

October Roundtable

CUB SCOUT INTEREST TOPIC AND MONTHLY PACK ACTIVITY IDEAS FOR NOVEMBER 2015

Point of Scout Law: Helpful Theme: Cubs in Action

CUB SCOUT INTEREST TOPIC

Boys' Life

Lead a discussion on subscribing to *Boys' Life*. Be sure the discussion includes the following points:

BENEFITS

- *Boys' Life* is age-appropriate reading material. There are two demographic (age-related) reading levels—Cub Scouts and Boy Scouts.
- Articles relate to Scouting activities. (Have an example ready to show.)
- Research indicates that a Scout stays in Scouting and advances further if he reads *Boys' Life*.
- *Boys' Life* includes program ideas for leaders. (Provide one or two examples.)
- *Boys' Life* is a great resource for Cubmasters and other leaders. (A Cubmaster may talk about material he has used from *Boys' Life* to keep pack meetings fun—cheers, jokes, magic tricks, audience participation, stories, etc.)
- Reading the magazine encourages literacy.
- Packs can earn the 100 percent *Boys' Life* ribbon for the pack flag and receive a “100% *Boys' Life*” JTE patch. (**Note:** This means one subscription for every family in the pack, not one subscription per Scout. Two or more brothers may share one copy.)

ACHIEVING 100% *BOYS' LIFE*

- Explain how 100% *Boys' Life* helps a unit's program.
- Discuss how to help families subscribe to *Boys' Life* (e.g., include it in registration dues).

USING *BOYS' LIFE*

- The magazine can suggest gathering activities such as puzzles and games. (Explain that gathering activities are important and should be fun, simple to learn, and easy for boys to join in as soon as they arrive.)
- The regular sections “Dink and Duff,” “Scouts in Action,” and “Think and Grin” are often excellent sources for skits and stories at pack meetings and campfires.
- Jokes for meeting sparklers
- Physical games (versus word games)

BOYS' LIFE ONLINE

Discuss the website at www.boyslife.org.

Monthly Pack Activity

BEING HELPFUL

A Cub Scout promises “to help other people at all times.” And the third point of the Scout Law says that a Scout is Helpful. What better way is there to be helpful and show Scout spirit than to do a Good Turn by participating in a communitywide service project?

SCOUTING FOR FOOD

A great service project at this time of year is the annual (in many councils) Scouting for Food drive. Scouting for Food started in 1988 as a national Good Turn—a means to combat one of the five “unacceptables” (hunger, illicit drugs, child abuse, youth unemployment, and illiteracy) listed by the Chief Scout Executive at that time, Ben H. Love. The program also supported the efforts of BSA local councils to improve conditions for families throughout their communities.

The mission of Scouting for Food is to have all Scouts in a participating local council take part in collecting food items to be given to those in need. The goal is to have 100 percent participation from all units in this important community outreach program. Cub Scout packs, Boy Scout troops, Varsity Scout teams, and Venturing crews do make a difference when they support and participate in Scouting for Food.

HOW TO HELP

- You can distribute grocery bags in your neighborhood for collecting food, and then pick up the filled bags a few days later.
- Volunteer to help at collection sites.
- Assist in unloading the donated items at participating local agencies (e.g., the Salvation Army or local food banks).

If your council or district is sponsoring a Scouting for Food drive, consider having the chair(s) of the event conduct this discussion. At a minimum, provide contact names, phone numbers, email addresses, and detailed information for units that wish to participate. If there is no council or district project planned, consider inviting a local food bank representative to explain how units can run their own food drive.

NOVEMBER 2015 BREAKOUT RESOURCE SHEET

POINT OF SCOUT LAW: HELPFUL

THEME: CUBS IN ACTION

EXPLAIN – DEMONSTRATE GUIDE – ENABLE

Depending on attendance and the size of your roundtable team, you may run all these breakouts individually, or you may combine them in a manner that works for your district (e.g., put Tiger, Wolf, and Bear breakouts together).

