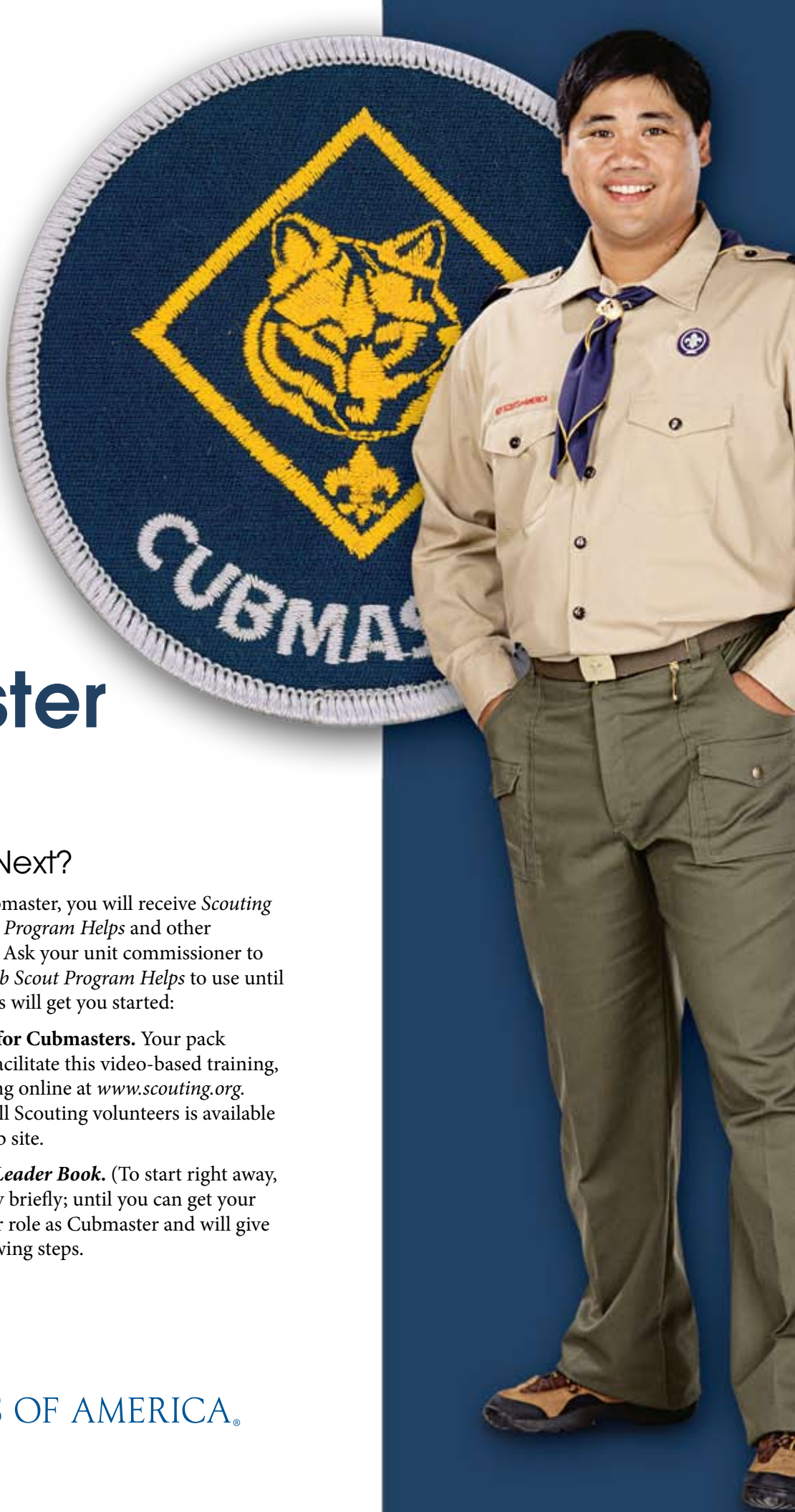
So You're a New Cubmaster



I Signed Up; What's Next?

Now that you are registered as a Cubmaster, you will receive *Scouting* magazine, which includes *Cub Scout Program Helps* and other information to assist you as a leader. Ask your unit commissioner to furnish you a copy of the current *Cub Scout Program Helps* to use until your subscription begins. These steps will get you started:

1. **Complete Fast Start training for Cubmasters.** Your pack leadership (pack trainer) will facilitate this video-based training, or you can complete the training online at *www.scouting.org.* Youth Protection training for all Scouting volunteers is available through your local council Web site.
2. **Begin reading the *Cub Scout Leader Book*.** (To start right away, you may need to borrow a copy briefly; until you can get your own.) This book describes your role as Cubmaster and will give more information on the following steps.

