

The Purposes of Cub Scouting

Since 1930, the Boy Scouts of America (BSA) has helped younger boys through Cub Scouting. Cub Scouting is a year-round family-oriented part of the BSA program designed for boys who are in first through fifth grades (or are 7-10 years of age). Parents, leaders, and organizations work together to plan activities the boys will enjoy, but the activities are also designed to promote the 10 purposes of Cub Scouting:

- Character Development
- Spiritual Growth
- Good Citizenship
- Sportsmanship and Fitness
- Family Understanding
- Respectful Relationships
- Personal Achievement
- Friendly Service
- Fun and Adventure
- Preparation for Boy Scouts

These purposes help us achieve the overall aims of the Boy Scouts of America: character development, citizenship training, and personal fitness.

The 12 Core Values and the Scout Law

Boy scouts learn the Scout Law: A Scout is trustworthy, loyal, helpful, friendly, courteous, kind, obedient, cheerful, thrifty, brave, clean, and reverent. Nearly all the 12 core values of Cub Scouting relate to the 12 points of the Scout Law.

CORE VALUES	SCOUT LAW
Citizenship	Helpful
Compassion	Friendly, kind
Cooperation	Helpful, cheerful, friendly
Courage	Brave
Faith	Reverent
Health and fitness	Clean
Honesty	Trustworthy, loyal
Perseverance	Thrifty
Positive attitude	Cheerful
Resourcefulness	Thrifty
Respect	Courteous, obedient
Responsibility	Helpful, trustworthy

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CUB SCOUTING:
 IT'S NOT JUST CAMPING
 AND KNOT TYING,
 THE RELEVANCE OF
 SCOUTING IN THE WORLD
 TODAY.

Look inside to find out why your son should join Cub Scouting.



C H A R A C T E R D E V E L O P M E N T

Cub Scouts are growing up in a complicated World. They are faced with conflicting messages that are often hard for them to grasp. Cub Scouting has changed through the years, but a belief in the importance of making good decisions based on sound values has been integral and steadfast.

"The values and ideals set forth by the Boy Scouts of America are the foundation on which to build a successful life."
Mike Ditka,
NFL Hall of Fame Player

Scouting helps teach values to boys and helps them develop character. Character development is a process begun in early childhood, and the family is the first and most important source for

raising children of character. Scouting honors the home, religious institutions, schools, and communities as critical sources for the character development of youth. The BSA believes 3 basic principles provide the foundation for character development:

- 1. Core values are the basis of good character development.** Cub Scouting is a character-building institution that embraces the values of citizenship, compassion, cooperation, courage, faith, health and fitness, honesty, perseverance, positive attitude, resourcefulness, respect, and responsibility. It is expected that boys in Scouting will not only have fun and experience adventure but will also acquire and internalize the ideals and values of the BSA.
- 2. Character must be broadly defined to include thinking, feeling, and behavior.** It is not enough to memorize words and slogans. Cub Scouts must learn to use their reason when evaluating competing values. They must be committed and have the skills necessary to act on their convictions despite peer and worldly pressures.

- 3. Core values should be promoted throughout all phases of life.** It is not enough to focus on character development in one area of a Cub Scout's life. Character development must be promoted throughout all phases of life, whether in the den, at home, at school, at a place of worship, or in the community. Cub Scouting seeks to maximize the opportunities to promote character development and to convince the young Cub Scout that character is important to the individual, the family, the community, our country, the world, and to God.

C I T I Z E N S H I P T R A I N I N G [®]

In the Cub Scout Promise, you say you will do your duty to your country. This means being a good citizen. Cub Scouts teaches boys to be good citizens, not only of our country, but in our state, community, neighborhoods, and schools. As a citizen of the United States of America, we have both rights and duties. Cub Scouts learn to understand and respect our rights to worship freely, speak openly, and vote for government officials. Scouting also teaches the freedoms shared by Americans come with the responsibility to use them in ways that do not harm other people. A good citizen obeys laws, respects the property of others, conserves natural resources, and provides help to other people whenever possible. As school-aged citizens, Cub Scouts are encouraged to "do their best" to learn all they can about their country. This training develops the foundation needed to become adult citizens who can provide leadership in their families, community, state, or nation.

"Ask not what your country can do for you; ask what you can do for your country."
John F. Kennedy

P E R S O N A L F I T N E S S

Cub Scouting can be one of the most valuable influences on the physical, mental, and moral development of a boy. Many of the activities are designed to make the boys personally committed to caring for their minds and bodies. They will learn the value of a healthy diet; personal cleanliness; regular exercise; avoiding cigarettes, alcohol, and illegal drugs; participation in sports; positive moral influences; and mental alertness. Cub Scouting helps fulfill a boy's desire for adventure through outdoor activities. While exploring the outdoors, boys will learn about nature as well as gain a greater appreciation for health and fitness. Cub Scouting can help in the battle to change the following trends:

- In the last two decades, the prevalence of obesity doubled for U.S. children ages 6-11 and tripled for teenagers.
- Currently, 1/3 of American children are either overweight or obese.
- Overweight children are at higher risk of diabetes, hypertension, orthopedic complications, sleep apnea, and negative psychosocial effects.
- 60% of overweight children ages 5-10 already have at least one risk factor for heart disease.
- Children spend more time engaged in electronic screens than any other activity than sleeping.
- Average time spent with electronic media is almost 4.5 hours per day in kids age 2-17.
- Children who watched 3 or more hours of TV each day are 50% more likely to be obese.
- On average, a 40 minute PE class provides less than 3½ minutes of vigorous activity.
- Contributing to about 300,000 adult deaths per year, obesity is exceeded only by smoking as a cause of death.