rest, God is nigh