

CHAPTER 7

Induction Ceremonies



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Why Do We Have Induction Ceremonies?

Have you ever walked into a group of people you didn't know? Did others come up and immediately introduce themselves? Did it make a difference in how you felt about being there?

All of us have been in new situations like this. A ceremony that inducts families into the pack extends a warm welcome to them. It also lets other people in the pack help them feel welcomed. Another important reason for these ceremonies is that families learn in a special way what is expected of them in Scouting. They learn that this is a family program and there are many things they can do to help their Scout grow. An induction ceremony can make a big difference in how effective they will be and how long they will stay in this program.

Family Induction Into the Pack (For New Families)

NARRATOR: Families, please make the Cub Scout sign and repeat after me:

I will do my best to support my boy,
And to guide him to live up to the Cub
Scout Promise and the Law of the Pack.
I will work with my boy
To help him complete his achieve-
ments to the best of his ability.
I will sign his book when he has done
his best.
I will attend and take part in pack
meetings with other families.
I will do my best to make the pack go.

Families, we welcome you into Pack [number]. We are glad to have you with us and wish you well on the Scouting trail.

Tiger Cubs on the Trail (For New Tiger Cubs and Adult Partners)

Preparation: Make three posters, one with SEARCH written on it, another that says DISCOVER, and a third that says SHARE.

NARRATOR: Tonight, we welcome new boys and their adult partners into our pack. These new Tiger Cubs are the future of our pack. Please come forward. (*Call the names.*)

1. SEARCH (*Hand poster to boy and adult to hold*)—You will search out activities for the big idea your den has chosen for the month.
2. DISCOVER (*Hand poster to a second boy and adult*)—You will discover fun and exciting things to do as you visit new places and do new things.

3. SHARE (*Hand poster to third boy and adult*)—At your Tiger Cub den meeting, you will share the fun things that you have been doing.

On the Cub Scout Trail (For New Bobcats and Families)

Preparation: Make five posters with a symbol for one of the following on each: Bobcat, Wolf, Bear, Webelos, Arrow of Light.

NARRATOR: Tonight, we are welcoming new families into our pack and the Scouting program. Will the following boys and their families please come forward? (*Call the names.*)

We're excited to welcome your families into our pack. You can look forward to fun activities throughout the years as you travel the Scouting Trail.

(*Hand the Bobcat poster to one boy to hold.*) Your first step is to earn the Bobcat badge. This is the first badge you earn, no matter how old you are when you join Cub Scouting.

(*Hand the Wolf poster to another boy.*) If you're in the second grade or are 8 years old, you'll work on 12 achievements for the Wolf badge. You can also complete electives for Gold and Silver Arrow Points.

(*Hand the Bear poster to another boy.*) When you're in third grade or are 9 years old, you'll choose 12 achievements to earn the Bear badge. Just like before, you can complete additional electives to earn Gold and Silver Arrow Points.

(*Hand the Webelos poster to another boy.*) When you're in fourth grade or are 10 years old, you can explore 20 different hobbies and career-related subjects called Webelos activity badges. Then after meeting additional requirements, you'll earn your Webelos badge.

(*Hand the Arrow of Light poster to another boy.*) Tougher challenges follow as you work toward earning the Arrow of Light Award, which is the highest award you can earn in Cub Scouting. It's so special that it is the only Cub Scout rank that you can wear on your Boy Scout uniform. It can even be worn as a knot on your adult leader uniform.

Will the adults please repeat the parent's pledge after me:

I will do my best to support my boy,
By guiding him to complete the
achievements to the best of his ability.
I will sign the appropriate book, when
he has done his best.
I will assist his den leader.
I will attend and take part in pack
meetings with other families.
This record will help me guide him.

We want to welcome you to Pack [number].

Recipe for Cub Scouting (For New Boys and Families)

NARRATOR: Will the following boys and their families please come forward? (*Call the names.*) Some of you may know that when you become Boy Scouts, you'll be cooking outdoors a lot. You'll probably have a chance to do that as a Cub Scout too. To cook a good meal, you usually start with a recipe. If you don't, you'll have to experiment a lot to get it right.

We have a recipe for Cub Scouting, too. Every ingredient is important. If we don't put each ingredient in our Scouting dish, the results would also be questionable. The ingredients are:

CUB SCOUT 1: Boys—the more the merrier.

CUB SCOUT 2: A bucketful of games, sports, and academics.

CUB SCOUT 3: Some crafts where we learn to use tools and make useful things.

CUB SCOUT 4: A bit of seriousness. We learn how to do our duty to God and our country.

CUB SCOUT 5: A cupful of trips and hikes. We explore the world around us.

CUB SCOUT 6: Two barrels of good leaders. We can't have Scouting without these volunteers.

CUB SCOUT 7: And a family for each boy.

NARRATOR: This is the most important ingredient after the first one—the boy. Without the families, a pack can't give you the best of Scouting.

Mix all these ingredients together, and you are sure to have a great time in Scouting. Welcome to Pack [number]. (*Lead an appropriate applause.*)

This Is Cub Scouting (For All Adults)

ADULT 1: Some people think that Scouting is only for boys, but it isn't. Scouting is for the entire family.

ADULT 2: Families work in Scouting with their boys. They begin to see their boy's play and leisure in a new light. The Scouting advancement plan builds a closer relationship among family members.

ADULT 3: Scouts are considerate of others. They promise to help other people and to do their best. When adults sign their boy's membership application, they take as their motto, "We will help our boy do his best."

ADULT 4: Cub Scouting is packed with age-appropriate challenges for younger boys, and tackling those challenges leads to the next phase of Scouting—Boy Scouts. When our Cub Scouts join the Webelos den and earn the Arrow of Light Award, they are well-prepared to enter Boy Scouting.

ADULT 5: Scouting works toward strengthening the home. You and your family will strengthen your home by living, playing, and growing together.

ADULT 6: Your boy has only a few more years of boyhood left before he looks away from home for his primary interests. What you do together now is important.

ADULT 7: Will all families please stand and pledge their support to Scouting? Please join with the Cub Scouts in saying the Cub Scout Promise.

