Cub Scout Roundtable Planning Sheet – 60 minute Format

**Topic:** Den/Pack Behavior and Discipline

**Scout Law**: Courteous, Kind, and Obedient

**Adventures:**

Tigers - Team Tiger

Wolves - Council Fire

Webelos - Webelos Walkabout

Arrow of Light - Scouting Adventure

**Take Away:** One of the developmental tasks of childhood is to learn appropriate behavior. Children are not born with an innate sense of propriety, and they need guidance and direction.

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| Time Allotted | Activity | Assigned To | Content Ideas | Notes for Media Team |
| 5 min | Opening Ceremony | Cub Scout RT Staff or participants | Flag Ceremony and Scout Oath and Law |  |
| 15 min | General Session Option | Cub Scout RT Staff | Have a discussion on different ways to explain discipline to Scouts,  Parents, and family members as well.  Share ideas and best practices. Discuss a parent orientation meeting sharing the unit’s operation and expectations. |  |
| 25 min | Break Out Session Option | Cub Scout RT Staff |  |  |
|  | - Den Leaders |  | Establishing den rules that are age appropriate. |  |
|  | - Webelos Leaders |  | Discussion on beginning the patrol method of running the den in preparation of transitioning to a troop. |  |
|  | - Cubmasters |  | Maintaining a fun environment while keeping control of the meeting/activity. |  |
|  | - Committee Members |  | Helping parents and families understand what the pack and den have established as discipline rules. |  |
| 10 min | Q & A | Cub Scout RT Staff | Opportunity to answer any additional den discipline interest topic questions |  |
| 5 min | Closing | Cub Scout RT Staff or participants | Announcements, Closing Flag Ceremony |  |

**General Session Option**

Every parent starts somewhere when joining the Cub Scout pack. Sometimes they have no idea what Scouting is or what is expected of them and their child. Units will find that it helps both parents and the unit to hold a parent orientation meeting so everyone can share a common understanding. Choose a date for this at the beginning of the program year, soon after recruitment night, and preferably before the first den or pack meeting. Parents find it helpful to receive an orientation handout or booklet at this meeting. It can include the topics listed below and parents can keep it for future reference. Be sure to distribute the handout to any parents who are unable to attend the meeting.

Plan to cover the following topics:

* Introduce the pack leaders and have the parents introduce themselves
* Describe the Scouting program
* Explain what a den meeting is and what a pack meeting is
* Discuss expectations, including participation expectations and behavioral expectations for both Scouts and parents
* Discuss any rules set by the chartered organization
* Show the parents what handbook, uniform, and insignia will be needed. Have a sample uniform and handbook at the meeting.
* Explain the national and local registration processes and fees
* Provide a pack calendar for the full program year
* Allow time for questions and answers
* Provide the leaders’ contact information to the parents

Try to keep the meeting as brief as possible, in consideration of the busy schedules of both parents and volunteers. You can also provide all this online through a Pack website or social media page where parents can easily reference information and communicate with Pack leadership.

**Breakout Session Option:**

Start a discussion with the leaders on how they bring about discipline in their den and pack. This should not only cover the Cub Scouts, but also parents and other family members.

How do you establish the behavioral rules for your den or pack meeting? How do you communicate the rules? How do you enforce them in an appropriate way? Praise and positive reinforcement of good behavior will lead to more good behavior. When someone in the den behaves well, tell the den they are the best behaved den you have ever seen and then watch what happens. (The Scouts all become even better behaved!)

Young Scouts tend to be noisy, active, and full of energy, but you can keep your Cub Scouts under control and handle the noise they create. Be sure to have a meeting location where some noise is not an issue. Be thoroughly prepared for every den and pack meeting. Make certain the planned activities are appropriate for the group. Lack of preparation can lead to some confusion or even chaos. When that happens, it is difficult for the Scouts to maintain good behavior.

At the very first den meeting, go around the room and have each Scout give a rule that they think the den should follow. Keep the list. This will be your den Code of Conduct. When the Scouts know that they have created the rules, they buy in to the concept of following the rules. Some examples of the things the Scouts might list are:

* No running in the meeting place, unless running is part of the activity we are doing
* Do not interrupt when others are speaking
* No bad language
* Be kind to others
* Help with clean up
* Etc.

More on the Den Code of Conduct:  
The den leader and the boys in the den should develop the den code of conduct. Introduce the subject of a den code of conduct during an open discussion of how friends act toward one another. The Scouts will often contribute ideas that relate to safety, to respect for property, and to relationships with others. You can make suggestions along these lines if the Scouts don’t bring them up. They need to learn about caring, too. Just as they can make up rules, they can decide on some of the caring values that they want to represent in their den. Some dens have the members sign on a line at the end of the code. This can be shared with parents and guardians.

Other ways of encouraging positive behavior include:

* + Following the suggested Cub Scout den meeting structure outlined in BSA resources
  + Using positive recognition or reinforcement aids such as good conduct candles, marble jars, and stickers

Guidance using values:  
The ideas of fairness, helpfulness, and cooperation are all found in the Scout Oath and Scout Law. These important values can be a good start for discussions about conduct. With guidance, even young Cub Scouts can discuss their actions and decide how they fit with the den’s chosen values. Such exchanges not only reinforce these values but also help boys develop critical thinking skills.

Webelos Scouts are much more adept at developing rules and can generally be depended on to adopt reasonable ones for their group. They might want to change rules from time to time as circumstances change. By age 10, boys are beginning to understand that even public laws are made by people and that people can change them. They are ready to discuss rules in a fairly businesslike manner and will engage in a lot of bargaining with peers and adults.

