



Occonechee Council's Lion Scout Orientation

Pilot Units for 2016-2017

Awahili- Pack 637

Crosswinds- Pack 205

Crosswinds- Pack 224

Crosswinds-Pack 393

Black River- Pack 320

Dogwood- Pack 582

Dogwood- Pack 900

Dogwood- Pack 942

Dogwood- Pack 953

Highlander- Pack 713

Highlander- Pack 902

Impeesa- Pack 33

Impeesa- Pack 325

Impeesa- Pack 350

LaFayette- Pack 740

Mawat- Pack 424

Mawat- Pack 495

N River- Pack 347

N.River- Pack 365

N. River- Pack 500

Shakori- Pack 438

Shakori- Pack 825

Shakori- Pack 880

Overview



- Lions is a pilot program of the Boy Scouts of America for Kindergarten-age boys. Lions **must be 5 years old by September 30** to participate.
- All councils will use a common program this year.
- We are part of a pilot program. Feed back will be requested during the program.
- Lion Dens meet twice a month. A 45 minute meeting and a 60 minute outing are recommended. Remember their attention span!



Why Lion Cubs?



- Research shows that a child's development accelerates as youngsters begin their formal education in kindergarten.
- Kindergarten is when families start looking for after-school activities for their children.
- Kindergarteners could join a soccer team or karate studio but could not yet join Scouting.
- Lion Cub Scouting bridges that gap.



Program Structure



**A Den will consist of 6-12 boys
The Lion + their Adult Partner**

- Dens will meet twice per month
 - One meeting + one outing per month
 - Participation in selected pack meetings
 - Determine with your families the best time, day and location for meeting

Participation in Pack Meetings should be carefully thought out. Lions will have a shorter attention span and will not be recognized with advancement badges like other Cubs. Don't bore them, disappoint them, or wear them out!



Lion vs. Tiger: *Similarities*



LION

ADULTS:	Adult partners required
LEADERSHIP:	Shared leadership
RECOGNITION:	Stickers and Lion badge
Registration Fee:	\$24 Fee /\$1 Insurance
OATH and LAW:	Scout Oath and Scout Law
CAMPING:	Family camping with pack (No den camping)
FUN:	ACTIVE and HANDS-ON!



TIGER

Adult partners required
Shared leadership
Adventure loops and Tiger badge
\$24 Fee/\$1 Insurance
Scout Oath and Scout Law
Family camping with pack (No den camping)
ACTIVE and HANDS-ON!

Lion vs. Tiger: *Differences*



LION

BOBCAT:	Does not earn Bobcat
DEN MEETINGS:	1–2 times per month
PACK MEETINGS:	Attends a few (2–3)
UNIFORM:	T-shirt and optional cap
FUNDRAISING:	Does not fundraise
DAY CAMP:	No day camp <i>(until Tiger)</i>

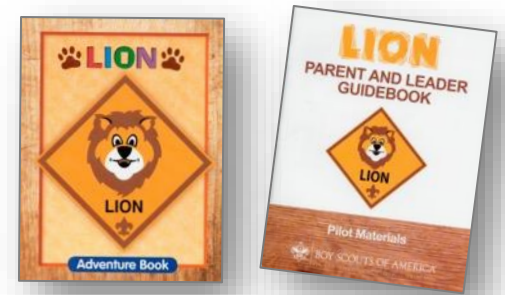


TIGER

Earns Bobcat
3-4 times per month
Attends all
Cub Scout Uniform
Participates in fundraising
Tiger/Cub Scout day camp

Adventure Book and Uniform

- The youth *Adventure Book* and Parent Guidebook, & Stickers. \$9.99 retail
- The uniform is a \$9.99 Lion t-shirt and an optional \$12.99 cap.
- Adults are encouraged to wear a Cub Scout activity shirt, Lion polo shirt, or follow the pack's uniform custom
- **Items are available through the Scout Store for purchase by approved pilot units.**
- Program Design--designed to be age-appropriate, fun, and to integrate with the new Cub Scout program released in 2015.



Identity



- The uniform is an important part of the Lion Scout program. It identifies the boys with the program and gives them a sense of belonging to the den, to the pack, and to the Boy Scouts of America.
- The official uniform for Lions is T-shirt, *not* the blue Cub Scout uniform.
- Some Lions have requested to use a neckerchief, that's ok too. You can make one or get one at most Scout Shops. This may be worn with any article of clothing.





