



## LION FAQs 2018–2019 Program Year

As of August 28, 2018



### **Q: Who can join Lions?**

**A:** Cub Scouting's Lion program is for boys and girls who are 5 years old or the year before first grade.

### **Q: What is a Lion den?**

**A:** A Lion den is a group of usually six to eight kindergarten-age boys or girls who meet together to participate in the Lion program with their adult partners. Dens must be comprised of all girls or all boys.

### **Q: Who is involved in the Lion program?**

**A:** The Lion program is run by volunteers:

- A kindergarten-age youth and his or her **adult partner** join and attend meetings and activities together. Lions must have an adult partner with them at all times.
- The den is guided by a **Lion den leader**, who coordinates shared leadership among adult partners.
- A district **Lion Champion** keeps Lion den leaders informed about program updates, as well as district and council activities in which Lions might participate.

### **Q: Do we still use the word “Cub” for Lions?**

**A:** To simplify things and be consistent, Cub Scouting no longer uses the term Tiger Cubs or Lion Cubs. The youth are simply called Lions or Tigers.

## **PROGRAM**

### **Q: How often and for how long does the Lion den meet?**

**A:** The den meets for eight to nine months of the year, two times per month – once for a den meeting and once for an outing or pack meeting. The den meetings usually last for 45 minutes to an hour. The outings and pack meetings may be longer, depending on the activity.

### **Q: What methods used by the Cub Scouting program does the Lion program include?**

**A:** Cub Scout sign, Cub Scout salute, Cub Scout motto, Scout Oath, and Scout Law.

### **Q: Do Lions memorize the Scout Oath and Scout Law?**

**A:** Lion youth are not asked to memorize the Scout Oath and Scout Law. The Lion program is an introduction to Cub Scouting. The goal is for Lion participants to become familiar with the ideas and not emphasize memorization.

### **Q: Do Lions complete the Cub Scouting Bobcat rank requirements?**

**A:** Lion is a precursor to the Tiger rank in Cub Scouting. Youth will not earn the Bobcat rank until they become Tigers.

### **Q: What happens during a Lion den meeting?**

**A:** Lion den meeting plans were developed to help the Lion den leader and Lion adult partners deliver a fun and engaging program with all needed resources available or identified in a single document, the *Lion Den Leader Guide*. All the activities you need to complete during den meetings are outlined in this guide.

## UNIFORM

### **Q: What type of uniform does the Lion wear?**

**A:** A Lion T-shirt and an optional cap specifically designed for Lion youth can be purchased in local council Scout shops. A Cub Scout belt is also needed for the youth to wear adventure loop recognition.

### **Q: Does the Lion den leader or adult partner have a uniform?**

**A:** An appropriate uniform for the den leader and for adult partners is the adult embroidered Lion polo shirt or a Lion T-shirt that matches that of the youth. The Lion den leader may also choose to wear may wear the same official adult field uniform as other Cub Scout leaders in the pack.

### **Q: Do Lions wear a neckerchief?**

**A:** Lions have a yellow/gold neckerchief and slide, but use is optional. National originally announced that the neckerchief and slide would be earned after completion of the “Gizmos and Gadgets” adventure, but that requirement has been dropped.

## LEADERSHIP

### **Q: How does the leadership of the Lion den work?**

**A:** The ideal Lion den leader is an experienced Cub Scout leader. The Lion adult partners take turns leading the activities and den meetings for the youth. The Lion den leader helps mentor each adult partner to prepare for their meeting/outing. The Den Meeting Plans are outlined in the *Lion Den Leader Guide* with simple easy to follow step-by-step instructions listing everything down to any supplies needed.

### **Q: What does a Lion den leader do?**

**A:** The Lion den leader sets the stage for a successful Scouting experience for families in the den:

- Completes Lion den leader orientation, conducted by the district Lion Champion.
- Oversees the den.
- Communicates with participating families.
- Leads initial den meetings and outings.
- Mentors adult partners as they lead den meetings and outings during the year.
- Is the point person for engaging the Lion den with the pack and pack meetings.
- Helps create an atmosphere of fun and family within the den for families and youth.

### **Q: What does an adult partner do?**

**A:**

- Attends all den meetings and outings/pack meetings with their Lion.
- Takes his or her turn in leading an Adventure (den meeting and outing) during the year.
- The Lion den leader will help mentor adult partners to prepare them for the den meeting/outing they will lead. The Den Meeting Plans are outlined in the *Lion Den Leader Guide* with simple easy to follow step-by-step instructions listing everything down to any supplies needed.
- Has lots of fun with their Lion and other Scouting families!

### **Q: What does shared leadership mean and why is it important?**

**A:** The success and part of the fun of Lions is that adult partners get to take the leadership role at one meeting and outing. This is important for several reasons.

