

LINK BADGE

The Link Badge is designed to help introduce the Cub to the Troop and the Scout Programme so that when they do 'go up' to Scouts it is not so daunting. This badge is awarded in the middle of the term. This badge is to acknowledge the time spent in the pack and consequently the skills learnt there.

Requirements:

- Cubs must be 10 ½ years of age.
- Should be carried out over a period of 4 to 6 months.
- The Cub should attend alternative meetings with pack and troop sections.
- The Cub should discuss the Scout Promise and Scout Laws and the patrol system with the SL.
- The Cub should discuss the differences in with the CSL.
- The cub should join in a hike with the troop.

Before the Link Badge

Before any cub starts to attend the troop meetings, a meeting should be held between the SL and the CSL. During the meeting, an overview of the cubs' progress must be done. Problems pertaining to every cub in the link badge must be discussed with the SL. Special needs and other particulars must also be discussed to prepare the Scout Leader for when the cubs join the troop. Ideally, the new cubs would be inserted in patrols right from the beginning, so when they start coming to the meetings they would feel "part of the troop" not just watchers.

Cubs must be 10 ½ years of age

It is very important to abide this age. If a cub is smaller than the required age, she/he will find it difficult to cope with the change (that of being in the troop). Why 10 ½ years? This is the time when the cub goes through many changes. At school he/she would be under pressure for secondary examinations. She/he would also be preparing for the Confirmation. So the link badge should be started during July.

This is the best time because summer means free time for the cubs and doing the link badge now would be a challenge without many repercussions on their study or mental stress. The link badge is not so difficult to obtain. It is also suggested that, during the summer camp, the link badge group would take active part in the scout programme and even be given permission to stay the whole camp.

In the arrows, cubs have gathered some knowledge, so they won't feel like they don't know anything. Cooking, mapping, camps, everything was done in a simple way. Therefore, the summer camp would boost up their self esteem and they can "show" their new friends that after all they know some basic things as well.





Carried out over a period of 4 to 6 months

The Link badge has to be programmed well ahead so that there would be a smooth flow of cubs from the Pack to the Scout section. Depending on the number of cubs there are in the section the ideal number of Going up ceremonies should be between two or three in a year.

Attend alternate meetings with pack and troop sections

Alternate meetings are very important. Apart from seeing the difference between pack meetings and troop meetings, cubs will also start to do some acquaintances with the old scouts. These meetings have to be encouraged. Sometimes, the cub will feel very lonely during these meetings because he/she will be the youngest one. Therefore, it is suggested that Akela, or one of the other leaders, should join the cub for the meetings initially. This will help them to pass through this difficult period.

Discuss the Scout Promise, the Scout Laws and the patrol system with the SL

The Scout Leader must give some importance to the new cubs. The SL must discuss the promise and law and how the patrol leader system works. The structure of the meeting will be different from that of the pack, therefore the new cubs need to have a clear picture.

Discuss the differences between the pack and the troop with your CSL

After achieving the Link Badge requirements, the CSL and the cub/s concerned must have individual talks. The cub/s must point out the differences they noticed in the troop - what they liked and what they disliked and how do they feel on going up to the troop.

Join in a hike with the troop

It is very important that this activity is done. The cubs would have the opportunity to spend a full day with their new mates. They would have the first ever cook out experience on their own (that is without the Akela watching over) and this will be a great achievement for them. Hopefully, they would also be part of the patrol by now, so they can start experiencing teamwork within the patrol.

Other points that can be done to ease the transition

- Organise a big farewell
- Take part in an activity organized by the Troop





Progressive Form

It is very important that this form is kept up to date. Any notes must be recorded on this form. If when you were discussing the differences the cub came up with some negative views, discuss them with the Scout Leader, maybe they can be fixed or changed.

Activity Description	Activity Date	SL Signature	Date	CSL Signature	Date
Scout Promise					
Scout Laws					
Patrol System					
Hike					
Other Activities:					