Scout Oath

On my honor I will do my best
To do my duty to God and my country
and to obey the Scout Law;
To help other people at all times;
To keep myself physically strong,
mentally awake, and morally straight

All BSA programs will be using one Scout Oath and Law.
Lions will practice the Scout Oath at each Den meeting by
saying it as a group.

Please do not expect the Lions to memorize this. The focus in Lions is to start to become familiar with the Scout Oath and to begin to understand it's meaning and importance to their lives.



Unit Leadership



- Adult partners
 - Adults who participate with a Lion
 - Take turns helping lead a Den meeting or outing
 - This can be a parent, family member, grandparent, trusted adult
- Lion Guide (Tenured Volunteer)
 - Oversees the Den and communicates with the families
 - Runs designated Den meetings or Outings
 - Facilitates engaging the parents to help lead Den meetings and outings during the year
- Cubmaster
 - Ringmaster for the Pack meetings



Recruitment & Getting Started



- Roundup with Lion Orientation (or separate Lion Roundup)—**it is imperative that recruitment is done for this Pilot.**
- Encourage current and new families to join Scouting. Ask youth to bring their friends.
- Remember 6-12 youth is ideal for the best experience. A group of 1-3 is not a Den.
- Lion Guide leads first few meetings.
- Lion Guide supports parents in planning and leading subsequent meetings.



Monthly Meetings



- Monthly Den meeting
 - 12 Den meeting plans and their complimentary outing plans are located in the Parent and Leader Guidebook
 - 5 Den meetings are required for the Lion badge
 - The other 7 Den meetings and Outings can be done in any order or as needed
- Monthly Outing
 - The Outing is a field trip that usually compliments that month's Den meeting topic
 - Pack meeting—suggest attending a few to provide a taste of Scouting without expecting all to be attended (including the Pinewood Derby!)
 - Suggest attending one Pack meeting early in the year, then a Holiday Pack meeting and one for bridging purposes



Lion Den Meetings



- The Lion den meeting plans are in the *Lion Parent and Leader Guidebook*.
- It's easy and simple to follow.
- Everything is in one place.
- Den meeting Plans—this template provides you with the timing and plan to run the program.
 - Before the meeting
 - Gathering
 - Opening
 - Talk Time
 - Activities
 - Closing
 - After the meeting

LION
PARENT AND LEADER
GUIDEBOOK



Pilot Draft Materials 2014–2015

 BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA

Training



- **Program Preparation**
 - This orientation training covers the basics of the Lion program.
 - Read completely the Lion Parent and Leader Guidebook. This manual describes the program, its place in Scouting, and has the entire set of Lion adventures den meeting plans.
- **Leadership Training**
 - Because Lions is a new Program you will find the information in this training, the Parent and Leader Guidebook, and your District Executive are your best resources.
 - Remember you have experienced Cub Scout Leaders nearby who have been in your similar situation. Ask for ideas, they are usually glad to help you.



Lion Guide



- **Previous experience as a Den Leader**
 - The skills of a Lion Guide make use of many of the same skills as a Den Leader in a Tiger, Wolf, Bear or Webelos Den.
 - A Lion Guide understands and can communicate how Cub Scouting works
 - The Lion Guide is the first Scouting impression to the new boys and parents. Make it a great one!
 - Their experience as a past Den Leader will help them mentor adults as helpers and leaders
 - A Lion Guide's engagement of the adult partners will help set the stage for the families Scouting involvement for years to come





Lion Guide Profile

- Experienced Successful Cub Scout Leader
- Enthusiastic
- Patient and Caring
- Flexible
- Respectful
- Creative
- High Energy
- Sense of Humor
- Fun Loving

The Lion Guide is not responsible for running every meeting. The role of the Lion Guide is to make sure that everyone has a great experience and want to continue their Scouting adventure after the year is over.



Lion Guides Set the Example



- **Plan and prepare for initial den meeting**
 - Set an example of how a well-run den meeting operates.
 - Coordinate shared leadership among the Lion adult partners in the den. Have each adult partner sign up for a turn leading a Den meeting / outing during the year.
 - Then help guide them and make sure they are well prepared.
 - Program materials are in the *Lion Parent and Leader Guidebook*.



