

# CUB SCOUT—AGE BOYS

UNDERSTANDING BOYS, 15-1

PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT, 15-1

BUILDING RELATIONSHIPS, 15-2

DEVELOPING MINDS, 15-2  
Boys With Disabilities, 15-3

LEARNING VALUES, 15-3  
Keys to Successful Service Projects, 15-4

PEER RELATIONSHIPS, 15-4

TODAY'S CHALLENGES, 15-4  
Drugs, 15-4  
Alcohol, 15-5  
Suicide, 15-5  
Child Abuse, 15-5

WHAT CAN LEADERS DO?, 15-5

## UNDERSTANDING BOYS

Scouting is designed to meet the ever-changing needs of a boy. It introduces him to the world of ideas, attitudes, values, beliefs, and skills that are important to his development. What a boy learns as a Cub Scout and as a Boy Scout will provide a solid foundation for his future.

The Cub Scout years are developing years for young boys, falling between the dependence of early childhood and the relative independence of early adolescence. Cub Scout-age boys are becoming more competent. It is important to them to demonstrate what they can do—whether it is climbing fences, performing wheelies on their bikes, achieving stunts on their skateboards, or taking dares. Eager to prove themselves to their friends and to validate their own self-worth, they show off what they can do—and sometimes they fail to plan ahead and are forgetful of safety.

The leader who understands and recognizes the normal developmental changes of these years will have a much better Cub Scouting experience, and so will the boys.

Although typical behavioral patterns exist for any age category, each boy will be unique. Racial, ethnic, social, and cultural environments influence development. Differences are particularly apparent among 10-year-olds. A small number might already be experiencing the accelerated growth associated with puberty, whereas others will resemble 8-year-olds.

You must be careful not to confuse size with psychological maturity. Being sensitive to the needs of each is a significant element of leadership. Activities for Tiger Cubs, Cub Scouts, and Webelos Scouts have been designed for specific groups, yet each component of the program is flexible enough to adapt to the needs of traditional, nontraditional, and physically or emotionally challenged boys.

## PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT

### Cub Scout-age boys

- Are becoming healthier and stronger
  - Are full of energy
  - Are steadily growing
  - Are becoming better coordinated
  - Are impatient with aspects of personal hygiene
- **Boys are becoming healthier and stronger.** Many boys who have chronic problems such as asthma and allergies may have fewer serious episodes of illness. Others who are physically and emotionally challenged are learning to adjust and cope.
  - **Boys are full of energy.** They have a need for an outlet for their energy, particularly if they have been sitting in a classroom for an extended period of time. They can be noisy and boisterous, and the need to romp and play is characteristic of their behavior.
  - **Boys are steadily growing.** They are often quite thin and lack muscle mass. Second-graders are also losing baby teeth and for a while will have an “all teeth and ears” look. By fifth grade, they will be both taller and heavier, have more stamina, and be capable of more sustained effort.
  - **Boys are becoming better coordinated.** Many boys appear clumsy and still fall and bump into things fairly frequently and are accident-prone. By fifth grade, most

