



Prepared. For Life.®

VISION

The vision of the Boy Scouts of America is to prepare every eligible youth in America to become a responsible, participating citizen and leader who is guided by the Scout Oath and Scout Law.

MISSION

The Boy Scouts of America seeks to accomplish its vision through the following mission: **The mission of the Boy Scouts of America is to prepare young people to make ethical and moral choices over their lifetimes by instilling in them the values of the Scout Oath and Scout Law.**

AIMS

The Boy Scouts of America delivers an educational program for boys that achieves these three aims:

- ▶ To build character
- ▶ To become a responsible, participating citizen
- ▶ To become a leader who is guided by the Scout Oath and Scout Law



INFORMATION FOR LION PARENTS

Welcome to Cub Scouting's Lion Pilot!

Lions is a Boy Scouts of America pilot program for kindergarten-age boys in approved councils. We look forward to hearing about your and your son's participation to help us learn from this pilot program.

Cub Scouting is a program of the Boy Scouts of America, with the overall mission to help young people build character, learn citizenship, and develop personal fitness. Cub Scouting focuses on boys in kindergarten through fifth grades. The program is carried out entirely by volunteers. The quality of a Cub Scout's experience in the program depends on his family's commitment to Scouting.

Family Time at Its Best

Your time is valuable. Today's families, more than ever, struggle to find time to spend together. Cub Scouting helps to support your family by providing ready-made opportunities for you and your son to do things together. It is unique among the many activities offered today in that you, as his family, are involved and help him along the way. The family is the basis of Cub Scouting. Cub Scouting exists to support your family and help enrich your family time together.

Lion Program Family Benefits

- ▶ Offers age-appropriate and fun activities each month
- ▶ Enhances quality family time
- ▶ Encourages positive interaction between Scouts and adults
- ▶ Introduces families to Scouting

Who Are Lions?

- ▶ Lions are kindergarten-age boys who are at least 5 years old by September 1.
- ▶ Lions join with a parent or caring adult partner.
- ▶ Lions form dens of six to eight Lion pairs (boy and accompanying adult).
- ▶ Lion dens are part of a Cub Scout pack.
- ▶ Lions wear the Lion T-shirt and optional cap to their activities.
- ▶ Lions move to the next Cub Scout level (Tigers) at the end of kindergarten.

What Do Lions Do?

- ▶ The Lion dens and their adult partners will meet twice per month.
- ▶ The first meeting each month will be a den meeting.
- ▶ The second meeting each month for the Lion dens will be a den outing or pack meeting.
- ▶ Lions use the *Lion Adventure Book* to explore their world, themselves, their families, and their local neighborhoods.
- ▶ The Lion guide and adult partners use the *Lion Adventure Book* and this *Lion Parent and Leader Guidebook* to plan den activities.



Goals of the Lion Program

As a parent or caring adult, you want your Lion to grow up to be self-reliant, dependable, and caring. Scouting has these same goals in mind for him.

The Lion program will:

- ▶ Offer greater support for children and their families.
- ▶ Introduce children and their families to Scouting and outdoor fun.
- ▶ Build a foundation of character.

Scouting has been called a game with a purpose. Our goal for Lions is to provide a safe environment for you and your kindergartner to have fun as a family and with other families of Lions. As you continue to build a closer relationship with your Lion and other Lion families, we want to offer you opportunities to share a little bit of the Scouting adventure. Lion families will begin to understand more about Scouting and will prepare their youth for moving to Tigers as they become first-graders and for participating in day camp. We look forward to sharing Scouting with you and your family.

What Should You Expect?

As the adult partner to your Lion, you serve as a support and guide as your new Lion discovers the fun activities of the program. He will learn by doing these things himself. And as he learns and grows, your relationship with him will grow as well.

The Den

Lion dens meet each month during the school year for a total of eight to nine months. You and your son should plan on two gatherings per month. As mentioned above, one meeting will be a den meeting and the other will be an outing or a Cub Scout pack meeting.

Den Meetings

The monthly den meeting should be conducted at a time that is convenient to members of the Lion den. The den meeting includes the group of kindergarten-age boys (Lions), their Lion adult partners, and the Lion guide. Most dens meet in a home or central location, such as a church or school. It is up to the families in your Lion den to determine what is most convenient.

Den meetings and outings are facilitated by a Lion guide. The Lion guide is an experienced Cub Scout leader. He or she will lead the first Lion den meeting of the year. The Lion program supports co-leadership for den meetings and outings with the Lion adult partners.

Each Lion adult partner helps the Lion guide by taking on the responsibility of planning and leading at least one of the subsequent den meetings. It is suggested that each family take on one adventure and rotate responsibilities. We share the leadership responsibilities in the Lion program so involvement is rewarding, not a burden. It's more fun this way, and your son loves to see you taking on the task.