For All Den Leaders

DISCUSSION TOPIC: Bad Weather Activities

Oh, the weather outside is frightful. ...

Ask the den leaders what they do for meetings when weather prevents going outside. One idea is to pick a game from a “rainy-day box” that the boys could decorate to customize for the den. This could be a 12-gallon plastic storage bin, a large cardboard box, or an old suitcase or foot-locker. Consider having a sample rainy-day box on hand to show and suggest some possible items:

- Pieces for a ring toss or bean bag game
- Dominoes, marbles, checkers, playing cards
- Assortment of foam balls or foam flying disks
- Craft supplies—ball of string, balloons, feathers, leather scraps, wood blocks, chenille stems, paper, crayons, chalk
- Songs and skit ideas (perhaps a copy of *Group Meeting Sparklers*)
- Tangrams and other puzzles

Note: Keep a stack of index cards with game instructions for easy reference. Wrap a rubber band around the stack to secure it, and store it in the box.

Tiger Den Leaders

Look at the requirements for the Tiger Bites required adventure and choose one to demonstrate.

Wolf Den Leaders

Look at the requirements for the Paws of Skill elective adventure and choose one to demonstrate.

Bear Den Leaders

Look at the requirements for the Baloo the Builder elective adventure and choose one to demonstrate.

Webelos and Arrow of Light Den Leaders

Look at the requirements for the Fix It elective adventure and choose one to demonstrate.

Cubmasters

DISCUSSION TOPIC: Pack Gathering Activities

It is important to have something for arriving Cub Scouts and their families to do at the start of a pack meeting. Discuss the purpose of a gathering activity (serves as a fun icebreaker for both youth and adults). These activities should be active (e.g., Scout Bingo) as opposed to passive games like word searches. An exhibit of places visited and projects done by the Cub Scouts can be good for gathering time as well; it builds the Scouts’ self-esteem, and parents are proud to see their sons’ work displayed. A planned gathering activity also helps prevent confusion and noise before the meeting and gets things off to a good start as pack members and parents interact with each other.

Since the Cubmaster is busy preparing for the pack meeting, other members of the pack should lead the gathering activity. This is a great opportunity to involve parents who are not in formal leadership positions.

Suggested gathering activities may be found in the Den Leader guides, the *Den Chief Handbook*, the *Cub Scout Leader How-To Book*, *Group Meeting Sparklers*, and *Boys’ Life*, as well as the monthly Cub Scout Roundtable Pack Resource Sheet.

ACTIVITY

Play the gathering activity suggested in the Cubs in Action pack meeting agenda found at www.scouting.org or the Helping Hands activity from the resource sheet.

Pack Leaders

DISCUSSION TOPIC: Scouting’s Journey to Excellence

Scouting’s Journey to Excellence (JTE) is the performance recognition program designed to encourage and reward success and measure the performance of our units, districts, and councils. It is meant to encourage excellence in providing a quality program at all levels of the BSA. JTE’s “balanced scorecard” looks at a wide variety of measures, including training, advancement, membership, and service. This is a good subject for your district commissioner to present.

PREPARATION

Have a copy of the JTE requirements and some sample awards and patches on hand. Participants should be made aware that JTE is part of every level and program in Scouting. Ask one or two committee chairs from successful packs to talk about what they do. Emphasize that Scouting’s Journey to Excellence is a year-round tool

to guide the actions of the unit in meeting the boys' needs, and explain how this is done.

Direct participants to www.scouting.org/Awards/JourneyToExcellence.aspx. If you can connect electronically and have a projector, display the JTE website for everyone to see and guide them to the forms they will need and the tracking spreadsheet. Demonstrate how to use the

spreadsheet and how to log service hours at <https://servicehours.scouting.org> (a link to this is available on the JTE site). Review the current JTE requirements, and solicit ideas on how to accomplish the requirements.

