

Den Chiefs in Your Den

Who are Den Chiefs?

Most Den Chiefs are Scouts that are working towards their Star rank or Scouts that have a connection to the Den, whether it be a younger sibling or connection with the leader. Thus, they have been in the Scouting program long enough to become well versed in a variety of Scouting activities. These can include skills developed in areas such as camping, hiking, cooking, first aid and sports. Because of their training and exposure to Scouting they can be a resource, team leader, and a role model for the Cubs.

What is a Den Chief trained to do?

Den Chief training helps the Scout understand the anatomy and the workings of a Den meeting. In addition to knowing the order and parts of a Den meeting, they also know how to facilitate and help execute the various activities and ceremonies.

How can they fit into a Den's meeting plan?

When Cubs (and possibly their parents) arrive for the Den meeting, it's always a good idea to greet and acknowledge their arrival. The Den Chief can help with this and get them going on some pre-meeting activities. Part of their training is to have a wealth of games and activities to keep the Cubs busy until everyone has arrived. The games would be focused on being age and skill appropriate for fun and to help build and encourage team spirit. The opening ceremony is another area where the Den Chief can help to get the Cubs settled down and prepare them for upcoming projects or activities. Activities that the Den Chief will be responsible for should always be predetermined and be worked out with the Den Leader prior to the meeting. It is important to communicate and plan projects and activities with the Den Chief so that they understand what the expectations are and can successfully lead the Cubs under the guidance of the Den Leader.

What types of activities or projects can the Den Chief help with?

Because of their time in Scouting and their training, they can help with songs and skits, projects such as knot tying, first aid, camping skills and cooking. The Den Chief can work with the Cubs on the various Adventures they need to advance to the next rank. They can help with presentations that will be done at Pack meetings or help prepare and assist a Den during an outing.

We have a Webelos Den. How can a Den Chief fit into our Den?

Much of the activities during the eighteen-month period as a Webelos involve the preparation of the Cub for Scouts BSA. What better resource is there than a youth whose recently been through

the program and knows what the incoming Scouts will have to learn and do? Den Chiefs can assist the Webelos with this important transition. This can be especially beneficial if any member of the Den plans to join the Troop the Den Chief belongs to, as the Den Chief can provide even better detail on what to expect.

What does the Den Chief need from us?

An opportunity to develop their leadership skills. Working with an adult leader and working with Cubs. Good communication between the Den Leader and feedback. Do we need to turn something in when the Den Chief has completed their work with us? It's good to keep track of their attendance. If needed, the Den Chief will give you a letter you will need to sign which states they have performed their duties in your Den. They may need to turn this letter in as a requirement of their advancement.

What do I do if our Den Chief doesn't show up or isn't engaged during our meetings?

The first thing to do is to speak with them or another adult leader, possibly someone within their Troop, to try and determine what the problem is. This should be done outside of the Den meeting. If a solution cannot be found, you should speak to the Scoutmaster of the Den Chief's Troop.

Final thoughts:

Good communication between you and your Den Chief and giving them the opportunity to lead and utilize their skills can enhance not only their Scouting experience but also yours and your Dens.

****Some Resources****

- Den Chief Handbook
- Scout Life Magazine
- Scouts BSA Handbook
- boyscouttrail.com