

# Lion Scouts FAQ's

## OVERVIEW

**Q: Who are Lions?**

**A:** The kindergarten-age boys participating are called Lions. Lions must be 5 years old by September 30 to participate.

**Q: What is a Lion den?**

**A:** A Lion den is a group of usually six to eight kindergarten-age boys who meet together to participate in the Lion program with their adult partners.

**Q: How long will this pilot take place?**

**A:** The national pilot begins in the fall of 2016 through May 2017 and will remain a pilot until otherwise determined by the National Executive Board.

## REGISTRATION

**Q: Will new applications be changed and reprinted with a spot for Lions?**

**A:** No, since this is still a pilot, you will continue to use the same standard youth application form you've been using.

**Q: How will we register on the application that we are registering a Lion?**

**A:** Just write in "Lion" at the Top of the form. And in the grade area, put a "K".

**Q: Will adults be registered on the same application form as the youth?**

**A:** Yes and one joint registration fee is charged not two. The only exception is the Lion Guide will need to complete their own adult application like any other leader and pay the adult fee.

## RECRUITMENT AND MARKETING

**Q: Can we create our own materials?**

**A:** You should use the materials created by national at [www.scouting.org/lion](http://www.scouting.org/lion) no original designs or logo use is allowed.

**Q: What if we need to create something unique for a Lion event?**

**A:** The Lion program logo/insignia are the intellectual property of the BSA National Council. The council may not grant others the right to use the Lion program logo for any purpose. If national and [www.scouting.org/lion](http://www.scouting.org/lion) doesn't have what you need then you can request approval by presenting your idea and design to [Lion.Pilot@scouting.org](mailto:Lion.Pilot@scouting.org)

## PROGRAM

**Q: How often and for how long does the den meet?**

**A:** The den meets for eight to nine months of the year, two times per month, once for a den meeting and once for an outing or pack meeting. The den meetings usually last for one hour. The outings and pack meetings are longer, depending on the activity.

**Q: Do Lions memorize the Scout Oath and Scout Law?**

**A:** Lion youth are not asked to memorize the Scout Oath and Scout Law. The Lion program is an introduction to Cub Scouting. The goal is for Lion participants to become familiar with the ideas and not emphasize memorization.

**Q: Do Lions complete the Cub Scouting Bobcat rank requirements?**

**A:** Because Lion is a pilot and a precursor to the Tiger rank in Cub Scouting, they will not earn the Bobcat rank until they become Tigers.

**Q: What is a Lion “adventure”?**

**A:** A Lion adventure is a content theme that will tie together a den meeting activity and possibly an outing that share a common focus.

**Q: In what order should the adventures be completed?**

**A:** There is no prescribed order for the adventures; however it is recommended that a Lion den begin with the Lion’s Honor adventure. Consider local needs, including the weather, local holidays and school schedules, and other resources, and then plan the adventures in an order that makes sense for your circumstances.

**Q: Can the boys work on Lion elective adventures before the rank required adventures?**

**A:** Yes, the adventures are designed so that the families and Lion Guide may determine the most appropriate time to deliver each adventure.

**Q: What happens if my Lion misses a meeting?**

**A:** The Lion adult partner and his family will work with him to bring him up to speed on what was missed. Communicate with the Lion Guide to verify what was missed and to inform him or her that the Scout has completed the activities.

## **LEADERSHIP**

**Q: What does a Lion Guide do?**

**A:** You set the stage for a successful Scouting experience for families in your Den

- Oversees the den
- Communicates with participating families
- Watch the free Lion Guide and Parent Orientation video
- Leads initial den meetings and outings
- Mentors adult partners as they lead den meetings and outings during the year
- Point person for integration with Pack and Pack meetings
- Helps create an atmosphere of fun and family within the Den for families and youth

**Q: I am an Adult Partner what do I do?**

**A:** You

- Attend all Den Meetings and outings/Pack meetings with your son.
- Watch the free Lion Guide and Parent Orientation video.
- Take turns in leading a Den meeting and outing during the year.
- The Lion Guide will help mentor you to prepare for the Den meeting/outing you will lead. The Den Meeting Plans are outlined in the *Lion Parent and Leader Guidebook* with simple easy to follow step by step instructions listing everything down to any supplies needed.
- Have lots of fun with your son and other Scouting families!

**Q: What does co-leadership mean and why is it important?**

**A:** The success and part of the fun of Lions is that you get to take the leadership role at one meeting and outing. This is really important for several reasons.

- It shows you leading and your son will be so proud of you and your involvement.
- It makes the leadership easier by everyone taking a small part.
- It’s fun to be a part of making your Den great by everyone contributing to its success.