Lion Guide --- Engagement



1. Mentor adult partners in delivery of den meetings

- The most significant difference between the role of a Den Leader and the role of a Lion Guide comes from mentoring the adult partners as they take turns leading the den meetings and outings.
- The Lion Guide works with a different boy–adult partner team each month to plan a den meeting and an outing. (Some teams may serve more than one month, depending on den size.)

Action	Time
Establish meeting dates/times	Orientation Meeting
Adult partners select meetings to lead	Orientation Meeting
Planning Contact 1	Two weeks before adult partner-led meeting
Planning Contact 2	One week before adult partner-led meeting
Planning Contact 3	Two days before meeting

Lion Guide--Engagement



Important:

We anticipate all adult partners will successfully delivering the den meeting they agreed to lead. Occasionally, a partner may be unprepared to lead a meeting. To the extent possible, determine their readiness to lead the den meeting in advance.

If they are not prepared to lead the meeting, **do not allow the meeting to be cancelled.** Always be prepared to deliver an elective adventure just in case it's needed.



Lion Guide--Engagement



2. Make sure advancements/registrations for Lions are done in a timely fashion.
3. Serve as the point person for pack outings and Pack meetings.
4. Be the Pack point person for Lions for the district/council



Adventures



Enjoy the program, have fun and engage the families.

Required Adventures	Elective Adventures
Lion's Honor	I'll Do It Myself
Fun on the Run	Pick My Path
Animal Kingdom	Gizmos and Gadgets
Mountain Lion	On Your Mark
King of the Jungle	Build It Up, Knock It Down
	Rumble in the Jungle
	Ready, Set, Grow

Lion Badge is earned by completing all 5 required adventures.

Lions do NOT earn the Bobcat rank as part of this program.



Recognition



- Completing five required adventures qualifies a youth to earn the Lion Badge.
- Implementation details
 - As Lion Scouts complete their adventures, they will receive recognition along the way to mark their progress.
 - During the pilot program, recognition for completing adventures is marked by stickers that correspond to each adventure. The youth can add the adventure stickers to the advancement page in their *Adventure Book*.
 - The Lion Badge can be sewn on the back of the neckerchief, on their Lion shirt, or on their patch vest. Whichever uniform is used by your Pack.

Additional adventures can be used as further program enrichment. The adventures can be earned in any order. It is recommended that the “Lion’s Honor” adventure be earned first, and “I’ll Do it Myself” be earned during the second month in the program.



Adventure Stickers



Immediate
Recognition
Items



Lion's Honor



Fun on the Run



Animal Kingdom



Mountain Lion



King of the Jungle



I'll Do It Myself



Pick My Path



Gizmos and Gadgets



On Your Mark



Build It Up, Knock It Down



Rumble in the Jungle



Ready, Set, Grow



What happens after Lions?



When the year is winding down and everyone is beginning to look towards summer—let the Lions and parents know what's next.

- **Prepare the Lion Cubs for Day Camp.**
 - A large percent of Scouting is “outing.” One of the primary interests of boys is outdoor adventure, including day camp.
 - Day camps provide families with fun experiences and strengthen their interest and involvement in Scouting.



Transition to Tigers



- **Ensure the transition of your Lions to Tigers.**
 - The Lion Program is only a “taste” of Scouting. It has only prepared the youth and families for Scouting. Now highlight what’s next.
 - Help families know what to do next? How do they return as a Tiger next year? Will there be any activities over the summer?
 - The value of Scouting on a young person has been observed to strengthen over time in the movement.



Your Next Steps



- **Get your copy of the *Lion Parent and Leader Guidebook*.**
- ***Make sure you were included on the Constant Contact mailing and let us know of others to add. There will be news throughout the year!***
- ***Schedule a meeting with core Pack leadership to discuss implementation, recruitment strategies, sign up night, parents orientation meeting, and involvement in pack activities. A lot of stuff to think about!***
- ***Share your plan with us! Great ideas are out there to be found and shared.***
- ***Work with District Executive on fliers and other marketing ideas.***
- ***Make sure your Lion Guide is ready to start, create a Lion's Den, and watch them roar!!!***

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