

OUTDOOR EVENT FOR NEW CUB SCOUTS

When young boys join Cub Scouting, they're ready for action. Once you have them recruited, your pack needs to do everything in its power to provide that action if you want to keep them. Cub Scout packs that conduct an event or pack overnighter for new Cub Scouts routinely experience better newcomer retention; research shows that 95 percent of boys who join Cub Scouting expect to go camping right away.

Purpose

The number of packs organizing new-boy events is growing. The concept is simple: get new pack members (and their parents or guardians) off to a great start in Scouting by giving them an outdoor experience that satisfies their expectations in a simple, safe way. Overnighters can be planned to follow both spring and fall recruiting events.

A new-boy outdoor event is immediate, it is simple, and it makes a new Cub Scout and his parent(s) or guardian happy that they have joined an active pack. It shows that your pack cares to give them what they want: an immediate activity.

Remember, Tiger Cubs and Cub Scouts are little boys. Most of them will not have ever camped before. In fact, their parents/guardians may never have camped before either. Accordingly, this overnighter should be "soft"—now is not the time for an "extreme" camping experience. Assume that the Cub Scouts and their parents know nothing at all about the equipment necessary for comfortable camping. Particularly for new-boy event camping, have plenty of gear on hand to lend and have experts present to advise new

campers in its use. A BALOO-trained (Basic Adult Leader Outdoor Orientation, No. 34162) leader from the pack must be on-site and responsible for the planning and execution of the event. Keep an eye on the weather forecast; cancel the event if the weather will not be pleasant.

It will be exciting (and probably run more smoothly) if you have a large encampment already set up. Imagine the size of a new boy's eyes when he arrives to be a part of that scene! New boys most likely don't have tents at home.

Your Order of the Arrow members (see "Order of the Arrow Involvement in Cub Scouting," No. 13-068A) could help run stations, do Indian dancing, run a campfire program, serve as campsite guides, and help new boys and their parents or guardians set up their camp.

Benefits

A new-boy outdoor event offers several benefits for new Cub Scouts and their parents or guardians, including the following:

- New pack members and their families quickly gain a sense of belonging, which builds pack cohesion.
- The event delivers on Cub Scouting's promise of fun from day one, which makes the new Cub Scouts and their families look forward to more.
- By choosing an easy, simple outdoor event for the new members, the pack allows them an immediate taste of success as Cub Scouts.



Sample Pack Camping Agenda

This is a sample. Remember to keep it simple—make it fun!

DAY 1

9:00 A.M.	Arrive at campsite; set up tents and bedding.
10:00 A.M.	Raise U.S. flag with ceremony. Welcome families and review ground rules.
10:15 A.M.	Visit nature center.
10:45 A.M.	Go on nature hike.
11:30 A.M.	Boys and adult partners prepare and eat lunch; clean up.
12:30 P.M.	Free time.
1:00 P.M.	Play large group games.
2:30 P.M.	Go swimming.
4:00 P.M.	Boy-adult teams build cooking fires and prepare dinner; dens eat as groups.
5:30 P.M.	Wash dishes and clean up.
6:30 P.M.	Free time.
7:00 P.M.	Lower U.S. flag with ceremony.
7:30 P.M.	Prepare for campfire.
8:30 P.M.	Campfire program.
9:30 P.M.	Cracker barrel.
10:00 P.M.	Lights out.

DAY 2

7:00 A.M.	Reveille.
7:30 A.M.	Air bedding; clean up campsite.
8:30 A.M.	Boy-adult teams prepare and eat breakfast.
9:00 A.M.	Wash dishes and clean up.
9:30 A.M.	Worship service.
10:00 A.M.	Strike camp, leaving it in better condition than you found it.

This schedule assumes that each family is preparing meals separately. Group meals are also appropriate. Consider a hamburger cookout, chili cook-off, or pancake feed.