

LION SCOUT PILOT PROGRAM FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Why is the Great Rivers Council participating in this PILOT PROGRAM?

Research shows that child educational development begins by age 4 and as youth engage in the formal educational process at school, we want to support their efforts with Scouting's programs. It will allow us to strengthen our relationships with the local United Ways. It will allow us to level the playing field with other programs such as youth sports and 4H with regards to kindergarten aged programming.

Is it mandatory for our Pack to participate?

No, it is not. Packs that have interest in participating in the pilot program should fill out a "Request for Approval" when their unit has determined that they have the interest to participate and the Council will approve those requests (based on Journey to Excellence criteria—see Request for Approval form. These are due by July 1 to your DE.

When will our Pack be allowed to begin recruiting Lion Scouts/adult partner and Lion Guides?

As soon as your Pack is approved (likely July/August 2106).

How many meetings per month will the Lion Scouts meet?

2 (one den meeting and one outing or pack meeting). Lion Dens are not required to attend every pack meeting. Lions are not encouraged to participate in many Pack activities. Lions is designed to be an introductory program.

How will this impact our current Cub Scout Pack?

In the fall you will recruit Kindergarten aged boys for the first time. They, along with their adult partners will create a Lion Scout Den. That den is led by a Lion Guide (experienced Cub Scout leader or parent). Each adult partner is encouraged to lead one meeting. Lion Guides show adult partners how a meeting is done and then empowers them to lead the meetings. Attendance at periodic pack meetings may increase although attendance at every pack meeting is not required or encouraged. You will be giving kindergarten aged boys the opportunity to join Scouting earlier than previously permitted.

What happens to kindergarten boys from our school if our Pack chooses not to participate but another pack nearby us does?

Kindergarten boys will not be "recruited" from your school to the other school, meaning leaders who are doing boy talks at those schools/distributing materials will not target those students. However, if a parent chooses to take their child to another pack, there is nothing to prohibit that.

If our Pack implements Lion Scouts, how will this impact recruitment for our Pack?

Our hope is that participating Packs will be able to register a minimum of 6-8 Lions and form a Lion Den for their Pack. There is the possibility to have more than one Lion Den.

Will the Lion Scout Den function like our other dens?

No, they will only meet two times a month, they are not required or expected to participate in unit-level fundraising opportunities other than perhaps a small den dues structure (\$1 per meeting) to cover consumable supplies. The Lion Scout year is for orientation and awareness. Lions should not be combined with any other den for purposes of lack of leadership or lack of youth.

Will the adult partners be allowed to just drop their Lion Scout off at a meeting?

No, Lion Scouts requires a 1:1 ratio of adult partner to youth just like Tiger Cubs.

How old does a boy have to be to participate?

He needs to be in Kindergarten in the fall on 2016.

Who will be the leaders of the Lion Scout Den(s)?

A Lion Guide. This Lion Guide will lead the first meeting (or two) and then empower the adult partners to lead subsequent meetings with his/her oversight. This is the intent behind the Lion Guide. This will be a registered position for a leader who is 21 years or older.

If our Pack wants to participate how do we go about doing so?

Complete the “Request for Approval” and turn it in to your District Executive.

How will the Lion Scouts advance?

Once they have completed 5 of the 12 adventures in the Adventure Book, they will earn their Lion Badge which is a cloth badge just like other Cub Scout ranks. It is not determined yet as to where that badge will go since the uniform is just a t-shirt with an optional hat. Lions will also earn a sticker for their Adventure Book for each adventure that they complete as an instant or immediate recognition. Advancements will be turned in to the Scout office via an Advancement Report like all other advancements. We are not sure about Lion Scouts in third party software programs at this time.

What is the time frame for participation?

Interested Packs should turn in a “Requests for Approval” by July 1 to be approved by July 12th (first School Night to Join Scouting Campaign Kickoff). Recruitment can begin in August/September. We anticipate offering both online and in person orientation/trainings for Lion Guides as soon as those materials are made available to us.

What is the cost for a boy/adult partner to participate in the Lion Scout program?

\$24 per year just like all other Scouting programs. An adult partner/leader guide and adventure book is sold for approximately \$10 for the set of two. Uniform costs are not available at this time but will consist of a t-shirt and an optional hat.

If our Pack qualifies to participate, how will that impact our current leadership?

Your Pack will need to identify/recruit a Lion Guide per 6-8 youth that you recruit into the Lion Scout program for your pack.

Can we combine our Lion Den with our Tiger Den if we have low numbers?

No, since this is a pilot program, we have to abide by a strict set of standards for tracking purposes. If your Pack can't get 6-8 Lions for a den, then we would ask that you not pilot the program.

What is the criteria being used to determine qualified to participate in the pilot?

Have an annual plan/calendar and budget, your pack committee meets at least 6 times per year, 65% retention among your current scouts, provide 4 outdoor activities per year to your scouts, have 50% anticipated attendance at Day Camp or Resident Camp or 30% with an increase over 2015, 100% Youth Protection Trained leaders and have all leaders in your pack trained by 8/1/16, and have 27 youth in your Pack or 20% of the available youth at the school(s) you recruit from. These are derived from Silver JTE requirements.

Do we sign Lions up at our regular School Night to Join Scouting?

You can use the same night to sign them up, but have a separate area for those adult partners as to not overwhelm them with unnecessary information.

Will this help with retaining youth in the Scouting program?

Piloting councils were tracking to retain 30% of the original class of Lions into the Boy Scouting program, the same percentage as non-piloting councils.

Who do we go to for help with regards to the Lion Scout program?

Your District Executive or Bryon Haverstick at the council office at bryon.haverstick@scouting.org