



Sample Script for a Join Scouting Night

Start the Recruiting Meeting

Good evening, my name is _____. Welcome to the Joining night for Pack _____. We start every Cub Scout meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance. But before we do that, there are two things that I need to teach the boys.

Boys hold up your right hand. Spread out your pointer finger and middle finger like this (demonstrate). This is the Cub Scout sign. You can remember what it looks like by thinking of a wolf that has his ears up, listening in the woods. Whenever you see a leader do the Cub Scout sign, this means everyone needs to be quiet. When you see the sign, you need to do it too, so everyone gets the message quickly.

Now let me teach you the Cub Scout salute. Let's start with the Cub Scout sign (demonstrate). Now put your two fingers together and move your hand up to your forehead like this (demonstrate). When we do the Pledge of Allegiance, everyone is taught to put their right hand over their heart to show respect to the flag. Scouts in uniform do the salute to show the same respect. Even though you don't have your Cub Scout uniform yet, tonight when we do the Pledge of Allegiance, you can do the Cub Scout salute for practice.

Ok, now we are ready for the Pledge of Allegiance. Have Cub Scouts or Boy Scouts lead the flag ceremony.

Explain the Cub Scout Program

How many of the parents here have been involved in Cub Scouts before? For those of you that are not familiar with the Cub Scout program, let me explain.

Since its beginning, the Cub Scout program has been a fun and educational experience concerned with values. The values we teach are found in the Boy Scout Oath and Law and the character connection activities found in the Cub Scout handbooks.

Besides providing a positive place where boys can enjoy safe, wholesome activities, Cub Scouting focuses on building character, improving physical fitness, teaching practical skills, and developing a spirit of community service.

Cub Scouting is an age-based program. Boys that are in each grade, participate with other boys in that same grade. The age groups in Cub Scouting are: Kindergarteners are Lions, 1st graders are Tiger Cubs, 2nd graders are Wolf Cub Scouts, 3rd graders are Bear Cub Scouts and 4th and 5th graders are Webelos. Two to three times a month, the different age groups meet. These are called "Den" meetings. Usually, two or three of the parents serve as the den leaders and plan and run the meetings using meeting plans available online. The purpose of the meetings is to help the boys learn how to work together in a group and do activities that will help them earn the awards appropriate for their age group. These meetings can



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be held any day of the week at any location. The days, time and location are determined by the leader's schedule.

Each den of Cub Scouts has between 5-10 boys. Our pack has _____ dens. Once a month, all of the dens meet together. This is called a "pack" meeting. Our pack meetings are held (Insert your info here)

_____.

(Explain why you are meeting somewhere else if you have chosen a different location for the Join Scouting Night. Also explain that the boys do not need to be of the religion of your meeting place if you hold pack meetings in a place of worship.)

Each of the boys will need to purchase a handbook from the Scout Shop. The book contains the requirements for the awards they will be working on this year. Every boy earns the Bobcat badge first. The requirements for this badge help the boys learn the basics of Cub Scouting – the Cub Scout salute, sign, handshake, motto, promise, Law of the Pack and a few others. They should be able to earn the Bobcat badge in about one month. The boys will learn and practice these at their den meetings. When the leaders and parents feel that the boy has "done his best" to learn the requirements, they will sign his book. Then at the next pack meeting, the badge will be presented to the Cub Scout in a special ceremony. For the remainder of the year, the boys will work towards their next badge, which will be Lion, Tiger, Wolf, Bear, Webelos or Arrow of Light, depending on the den they are in. These badges take longer to earn, so the boys will earn adventure loop at their den meetings which signify steps towards their next rank. On occasion, the boys will need to do requirements at home with their parents. The den leaders will let the parents know what they need to do in these cases.

In addition to the learning activities the boys will do at their den meetings, they will also have the chance to do "fun" boy activities. The next big event our Cub Scouts will be participating in is called _____. During the rest of the year our pack will (Insert programs that the Pack participates in each year.) The calendar you received tonight lists all of the events our pack has planned for this year. If you ever have any questions, we have also listed contact people for our pack. Don't hesitate to call us.

Boys, do all those activities sound like a lot of fun?

You have been great listeners tonight, so as a reward, some of our leaders and Boy Scouts are going to take you outside for some games. While you are outside, we are going to talk some more to your parents about signing you up to be a Cub Scout. (leaders to take boys outside for the games)

Explain Parent Involvement

Parents, we want to take some time to help you fill out the forms and answer questions you may have. First, let's take some time to complete the talent survey form. We are asking you to fill this out so we can find the best volunteer job for you to help the pack with. The strength of the Cub Scout program is by having parent involvement. By having each parent do a little bit, none of us get overwhelmed by having to do too much. Also, we have found that boys have a great Cub Scout experience when their



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parents are involved with them. Your boys will grow up so fast and this is a great way for you to spend quality time with him before he becomes a teenager and doesn't want to be seen in public with his parents anymore.

Don't be afraid, we know that most of you don't know much about Cub Scouting. That's ok, we didn't either when our sons first joined the program. We will be doing a parent orientation meeting next week to help you get started. At that meeting we will also share with you all of the materials that are available to help you be a volunteer in Scouting. The talent survey you are completing will help us find the right job for you in our pack.

