

The Cub Scout advancement plan allows boys to work at their own pace. The Cub Scout motto is "Do Your Best." This means every boy is a winner. No one sits on the bench—everyone plays!

Cub Scouting: A Call to Action

There is a battle of significant consequence taking place in the lives of boys in America today. In simple terms, it is the battle between doing what is right or wrong. A study conducted by Louis Harris & Associates tells us the proportion of boys choosing to do what is wrong is alarmingly high. Even basic values such as not cheating on schoolwork and not stealing seem to be unstable.

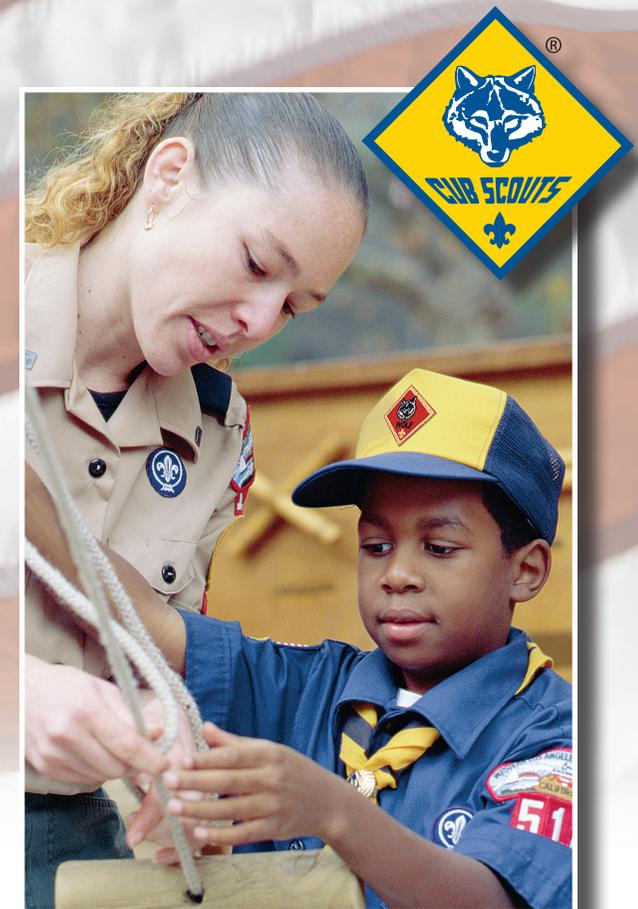
Clearly, the results of this study indicate that our nation's youth are struggling with **ethical and moral decisions**, and that these difficulties can only increase with age. The need for reinforcing and rewarding **strong moral standards and providing positive role models** at a young age is more important than ever before.

Cub Scouting is **fun!** But it is **fun with a purpose.** Woven through all the fun is an inspiring program that works. The methods of Cub Scouting are on the cutting edge of child development. Proven methods are used that **transfer traditional values, build character, and develop leadership skills**—all in the context of fun and family togetherness.

How to Obtain Additional Information

A great place to find a pack and local council near you is www.joincubscouting.org. For additional information about Cub Scouting, or to find out how to join, contact the BSA local council listed at that web site and in the white pages of your local telephone directory. Your school principal's office should know whom to contact in your area. You can also find a wealth of information on Cub Scouting, and an easy-to-use local council locator, at www.scouting.org.

More Than Ever, American Families Need Cub Scouting



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BOY SCOUTS  OF AMERICA®

Cub Scouting and Families: Outcomes for Optimism

As an adult, you want a boy to grow up to be a person of worth—a **self-reliant, dependable, and caring** individual. Cub Scouting keeps these outcomes in mind by weaving **lifetime values** into fun and educational activities designed to assist parents in strengthening character, developing good citizenship, and enhancing personal fitness in youth.

These values help a boy make good decisions throughout his lifetime and give him **confidence** as he grows and develops. Regardless of the quality of their environment (the people, places, and things), all boys grow. But their environment makes a difference in whether they grow in desirable ways.

Cub Scouting Helps Boys Learn Family and Community Relationships

In Cub Scouting, boys are grouped into dens—small, family-like groups of same-age neighborhood boys. Dens meet weekly and work on age-appropriate projects. In a den,

boys learn give-and-take. It is a place where a boy learns to **work with others** while still being himself. In the comfortable setting of the den, even the most shy boy soon becomes **involved** as part of a **positive support group**.

At monthly pack meetings, parents see their sons in action with their friends, meet other parents, and join with neighbors in **caring and sharing**. These types of opportunities are scarce, and pack meetings highlight how Cub Scouting teaches boys **cooperation and collaboration**.

Cub Scouting: A Positive Catalyst for Boys and Parents to Share Experiences

The responsibility for a boy's advancement in Cub Scouting lies primarily with his family. Some advancement requirements are done at den meetings, but a Cub Scout completes most requirements at home with his family.

The advancement plan is designed to be used by parents to create a **learning environment** in their home. The plan helps parents

awaken their son's curiosity, stimulate his desire to try new things, and encourage him to carry the learning process beyond the classroom. It is important for a Cub Scout to know that his world is filled with exciting and interesting things to do to discover his **capacity for accomplishment**.

This advancement plan involves **achievements**, which are required to earn the various ranks, and **electives**, which are optional projects for boys to work on. The advancement plan—especially electives—gives boys some **choices** to make. There are two reasons for this: First, each boy has different needs and interests; second, making choices is a skill to learn.

The advancement plan teaches boys how to **set short-term goals** and then enjoy the self-esteem of being recognized for their achievements at the monthly pack meeting. Adults and children get to know one another in Cub Scouting. It is an **ideal environment** for becoming comfortable with one another, for exploring each other's world, and for experiencing, learning, and creating a shared life.

