

# Den Leader Getting Started Guide

Here is what you need to get started today! (*Links below are from [MeritBadge.Org](http://MeritBadge.Org)*)

First of all, Welcome! Thank you for being a [Den Leader](#).

You may have a boy in your den. What fun! These are the "good old days!" As they grow up, their friends may change. Some day if they work hard, they can be [Eagle Scouts](#)! The friends with him that day might very well be these buddies from your Den.

You have a [Den Meeting](#) coming up, so let's get started. Don't try to reinvent the wheel. [MeritBadge.Org](#) already has resources you need. Here are the three most important things:

- Keep It Simple.
- Make it Fun.
- Keep Them Safe.

**Applications & Roster.** Make sure that your [Pack](#) has turned in your [Adult Application](#) and has each boy registered in your den. Share a roster with each family's names, address, phone, names, cell numbers, and emails. Also include the [Cubmaster](#) and [Assistant Cubmaster's](#) names and numbers.

**Online training.** The online training is good and you can have it done today:

- [Fast Start Training](#) gives info and examples for planning and conducting fun meetings.
- [This Is Scouting](#) has the values, aims, & history.
- [Youth Protection](#) helps keep them safe.

**Leader Specific Training.** The last part of your [New Leader Training](#) is [Leader Specific Training](#) through your [local council](#) or district. You learn a lot and make good contacts.

**Den Leader Resources.** Your [Cubmaster](#) will host monthly Den Leader Meetings to review upcoming events and share ideas. Your Cubmaster should provide a list of the other [Tiger](#), [Wolf](#) & [Bear](#), or [Webelos](#) Leaders' names,

positions, and phone numbers. Call with any questions! Ask about [Uniforms](#) and monthly [Roundtable](#) meetings where area Cub leaders share ideas. Your pack should give you a [handbook](#), [Belt Loop & Pin Book #34299](#), [Program Helps #34409](#), & [Cub Scout Leader Book #33221](#).

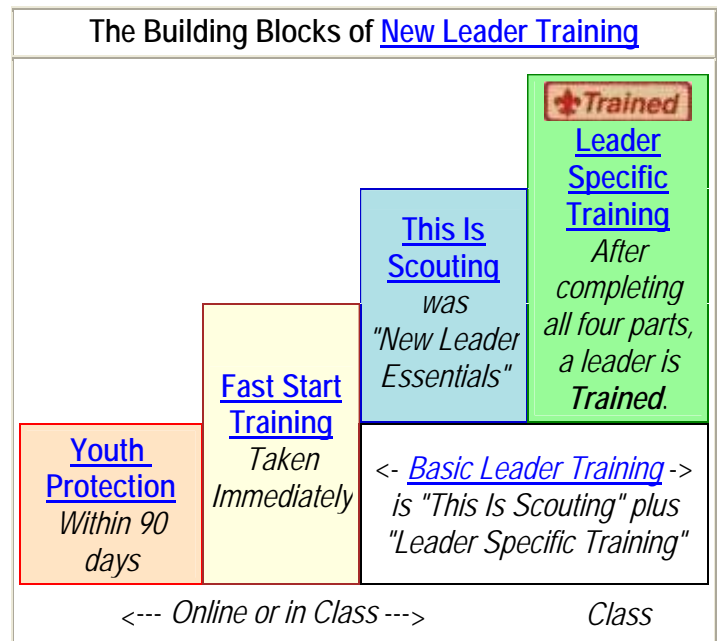
**Den Meetings.** Work with your families to set up a weekly hour-long Den Meeting time. You might meet at your [Chartered Organization](#), a church, school, or boy's home. The location must be safe and have plenty of room for projects and games. The [Welcome New Den Leader](#) will help you.

**Pack Meetings.** Each den has a job at the monthly [Pack Meetings](#) such as Setup, [Opening](#), [Skits](#), [Songs](#), [Cheers](#), [Closing](#), and Cleanup. Events include [Pinewood Derby](#), [Blue & Gold](#), & [Roundup](#).

**Fast Tracks.** Would you like a great set of notes from past den leaders? [Fast Tracks](#) are lesson plans and ideas to help you with your first 16 den meetings each year. All Cub Scouts earn [Bobcat](#) first. You can cover [Bobcat](#) in two meetings using the [Tiger Fast Tracks](#).

