



the COMMISSIONER

A PUBLICATION FOR COUNCIL COMMISSIONERS AND SCOUT EXECUTIVES **SPRING 2003**

CUB Scouting And The Commissioner

SPECIAL TO COUNCIL COMMISSIONERS: Your great corps of commissioners are the guardians of good unit program! Please have your commissioners focus on and become even more effective in serving Cub packs.

Cub Scouting is our entry-level program. First impressions are pretty important to a boy and his family. Cub Scouting is a five-year program; that's an awesome opportunity to influence a boy—so Cub Scout retention is important. Eighty seven percent of Boy Scouts have been Cub Scouts, thus healthy packs also influence Boy Scouts. Yes, a boy's first year in the program is critical!

Cub Scouting action ideas for commissioners:

1. The den meeting. Fellow commissioners, let's start with square one—uno—first—primarily—foremost—let's set aside every other aspect of Cub Scouting for a moment and start exactly at the point where boys really receive the greatest values of Cub Scouting. That's in the den!

- Have your pack leaders do a den health check.
- Are den meetings fun and attention-grabbing?
- Do all den leaders plan meetings in advance using the Cub Scout Den Meeting Program Sheet, No. 33826A?
- Are the dens retaining their youth members?
- Talk with the Cubmaster to be sure each den leader is the best kind of person to work directly with boys.
- Is every new boy quickly assigned to a den?

2. Den visibility outside of homes and church basements in uniform. Good visibility helps boys feel good about



being Cub Scouts and encourages other families to join.

- Suggest age-appropriate community service projects to den and pack leaders.
- Discuss with pack leaders the kinds of den activities and trips that are fun and exciting for boys.

3. Give priority to packs that need the most help. Identify the "hurry cases" which are unit life-threatening. Then quickly administer the correct "first aid":

- Dens not meeting
- Pack with missing den leaders or Cubmaster
- Pack with no committee
- Pack with no new Cub Scouts
- Pack conflict with its chartered organization
- Den or pack with weak leadership
- Dens that are continually losing youth members

(see pages 27-30 of Commissioner Fieldbook)

4. At district commissioner staff meetings, be sure adequate time is set aside for ADCs and their respective teams of unit commissioners to review the health of each pack and plan who will help meet specific unit needs during the month ahead.

5. Be sure all den leaders and Cubmasters have Basic Leader Training.

- Check the record—who still needs training?
- If the pack has a pack trainer, with the Cubmaster or pack committee chair, guide the pack trainer in his/her training promotion responsibilities.
- As a last resort, take leaders to training.
- As a last, last resort, bring training to the pack.

6. Boys who advance usually stay in the pack!

- Be sure pack leaders show parents how they help their sons advance.
- Be sure den leaders fill den meetings with activities that help boys advance.

continued on page 2

William F. "Rick" Cronk serves as national commissioner of the Boy Scouts of America. Rick is president of Dreyer's Grand IceCream, Inc. He is a Silver Beaver, Silver Antelope, and Silver Buffalo recipient who has served in a variety of local and national responsibilities, including troop committee member, council president, area president, and Western Region president.



CUB Scouting And The Commissioner

continued from page 1

- Are advancement records kept and displayed in den and pack meetings?

- Help pack leaders give boys prompt recognition in colorful ceremonies.

7. Packs with summertime activities usually have a high boy retention rate!

- Be sure your packs plan a pack outdoor activity and/or pack meeting in June, July, and August that will encourage dens to meet all summer.

- Encourage packs to earn the National Summertime Pack Award.

- Help your packs take advantage of the wonderful world of resident Cub Scout camp.

8. At charter renewal time during your help with the membership inventory, help pack leaders give attention to why any Cub Scout has been left off the renewal form.

9. Unit commissioners should periodically visit pack leader meetings as

well as pack meetings to determine how well packs are delivering fun and meaningful program to boys.

10. Tools to help serve packs:

- *Commissioner Helps for Packs, Troops and Crews*, No. 33618D, is chock-full of handy tips on helping packs upgrade pack program. It suggests specific commissioner actions to help pack leaders meet specific program standards.

- *Unit Commissioners Worksheet (Pack)*,

No. 34125A, helps commissioners identify those parts of pack operation that need help.

- *Cub Scout Program Helps*, No. 34304E, has complete plans for den and pack meetings.

- *Cub Scout Leader Book*, No. 33221B, an essential reference for Cub Scout leaders on program planning, activities, forms, and guidelines on every aspect of Cub Scouting.

AS COUNCIL COMMISSIONER—

- Discuss the specifics of service to packs at your next monthly council commissioner meeting.
- Ask district commissioners to give a Cub Scout focus at their next district commissioner meetings.
- Ask your staff adviser to review this at the next field staff meeting.
- Make copies of this article and distribute to all commissioners and field staff.
- Give each district commissioner the key Cub Scouting resources mentioned here.
- Give your next council commissioner conference or “college” a Cub Scouting focus.

