

CUB SCOUTING: PURPOSES, METHODS, AND IDEALS

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INTRODUCTION TO CUB SCOUTING

Welcome to Cub Scouting! You are one of more than half a million adult leaders working with more than 2 million Cub Scouts in the United States today.

Boys join Cub Scouting for excitement, to be with friends, and to have fun. But “having fun” includes more than just actually having a good time. It also means feeling accepted by a group regardless of race, class, religion, culture, or any other elements. *Fun* also means boys discovering that they can perform challenging tasks.

When Robert Stephenson Smyth Baden-Powell founded Scouting, he drew on his military experience. He recognized that boys would want to become Scouts because they are “keen for adventure and outdoor sports...they want to have fun and learn how to live outdoors.” He realized that Scouting was a game with a purpose—a game in which the purpose of Scouting manifests itself today in the ideals and values found in the Cub Scout Promise, the Law of the Pack, the Scout Oath and Law, the Scout motto, and the Scout slogan.

Cub Scouting is a character-building organization that embraces the values of citizenship, compassion, cooperation, courage, faith, health and fitness, honesty, perseverance, posi-

tive attitude, resourcefulness, respect, and responsibility (see “Cub Scouting’s 12 Core Values,” page 4-2). It is expected that boys in Scouting will not only have fun and experience adventure but will also accept Scouting’s value system. High-quality leadership is the key to youth acquiring and internalizing the ideals and values of the Boy Scouts of America.

Adults become Cub Scout leaders for a variety of reasons. Many join the Scouting movement when their sons become old enough to join a pack. Some were Scouts or members of similar youth organizations during their own youth. Others are recruited into taking a leadership position. Yet others think it is the right thing to do. Regardless of why adults join Scouting, new volunteers become confident and proficient through training, and through support from other adult Scouters. More than ever before, youth need to develop positive relationships with caring, concerned, and compassionate adults.

THE PURPOSES OF CUB SCOUTING

Since 1930, the BSA has helped younger boys through Cub Scouting, which is a year-round family-oriented part of the BSA program designed for boys who are in first through fifth

