



THE ROLE OF THE LEADER

What is the role of a leader?

Well it is a question which we sometimes take for granted... we are there to lead our cubs in what we believe is good for them. But our role as leaders goes beyond this. As leaders are made, not born, it is our responsibility to learn how to manage this role.

As Cub Scout Leaders, we have the responsibility of the cub programme, which contributes to the development of the young person. This depends on the approach used by the Leader. In this regard encouraging young people to 'learn by doing' often means giving them responsibility and even letting them make mistakes. Learning by doing requires the Leader to scout wisely for the different capabilities of the Cubs and discover their individual potential. By analyzing their potentials, then the leader will be able to set up a vision and to create suitable activities so as not to overwhelm them or let them become bored.

The role of a leader is not only with the cubs at the meetings and activities but also to co-operate with other leaders. This role is needed as to provide a well-balanced programme. As we all know well, the children are all the time absorbing and imitating the adult example.

Part of being a leader is being able to play many roles. Being excellent at time management and as a result essentially being organized is one of them. Being organized helps to make proper planning and have a correct record keeping system. Apart from providing a safe and healthy environment for the cubs, we have to keep in mind the legal issues that keep both the cubs and us the leaders safe as well.



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A Cub Scout Leader:

- Is a person who, week after week, month after month, provides fun, adventure, challenges and learning for our active children.
- Hurries home, eats a quick meal, puts on a uniform while answering the phone five times, and arrives smiling to meet the youngsters, all in 30 minutes.
- Gives up weekends and home comforts to teach children about crafts, nature and God.
- Is somebody who can put up a tent in the rain and dark, find lost boots, dry wet bedding, handle asthma, blisters, homesickness and children's excitement on four hours sleep and go home talking of the next camp.
- Is a person who waits in the cold with the last kid, whose parent forgot the time.
- Attends meetings to learn and plan, has an expandable spare room and a head full of ideas.
- Can lead a song, teach a skill, play a game, perform a ceremony, listen to a child and say a prayer.
- Willingly fills the gap so that a child will not be let down.
- Is committed, caring, hardworking, sturdy, strong, reliable, with a wealth of knowledge, a store of skills and a heart of gold.
- Gets little spoken thanks, but knows the spirit is passed on.

Originally by:

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