

# Pack 200

## Tiger Cub Program Quick Start Hints & Tips



The following information is provided as a 'quick start' guide to help ease you in to your first year in scouting and Pack 200. All of us have been there just entering the program and feeling bewildered, confused, overwhelmed and wondering what we've gotten ourselves in to.

We hope that you will be able to use some of the information in here to help smooth your transition and also hope you will modify or add to this document after your first year in cub scouts so that your wisdom and experience will get passed on and the value of this information will grow each year.

We purposely have kept it brief and succinct because all the detail in how to plan a den meeting, running a den, learning the cub scout way has all been well documented in other more exhaustive sources and training classes already available to you.

We've tried to avoid all the stuff you'll already be told. This quick start gets you the top things we wish someone had told us when we started but didn't. And of course that's different for everyone. You'll have stuff you wish someone had told you. We apologize in advance; we didn't know you needed to know that. 😊

Revised: Aug 2009

### **First...**

Go online and get your Cub Scout leader Fast Start training and Youth Protection training out of the way.

### **Next...**

Get your den together. Try and have your first den meeting before the first pack meeting. Or, have someone walk you through what to expect at the first pack meeting.

- ❖ Set expectations with your den parents
  - Have a rough calendar for the rest of the year. Maybe you sign up for the first month but then make sure each family has a month after that.
  - Figure out your best meeting day/time of the week.
  - Let the host family be responsible for meeting place. Usually it's the host family's home.
- ❖ Set expectations with the boys
  - It's about fun with a purpose.
  - It's about respecting our uniform, the flag, adult partners, fellow tigers.
- ❖ Play a game, tell jokes, always have some fun
- ❖ Learn a den yell – for Tigers we recommend you just write one on a flip chart and have them practice it (bring the flip chart with you to the first pack meeting so they can read it when they're standing up in front of everyone and have to do it by themselves for the first time).

### **Then...**

- ❖ When the madness subsides just a tad, take some time to really read through the Tiger Cub handbook and the Pack 200 Information Packet. They really do have answers to a lot of your questions.
- ❖ Take some time to click through links and resources on the Pack 200 website. It contains pretty much everything else you'll need to know.

### **And then...**

- ❖ Get to know other leaders in the Pack. They've been through it and want you to have fun and be successful. If you're fortunate to have a Tiger Cub coach available this year, really get to know that person. They're there for you.

### **Finally (and most important)...**

- ❖ Have fun!

## Comments from previous Pack 200 Tiger Cub Den Leaders:

Craig Carlson, 2008-2009

1. Have fun and make sure the kids have fun. You are the responsible leader, but this is also a solid excuse for you to be a kid again.
2. Don't use Scouttrack for email to the dens. It is harder to keep track of what has been sent and to make replies, etc. Ask everyone to preface their email subject line with [SCOUT] for ease of setting up an Outlook rule to channel to a special folder.
3. Be sure to get a cellphone number from every (both) parent and program them in your phone. It will be invaluable at Go See It's. "Is so-and-so still coming -- should we wait?" "Where did you guys park?" "I'm lost" "We are moving the meeting due to the park is on fire"
4. "Do your best" to come up with a den meeting schedule (day and time) that pleases everybody, but understand ultimately you are the decision maker.
5. Heavily and guiltlessly leverage the Scout rule of Shared Leadership that is unique to the Tiger Year. Ask each parent to sign up to host and plan several den meetings. Divide it up equally. It is OK for you to not sign up for one as you will be the backup if anyone needs to cancel. Plus, you'll actually end up helping co-plan meetings for some of the parents (others will take off without your help).
6. Do be sure the kids know you are in charge of den meetings from the beginning. You need them to respect you and the "wolf ear sign". Expect that kids are going to act up. Prepare and plan your positive response ahead of the first den meeting (time out?). It may feel awkward to "correct" a child in front of their parent, but there really is no other choice. If you were visiting your child's Kindergarten class, would the teacher fail to respond if your child hit another, just because you were watching?
7. Set aside a shelf or folder in your office to keep track of records, awards, books, membership forms etc.
8. There are more than enough ideas out on the internet. (we can share a list of links to start).
9. Go ahead and stock a craft supply box to carry to all den meetings.
10. Rick Chambers might have told you it takes 1 hour a week to be a den leader. Do not play cards with this man.

### Andy McDowell, 2007-2008

1. We all know that first grade boys can be wiggly and energetic. Talk with all the parents and boys openly at the first meeting about how you will handle any potential "out of the ordinary" behavior problems. Make sure the parents agree and understand, and explain to them that if there are challenges, and they don't step in to redirect their child and help him participate positively, then one of the den leaders will need to do it for them
2. There are certain pack activities that by tradition are usually planned by the Tiger Den Leader- Scouting for Food and Crossover. Somebody in charge might forget to tell you that you are planning these things, so review the pack calendar very carefully (scroll all the way down to the end) and look for your den number in the "In Charge" column.
3. Delegate, delegate, delegate! Delegate advancement and recognition to an assistant...and ask the parents to be responsible for entering all info into scout track for their son. Delegate planning of skits and den yells to an assistant. Rotate planning/leading of meetings or parts of meetings with your assistants.
4. For each den meeting, put a boy/family in charge of snacks and in charge of the "Discover" activity (usually some sort of a project). In advance, give each family a photocopy of the Program Helps guide for their assigned month, so that they can easily choose the "Discover" activity from the suggestions provided. This will evenly distribute the expense of snacks and supplies to all families over the course of the year without having to collect and keep track of den dues.
5. When in doubt ask Rick Chambers [your Tiger coach]...he [pretends to] knows everything.

### Rick Chambers, 2006-2007

1. Bobcat first, then Tiger. Have a plan for everyone to get their Bobcat badge by the second pack meeting.
2. Get a lay of the whole calendar from the pack committee chair so you can anticipate what's coming up.
3. Some of the pack activities can count as Go See Its – shamelessly double dip.
4. You really only have five months before February Blue and Gold banquet and there's five sections to complete for the Tiger Badge. Do the math.
5. Get all your outdoor requirements done at the Fall campout.
6. Remember it's "Do your best". Coming up short is o-kay if you learned something and had fun doing it.
7. Trying to do it all yourself deprives others of the opportunity to get involved and burns you out. Go for the win-win by engaging all your parents. Utilize the parent talent worksheet/survey through the pack.

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Links we like...

**How to Be a Tiger Cub Scout Den Leader**

[http://www.ehow.com/how\\_2224449\\_tiger-cub-scout-den-leader.html](http://www.ehow.com/how_2224449_tiger-cub-scout-den-leader.html)

**BSA Online Learning Center**

<http://olc.scouting.org/>