ACTIVITY

Play the Bean Game from this month's Pack Resource Sheet. Work together and help each other accomplish the task.

NOVEMBER 2015 PACK RESOURCE SHEET

POINT OF SCOUT LAW: HELPFUL

THEME: CUBS IN ACTION

THE POINT OF THE SCOUT LAW TO BE HIGHLIGHTED THIS MONTH

A SCOUT IS HELPFUL

A Scout volunteers to help others without expecting a reward.

HOW DOES "CUBS IN ACTION" RELATE TO THIS POINT OF THE SCOUT LAW?

It is never too early in our lives to begin helping other people. Scouting has promoted being helpful to others since it began in 1907 in England. William D. Boyce saw this in action on that foggy night in London, when a Scout helped him find his way. Boyce was so impressed that the Scout helped him and refused a reward that he incorporated the Scouting program in America in 1910.

Our Cub Scouts find active ways to help others in their neighborhoods and spread the goodwill of Scouting. By teaching and living the Scout slogan to "Do a Good Turn Daily," we are keeping the third point of the Scout Law—Helpful.

Preopening Activity

HELPING HANDS

Materials: one piece of paper for each boy or family with "H-E-L-P-I-N-G H-A-N-D-S" written across the top

Hand out papers and pens as participants arrive. Have each Cub Scout or family write under each letter as many ways as they can think of to be helpful. The only words they can use must start with the letter at the top of the column. **Note:** Actions that start with "H" and "N" can be divided between the two H's and N's on the paper.

Opening Ceremonies

HELPING OTHER PEOPLE

After the flags have been posted, but before the pledge, have six Cub Scouts read the following from cards you have prepared.

- Cub #1:** Being helpful to others means picking up something someone has dropped without being asked.
- Cub #2:** Being helpful to others means playing with a younger brother or sister while Mom is busy.
- Cub #3:** Being helpful to others means telling a friend he did a great job when he did his best.
- Cub #4:** Being helpful to others means shoveling snow or sweeping leaves off a walkway for someone who is not able.
- Cub #5:** Being helpful to others means doing simple everyday things like smiling, or difficult things like fighting for our country.
- Cub #6:** The people throughout history who have kept our country free were helpful to others like you and me. As we pledge our allegiance to the flag, let us be glad that Americans are always helpful to others. (This Cub Scout then leads the pledge.)

THE HELPFUL HIKE

Have seven Cub Scouts create seven posters, each one illustrating on the front of the poster what the words on the back say. Make sure the words are in large print.

- Cub #1:** We are going to see nature's treasures.
- Cub #2:** We will HELP maintain nature's balance.
- Cub #3:** We will observe and learn from nature's animals.
- Cub #4:** We will HELP maintain nature's resources.
- Cub #5:** We will protect them from harm.
- Cub #6:** We will HELP by following the Outdoor Code.
- Cub #7:** We are going on a hike.

HELPFUL HEROES

Have six Cub Scouts create six posters, each one illustrating on the front of the poster what the words on the back say, or anything he wants as long as it is related to the theme. Make sure the words are in large print.

- Cub #1:** Sometimes a helpful hero is obvious—the policeman who risks his life to protect us from violence or the fireman who pulls people out of burning buildings.
- Cub #2:** Other helpful heroes that come to mind are the ambulance drivers, paramedics, doctors, and nurses who save lives every day.
- Cub #3:** Some people around us seem like regular people, but they are helpful heroes because they used to be soldiers in the military and served our country to keep us free.
- Cub #4:** A helpful hero is someone who does the right thing even when they are afraid of failure. They do it because it should be done.
- Cub #5:** Some helpful heroes are harder to spot, but they are still there. My heroes include people who donate blood, teachers who spend their time and energy helping kids, and kids who say “No” to drugs.
- Cub #6:** Helpful heroes are all around us. Please join in saluting all the heroes of our country by repeating with me the Pledge of Allegiance.

