



The Dulaney District Advancement Committee News

December 2013

Den Chiefs: The Undiscovered Resource



An often over-looked and under-valued member of any Pack's leadership team is the Den Chief.

WHAT CAN A DEN CHIEF DO FOR YOUR PACK?

Cub Scouts often relate better to older boys than to adults. The Den Chief has stories to tell about his adventures as a Boy Scout. When Cubs hear first-hand about the fun and excitement that lies ahead it is more likely they will become Boy Scouts themselves. It is a too common occurrence that Packs graduate their second year Webelos out of the Pack—but the job isn't really finished until they are graduated into a Troop. A Den Chief can be a big part of making that happen.

Den Leaders can benefit from the training and knowledge the Den Chief brings to the Den. When a Den Leader realizes the Den Chief is part of the Den's leadership team they gain another valuable set of hands to lead or assist with songs, skits, games, sports, ceremonies, etc. Den Chiefs also have the skills to help with many of the requirements of Cub Scout advancement. In the Webelos Den, the Den Chief can help to begin introducing the Boy Scout Patrol Method—an essential ingredient in the Troop program.

Den Chiefs can also be of help to the Cubmaster with activities, songs, skits, games, sports events and especially ceremonies.

SELECTING THE RIGHT SCOUT FOR A DEN CHIEF

Several things can work against a successful pairing of a Den Chief with a Den. *(Continued Page 2)*

1. The Scoutmaster may not recommend the best candidates for the job, sending instead Scouts that need their leadership ticket punched and weren't selected to fill a job in the Troop.
2. The Den Leader may view this young Scout as just another boy and not take the time to learn what he can contribute and how to involve him in planning the Den Meetings. Boys, like most of us, will live up to or down to what is expected of them.

According to the *National Advancement News (vol 3, No. 7)* "Boys who are selected for the role of Den Chief should be the best example possible. The Senior Patrol Leader and Scoutmaster will discuss and identify potential Den Chiefs based on their interest and commitment. The Cubmaster should create a list of den leaders, with den meeting dates and times for prospective den chiefs. The Scoutmaster and Cubmaster may then work together to determine the best assignments. "

MAKING IT HAPPEN:

1. Look up Den Chief in the Cub Scout Leader Book and read pages indicated.
2. Get to know your Scoutmaster or Venture Crew Advisor—meet with them and discuss the Den Chief position. Point out that the Den Chief is not only a communication link between the Pack and the Troop, but can be a key link in planning joint activities and/or Troop Meeting visits.
3. Communicate your need—be clear about the importance of selecting the 'right' candidates.
4. Train your Den Leaders to view their Den Chief as a member of the Leadership Team.
5. Recognize your Den Chiefs publicly—let them know they are appreciated.

Den Chief training is available and all Den Chief candidates should complete that training as soon as possible.

Den Chiefs should be issued a copy of the Den Chief Handbook, the position patch and shoulder cords—the usual practice is for the Troop to issue the position patch and the Pack provide the shoulder cords and handbook. The Den Chief Service Award should be awarded by the Pack when earned.

Lonnie D Clark
Dulaney District Advancement Committee; Cub Scouts
410.319.9080
lclark@clarkstkd.net