Webelos Scouts also need active encouragement if they are to continue developing a caring orientation in their lives. They are ready to begin exploring the meaning of responsibility for the welfare of others. You can use their growing ability to see the perspective of others as a tool in your guidance. For example, encourage them to talk about the “whys” of the Scouting for Food Drive in terms of real human needs in their communities.

Give the Scouts responsibility to help them think more deeply about positive attitudes, beliefs, values, norms, and actions. Teach the Scouts how to learn from experience and how to gain some mastery over the events in their lives. This approach will take effort at the beginning but will soon begin to take hold as the Scouts learn to discipline themselves.

**HELPFUL HINTS FOR DEN DISCIPLINE**

1. **Use the Cub Scout sign to get attention.** When Scouts and adults see the sign, each should stop talking and raise his or her arm in the sign. Eventually, the room will be quiet. Don’t shout or yell for attention. Don’t speak while you are using the Cub Scout sign. Wait until everyone is quiet before speaking.
2. **Keep den and pack meetings well-paced, and have many interesting activities.** Have activities for early arrivals, and alternate active and quieter activities. Plan the meeting well so that you can accomplish everything planned for the meeting without being too rushed or having down time.
3. **Try to get to know each Scout.** Find out what the Scout likes and dislikes. Don’t be afraid to let the Scouts know something about yourself. Stay in contact with the Scouts’ families and be responsive to what might be going on in other aspects of their lives.
4. **Behave toward boys impartially, regardless of race, social class, religion, personal friendship, and any other difference.** Boys expect fair treatment, and the example of all leaders becomes their model. If you make promises as a leader, you must make every attempt to keep them; at the same time, point out that at times, promises may need to be broken for good reasons. Knowing that young Scouts don’t have a clear idea of “maybe,” you need to offer as much guidance as possible concerning indefinites.
5. **Listen attentively and try to understand what is written or spoken.** If you have trouble understanding a Scout, ask him to clarify. If possible, try to look at the situation from his point of view. Encourage him to tell how he feels, but resist the temptation to tell him how he should feel. Remember that they do not yet have the maturity of an adult.
6. **Don’t criticize a Scout in front of his den or pack; he will feel betrayed and humiliated.** Wait until you can talk with him alone (yet in view of other adults, in accordance with Youth Protection policies). Get him to tell you what went wrong from his perspective, and then explain how you interpret the situation. Make an effort to find some common ground and begin once more.
7. **Focus on the positives and minimize the negatives.** Help boys to look for good in every situation. Remember to give praise when it is earned and even when it’s not expected. Robert Baden-Powell, the founder of Scouting, said, “A pat on the back is a stronger stimulus than a prick with a pin. Expect a great deal from boys and you will generally get it.”
8. **Give Scouts opportunities to make choices.** Provide real options and involve them in the planning of group activities. Sharing the power as well as the fun gives Scouts a feeling of ownership of the group’s success and responsibility for things that do not go well.
9. **Provide Scouts with appropriate challenges.** What is exciting to a 7-year-old might bore a 10-year-old. What is exciting to a 10-year-old might frighten a younger child. Focus on the strengths of each developmental stage, and develop the program with the Scouts. Remember that the youngster who tests your patience the most might need Cub Scouting the most.

**Take some extra time to reflect on each meeting and learn from your own experience.** Start with what went particularly well. What made it go? What part did you play? What parts did the Scouts and/or other adults play? How can this combination work again? Also focus on what didn’t work well. What aspects of the meeting needed more planning, resources, and leadership? What could have been done to prevent problems? Could these ideas be put into action earlier the next time a problem comes up?

Are there best practices that can be shared?

[Source - https://**cubscouts**.org/library/behavior-and-discipline/]

**Break Out Option Specifics:**

**Den Leaders**

Have a discussion on how you can set up some den rules. Use the Edge method. During Tigers bring in a defined set of rules and explain how they are expected to behave in Den meetings, on den trips, as well as larger Pack meetings and district events.

As the boys get older give them a say on what the rules are so they feel they have a stake in how the den works. This could also start a discussion on what happens if a member constantly breaks the rules.

Discuss using the Denner system as a way to let the Scouts take a turn at having special responsibilities in the Den. Remember at younger ages start with smaller tasks and as they get older give them more responsibility.

**Webelos / Arrow of Light Leaders**

Now that the Scouts are Webelos, and soon to move on to Boy Scouts, consider running the den as a patrol. Have the Scouts discuss roles of responsibility, and give them ownership of their patrol. The roles can be switched out several times over the course of the year to give everyone a chance. This will be a stepping stone to the boy-led troop model they will experience in a troop. Encouraging them to set rules that are age appropriate will provide a ‘buy-in’ in maintaining order and morale during a den meeting.

**Cubmasters**

Discuss how you as Cubmaster maintain a fun environment while keeping control of the Scouts and their families. Discuss what methods you can use during pack meetings versus being out at a Scouting event. Discuss how you get parents and other family members to follow the same rules to help model how the Scouts should act.

**Committee Members**

Discuss how you educate parents and other family members on the rules of the Pack. Do you conduct a parent orientation? Do you provide them with a parent’s manual? Are den leaders encouraging the establishment of a den code of conduct? Are the 12 points of the Scout Law and Scout Oath used to explain acceptable behavior?

**Closing:**

Announcements

Closing flag ceremony