Prayers

We hope to be helpful every day,
While we work, and while we play.
Then at night we'll safely rest,
Knowing that we've done our best. AMEN.

We come together, each of us charged with being helpful and taking care of one another. God, give us what we need to help and to serve each other to the best of our abilities. AMEN.

Thank you, Lord, for all you have given us. Teach us to notice people who need our help. Help us to do our best in helping children who are alone, and our parents and teachers when they need a hand. AMEN.

Songs

PICKING UP LITTER

Tune: "I've Been Working on the Railroad"

I've been pickin' up the litter,
Helpin' all the day.
I've been pickin' up the litter,
Just to have a place to play.
Can't you see the litter basket,
Sitting on the sidewalk there?

Every little bit is helpful
If you just show you care.
Won't you pick it up?
Won't you pick it up?
Won't you pick it up today, today?
Help us clean it up,
Help us clean it up,
Help clean up the U.S.A.

TRUSTY TOMMY

Tune: "Yankee Doodle"

TRUSTY Tommy was a Cub Scout,
LOYAL to his mother.
HELPFUL to the folks about,
And FRIENDLY to his brother.
COURTEOUS to the girls he knew,
KIND unto his rabbit,
OBEDIENT to his father too,
And CHEERFUL in his habits.
THRIFTY saving for a need,
BRAVE, but not a faker.
CLEAN in thought and word and deed,
And REVERENT to his Maker.

Cheer or Applause

"Do a Good Turn" Cheer: Have the group stand up to applaud. Everyone claps once, then moves a quarter turn and claps again. Have them repeat this in the same direction until they have all completed a full turn.

Advancement Ceremony

TO HELP OTHER PEOPLE AT ALL TIMES

Materials: a small taper candle for each Cub Scout and a large single candle (Make wax guards from index cards or small paper cups.)

Cubmaster: "To help other people at all times." That's part of the Scout Oath. Helping other people is part of what it means to be a good neighbor. We have to help and look out for each other.

Assistant Cubmaster: To open our ceremony, I am going to light the large, single candle that represents the spirit of Scouting that is present in this room tonight.

Cubmaster: Tonight, we are recognizing several Scouts who, with the help of their mothers, fathers, den leaders, and others have met the requirements for advancement to the next rank.

Assistant Cubmaster: Will the following Cub Scouts please come forward with their parents? (Call by name the Scouts receiving awards.) Will each parent please share in lighting the Cub Scout light with their son? This candle represents the Scout spirit in each of you, your willingness to always be

helpful, and your desire to have that spirit light your way as you continue on your Scouting journey.

Cubmaster: The third point of the Scout Law is Helpful. Being helpful is one of the ways we do our duty to others. As a Cub Scout, you should always do your best to help others. I will now present each boy's badge of rank for parents to present to their sons. (After the presentation, thank the parents and congratulate the Cub Scouts.) As you blow out your candles, remember that each of you is filled with the Scout spirit, and each of you can make a difference by being helpful at all times.

Games

“WITH A LITTLE HELP FROM MY FRIENDS” RELAY

Materials: chalk or tape to mark starting and finish lines on the floor

Cub Scouts and their family members, including sisters and brothers, form teams of five to six players. Make sure all teams have the same number of players. Each team makes a circle with one player in the middle and the others holding hands around that player. On signal, the team takes off as a group and runs to the finish line. Then they return to the starting line, still holding hands, and repeat the run with a different player in the middle. Continue until everyone has a chance to be in the middle. The first team to finish this cycle wins.

TUG-OF-PEACE

Materials: a rope of sufficient strength and length

This game emphasizes the importance of working together to solve a problem. Cub Scouts sit in a circle holding on to a rope placed inside the circle in front of their feet. The ends of the rope are tied together to make a huge loop. If everyone pulls at the same time, the entire group should be able to come to a standing position. Tug-of-Peace can also be played by stretching the rope out straight and having boys sit on either side of it, facing each other in two lines. If both sides pull on the rope evenly, they can help each other up.

