

# “My Best Friend is a Scout”

## Kickoff Den Meeting Outline

- I. Before the meeting:
  - a. Select a game to play while gathering
  - b. Talk to parents ahead of time and have them stay for this special meeting (if possible).
  - c. Send “My Best Friend is a Scout” letter to the parents of the boys in your den.
  - d. Hand each Cub Scout 2 or 3 business cards or buddy invitations to hand their friends.
  
- II. Opening:
  - a. Recite the Pledge of Allegiance.
  - b. Talk about the importance of the Cub Scout promise.
  - c. Recite the Cub Scout Motto (*Do your Best*). Ask the Cub Scouts what “Doing Your Best” means to them.
  
- III. Business Item:
  - a. Introduce the new “My Best Friend is a Scout” theme. Tell them that they are going to play an important role in getting their friends to sign up for Scouting with them this year. Ask them if they would like to be in Scouting with their best friends.
  - b. Give each Scout 2 or 3 business cards to give their friends inviting them to a school night or special pack meeting.
  - c. Instruct them to give their friends a business card tomorrow at school, or the next time they see them.
  - d. Ask each Cub Scout to say out loud the two most fun things they did in Scouting last year. Some things that should come out are: day camp, earning awards, pinewood derby races, den trips, projects, etc. It is important that they tell their friends about these fun things! (If you are a new pack or a new den, remind them of the fun and exciting things planned for this year.)
  
- IV. Activity
  - a. Complete and award an Adventure. Following the guide for a den meeting or activity.
  
- V. Closing
  - a. Remind boys to “Do Their Best” and to invite their friends to join Cub Scouts.

# “My Best Friend is a Scout” Den Meeting Outline

- I. Before the Meeting
  - a. Set up tables and chairs as needed.
  - b. Set up Cub Scout projects, pictures and plans for this year
  - c. Select and prepare a gathering activity
  - d. Have sign-in sheets, den rosters and pens
  - e. Gather Materials
    - i. Youth and adult registration applications
    - ii. Boy’s Life mini-magazines
    - iii. Pack Calendar & Contact Information
  - f. Have an existing parent help greet any guests
  - g. Ask parents to print name and phone number on attendance sheet.
  - h. Each parent should receive:
    - i. Youth Application form
    - ii. Pack Calendar with contact information
    - iii. Boys’ Life magazine for their son
  - i. Get the meeting started on time.
- II. Welcome and Opening
  - a. Teach the Cub Scout salute
  - b. Lead the Pledge of Allegiance
  - c. Teach the Cub Scout sign
  - d. Briefly explain the Cub Scout program and what your Den does
  - e. Review joining requirements (shown on the youth and adult applications)
  - f. Explain how Cub Scouting is organized.
- III. Have the boys go to another room for games and activities. Have at least two adults leading the new Cub Scouts. This is a great time to actually earn the Bobcat Badge.
- IV. Discussion with parents while boys are out of the room
  - a. Ask parents to fill out the application. Explain that the pack will be asking every parent to help in some way during the year. Every parent will be asked to serve as a helper or on a sub-committee.
  - b. Review the family’s financial commitment upon joining the pack. Talk about the differences of “registration fees” (what it cost to join) vs. “participation fees” (annual program cost). Discuss registration fees, den dues, and money-earning projects of the pack. Allow registration fees only to be paid the night of joining. Dues and other expenses should be decided after pack’s annual fundraiser.
  - c. Discuss Boy’s Life magazine, its value, and cost.
  - d. Emphasize the importance of the complete uniform.

- e. Answer any questions.
  - f. **Collect applications, registration fees**
- V. Closing (bring the Boys back into the room)
- a. Announce the dates for the following meetings & events:
  - b. Cub Scout Day of Awesomeness
  - c. Award any new boys their Bobcat badge if they were able to complete it. If not show it to them and tell them they will earn this at their next meeting and when that meeting is.
- VI. Immediately after the meeting:
- a. Make sure that your pack treasurer is in attendance or meet with them so they can write a check for the registration and Boy's Life fees that are due.
  - b. If an individual is interested in being a leader, checkmark the "Interested in Helping" column on the Parent Attendance Sheet. This will ensure they will begin to receive essential resources.
  - c. Turn in the new youth applications and fees to the Council or District Executive. Every application has multiple copies, so your pack will be able to keep a copy for your records.

## **Sample Den Leader Letter to Parents**

Dear Parent:

This fall we are asking your Cub Scout to help make a difference in the lives of his friends by personally inviting them to join Cub Scouts. Studies have shown that boys tend to gravitate towards participating in activities where their friends also participate. I believe that your son is more likely to stay in Scouting and get the full benefits of a proven program if his friends are in it with him!

What are those benefits again?

- Learning new things
- Develop new skills
- Develop a sense of belonging
- Enjoy a "safe haven" for activities
- Learn citizenship, character, and fitness
- Develop leadership skills
- Develop self-confidence as he earns badges
- Spend "quality time" with family and leaders

- And, yes, have a lot of fun too!

Please help your son participate in the “My Best Friend is a Scout” program by reminding him to do a few things:

First, make sure he attends the special den meeting next week so that he can learn how to use the recruitment materials. If possible, I would like you to attend with him.

Second, the day after the next den meeting, remind him to take his business cards to school to give to his friends. The invitation is personalized and comes directly from your Cub Scout to his friends.

Third, on the morning of the school night (listed on the materials), be sure he reminds his friends of the meeting that evening.

Another way you can help is to follow up with the parents of your son’s friends and encourage them to come to the meeting. Your son will have more fun in Scouts if his friends join, and you may make some new friends yourself!

Many thanks to you and your family for choosing Scouting for your son. The time you spend with him in Scouting is very important and will help him to grow into the best adult he can be!

I’m looking forward to seeing you and your son at our next den meeting.

Sincerely,

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Den Leader