

The Cub Scout Advancement Process

The Cub Scout program in the den and pack is the basis for the Cub Scout's advancement. The steps in Cub Scout and Webelos Scout advancement procedures are **preparation, qualification, and recognition**. The requirements to each rank are authorized by the National Executive Board and are set forth in the *Tiger Cub Scout Handbook*, *Wolf Cub Scout Handbook*, *Bear Cub Scout Handbook*, and the *Webelos Scout Handbook* and **no one** - no council, district, unit nor individual - has authority to add to or subtract from these advancement requirements.

The Cub Scout advancement process differs from the four step process of the Boy Scout advancement procedure, which is: **learning, testing, reviewing, and recognition**. In the Cub Scout advancement process, there is no review! **Cub Scouts and Webelos Scouts do not participate in boards of review**. Packs are not authorized to conduct boards of review. It is imperative that the adult leaders assure that **the** Cub Scout advancement process is used in their unit. The steps in the Cub Scout advancement process are described in the following sections.

Step One-The first step is **preparation**. In the Cub program, parents have a primary responsibility to help the scout learn the material needed to complete a requirement. In the Webelos program, the teaching is shared between the parents and the Webelos den leaders. Scouting is action-oriented and Cub Scout-aged boys generally have limited attention spans so lessons need to be short and action packed. Lectures are out and demonstrations and games are the most effective teaching tools. Another important learning method is found in the example set by the adults in the Scout's life. This example teaches many lessons - the important ones about life - getting along with each other and always doing your best.

Step Two-The Cub Scout's knowledge and skill are **qualified**. This means that the Cub does the required activity. If it is building a car or making a collection, he does it to the best of his ability. He should be encouraged to use his projects to enhance his school classes. We do not do a boy a favor by letting him get by with less than his best. The testing in the Cub program is done by parents and guardians. When a parent signs the Scout's book, that signature is trusted to mean that the requirement has been fulfilled to the best of the scout's ability. The Cub Leaders do not question the Cub, if they have concerns about the quality of the knowledge demonstrated by

the boy, they need to meet with the parents and discuss how the parents are teaching and testing their Cub Scout. The Cub Leaders can then discuss how the parents are teaching and testing their Cub Scout. The Cub Leaders can then suggest ways to improve the testing and help the parent do a better job in their role to deliver the full Cub Scout program to their son. Unlike the Boy Scout program, the Cub Leaders do not conduct any type of formal review of the Cub Scout. In the Webelos program, the Webelos Den Leader is responsible for testing the boy to assure that the Cub has mastered the required material; but there is no review like that used in the Boy Scout advancement program.

Step Three-The last step in the Cub Scout advancement program is recognition. In the Cub Scout advancement program the boy's achievements are recognized monthly at the pack meeting. Each boy and his parents should be given their moment of recognition in front of the rest of the pack. Advancement recognition needs to be fun and could involve other Cubs as well as the adult pack leaders. Don't let pack meetings become routine and "boring".

Cub Scouting is home- and neighborhood-centered for the younger boys. Advancement involves parental approval of requirements. The administration of the Cub Scout advancement program is primarily the responsibility of the pack committee, with the support of the district advancement committee and the commissioner staff.

Parents of Cub Scouts should understand their role and responsibilities in their son's advancement. For the boy to receive maximum benefit and growth from his advancement, the adult's standard for completion of any requirement should be based on the Cub Scout motto, "**Do Your Best**".

The Cub Scout advancement process is not the Boy Scout advancement process. It has been designed to fit the needs of Cub Scout-aged boys. If it is conducted properly, it will help each Cub Scout learn to live the Cub Scout Promise and to always do his best. The advancement program will also build enthusiasm for continuing the Boy Scout program and the process will provide many opportunities for parents to interact with their sons in situations that build communications, trust and love for each other.