

## 2018 School Night to Join Scouting

### Meeting Script – PLAN A

- I. Gathering and Greeting (20-30 minutes prior to opening)
  - a. Greeters meet new Cubs and parents as they arrive and:
  - b. Thank them for coming
  - c. Present their new-member folder
  - d. Guide them to their table. Note: table tents will help this happen
  - e. Encourage them to sign in on the roster and start on paperwork (applications)
  
- II. Opening (10-15 minutes)
  - a. Welcome & Thank you for coming tonight (DA)
  - b. Introduce School Night personnel & Pack leadership (DA)
  - c. Explanation and demonstration of Cub Scout salute. (DA or UL)
  - d. Conduct short Flag Ceremony (include all parents and new Scouts). (DA or UL)
    - i. Note: A Scout troop makes a wonderful addition here!
  - e. Do a brief program overview (DA or UL)
    - i. emphasize fun activities that Cub Scouts do
    - ii. Promote things like Family Camp, Day Camp, Pinewood Derby, etc.
  - f. Establish Den identities (DA or UL) – explain that Cub Scout Packs are divided into dens based upon grade level and gender, and that they are already set up that way. Encourage the Cubs (and parents) to show their stuff:
    - i. Kindergartners are called Lions Tigers: Let’s hear all the Lions “ROAR”!
    - ii. 1<sup>st</sup> graders are called Tigers: Let’s see if they can “ROAR” louder than the Lions!
    - iii. 2<sup>nd</sup> graders are called Wolves: Let’s hear all the Wolves “HOWL”!
    - iv. 3<sup>rd</sup> graders are called Bears: Let’s hear all the Bears “GROWL”!
    - v. 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> graders are called Webelos. Hmmm, who can tell me what a Webelos is? What kind of noise do you think a Webelos makes? All I know is that they make a lot of it. Let’s hear all you Webelos make a lot of noise!
  
- III. Presentation (30 minutes)
  - a. Cub Activity (UL)
    - i. All new (and current) Cub Scouts line up to go do a fun activity.
    - ii. Hint: Use Boy Scouts, current leaders, commissioners. If you need to fill more time review Cub Scout sign, handshake, sign, motto.
    - iii. Note: this component is key as it creates focused, undistracted time with the parents for recruiting and Q&A
  - b. Parent Presentation (During Cub Activity)
    - i. Brief overview of Cub Scouts (DR or UL) – Lions, Tigers, Wolves, Bears, Webelos, dens and den meetings, packs and pack meetings, handbooks, and advancement). Emphasize that Cub Scouting is a fun family activity.
    - ii. *Baden Powell, the founder of Scouting described Scouting as “A Game with a Purpose”. Your children brought you here tonight because of that “Game”, the FUN and adventure that Cub Scouting promises. As parents, we’re here for the “purpose”: life skills learned, reinforcement of values, character, ethics and leadership. Your son or daughter didn’t come here to have their character developed, it just happens along the way.* (DR or UL)

## Meeting Script – continued....

- iii. Pack-Specific information (UL)
  - 1. Calendar
  - 2. Leadership
  - 3. Handbook (if applicable)
  - 4. Upcoming events
  - 5. What makes Pack XYZ special
  - 6. What does Scouting cost? (DR or UL)
    - a. Be brief, but explain where the money goes. Talk about “earn your own way” opportunities – popcorn sale, camp cards, others
- iv. Review Folder contents (DA)
  - 1. Left side of folder is to complete and turn in:
    - a. Applications – Most parents have probably already started on these
    - b. Parent Participation/Family Talent form - Explain that everyone brings their own special talents and skills to the Pack, and parental involvement is key to its success.
  - 2. Right side of folder is for you to take home:
    - a. New Parent guide –brief introduction to Cub Scouting
    - b. Boy’s Life – Full of great articles about Scouts across the country; different age-appropriate editions; encourages reading. Statistically: Scouts who take Boy’s Life stay in Scouting 2 ½ times longer and advance twice as fast as those who don’t. Emphasize how excited they are to get their own mail!
    - c. Bobcat worksheet – explain that this is the first rank of Cub Scouts, earned first regardless of age when they join
    - d. Popcorn/Burgers Flyer
  - v. The need for leaders – make a presentation requesting parental involvement (DA or UL) such as the Yard Stick Presentation.

*Close with: “Take a few minutes now to discuss as dens what leadership roles each of you will take, and finish up your paperwork”*

DOWN-TIME – Note: this quiet time is KEY to close the sale on parent involvement. Allow parents time to complete forms. Unit leaders and District Ambassador should make rounds to discuss details and answer questions one-on-one.

- IV. ReGroup / Wrap Up / Dismiss (10-15 minutes) when Cubs return from their activity
  - a. Thank everyone for coming, and congratulate them on the great decision they have made to get involved in Scouting and tell them how excited we are to have them in the Cub Scouting family
  - b. Collect any paperwork and fees
  - c. Remind them of the next meeting