

# The Care and Use of Your Den Chief

Ed Vasold



NE-IV-60  
NE-CS-59

# Objectives

- What is a den chief
- How to obtain a den chief
- How to use a den chief
- How to keep a good den chief
- How to improve a den chief

# What a Den Chief Is

Definition (from the *Junior Leader Handbook*)

**Job description:** the den chief works with the Cub Scouts, Webelos Scouts, and den leaders in the Cub Scout pack.

**Reports to:** the den leader in the pack and the assistant Scoutmaster for the new Scout patrol in the troop.

**Den chief duties:**

- Know the purposes of Cub Scouting
- Helps the Cub Scouts advance through the Cub Scout ranks
- Encourages Cub Scouts to join a Scout troop upon graduation
- Assists with the activities in the den meetings
- Is a friend to the Scouts in the den and pack
- Helps out at weekly den meetings and monthly pack meetings
- Meets with adult members of the den, pack, and troop as necessary
- Sets the example
- Wears the uniform correctly
- Lives the Scout Oath and Law
- Shows Scout Spirit



# What a Den Chief Is

## Official Position Requirements (from the Cub Scout Leader Book)

**Cub Scout Den Chief:** Registered as an older Scouts BSA, Venturer, or Sea Scout. Preferably a former Cub Scout and ideally at least First Class rank. Selected by the Scoutmaster, Advisor, or Skipper upon request by a Cubmaster. Approved by the Cubmaster and pack committee for recommendation to a den leader.

**Webelos Den Chief:** Registered as an older, experienced Scouts BSA, Venturer, or Sea Scout. Preferably a former Cub Scout and ideally at least First Class rank. Selected by the Scoutmaster, Advisor, or Skipper at the request of the Cubmaster or Webelos den leader. Approved by the Cubmaster and pack committee for recommendation to the Webelos den leader.

# What a Den Chief Is

## Practical Position Requirements

- He or she should be at least two years older than the oldest cub in the den.
- He or she should be at least First Class.
- He or she should have attended BSA summer camp at least once and should have camped several times with his or her unit.
- They need a friendly personality.



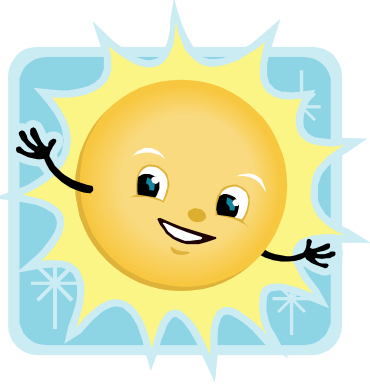
# How to Obtain a Den Chief

## Official Procedure (from the Cub Scout Leader Book)

A Den Chief is a registered Scouts BSA, Venturer, or Sea Scout, selected by the Scoutmaster, Crew Advisor, or Skipper to upon a request by a Cubmaster. They are approved by Cubmaster and pack committee for recommendation to den leader.



# How to Obtain a Den Chief



## The Scoutmaster's Opportunity

- Den Chief is a leadership position
- Den Chief is a powerful developer of leadership skills
- Training and advancement is available
- Pack / Troop relations are improved

## The Scoutmaster's Problem

- Not all Scouts are appropriate or willing
- Requires additional time demand on the Scout



# How to Obtain a Den Chief

## What YOU, the Den Leader, Can Do

- Find a Scout first (then the official procedure)
- Go directly to your troop and ask
- Go directly to another troop and ask
- Go directly to yet another troop and ask
- Visit Den Chief training and see who is there

