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PROGRAM PLANNING

Program planning should be an important concern of all den and pack leaders. Successful program planning involves good leadership and exciting program activities. The adult leaders furnish the leadership, and the resources—such as *Cub Scout Program Helps*, the *Webelos Leader Guide*, the *Cub Scout Leader How-To Book*, and *Scouting* and *Boys' Life* magazines—furnish the program ideas.

In planning a Cub Scout program or activity, remember:
KISMIF—Keep It Simple, Make It Fun!

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A high-quality program should

- Be fun and exciting for the boys
- Achieve the purposes of Cub Scouting

To make sure that all den and pack leaders are familiar with the purposes of Cub Scouting, review them periodically at your pack leaders' meetings (see page 2-1). With these purposes as a foundation, you should be able to plan and conduct a meaningful program of activities—providing that you also remember to make the activities fun for the boys.

The Purposes of Cub Scouting

1. Character Development
2. Spiritual Growth
3. Good Citizenship
4. Sportsmanship and Fitness
5. Family Understanding
6. Respectful Relationships
7. Personal Achievement
8. Friendly Service
9. Fun and Adventure
10. Preparation for Boy Scouts

Presenting a program that fits the purposes of Cub Scouting could affect an individual boy by

- Encouraging him to play by the rules; the boy learns sportsmanship.
- Teaching him to take turns; the boy learns respectful relationships.
- Helping him make something useful; the boy learns personal achievement.

Leaders should remember that their prime objective is to deliver high-quality Cub Scouting to each boy. A well-rounded, year-long program could contain activities that meet the needs and desires of each boy—the sports-minded boy, the outdoorsman, the arts enthusiast, or the avid reader.

Planning provides direction for the program, a sense of satisfaction for those participating, and a feeling of accomplishment in seeing boys grow in knowledge, skills, and expanded interests. Planning also helps make the best use of the time and resources available.

Refer to the Centennial Quality Unit Award Commitment, No. 14-190, to help you plan a quality program for your pack.

Ten Elements of Planning

When planning the Cub Scouting program, include the following 10 elements:

- 1. Objective.** Program activities should meet the purposes of Cub Scouting and provide opportunities for physical, spiritual, mental/emotional, and social growth.
- 2. Theme.** The monthly theme gives a focal point to the activities and provides continuity from meeting to meeting.
- 3. Fun.** Cub Scouting must be fun, not only for the boys, but for the whole family. If the program is fun, boys will continue to attend.
- 4. Variety.** A variety of activities is used to achieve the purposes of Cub Scouting. Include games, crafts, skits, songs, stunts, ceremonies, trips, and outdoor activities for a well-rounded program.
- 5. Action.** Activities that require action and participation help boys enjoy the experience. Boys need to *do* and not just watch.
- 6. Boy Appeal.** Plan activities that are appropriate for Cub Scout-age boys, such as those that include action, noise, hammering, sawing, playacting, experimenting, mystery, and excitement.
- 7. Family Appeal.** Cub Scouting is a family program, with families working and playing together. Activities should help strengthen and enrich families.
- 8. Achievement.** Boys need recognition so that they will feel a sense of achievement while they are having fun.
- 9. Resources.** Make good use of all people, facilities, materials, and equipment available. Use the talents and skills of leaders, families, boys, and neighborhood friends.
- 10. Flexibility.** Have a backup plan for unexpected changes or surprises. Be prepared to change the program for special circumstances that affect the local community or area.

