

After School Scouting Program Summary

Elementary School Program

The elementary program offered by the PA Dutch Council, BSA; Scoutreach Division is based on the Cub Scouting Program of the Boy Scouts of America. Since its origin, the program of the Boy Scouts of America has been an educational experience concerned with values. In 1910, the first Scouting activities were designed to build character, physical fitness, practical skills, and service. These elements were a part of the original Cub Scout program and continue to be part of Cub Scouting today.

Just as character development should extend into every aspect of a boy's life, so character development should extend into every aspect of Cub Scouting. Cub Scout leaders should strive to use Cub Scouting's **Core Values** throughout all elements of the program—service projects, ceremonies, games, skits, songs, crafts, and all the other activities enjoyed at den and pack meetings.

Cub Scouting's Core Values

1. **Citizenship:** Contributing service and showing responsibility to local, state, and national communities.
2. **Compassion:** Having consideration and concern for the well-being of others.
3. **Cooperation:** Working together with others toward a common goal.
4. **Courage:** Doing what is right regardless of its difficulty or the consequences.
5. **Health and Fitness:** Being personally committed to care for our minds and bodies.
6. **Honesty:** Telling the truth and being worthy of trust.
7. **Perseverance:** Sticking with something and not giving up, even if it is difficult.
8. **Positive Attitude:** Setting our minds to look for and find the best in all situations.
9. **Resourcefulness:** Using human and other resources to their fullest.
10. **Respect:** Showing regard for the worth of something or someone.
11. **Responsibility:** Fulfilling our duty to take care of others and of ourselves.

Character Connections

Character development should not be viewed as something done occasionally as part of a separate program, or as part of only one area of life. For in reality, character development is a part of everything a Cub Scout does. Character development lessons can be found in every aspect of the Cub Scouting experience. In an effort to make character development an integral part of Cub Scouting, the core values are being integrated throughout the boys' handbooks and advancement program.

When it comes to developing character, the complete person must be considered. Character development involves at least three critical areas: 1—Know (thought), 2—Commit (feeling), and 3—Practice (behavior). In Cub Scouting, addressing these three critical areas and relating them to values is referred to as **Character Connections**.

Character Connections asks the Cub Scout to:

Know: Character development includes moral knowledge—both awareness and reasoning. For example, children must understand what honesty means and they must be able to reason about and interpret each situation, and then decide how to apply the principles of honesty.

What do I think or know about the core value? How does the context of this situation affect this core value? What are some historical, literary, or religious examples representing the core value?

Commit: Character development includes attention to moral motivation. Children must be committed to doing what they know is right. They must be able to understand the perspectives of others, to consider how others feel, and to develop an active moral conscience.

Why is this core value important? What makes living out this core value different? What will it take to live out this core value?

Practice: Character development includes the development of moral habits through guided practice. Children need opportunities to practice the social and emotional skills necessary for doing what is right but difficult, and to experience the core values in their lives.

How can I act according to this core value? How do I live out this core value? How can I practice this value at school, at home, and with my friends?

Scouts with Special Needs

The basic premise of Scouting for youth with special needs is that every boy wants to participate fully and be respected like every other member of the troop. While there are, by necessity, troops exclusively composed of Scouts with disabilities; experience has shown that Scouting usually succeeds best when every boy is part of a patrol in a regular troop.

Age of Participants

The Cub Scout Program is designed for boys in grades 1 thru 5.

Number of Participants Necessary

There is no minimum number of participants necessary to provide a Cub Scouting Program in an After School environment; however it is the preferred practice of the Boy Scouts of America to maintain an 8 to 1 ratio of boys to adult leaders within the Cub Scout Program.

Program Cost

There is no cost to the School District or its contracted agencies to deliver an after school scouting program. Boys can participate in weekly meetings and activities free of charge. Occasionally, weekend outings are organized by program leaders which may require a small participation fee (less than \$5.00); however participation in these events is not required and many of these opportunities are also free of charge.

For more information contact Rich Garipoli, District Executive @ 717- 394-4063, ext 225.