

**LEATHERSTOCKING COUNCIL
TRAINING COMMITTEE
DEN CHIEF PROGRAM GUIDE**



WHAT IS A DEN CHIEF?

Den chiefs are Scouts, Venturers, or Sea Scouts who assist a Cub Scout Den Leader or Webelos Den Leader. They are selected by the [Senior Patrol Leader](#) and [Scoutmaster](#), and approved by the Cubmaster and the pack committee for recommendation to the Den Leader. Den Chiefs help Cub Scouts advance through Cub Scout ranks and encourage Cub Scouts to join a troop, crew, or ship upon completion of Cub Scouting.

Requirements to hold the Den Chief position are: been in a Troop, Crew, or Ship for 18 months, achieved First class rank and completed Training - either online or a district / council in person class. If 18 months in a unit is not attainable, but the youth shows skills and knowledge necessary, and is 14 years or older, a local unit may consider age and rank eligibility for the role of Den Chief.

WHAT DOES A DEN CHIEF DO?

Responsibilities

- Be reliable, such as being at the den and pack meetings early
- Take the Den Chief Pledge
- Maintain patience and a positive attitude
- Understand the needs of Cub Scouts in the den, being sensitive to the needs of all members of your den based
- Provide encouragement to the scout in your den
- Give instruction to youth who require individual attention
- Understand the Methods of Cub Scouting: Living the ideals, Belonging to a den, Advancement, Family Involvement, Activities, Serving the Neighborhood, and Uniform

- Help the den leader with den meetings.
- Help lead activities, games, and ceremonies.
- Help the members learn to be leaders.
- Reflect the principles of the Scout Oath and Scout Law.
- Set a good example as a role model.
- Share knowledge of the outdoors.
- Encourage Cub Scouts and Arrow of Light Scouts to move on to the next Scouting level.
- Support the Denner/Assistant Denner

WHAT RESOURCES ARE AVAILABLE TO THE DEN CHIEF?

1. Den Chief Training: [Den Chief Training Page](#)
2. Den Chief Online Training: [Den Chief Online Training](#)
3. Den Chief Handbook (consider making it available in troop library; also available [here](#)).(Current publication is 2021)
4. Possible in-person Den Chief training at events such as University of Scouting. Check with the Council Training Committee for planned training events.

HOW MUCH TIME IS REQUIRED?

A Den Chief needs to attend Den and Pack meetings to the satisfaction of the Cubmaster. The Cubmaster should communicate those expectations to the Scout at the start of the position as Den Chief. These needs could be any combination of:

- Den meetings
- Pack meetings
- Day trips
- Hikes
- Campouts (follow guidelines for camping)
- Blue & Gold Banquet
- Pinewood Derby
- Gold Nugget Derby
- Cub events at Camp Kingsley (Gaming Weekend, AOL Weekend, etc)

The Cubmaster and Den Chief should decide together how to track the Scout's involvement. It may be tracked on Pack or Den attendance sheets, on a separate tracking sheet or calendar, or on one of the note pages in the back of the Scout's Handbook.

WHAT IS THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN DEN CHIEF, CUBMASTER, AND SCOUTMASTER?

It is also recommended that Den Chiefs meet periodically with each the Cubmaster and the Scoutmaster, Advisor, or Skipper (can be done separately, but with no one-on-one contact), to discuss:

- What activities/meetings the Den Chief has assisted in
- What problems the Den Chief has encountered and how they can be resolved
- What the Den Chief has learned and how he/she has grown as a leader
- What goals the Den Chief would like to meet
- The Scoutmaster should be sure to discuss the role during Scoutmaster conferences

The Cubmaster is responsible for assigning a Den to the Den Chief. Assigning Den Chiefs to the Den of the Scout's sibling should be avoided.

RECOGNITION:

Scouts should be recognized for their time and dedication as a Den Chief.

The Cubmaster or Pack Committee may recognize the Den Chief at a pack meeting or the Blue & Gold Banquet.

The Unit Leader may recognize the Scout has taken position at the Court of Honor following appointment.



The Scout should be given the Den Chief shoulder cord that corresponds to the den they assist. (Blue and yellow: Lion-Bear; Red, black, & yellow: Webelos-Arrow of Light)



After a year of service as Den Chief the [Den Chief Service Award](#) should be awarded. This is a red, white, and blue shoulder cord the Scout may wear until he/she turns 18.

If you have any questions regarding how to begin a Den Chief program between your troop/crew/ship and pack, please contact the Leatherstocking Training Committee.



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