**Q: How do I get started?****A:** View the free Lion Guide and Parent Orientation video and PowerPoint.

- Get the contact information for the other families in your Den.
- Determine with the other families when and where your Den will be meet.
- Have each family select the Den meeting topic and month they will be presenting.
- Get familiar with your *Lion Parent and Leader Guidebook* and your selected Den meeting plan in the back of the guidebook.
- Talk with your Lion Guide to prepare for your presentation topic.
- If you want more, check out the website and resources at [www.scouting.org/lion](http://www.scouting.org/lion)

**TRAINING****Q: What type of training is required for the Lion Guide and the Lion adult partners?****A: A variety of resources are available.**

- Youth Protection training, and the Lion Guide and Parent Orientation are available. Youth Protection training is mandatory for Lion Guides and is highly recommended for all adults and is available free online. The training is an important aspect of Scouting that will familiarize you with the safety measures in place for your family.
- Lion Guide and Parent Orientation Video is available at [www.scouting.org/lion](http://www.scouting.org/lion) free for all Lion volunteers. This 2 minute video is required for both Lion Guide and Parents.
- Lion Guide and Parent Orientation PowerPoint is available at [www.scouting.org/lion](http://www.scouting.org/lion). It is required for Lion Guides and recommended for Parents.
- A really good guide to help keep your children safe is referenced here. It is available at <http://www.scouting.org/Training/YouthProtection/CubScout> and is highly recommend for all families.

**RECOGNITION****Q: Do Lions have advancement like the other levels in the Cub Scouting program?****A:** The Lion level will use immediate recognition stickers and a completion badge as part of a fun introduction to Scouting. Lions will begin their advancement trail and adventure belt loops when they begin working on the Bobcat rank in Tigers.**Q: What recognition is given when a Lion completes an adventure?****A:** When an adventure is completed, the Lion will receive a sticker that matches the adventure. These stickers are designed to be placed on the "My Lion Trail" page in the adventure book.**Q: When is the recognition given?****A:** The Lion Guide may give the youth the sticker during the den meeting or pack meeting as desired. The major consideration should be so the timing provides immediate opportunity to encourage and reward the youth. The closest time to completion of the adventure is usually best.**Q: When the Lion completion badge is earned where can they wear it?****A:** The Lion badge is earned when the Lion has completed the 5 required adventures. It may be worn on the T-shirt or cap or placed on a blanket or in a collection album as desired.**Q: I see that the Lion badge is the same diamond shape as the Tiger, Wolf, and Bear rank badges. Can my Lion wear his Lion badge on his Cub Scouting uniform when he becomes a Tiger?****A:** There is currently not a permanent place for the badge on the Cub Scout uniform. The badge should

be treated as a great recognition piece for the hard work of earning the 5 required adventures, but as it represents a pilot program, it should not be worn as part of the official Cub Scout uniform.

**Q: Is there a pocket certificate available to give when the Lion badge is presented?**

**A:** No, Lions is a pilot program, and it will not have a certificate until it becomes an official part of the Cub Scouting program.

## **PACK MEETINGS, CAMPING AND MORE**

**Q: Will Lions be a part of the pack?**

**A:** Yes. For units participating in the pilot, Lions are a part of the Cub Scout pack. It is important to note, however, that Lions will only be a part of the pack at an introductory level. The Lion program is designed to introduce 5-year-old kindergarten-age boys to the fun and excitement of Scouting, but in ways that maintain appropriate expectations. Because of their age, development level, physical abilities, and stamina, it would be unrealistic to expect Lions to participate fully in pack activities.

*For example, Lion dens should not participate in pack fundraising, overnight den camping, day camp or activities such as shooting sports. Those experiences, and others, are more appropriate for older boys as they move through Tiger, Wolf, Bear and beyond. Instead, keep the Lion dens focused on their exciting (and age-appropriate) adventures and fun family outings.*

Remember, the Lion program is an introduction to the world of Scouting. It's good to save some of the fun for them to look forward to Tigers!

**Q: What is meant by attending a few Cub Scout pack meetings?**

**A:** Invite them to attend just a few (two to three) pack meetings throughout the year. You might think of some special times like a Holiday Pack meeting or Blue and Gold or end of the year fun time. Be sure to include them in special activities, but only if appropriate for kindergarteners. If the Lions are planning to attend a Pack meeting—be sure to have some things they can participate in that are age appropriate.

**Q: Do Lions go to day camp?**

**A:** No. Day camp begins when the Lion becomes a Tiger and goes to day camp.

**Q: Is there anything else that is saved only for Tiger ranks and above?**

**A:** Yes these items and activities should be saved for Tiger ranks and above:

- Day Camp, District and Council events
- Shooting Sports
- Pinewood Derby
  - Bobcat
- Adventure Loops
- Fundraising is reserved for those Tiger age and above. We want families to take the Lion year and simply enjoy the Scouting experience. There will be plenty of time to help support the Pack, Den and Scouting.

## **EVALUATION**

**Q: Since this is a pilot will it be evaluated?**

**A:** Yes, the Lion pilot will be assessed and evaluated throughout the year. For the pilot to be valid, it is important to deliver the curriculum and program as written. This will help to standardize the program across pilot councils and can provide for more accurate evaluation of curriculum in order to ensure that it is engaging and relevant to youth.

## **ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS OR HELP NEEDED**

**Q: I have additional questions. Where do I go first?**

**A:** Most of your questions should be answered in either the Parent and Leader Guidebook or the FAQs. But if you'd like to speak to someone further the best place is Member Care Contact Center, call 972-580-2489 or send an email to [MyScouting@Scouting.org](mailto:MyScouting@Scouting.org).

**Q: I have a question about Lion Merchandise?**

**A:** The best place to go for questions about Lion Merchandise is to contact your local Scout Shop or the Supply Customer Service at 1-800-323-0736 or email [customerservice@scoutstuff.org](mailto:customerservice@scoutstuff.org)