

Thoughts on a Stronger Pack

Don't become so immersed in the day-to-day details of running your den and pack that you lose the vision, understanding of purpose and operational know-how that brings real success.

Here are some thoughts that could help strengthen your Pack:

- Keep your attendance high through the summer months, plan and announce your summer program before parents and boys become committed to or involved in other summer activities. As you announce the plans for your Pack's activities for June, July and August, recruit parents to help plan and conduct them. The activities will also qualify your pack for the National Summertime Pack Award.
- Be sure to participate in a Pack Charter Review Meeting with your Commissioner, examine your program over the past year and set new goals for the future.
- have your District Executive arrange for a boy survey in the schools your Pack serves, contact the boys who are not a part of your Pack and invite them to join.
- Ask Den Leaders who will be leaving to assist in recruiting their successors. Have them discuss which of the remaining parents might be the best Den Leader and help to recruit them. Ask them to assist the new leader in getting started with the Den.
- Hold spring parents' meeting. Remind parents about the purpose of Cub Scouting, how it works, what is expected of them and what they in turn can expect of Cub Scouting. Have an organizational chart ready to show present membership status and where each boy will be next fall.
- A personal contact with each new family is essential. At your meeting with the family, explain what Cub Scouting is, how it works, and what happens at den meetings. Explain the families' part in the program, how their son advances with their help. Tell them what is expected of them to make the "pack go".
- Communication is important - keep your Cub families informed of your Pack's activities, future plans and needs. Publish a newsletter for your pack meeting, announce coming events, tell what different dens are doing, which boys received awards at the last Pack meeting. Try a HELP WANTED column for parent assistance in future plans.
- Involve ALL of your parents - most everyone can do something to help your program. Learn about your parents through a Talent Survey and ask for help. Some people must be approached to help - they will not volunteer. If a person is unable to help in one area, try another. Involving everyone makes the job easier and also grooms future leaders.
- Don't forget - your Annual Planning Meeting is the start of a strong program for the year to come. A strong start is a boost for your Pack's entire year.
- Encourage ALL leaders to take Cub Scout Leader Basic Training as soon as possible - basic knowledge on the part of the den leaders and committee people will keep your program strong