OBTAIN A DEN CHIEF FOR YOUR DEN

APPROACH SEVERAL TROOPS IF NECESSARY

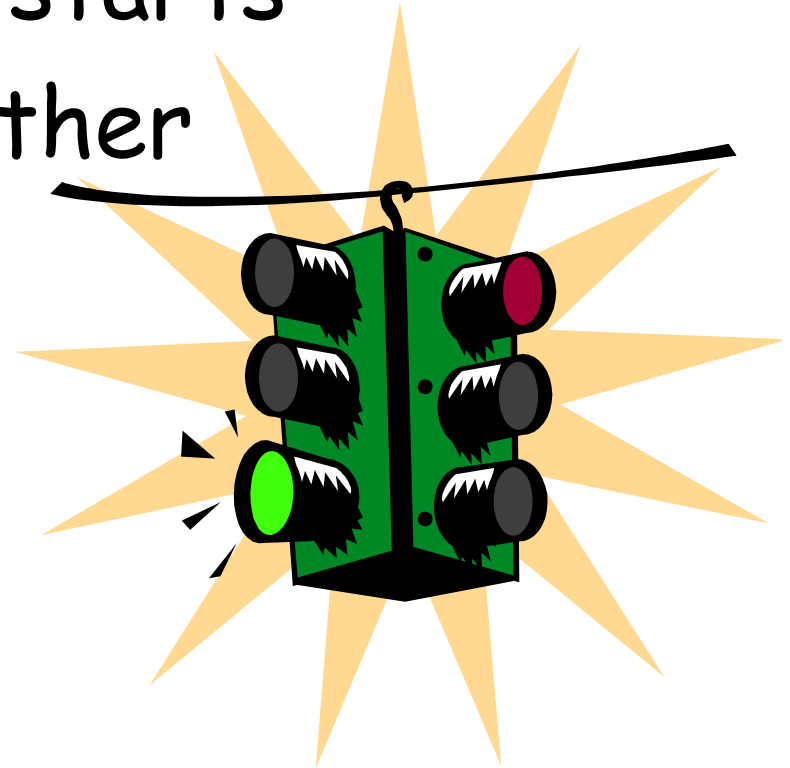
A DEN CHIEF CAN MAKE YOUR JOB EASIER AND MORE ENJOYABLE



# How to Use a Den Chief

## At Den Meetings

- Before the meeting starts
- While the scouts gather
- Opening / Closing
- Business items
- Activities
- After the meeting



# How to Use a Den Chief



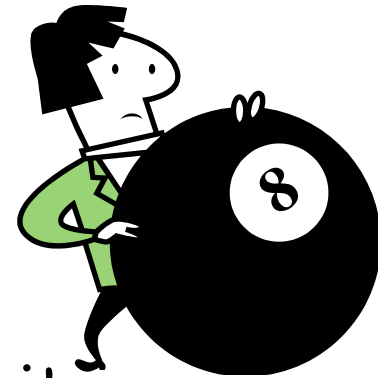
## At Pack Meetings

- Songs, skits, and stunts
- Games
- Crowd control

# How to Keep a Good Den Chief

## Things to Do

- Give him or her time to prepare
  - NEVER tell him or her what they will be doing during the den meeting
  - NEVER surprise him or her with an activity
- Treat them like a leader (but remember that they are still a youth)
- Keep your den chief safe
  - Two deep leadership (two adults with Den Chief)
  - Don't leave a den chief alone with the Cub Scouts

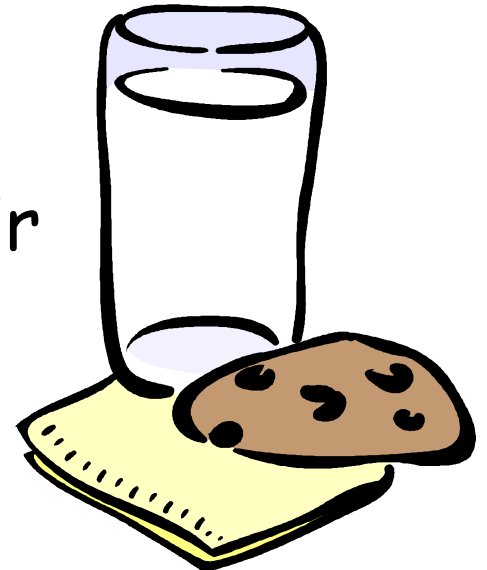


THE DEN CHIEF'S SAFETY IS YOUR RESPONSIBILITY WHEN  
THEY ARE WITH YOUR DEN

# How to Keep a Good Den Chief

## More Things to Do

- Take interest in your Den Chief's troop
  - Know what the troop is doing
  - Have him or her tell the den
- Encourage him or her to wear their successes
  - Merit badge sash
  - Order of the Arrow sash
- If you provide treats for the den, give the Den Chief one too



# How to Keep a Good Den Chief

## Things NOT to do

- Never treat a Den Chief like a Cub Scout
- Never have a Den Chief participate in a den activity



THE BENEFITS OF A DEN CHIEF DO NOT COME FREE.  
YOU MUST INVEST TIME AND ENERGY TO DEVELOP  
THEIR LEADERSHIP SKILLS.

# Your Responsibility

- Leadership development
- Safety
- Encourage your Cubs to visit the Den Chief's troop
- Encourage your Cubs to join the Den Chief's troop