

Scouts BSA: Den Chief Service

What is a den chief?

A Den Chief is an older Scout* who assists a Cub Scout or Webelos Scout den leader at den meetings, pack meetings, and other events. They are the “Activities Assistant” for a Cub Scout den or Webelos Scout patrol. Their role is to work with the den leaders and help the young scouts complete their Cub Scout or Webelos advancement requirements and live up to Cub Scouting's ideals in their everyday lives. The den chief is a member of a leadership team that includes the den leader, assistant den leader, and the denner. They are already what every Cub Scout and Webelos Scout would like to be – a Scouts BSA. As far as the younger scouts are concerned, They are the person the young scouts would most like to follow, and that makes the older Scout a natural leader for them. **A Den Chief is a Scout, Venturer or Sea Scout assisting a Cub Scout den.*

Why is a den chief important to the Cub and Scouts BSA Program?

The den chief is a key means of building relationships between the pack and troop, crew or team. The den chief regularly reminds the young scouts about Scouts BSA in a positive way as they lead activities and share their enthusiasm for Scouting with the Cub Scouts. Their presence adds another important asset: they can tell them all about Scouts BSA, with its outdoor activities, trips, summer camp, and opportunities for advancement. When it's time for them to move up to a Webelos Scout patrol or a Scouts BSA troop, a den chief's positive example and encouragement can help them decide to make that transition.

Where do den chiefs come from?

- A Scouts BSA Troop, Venture Crew or Sea Scout.
- It is best if they have attended a council, district or troop sponsored den chief training course.
- An Assistant Scoutmaster of Den Chiefs or a District Den Chief Trainer can assist a Cubmaster or den leader with obtaining a den chief.

Does a Scouts BSA Scout earn anything for being a trained den chief?

- Leadership practice, organization and communication skills and responsibility!!!
- A Scout may use the den chief position as a means to help him fulfill specific leadership requirements needed for rank advancement.
- The Den Chief Service Award if they fulfill all requirements.

How long does a den chief stay with the den?

- Your den chief should look at their role as being a one year commitment.
- You might want to speak with them early on about this commitment to see what they are willing to commit to. Many Scouts BSA Troops elect their leaders every 6 months, so the den chief job is unusual in that regard.

What is a trained den chief responsible for?

- Set a good example by having a positive attitude and behaving in a proper and respectful manner that reflects the Scout Law and the Scout Oath.
 - Treat each scout with respect, sensitivity, and fairness.
 - Know the purposes of Cub Scouting, and help the young scouts to achieve them.
 - Wear the Scouts BSA uniform completely and correctly.
 - Be an “Activity Assistant” for the den: Lead and/or assist with the specific activities the den leader requested the den chief to prepare for.
 - Assist with set-up, song/skit/ceremony rehearsal and any pre-assigned den activities at the monthly pack meetings.
 - Participate in consistent communication with the the den leader so the den chief's responsibilities for the den and pack meetings are clearly understood, prepared and organized.
 - Recognize and work with the denner as their right-hand-man by giving the denner opportunities to serve.
 - Encourage Cub Scouts to become Webelos, and Webelos to become Scouts BSA.
-