THE BEAN GAME

Materials: plastic sandwich bags, one per Cub Scout, each containing 24 dried beans

Each Cub Scout tries to balance the beans on the back of his hand. See who can maintain that balance for the longest time. (**Note:** The following directions are for right-handers; left-handers should do the reverse.)

- Pick up one bean with your left hand, transfer it to the right, then place it on the back of the left hand.
- While still balancing that bean, pick up a second one with the left hand. Transfer it to the right, then place it next to the first bean on the left hand.
- Continue this process and see how many beans you can balance on your left hand before they fall off.

Audience Participation

PLEASE LET ME HELP YOU

Divide the audience into six groups. Assign each group a part to perform when their designated word is read in the story:

Lights: “Blink, blink, blink!”

Cub Scout: “Do Your Best!”

Helping other people: “Warm fuzzy!”

Pack: Yell the pack number.

Old lady: “No, I don’t want to go!”

Tree: “Ahhhhhhhhh!”

Once upon a time, in a CUB SCOUT PACK, a CUB SCOUT was learning about HELPING OTHER PEOPLE. The CUB SCOUT wanted to help an OLD LADY across the street. But the OLD LADY did not want the CUB SCOUT to help her. The OLD LADY did not care that the CUB SCOUT had been learning about HELPING OTHER PEOPLE or that the CUB SCOUT and his PACK had set out to do good deeds. The OLD LADY just wanted to get a TREE. But the CUB SCOUT and his PACK were learning about HELPING OTHER PEOPLE and really wanted to HELP OTHER PEOPLE, and so the CUB SCOUT helped the OLD LADY across the street.

The OLD LADY thought, “What kind of a PACK is this?” The OLD LADY just wanted her TREE and pretty LIGHTS. The CUB SCOUT said, “Nice OLD LADY, my CUB SCOUT PACK and I are learning about HELPING OTHER PEOPLE. I’ll help you get your TREE and put your pretty LIGHTS on, if you will just let me learn about HELPING OTHER PEOPLE by getting you across this busy street.” The OLD LADY sighed and smiled and said, “Thank you.”

Skits

BADEN-POWELL AND GOOD DEEDS

An adult dressed as Lord Baden-Powell stands off-stage (or a large picture of him is posted with the sound of his voice coming from that direction). A group of six Cub Scouts sit at center stage, moving their mouths and hands but not actually saying anything. If possible, post stars and small white holiday lights behind the boys. The lights should be off, but plugged in to be turned on at the end.

Baden-Powell: When I founded Scouting, I wanted boys to learn how to take care of themselves. But I also taught them to be helpful and kind to others—to include a good deed in their actions every day. I often think that when the sun goes down, the world is hidden by a big blanket from the light of heaven. But the stars are little holes pierced in that blanket by those who have done good deeds in this world. The stars are not the same size—some are big because those people accomplished big deeds, and some are little because others did smaller deeds—but they all made a difference through their actions before they went to heaven.

Cub #1 *(looking at Cub #2):* Wow, you're doing great. You almost have the Scout Oath memorized! But remember to put in "to help other people." Baden-Powell wanted Scouts to be helpful and always do a good deed each day.

Cub #2: What kind of good deed?

Cub #1: Well, on Saturday my family helped plant trees along the river. It was hard work, but fun too. And boy, did I get dirty!

Cub #3: Today I helped my den leader clean up after we finished our project. That was a good deed too.

Cub #2: So I need to do a good deed every day? Sounds kind of hard.

Cub #4: Well, sometimes you have to work hard to do a good deed. My dad and I helped my neighbor paint his fence, and that was hard work.

Cub #5: But sometimes a good deed is pretty easy. There's a new boy in my class, and he was kind of lost, so I helped him find the cafeteria and meet some of my friends. I guess that was my good deed for the day.

