

Does your pack have a Pack Trainer?



For most packs in our council, the answer is no. What if there was someone in your Cub Scout Pack who took care of orienting new parents, maintaining all training records, and making sure that all your leaders knew what they were doing? What if your pack had a person who was qualified to actually train leaders who were unable to make it to training courses?

For the packs which have Pack Trainers, the Cub Scout program is a dream come true. The program is easier for families and leaders to participate in. The program is more fun and fulfilling for boys. Pack meetings are better attended, fundraisers are more enthusiastically supported, and parents are more willing to be involved. These packs grow without effort, as families and boys recruit others through their excitement for the program, and more families are retained from year to year.

Depending on how your pack functions and how it has functioned for the last few years, this could be a very easy position to fill. In a well-organized pack, a Pack Trainer's job consists of maintaining 100% trained leaders, and introducing new families to the program. Even in the roughest of situations, this position could be challenging for a while, but then become easier as momentum gathers. The Pack Trainer position can even be filled by an experienced leader until it is possible to move someone into filling only this position. Download a position description for this important role at <http://www.northernstarsbsa.org/Forms/PDF/Training/PackTrainer.pdf>

A description can also be found in the Cub Scout Leader Book, in the section on the Pack Committee. Pack Trainers should be recruited as soon as possible around Fall Recruitment time, and can be well-prepared for the Trainer Development Conference in early October.

For further resources, including help in selecting prospects, contact Steve Stobbs, the Northern Lights District Pack Trainer Coach, at sstobbs01@yahoo.com, or via telephone at 763-458-1903.



Pack Trainer



The pack trainer's main objective is to have 100 percent of the pack leadership trained in their position responsibilities. New leaders and adult family members should receive orientation within one week of joining the pack. Leaders should receive position-specific training as soon as the training becomes available.

Position Qualifications

The pack trainer must:

- Meet BSA membership requirements and be at least 21 years of age
- Be registered with the Boy Scouts of America as a pack trainer

It is recommended that the pack trainer have at least one year of experience in a leadership position in Cub Scouting. Pack trainers should participate in a Trainer Development Conference.

For new packs and those lacking experienced leaders, an experienced leader may be appointed as pack trainer until the new leaders gain experience.

Responsibilities

The pack trainer is responsible for:

- Remaining current with training material and program updates
- Conducting orientation of new families
- Providing Fast Start Training to new leaders. (Fast Start Training can be used as a recruiting tool. The pack trainer should contact the new leader within two or three days to review the information and answer questions. Fast Start Training can be completed by viewing the Fast Start video or DVD or by completing the training on your council's Web site.)
- Conducting monthly Unit Leadership Enhancements
- Encouraging pack leaders to attend:
 - a. Cub Scout Leader Basic Training, which includes New Leader Essentials Training and Cub Scout Leader Specific Training
 - b. Youth Protection Training
 - c. Roundtable
 - d. Pow Wow (if conducted in your council)
 - e. BALOO
 - f. Outdoor Leader Skills for Webelos Leaders
 - g. Wood Badge
- Encouraging den chiefs to attend Den Chief Training
- Maintaining pack training records

Position Summary

Under the direction of the pack committee chairman, the pack trainer helps leaders and parents understand purposes, policies, and procedures of the Cub Scouting program.

The pack trainer conducts, or facilitates, the training of leaders and parents in the pack. The pack trainer promotes training to help leaders learn to plan and conduct pack and den meetings and activities. The pack trainer orients parents and leaders and guides pack leaders in carrying out their specific position responsibilities.

Pack trainer is a registered pack position and is a voting member of the pack committee. Regardless of the size of the pack committee, every pack should have one of its committee members registered as a pack trainer.