- It shows adult partners leading. Lion Scouts will be proud of their involvement!
- It makes the leadership easier by everyone taking a small part.
- It’s fun to be a part of making your den great by everyone contributing to its success.

**Q: Do adult partners count for two-deep leadership at den meetings and outing?**

**A:** Effective October 1, 2018, two **registered** adult leaders 21 years of age or over are required at all Scouting activities, including meetings. A **registered** female adult leader over 21 must be present for any activity involving female youth.

If an adult partner wishes to become a registered leader, he or she must complete an adult registration form, complete Youth Protection training, agree to a BSA criminal background check, and pay the annual membership fee.

**Q: Do den chiefs work with Lions?**

**A:** Den chiefs can work with Wolf, Bear, and Webelos dens. Lions and Tigers do not have den chiefs. Since an adult partner is required, the den chiefs are reserved for the older ranks.

**RECOGNITION**

**Q: Do Lions have advancement like the other levels in the Cub Scouting program?**

**A:** Yes. To achieve rank, Lions will complete adventures just like the other Cub Scout programs. However, Lions have only five required Adventures to complete in order to earn the Lion rank.

**Q: What recognition is given when a Lion completes an adventure?**

**A:** When an adventure is completed, the Lion will receive immediate recognition – a sticker that matches the adventure. These stickers are designed to be placed on the “My Lion Trail” page in their adventure book. The Lion will also receive an adventure belt loop, just like the older members of the pack. They can begin wearing a Cub Scout belt to proudly display these earned awards.

**Q: What does the Lion do with the Lion badge? Can the youth wear the Lion badge on the Cub Scout uniform when he or she becomes a Tiger?**

**A:** Once Lions complete their rank, they can wear the rectangular Lion patch on the upper left of their T-shirt. (That’s the Lion’s left, or over his or her heart.) When Lions move into Tigers, the badge is sewn under the left uniform pocket — below where the Tiger rank patch will go. The previously introduced diamond-shaped Lion patch is going away.



**REGISTRATION**

**Q: What is the registration fee?**

**A:** The Lion registration fee is the same as for all Scouts - \$33 per year. The annual fee should be pro-rated according to the date of registration. Adult partners join as part of the youth registration fee, just as with Tigers.

**Q: What is the code for registering a Lion den leader?**

**A:** The Lion den leader code is LL.

**Q: Can we sign up Lions during spring recruitment?**

**A:** No. There is no summer program for Lions. The Lion program starts in August or later. Packs should recruit and register Lions close to the start of the kindergarten.

## **PACK MEETINGS, CAMPING AND MORE**

### **Q: Do Lions attend all pack meetings?**

**A:** Lions should participate at an introductory level, attending at least two or three pack meetings a year. The Lion program is designed to introduce 5-year-old kindergarten-age youth to the fun and excitement of Scouting, but in ways that maintain appropriate expectations. Because of their age, development level, physical abilities, and stamina, Lions are not expected to participate fully in pack activities.

You might think of some special times like a holiday pack meeting or Blue and Gold or end of the year fun time. Be sure to include them in special activities, but only if appropriate for kindergarteners. If the Lions are planning to attend a pack meeting, be sure to have some activities they can participate in that are age-appropriate.

Ultimately, it's up to the family. If they would like to attend more pack meetings, they are welcome. Remember, the Lion program is an introduction to the world of Scouting. It's good to save some of the fun for them to look forward to as Tigers!

### **Q: Can Lions go family camping with the pack?**

**A:** Yes. Lions can participate in family camping with their pack. Lion dens should not participate in overnight camping conducted only with their den. The Lion den as a group should not be expected or required to attend a family campout as part of the Lion program. It is not an expectation in the Lion program, nor is it written in the adventures, that kindergarten-age youth participate in overnight den camping.

### **Q: Do Lions go to day camp?**

**A:** No. Day camp is reserved for older Cub Scouts. Lion dens should focus on exciting (and age-appropriate) adventures and fun family outings. Day camp begins at the end of the kindergarten year when the Lion becomes a Tiger. Remember... we don't sign them up until August!

### **Q: Can Lions participate in pinewood derbies?**

**A:** Yes, you can include Lions in your pack's regular Pinewood Derby routine. You might encourage Lions to use the wedge car available at Scout Shops — no cutting required.

### **Q: Is there anything else that is saved only for Tiger ranks and above?**

**A:** Yes, these items and activities should be saved for Tigers and above:

- Day camp
- BB-guns
- Bobcat badge
- Fundraising is not required for Lions. We want families to take the Lion year and simply enjoy the Scouting experience. There will be plenty of time to help support the pack, den, and Scouting. If they choose to participate, however, they may.

### **Q: Where can I find the most updated information about Lions?**

- [www.samhoustonbsa.org/lion](http://www.samhoustonbsa.org/lion)