

# Suggested Outline for Joining Night Presentation

## I. Pre-Opening – 30 minutes before the opening – Joining Night Coordinator

- A. Have the Pack set up displays (picture boards, Pinewood Derby, awards, crafts, etc.). Put Joining Night posters on entrance doors with directions to the meeting room.
- B. Be prepared with pre-opening activities to keep boys and parents involved.
  - 1. Meeting can be killed quickly with uncontrolled running, shouting and horseplay.
  - 2. Use the following suggestions to keep the ground under control.
    - a. Have parents and boys stay seated together.
    - b. Sing songs.
    - c. Have games
    - d. Perform skits
- C. Have table tents and den flags to tell people where to sit (by grade). Make sure to have plenty of pens at each table so parents can fill out information.
- D. Utilize current adult leadership to keep boys and parents in assigned room and out of the halls and other areas.
- E. Have parents fill out the den roster completed as they arrive.
- F. Distribute Parent Talent Surveys, Parent Participation Form (“100 points”), Boys’ Life Mini Mags, adult applications and any other Pack information as people arrive (do **NOT** give out the youth applications yet).
- G. Have parents fill out den roster sheet after they are seated at the correct table (by grade). This will be used by the Den Leader to find out who is in their den and to make sure they are contacted about the first Den meeting.

## II. Pack Leadership – 5 minutes – Joining Night Coordinator & Cubmaster

- A. Joining Night Coordinator – “I always like to ask the question of parents, How many of you were involved as Scouting as a kid (Either Boy Scouts or Girl Scouts)? It is amazing to see our alumni, and I am sure that each of you has your Scouting stories, which would be amusing to listen to. But I am also certain that each of you could identify those ways in which Scouting had a positive influence on developing your character.

I would like to introduce to you the Cubmaster of Pack (number and name). He/she will also introduce the rest of the current Pack leadership that are present.

- B. Cubmaster – Quickly introduce current leaders and review highlights of Packs activity schedule.

#### **IV. Recruit Adults – 15 minutes – Joining Night Coordinator**

- A. Have several of the current leaders take the boys to play game (either in a completely separate room or outside). They can even work on some of the requirements for the Bobcat badge.
- B. Set the stage (the object is to get them excited about the fun and opportunities of being a leader, and set their mind at ease concerning the time involvement and difficulty). Suggested phrases are:
1. Many of you tonight will have the opportunity to be leaders.
  2. Many people don't volunteer because they are:  
Not interested – Don't have time – Don't know how
  3. Counter these reasons with:
    - We know you are interested or you wouldn't be here.
    - Out of 168 hours in the week, you can surely find a few hours to spend with your son and his friends
    - We find time for what's important to us.
    - We will show you what to do through proper training
- C. Explain Jobs – As parents, you have a choice, “Boys or Books”
1. **Den Leader:** (hold up Program Helps) This is a real opportunity to get to know your son. If all you do is follow the program outlined in the Program Helps you would have a good meeting. As a den leader, you will receive these in your Scouting Magazine. They take a 1-hour meeting and break it down into 7 parts and tell you exactly what to do each week. You meet at your convenience (including the time, location, and day of the week) – this is one of the benefits of being the Den Leader.
  2. **Assistant Den Leader:** Helps at Den meetings. Two-deep adult leadership is required at all meetings and outings.
  3. **Parent Committee Members:** The Pack committee is the administrative body of the pack. They determine such things as finance, policy, leadership, transportation, records and outings, as well as helping plan pack meetings.
- D. Motivate (can use other motivating stories here as well)  
Look at your son – if he is 8, 9 or 10; he has already spent ½ of the time he is going to be at home with you – when he is 18, 19 or 20; he will be gone – he will go to college, get a job and his own place,

or join the military. Now is the time he needs you. Now, you, his parent are most important and influential person in his life. In just a few short years his peers will gain more and more influence. I've never heard a parent say, "I wish I had never gotten involved in Cub Scouting with my son", but I hear many say, "I should have taken more time with him when he was young."

- E. I'm going to leave you so your group can determine the best person to serve as Den Leader, Assistant Den Leader, and members of the Parents Committee for your Den. For your son's sake, this decision must come from your den. (Read A Boy's Eyes). When you have reached this decision, let me know and we will register the leaders and boys.
  
- F. Leave Them. Walk out of the room. Don't stand around to answer their questions or you will end up trying to select their leaders. If they have questions, answer them briefly and leave the area. In the event a den can't find the leadership, try this – "I realize you are having difficulty, perhaps all of you work, or have small children, or work shifts. I can't solve your problem for you. For your son's sake, please try one more time to solve your problem. Perhaps all of you will have to work as assistants – see what you can work out and I'll check with you in a few minutes. **Only as a last resort, try to place these Cubs in other dens. No den should take more than 8 Cubs.**
  
- G. Recognize Leaders. As leadership is secured, call for attention and introduce the leaders, assign them their den number and ask everyone to give them a hand.
  
- H. Registration (**get help from several current Pack leaders!**)
  1. Make sure that all checks are made out to "BSA" so that at the end of the evening the Joining Night Coordinator can leave with enough money in hand to cover registration and Boys' Life.
  2. Get completed adult applications and registration fee.  
You may need to leave these with the Charter Rep for approval.
  3. Count money and applications. Give Cub Scout applications to the new Den Leader (**do not hand out Cub applications before a Den Leader is selected**). Ask the Den Leader to get all of them completed with the registration fee and Boy's Life fee (if wanted by the family). Ask him/her to put den number in top left-hand corner of application. The Den Leader gives the top sheet of the application to the new Cub Scout to start working on the Bobcat requirements.
  4. Make sure that all of the parents have filled out the important Parent Participation Form ("*100 Points*").
  5. The new Den Leader needs to make sure that the Den roster is filled out completely (including names, numbers and emails).

He/she keeps the white copy and gives the other three to the Cubmaster.

6. Collect the above information from each den.

- I. All Den Leaders, Assistants, and Committee Members stay; other parents may go home. Training dates, times and places need to be discussed (training will be either a district session or a Pack leaders' meeting to be held the following week).
- J. If the Cubmaster and/or Committee Chairman is needed, call all the adults together. Tell them that they are off to a great start and the pack should be a good one. Tell them that all they need now is a Cubmaster and/or Committee Chairman and for them to decide who is the best person for the job. Leave them to make the decision.
- K. **Give all completed applications and money to the Joining Night Coordinator or District Executive. All of this paperwork must be to the Scout Office by the following day.** If boys are found that signed the den roster and did NOT turn in an application, they must be called and asked why they did not sign up.