Cub #2: Hey, I helped my mom bring in all the groceries from the car. Was that a good deed?

Cub #6: Sure, that was a good deed. Just remember to be helpful and kind, and you won't have any trouble doing a good deed each day. *(Pauses, then looks like he has a great idea.)* Hey, even helping you learn the Scout Oath was a good deed!

ALWAYS BE HELPFUL AND DO GOOD TURNS

A leader (Akela) and several Cub Scouts are sitting around a table or campfire, or just in a ring. In Akela's lines, insert the name of the boy being spoken to.

Akela: *(Cub #1),* please come here. Now, *(Cub #1),* you know you should always do Good Turns.

Cub # 1: I tried, honest!

Akela: OK, *(Cub #1).* *(Cub #2),* please come here. Now, *(Cub #2),* you know you should always do Good Turns.

Cub # 2: I tried, honest!

Akela: OK, *(Cub #2).*

(Repeat this until only one Cub Scout has not been called.)

Akela: *(Last Cub Scout's name),* please come here.

Last Cub Scout (carries a small frying pan, pretending to flip a pancake in it): I did a Good Turn! *(He flips the pancake and catches it in the pan.)*

Akela: Good job, *(name)!*

Last Cub Scout: But you should see the mess in the kitchen!

Cubmaster's Minutes

JUST BEING HELPFUL

"We can do no great things, only small things with great love."—Mother Teresa

"Each time a man stands up for an ideal, or acts to improve the lot of others, or strikes out against injustice, he sends forth a tiny ripple of hope, and crossing each other from a million different centers of energy and daring, those ripples build a current that can sweep down the mightiest walls of oppression and resistance."—Robert F. Kennedy

WHY BE HELPFUL?

"Unless someone like you cares a whole awful lot, nothing is going to get better. It's not."—Dr. Seuss

"Service to others is the rent you pay for your room here on earth."—Muhammad Ali

WHEN TO GET STARTED BEING HELPFUL

"How wonderful it is that nobody need wait a single moment before starting to improve the world."—Anne Frank

Closing Ceremonies

BEING HELPFUL HAS NO LIMITS

Five Cub Scouts hold posters with these images on the front, respectively: a clock, a calendar, a globe or map, an elephant, and a picture showing Scouts of all ranks. Each boy's lines should be written on the back of his poster in large print.

Narrator: Cub Scouts in Action—that was our focus this past month for A Scout is Helpful. Let's review:

Cub #1 *(with clock image):* Being Helpful is the right choice no matter what time of day or night it is.

Cub #2 *(with calendar image):* And it doesn't matter what month it is. Our actions should always show that Scouts are Helpful!

Cub #3: *(with globe or map image):* It also doesn't matter where you are. Scouts are Helpful around the world!

Cub #4 *(with elephant image):* The Dr. Seuss story "Horton Hears a Who" shows that it doesn't matter what size you are. You can be Helpful to others.

Cub #5 *(with image of Scouts):* No matter what rank you are in Scouts, always remember that a Scout is Helpful and his actions show kindness and compassion!

Narrator: So when you leave here tonight, please remember ...

All: A Scout's actions show he is Helpful!

DO MORE

A leader carries a candle while 12 Cub Scouts read their lines from index cards.

Cub #1: This candle represents the spirit of Cub Scouting the world over. It burns today to show the friendship and fun we share.

Cub #2: But we can do more by our actions to show a Scout is Helpful. Listen:

Cub #3: Do more than belong. Participate.

Cub #4: Do more than care. Help.

Cub #5: Do more than believe. Practice.

Cub #6: Do more than be fair. Be kind.

Cub #7: Do more than forgive. Forget.

Cub #8: Do more than dream. Work.

Cub #9: Do more than teach. Inspire.

Cub #10: Do more than live. Grow.

Cub #11: Do more than be friendly. Be a friend.

Cub #12: Do more than give. Serve.