Explain the Costs of Scouting

Now let's fill out the application form for your son. Make sure to fill in as much information as you can. At the top of the application, it asks for the pack number. Our pack number is _____. Also, do not forget to sign the application on the bottom right hand side.

The cost to join our pack is \$ _____. This includes his registration fee, a subscription to Boys' Life magazine and _____.

The Boys' Life magazine your son received tonight is a special miniature version of the monthly magazine. The actual magazine is full sized and will be mailed to your house each month. The articles will be fun for your son to read – or for you to read to him – and will be about things he can do in Scouting.

At the parent meeting next week, we will explain how our fund raiser – the Trail's End popcorn sale – helps our pack and your family pay for all of the other activities and expenses that will come up during the year.

We want to let you know that no families will be turned away if they can't afford it. There is registration and uniform assistance available as well as Camperships to help boys go to summer camp. If your family needs assistance, just talk to one of our leaders later tonight.

In the *New Family Orientation Guide* that you received tonight, the address for the area Scout Shop is listed. We encourage you to visit the Scout Shop before our next meeting to pick up a Cub Scout uniform for your son. The Scout Shop staff will help you get the right items for the uniform. Just remember that your son is a member of Pack xxx and will need those numbers for his uniform shirt.

We will collect the application, talent survey and fees at the end of the meeting tonight. If you are paying by check, please make it payable to Pack xxx.

There is one thing we need you to do before the Parent Orientation meeting. We are very careful to make sure your son has a fun and safe Scouting experience. We have policies in place that make sure the boys are always in a safe environment. To help every parent understand what these policies are, we ask that you complete an online training course called Youth Protection Training. The course takes about 40 minutes to complete. The website address is www.my.scouting.org. You will need to create a profile



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before taking the training. It will ask you for a member id number. Just leave it blank for now. After you complete the training, make sure that you print out the certificate with your name on it and bring to the next meeting. If you have any problems completing the training or printing the certificate, just call one of our leaders. (Have the boys rejoin the meeting)

Welcome back boys! We are almost done with our meeting. Your parents have filled out the form to join Cub Scouts – you still want to be a Cub Scout don't you?

Before we have our closing ceremony, remember to turn in the application and talent survey. Our next meeting will be the Parent Orientation meeting, _____ at the _____. At that meeting, we will have the sign up forms for the Spook-o-ree on October 26th (Insert your own Event).

Closing

Share an inspirational thought that emphasizes the importance of family involvement.

Closing prayer – explain that at den meetings, the boys may do a closing prayer at the end of the meeting. They will form a living circle by crossing their arms and holding hands or by putting in their right hand with their thumb extended and grab the thumb of the person next to them. Then everyone will repeat the prayer.

Tonight, since we have a large group, I will ask everyone to give the Cub Scout Sign and then repeat after me: “May the great master – of all Scouts – be with us – until we meet again – goodnight Scouts.”



Den Organization and Leader Recruitment Script

Get the adults excited about the fun and exciting opportunities of being a leader and set their mind at ease concerning the time involvement and difficulty.

Everyone has the opportunity to be leaders in your son's Cub Scout pack. Now you may be thinking I can't volunteer because I don't have time, I'm not interested and / or I don't know how.

Well first of all, we know you are interested or you wouldn't be here. Out of 168 hours in a week, you can find a few hours to spend with your son and his friends. We find the time for the important things.

Scouting has been around since 1910, so we can train you and give you the resources needed to be a great Cub Scout leader. What are the various ways you can be a leader?

You can be a den leader – this is a great opportunity to get to know your son and as important for your son to get to know you. We have many program plans which lay out each den and pack meeting with activities and advancements. These are great tools for your Den; following each step of the program helps keep the boys excited about Scouting. We know that if the boys are having fun and advancing, earning belt loops, ranks, etc. they will stay in the program. And if they stay in the program then we are able to deliver our promise to you of instilling values and building character in our young men. As a den leader, you decide when and where to meet and plan each meeting.

Assistant den leader is also a fun job. Your chief responsibility is to work with the den leader to make sure the meeting is fun and informative.

Parent committee members – The parents' committee is the administrative body of the pack. This group plans the program year, plans pack meetings, activities such as Pinewood Derby and Blue & Gold banquet, etc. Parents meet once a month to plan.

So why should you be involved?

Think about your son – Now is the time he needs you. You are the most influential person in his life right now. In a few short years, his peers will take that role. Right now he wants to be like you and he models himself after you.

(See "How I Can Help")

(Appoint a sharp parent in each group to be the discussion leader)

I'm going to leave you to determine the best person to serve as den leader, assistant den leader and members of the parent committee. For your son's sake, this decision must come from you. When you



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have reached your decision, let me know and we will register the leaders and boys. (Tiger Cub Den Organizer breaks off Tiger Cubs)

Leave the parents. Don't stand around and answer questions. If they have questions, answer briefly then leave. This is critical. In the event a den cannot make a decision, try this, "I realize you are having a difficult time; perhaps you all work or have other children. For your son's sake, please try to solve this. Perhaps you will work as assistants, but if we do not have leaders, we can't have a den.