



LION DEN LEADER ORIENTATION SPEAKERS NOTES FOR INSTRUCTOR



This presentation may be updated as new information becomes available. Check version number at www.samhoustonbsa.org/lion prior to leading an orientation.

LION DEN LEADER ORIENTATION

- This orientation is a supplement to Den Leader Position-Specific Training – not a National training “for credit.”
- This session will cover those items that are unique to Lion dens.

OFFICIAL JOB DESCRIPTION

- An experienced and engaged Lion den leader is recruited to take the lead on **facilitating** den meetings with assistance and support from the parents/adult partners.
- Key point to note is “facilitating” rather than “running/conducting” den meetings.
- An experienced leader is recommended and preferred, but may not always be available.

SHARED LEADERSHIP: The Key to Lion Success

- Your role is not to run den meetings.
- Your role is to coach the adult partners to run the den meetings.
- The Lion program introduces parents/adult partners to Scouting & family involvement
- The shared leadership concept will give them the confidence to take on a leadership role next year.
- Do not overlook this important aspect of the Lions program!

LION DENS

- For kindergarten boys and girls
- Six to eight youth and their adult partners
- The youth and adult partners join as a team, as with Tigers.
- Boys and girls are divided into separate dens with unique leadership.
- Female dens must have at least one registered female leader.
- New rule for all dens effective October 1, 2018: All meetings and outings must have **two registered** adult leaders present. (<https://www.scouting.org/health-and-safety/gss/gss01/>)
 - Adult partners, while listed on the charter, are not considered registered leaders.
 - To become a registered leader, an adult partner would need to complete an adult registration form, complete YPT training, and undergo BSA’s background check.

LION UNIFORM

- T-shirt for Lion and adult partners; optional polo shirt for adults.
- Cub Scout belt – adventure belt loops that Lions earn will be worn here.

- Optional cap, neckerchief ,and slide
- **NOTE:** National previously announced that the neckerchief and slide would be earned after the “Gizmos and Gadgets” adventure, but changed on that point.
- Lion den leader wears the BSA field uniform or a Lion T-shirt/polo

LION HANDBOOKS

- Youth handbook and adult guidebook are purchased as a set/ kit.
- Kit includes a set of stickers and Youth Protections guidelines for parents.
- Adult guidebook is called “*Den Leader Guide,*” but will be used by adult partners when they take their turn leading a meeting.

LION DEN MEETINGS

- Lions and adult partners meet twice per month.
- First meeting is a den meeting, based on the adventure selected for that month.
- Activities for the den meeting are outlined in the *Lion Den Leader Guide*.
- The second meeting will be a den outing, based on the monthly adventure.
- Meetings should last about 45 minutes.

PARTS OF A LION DEN MEETING

- Gathering activity
- Opening
- Talk Time (business/share time)
- Activities
- Closing
- After the Meeting

DEN MEETING ADVENTURES

- The timing for completing adventures is at the discretion of the den.
- They do not have to be in any particular order, except of Lion’s Honor.

5 Required Adventures

Lion’s Honor*
 Fun on the Run!
 Animal Kingdom
 Mountain Lion
 King of the Jungle
 * *First meeting*

7 Elective Adventures

I’ll Do It Myself
 Pick My Path
 Gizmos and Gadgets
 On Your Mark
 Build It Up, Knock It Down
 Rumble in the Jungle
 Ready, Set, Grow

RECOGNITION FOR ADVENTURES

- 12 adventures total
- Only 5 required, as opposed to 7 for other ranks
- Stickers
 - Immediate recognition upon completion of each adventure
- Youth place them on the Lion Trail page (page 1) of the *Lion Cub Scout Handbook*.
- Belt loops
 - One for each completed adventure: gold for required, silver for elective
 - Presented per pack tradition – immediately or at pack meeting
 - Worn on Cub Scout belt

FIRST DEN MEETING: Lion's Honor Adventure

Review activities in the *Lion Den Leader Guide* as an example of the simplicity of the Lion den meeting :

- Led by Lion den leader –sets the example for future meetings
- Introduction Game – to learn names (includes adult partners)
- Salute or Sign Game (Includes adult partners) – to practice the concept of Cub Scout sign or salute.
- Den Poster – Youth tell something about themselves, then bring to pack meeting to introduce Lions to the pack
- Lion's Honor activity in *Lion Cub Scout Handbook*.

OUTINGS: REQUIRED ADVENTURES

Review the monthly outings that for the required adventure to point out that they are close to home, easy to do.

- Lion's Honor – Pack meeting
- Fun on the Run – Den field day at local park
- Animal Kingdom – Service project
- Mountain Lion – Nature hike
- King of the Jungle – Observe flag ceremony at Webelos den meeting

LION BADGE

- Earned after completion of the five required adventures
- Considered a rank, but Bobcat not earned first
- Strip is worn on the upper left side of the T-shirt, over the heart.
- When the youth becomes a Tiger, the strip is transferred to below the left pocket of uniform shirt.

ELECTIVE ADVENTURES

- Together with required adventures, can be earned in any order.
- Elective adventures are optional – not all are expected to be completed.

PACK ACTIVITIES

- Lions and their families may participate in pack camping.
- Lions are encouraged to use pre-cut wedge cars for Pinewood Derbies.
- Lions are not expected to participate in fundraising activities.
- Lions are not required to attend all pack meetings. Choose those with activities appropriate for their attention span.
- Lions do not participate in BB guns or other activities prohibited by *Guide to Safe Scouting*. Archery is allowed for Lions as of May 2018. Check *Age-Appropriate Guidelines* in *Guide to Safe Scouting* for latest updates. (<https://filestore.scouting.org/filestore/HealthSafety/pdf/680-685.pdf>)

GOALS FOR END OF YEAR

- Successful transition to Tiger den with a meaningful ceremony
- Attendance at day camp
- Parent engagement in pack leadership

RECRUITMENT NIGHT

- Conduct a separate session for Lions and their parents
- Since Lions can't participate in all activities, we don't want to make promises we can't keep – like shooting BB guns.
- Need to make clear the shared leadership role – that all adult partners will take a turn leading. Don't let this be a surprise for them later.
- Be prepared to let them walk. If the Lion program is not what they want for their family, thank them for their interest and encourage them to return next year. If they sign up and are not happy, Scouting will likely lose them forever.

REGISTRATION

- The standard \$33 national registration fee applies – pro-rated.
- Like Tigers, must have an adult partner to join – on same registration form.
- Packs may charge activity fees appropriate for level of participation by Lions – or might only charge den dues.

TIPS FOR WORKING WITH LIONS

- Include adult partners in all den meeting activities. You want them to be participants, not spectators.
- Engage the youth. Talk “with” them, not “to” them.
- Use positive reinforcement.
- Demonstrate respect and kind language.
- Communicate regularly with parents/adult partners.

RESOURCES

- www.samhoustonbsa.org/lion
 - Lion Den Leader Orientation
 - Lion Program FAQs
 - Parent Information Sheet
 - Lion Adventure Overview
- www.scoutshop.org

NOTE: The National web page for Lions (www.scouting.org/lion) is out of date and contains pilot information only. Current information will be worked into existing Cub Scout web pages, as Lions are now part of the overall Cub Scout program.

QUESTIONS

- Contact Brandon Lewis in Support Service Office (Brandon.lewis@scouting.org or 713-756-3319).
- Council Program Chair Diane Cannon (twtxdmc@aol.com or 281-363-1961).