

## **Den Chiefs in Your Den**

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### **Who are Den Chiefs?**

Most Den Chiefs are Boy Scouts that are working towards their Star rank and thus 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 Boy 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 my Den meeting plan?**

When boys are arriving 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 or gathering activities. Part of their training is to have a wealth of games and activities to keep the boys busy until everyone has arrived. Games and activities are age and skill appropriate design for fun and to encourage team spirit. The opening ceremony is another area where they can help to get the cubs settled down and prepare them for the upcoming projects or activities. Activities in which the Den Chief will be responsible for should always be predetermined and work 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 he understands what the expectations are and so he can lead the cubs under the guidance of the adult leader.

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

Because of his time in Scouting and his training, he 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 requirements 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 during a den outing.

### **We've got Webelos. How can a Den Chief fit into our den?**

Much of the activities during the 18 month period as a Webelos is involved in preparing the cub for Boy Scouting. What better resource than a youth who has recently been through the program and knows what the incoming Boy Scout will have to learn and do? Den Chiefs can help the Webelos with this important transition.

### **What does the Den Chief need from us?**

An opportunity to develop his leadership skills. Working with an adult leader and working with Cubs. Good communication between the adult leader and feedback.

Do we need to turn something in when the Den Chief has completed his work with us? It's good to keep a track of his attendance. If needed, the Den Chief will give you a letter you will need to sign which states he has performed his duties in your den. He may need to turn this letter in as a requirement of his 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 him with another adult leader to try to determine what the problems 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 or his Den Chief Trainer.

**Final Thoughts.**

Good communication between you and your Den Chief and giving them the opportunity to lead and utilized their skills can enhance not only their experience but yours and your den's.

Contacts: Rob Postar, ASM Troop 4, Den Chief Trainer, cell 510-551-4979

Resources: Den Chief Handbook (Available at Council Office)

Scouting Magazine

Boy Scout Handbook (Available at Council Office)

[www. Boyscoutstrails.com](http://www.Boyscoutstrails.com)