Outings and Pack Meetings

Outings will be a time for the entire family to join the Lion and other Lion families on a fun adventure. The outing may be a field trip to a place of interest for the boys in the den or it may be a visit to a Cub Scout pack meeting. A Cub Scout pack meeting is a monthly gathering for all of the Cub Scout dens in a pack. Lions generally attend only a few pack meetings each year.

Lion Program Materials

The *Lion Parent and Leader Guidebook* is available for each family. This guide contains the Lion den meeting plans, activities, and ideas for a complete year. The Lion program materials were developed by Scouting parents and educational experts. The youth *Lion Adventure Book* is a keepsake for the Lion and is a way to record some of his experiences from his year as a Lion. The *Lion Adventure Book* was included in the Lion materials purchased from the local Scout shop.

The Lion Badge

The first five required adventures are designed to focus each Lion on demonstrating skills in the areas of adventure, leadership, personal fitness, citizenship, and character. Lions will receive the Lion badge at the completion of the required adventures. Earning the Lion badge signifies that a Lion has made important progress in his quest for fun and adventure in Scouting.



The Lion Uniform

The Lion uniform is a Lion T-shirt and optional cap, available at your local Scout shop.

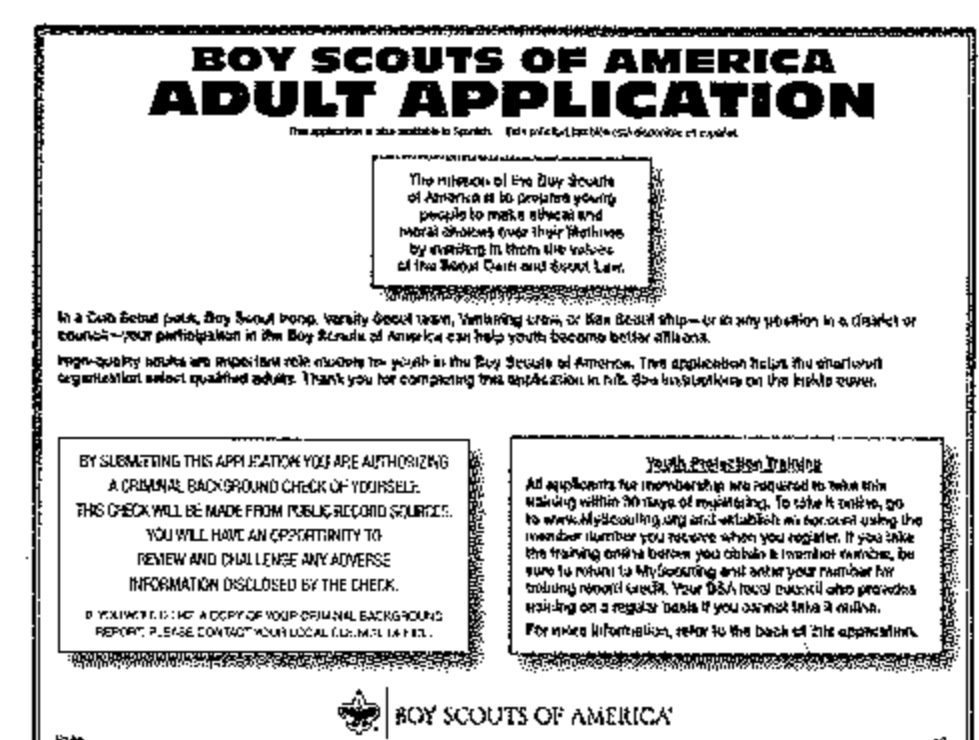
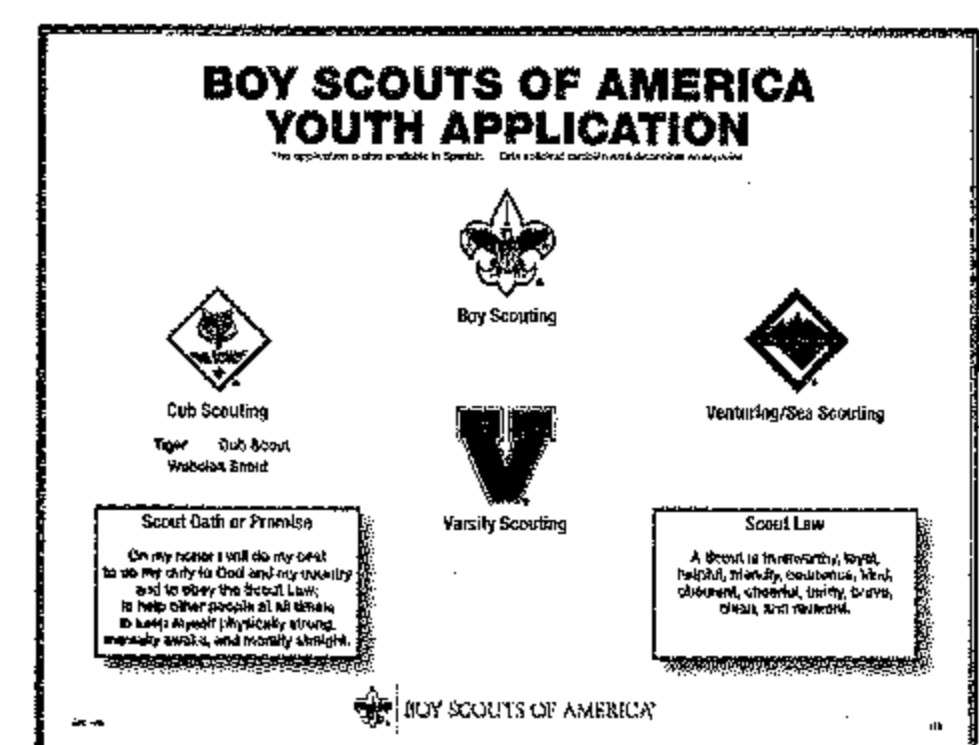