**Belt Loops.** Your rank requirements and electives often they lead right into [Belt Loops](#)!

- [Tiger](#) & [Belt Loop tie-ins](#) - [Electives](#) & [Belt Loop tie-ins](#)
- [Wolf](#) & [Belt Loop tie-ins](#) - [Electives](#) & [Belt Loop tie-ins](#)
- [Bear](#) & [Belt Loop tie-ins](#) - [Electives](#) & [Belt Loop tie-ins](#)



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- [Webelos Badge](#) & [Belt Loop tie-ins](#) - [Activity Badges](#) & [\(Worksheets\)](#)

Each Belt Loop has a [Worksheet](#) with the maps, diagrams, and other resources you need. The [Academics Belt Loops](#) tend to be indoor activities while the [Sports Belt Loops](#) outdoors. For instance, [Cub Scout Collecting](#) makes a fun show & tell night. [Flag Football](#) and [Frisbee Golf](#) are fun outdoors.

[Cub Scout Awards](#) include [Outdoor Activity](#), [National Summertime](#), [Leave No Trace](#), etc.

**Parents.** Involve the families right from the start. While [Tiger Cub Scouts](#) must have an [adult partner](#) with them, it is important to involve parents at every level. "Drop and Dash" families will drain your resources and their boys are often the ones who drop out. It is hard to convince a boy that something is important if his family shows it's not.

**Denners.** Ask adult partners to take turns coordinating the meetings. Ask who has contacts with the fire or police departments, local parks, etc. When a family coordinates a meeting, their boy gets to be [Denner!](#) The Denner gets to help lead the Pledge of Allegiance and brings the treats, typically something easy and cheap like granola bars and juice. The Denner and his adult partner are in charge of setup and cleanup. Have a Denner and Assistant Denner for each meeting.

Boy's who get to be Denner don't drop out! *And you will not end doing everything by yourself.*

**Assistant Den Leader.** Share the load with your [Assistant Den Leader](#). Your [Pack](#) may register Assistant Den Leaders as Den Leaders so that you can both get all of the same training and each earn your [Cub Scout Leader Awards](#).

**Fun Night.** Have at least one Fun Night each year. Ask each family to bring their favorite board games and soft drinks. Order pizza & you have a party! Fun Nights are also a chance to help boys who have missed meetings catch up.

**Belt Loop Day.** Have at least one Belt Loop Day each year. Your den can do your own but it can be more fun if other dens or the whole pack is involved. Your council may also host one. See the [National Summertime Award](#) for a list of great activity ideas. In one day, your Cubs could take a hike or bike ride, a picnic lunch, and earn fun Belt Loops!

**Take it one day at a time.** Keep one meeting ahead in your [handbook](#). Get every family and boy involved. Ask for help. Get trained. It's KISMIF: Keep It Simple. Make It FUN. (Keep them safe.)

That is a lot of information! And this is just the beginning of the resources. [MeritBadge.Org](#) has info on [Day Camp](#), [Resident Camp](#), [Roundups](#), and more.

Go have FUN! Did they tell you? *"It Is Just an Hour A Week!"* 😊

[MeritBadge.Org](#) is your online [Scouting University](#) with topics ranging from [Recruiting](#) to [Bridging](#):

- **Advancement:** [Bobcat](#), [Lion \(Pilot Program\)](#), [Tiger](#), [Wolf](#), [Bear](#), [Webelos](#) & [CubTrax Spreadsheets](#)
- **Awards:** [Belt Loops](#), [Outdoor Activity](#), [Summertime](#), [Leave No Trace](#), [Recruiter](#), [Religious](#)
- **Den Meeting Plans:** [Tiger Cub](#), [Wolf](#), [Bear](#), [Webelos Program](#): [Webelos I](#), [Webelos II](#)
- **Leader Awards:** [Tiger](#), [Wolf/Bear](#), [Webelos](#), [Cub Scouter](#),
- **Program Helps:** [2009](#), [2010](#), & [2011](#), [144 Fun Activities](#), [Leader Ideas](#), [Calendar](#)
- **Activities:** [Day Camp](#), [Resident Camp](#), [Whittling Chip](#), [Guide to Safe Scouting](#)
- **Worksheets:** [Belt Loops & Pins](#) and [Webelos Pins](#)
- **Key Leaders:** [Denner](#), [Den Chief](#), [Tiger Leader](#), [Den Leader](#), [Webelos Leader](#), [Cubmaster](#)
- **Fundraising,** [Popcorn](#), and [Individual Youth Accounts](#)
- **Training:** [Youth Protection](#), [New Leader](#), [Roundtable](#), [Webelos Outdoor](#), [Wood Badge](#), [Philmont](#)