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3. **Get acquainted with the other leaders in your pack.** You will need their assistance in carrying out a successful pack program. You will be working closely with the pack committee chairperson and pack trainer.
4. **Get acquainted with your unit commissioner.** The commissioner is a friend to your pack and will be glad to answer questions and help in other ways to make your pack program successful. (See the *Cub Scout Leader Book*.)
5. **Get acquainted with your unit-serving executive.** This professional Scouter is employed by the council to serve all Scouting units in your district, and will do everything possible to help you be successful.
6. **With the help of the pack committee, pack trainer, and *Cub Scout Program Helps*, plan your first pack meeting.** Include the plans made at the last pack annual planning conference. Your key to success is "KISMIF" (Keep It Simple, Make It Fun."
7. **Attend the monthly district Cub Scout leaders' roundtable.** You will receive many good program ideas based on the monthly theme, and become acquainted with Cubmasters from other packs, who will share ideas and experiences with you. Your unit commissioner or unit-serving executive can tell you when and where the roundtable meets.
8. **Attend Cub Scout leader basic training as soon as possible.** There are two components to this training— Cubmaster Leader Specific Training, a specialized session to help you successfully plan a successful pack program, and This Is Scouting, which is attended by leaders in all program areas. These will give you the foundation you need to become an effective and successful leader. Every boy deserves trained and qualified leaders. Your unit commissioner or unit-serving executive can give you information about training sessions.
9. **Obtain and begin wearing the Cub Scout leader uniform as soon as possible.** It is attractive, comfortable, and suitable for all Cub Scout meetings and activities. Wearing the uniform is important in setting a good example for the boys. Your unit commissioner or unit-serving executive can tell you where to obtain the uniform and insignia.
10. **As soon as possible, establish a working relationship with a neighborhood Boy Scout troop and Scoutmaster.** You will need their help in obtaining den chiefs (older Boy Scouts or Venturers), and graduating Webelos Scouts into Boy Scouts.

Don't hesitate to ask for help. There are many people who want to help you provide the finest possible Cub Scout experience for the boys in your pack.

By the time you have completed these steps you will be well on your way to becoming a successful Cubmaster.

You, the Cubmaster

You were selected as Cubmaster and approved by the pack committee because of your interest in helping boys. It is your pack responsibility to coordinate the efforts of all the leaders in the pack so that the Cub Scout program works the way it should. By making the commitment to serve as Cubmaster, you have accepted the following responsibilities.

- Conduct the pack program according to the policies of the Boy Scouts of America.
- Plan and carry out the Cub Scout program in the pack. This includes conducting regular monthly pack meetings.

- Know about the Cub Scouting literature, including *Cub Scout Program Helps,* the *Webelos Leader Guide,* the *Cub Scout Leader Book, Boys' Life,* and *Scouting* magazine.
- See that the pack program, leaders, and Cub Scouts reflect positively the interest and objectives of the chartered organization and the Boy Scouts of America.
- Work with the pack committee on program ideas, selecting adult leaders, and establishing a pack budget plan.
- Guide and support den leaders. See that they receive the required training for their positions.
- Help organize a Webelos den (or dens) and encourage graduation into a Boy Scout troop.
- Maintain a good relationship with families; seek their support and include them in activities.
- See that Tiger Cubs, Cub Scouts, and Webelos Scouts receive a quality, year-round program that is filled with fun and activities and qualifies the dens and pack for the National Summertime Pack Award.
- Guide Cub Scouts in goodwill and conservation projects.
- See that the responsibilities specified for the assistant Cubmaster are carried out.
- Assist the pack committee chairperson in conducting the annual program planning conference and monthly pack leader's meeting.
- Take part in charter review and the annual charter presentation ceremony.

Your unit commissioner will be glad to explain any of these responsibilities that you do not understand.

The Pack Meeting

Pack meetings are usually held in a location provided by the chartered organization, once a month, in the evening. The meeting day and time are set by the pack committee and should be the same each month to prevent confusion. Pack meetings are led by the Cubmaster and last approximately an hour and a quarter. All dens and their families attend the pack meeting.

The pack meeting program includes the following:

1. **The Gathering Period.** Families are welcomed as they arrive. They view den displays and participate in a pre-opening activity such as a game or stunt.
2. **Main Part of the Meeting.** Dens sit together. One den usually leads the opening ceremony, which can be a pledge to the flag, a song, or some other activity in which everyone takes part. There are games, den stunts or skits, demonstrations, recognition ceremonies, and songs, with families participating.
3. **Closing.** Make announcements and reminders about upcoming pack activities and business, and hold a closing ceremony that is short and inspirational.

The Cubmaster ensures that in each month of the year there is a pack meeting (or special pack activity) that is enjoyed by Cub Scouting families and provides an opportunity for recognition for the boys' accomplishments.

Other common pack activities include a blue and gold banquet in February, Pinewood Derby and Space Derby, physical fitness competitions, and bicycle safety programs. Your unit commissioner can give you information about these activities.

What Do You Invest in Cub Scouting?

- One evening each month for the pack meeting
- One evening each month for the pack leaders' planning meeting
- One evening each month for Cub Scout leader's roundtable
- Time spent in Cub Scout leader basic training
- Cost of the Cub Scout leader uniform
- The registration fee

This adds up to a small investment, compared to the dividends you will receive. And of course, the more you invest, the more you can expect to receive in return.

What Do You Receive in Return?

- An evening each month of fun and fellowship with pack families, sharing their pride in their sons' accomplishments
- The privilege of helping to enrich and strengthen families
- An opportunity to share your ideas and experiences with other adults and put your talents into action at pack meetings
- A growing admiration for boys, and their growing respect for you as their leader and friend
- A chance to help boys learn good citizenship and help shape them into men with strength of character who are sensitive to the needs of others
- The opportunity to make a difference in the lives of boys as they grow strong in mind and body
- A code to live by that will set a worthwhile example for boys and adults as you do your duty to God and our country
- The satisfaction of being a member of a worldwide movement, and pride in being publicly identified as a part of this organization by wearing the uniform, which is a visible means of showing that you believe in and stand for its ideals and objectives

You will discover many other dividends that will enrich your life as you dedicate your time, talent, and enthusiasm to Cub Scouting.

All leaders bring to Cub Scouting their own talents and skills, their own backgrounds and interests. Your key to becoming an effective leader is to use your own abilities and interests, along with what you learn about Cub Scouting to plan and conduct the best possible program for the boys. What happens in the life of each boy during the formative years will determine to a great extent the kind of man he will become. What a tremendous opportunity and challenge for you, the Cubmaster!

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