Lion Registration

Each Lion and his parent or guardian need to register with their local Boy Scouts of America council. They will then need to complete one youth application and submit it to the Lion guide. The Lion guide should complete and submit an adult application to the council.

Additional resources are available to help you understand how a Lion den functions and the importance of your role.

**Lions must have an “adult partner” with them at all times.
This is required by the Boy Scouts of America.**





Adult Registration—Youth Protection Training

The BSA highly recommends that all Lion adult partners take the free online Youth Protection training. All Lion guides are required to take this training. Training is provided at www.scouting.org/Training/youthprotection.aspx.

Scouting's Commitment to Youth Safety

Child abuse is a serious problem in our society, and unfortunately it can occur anywhere, even in Scouting. Youth safety is of paramount importance to Scouting. For that reason, the BSA continues to create barriers to abuse beyond what have previously existed in Scouting. The Boy Scouts of America places the greatest importance on providing the most secure environment possible for our youth members. To maintain such an environment, the BSA has developed numerous procedural and leadership selection policies, and provides parents and leaders with numerous online and print resources for the Cub Scouting, Boy Scouting, and Venturing programs.

Effective June 1, 2010, the BSA implemented mandatory Youth Protection training for all registered volunteers.

New leaders are required to complete Youth Protection training within 30 days of registering. To take the training online, go to www.my.Scouting.org and establish an account using the member number you received when you registered for BSA membership. If you take the training online before you obtain a member number, be sure to return to *my.Scouting* and enter your number for training record credit. Your BSA local council also provides training on a regular basis if you cannot take it online. For more information, refer to the back of the BSA adult membership application, No. 524-501.

Youth Protection training must be taken every two years. If a volunteer does not meet the BSA's Youth Protection training requirement at the time of the unit's charter renewal, the volunteer will not be reregistered. We encourage all adults, including all parents, to take the BSA's Youth Protection training. To find out more about the Youth Protection policies of the Boy Scouts of America and how to help Scouting keep your family safe, see the *Parent's Guide* in any of the Cub Scouting or Boy Scouting handbooks, or go to www.scouting.org/Training/Youth Protection.aspx.



Registration Fees

A registration fee will be assessed for each Lion/adult partner pair. For details, check with your unit or council.

Cub Scout Pack Fundraising

Scouting, as with all community nonprofit organizations, requires funding to operate. Your registration fees go to the National Council of the Boy Scouts of America, where they support the operation of the Boy Scouts of America throughout the country. Cub Scout packs also take part in fundraising activities to support their local unit program needs throughout the year.

It is not required or expected that Lions or their families will take part in unit-level fundraising. The first year is for orientation and awareness. Opportunities to support the pack program through product sales are available as Tigers—next year.

Your Lion den may establish modest dues (\$1 per meeting) to cover the cost of some consumable supplies.

Can Other Family Members Help Too?

Families are encouraged to join in the fun of Cub Scouting and to be a part of the local Scouting community. There are many ways grandparents and other family members can get involved. There are short or one-time projects, as well as longer-term commitments. There are den meeting assignments, fun games and activities, leadership opportunities, planning/organizing, communications, and much more. There is something for everyone, including opportunities for every level of interest, ability, and time. If you are interested, talk with your Lion guide or your Cub Scout pack Cubmaster to discover projects and opportunities that best suit your family's desires and interests.

Where Can I Go to Get More Information?

Basic information about the Cub Scouting program is included in the following pages of this guide. If you are like many people, it is important to have a person you can go to directly for help. For your son's Lion den, the Lion guide is a great source of information. The Lion Guide Information section of this guidebook describes the guide's role and responsibilities.