

Narragansett Council, BSA
September 2021 Cub Scout Breakout Talking Points

Leader Essentials

- A Cub Scout pack requires a variety of leaders who work together to make Cub Scouting work. This group includes:
 - the charter organization representative;
 - a pack committee, lead by a committee chair;
 - a Cubmaster and den leaders.

All of these positions are required and these people perform as a team.

- An organization that partners with the BSA to provide the Scouting program is called a chartered organization. Each Cub Scout pack is required to have one.

The chartered organization adopts the Scouting program and provides a meeting place or assists in securing one in addition to other resources. A qualified chartered organization must share the values of Scouting and may not use Scouting for political or special interest purposes.

This partnership is often mutually beneficial when it is the goal of the chartered organization to serve its own youth membership or youth in the community.

A charter organization representative is selected by the head of the chartered organization to serve as the point of contact for the pack and provide direct support to the pack from the chartered organization.

Who is your chartered organization? How does it help you?

[Possible answers: a church; a fraternal organization; a business; a school PTO.]

[Helps with: approving leaders; providing a place to meet; provide a place to store equipment; may provide some funding.]

Do you know your charter organization representative (COR)? How often do you meet with them?

The COR is part of the pack Key 3 and should maintain a close working relationship with the committee chair and Cubmaster.

- Every pack is required to have a pack committee. At a minimum, a pack committee has a committee chair, treasurer, and secretary. Successful packs actively recruit as many parents as possible to serve on the pack committee.

The new member coordinator, outdoor activities chair, and advancement chair are official positions on the committee. (You can find position descriptions for these and other positions in the *Cub Scout Leader Book*.)

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How many members do you have on your pack committee? What other positions do you have on your pack committee?

What is the role of the pack committee?

[Possible answers: membership recruitment; purchasing of supplies and recognition items; handles administrative tasks such as managing BSA registration for youth and adults; coordinating camp or other pack activities; fundraising; recruit adult volunteers; marketing/PR for the pack]

- The Cubmaster is the head of the program for the pack. Their main responsibility is to coordinate with the den leaders to organize the monthly pack meeting. The Cubmaster conducts and serves as master of ceremonies for the pack meeting. Larger packs may have assistant Cubmasters who help organize pack meetings or who may be preparing to serve as the next Cubmaster.

Probably the most important position in a Cub Scout pack is that of den leader. Den leaders are the adults who have direct interaction with the youth, delivering the Cub Scouting program as it is presented in the handbooks.

How does your pack handle den leadership—a den leader with an assistant leader or co-den leaders? How is this working for you?

How many youth should be in a den? How many do you have in your dens?

[Ideally dens should have between 5 and 8 youth. If there is insufficient youth of one grade level, mixed dens can be created. However, creating mixed gender dens should not be done.]

How frequently do your dens meet? Where are the meetings held?

- Pack organization
 - Regardless of the size or make up of a pack, they all share the same general organizational structure. (See attached sample.)
 - A family pack contains both boy dens and girl dens at each grade level. Mixed gender dens are not allowed.
 - A single gender (boy or girl) pack has a single den for each grade. (Unless the numbers are sufficient to support more than one den.)
 - Small packs may use multi-age dens. Cub Scouts in these dens work on their grade-specific ranks from their handbooks, but they may share common activities as they work on similar adventures.
 - A large pack may have multiple dens for each grade level and gender. Dens should have from five to eight youth in them.

How are your packs organized?

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- For general discussion:
 - Why is it important to involve as many adults as possible in the leadership of the pack?
 - How long do you wait before asking the adults in a new family to get involved in the pack?
 - Why is it important to keep a den at 5-8 Cub Scouts?

[If the discussions have run their course let the participants bring up Scouting topics for general discussion. Guide and monitor the discussions to try and give everyone a chance to speak.]

Next month we will take a closer look at the committee and how it supports the program.

Sample Pack Organization Chart

