The Lion Program

Lion Guide and Parent Orientation

The Lion Program

The Boy Scouts of America’s pilot program for kindergarten-age boys
Welcome

Welcome to the Lion orientation! If you are an experienced leader, relax—you will have this down in no time! If you are new to the program, come with us and enjoy learning about Lions!

- Thank you for taking on the role of Lion guide. Your role is very important!

- You will help kindergarten boys and families enjoy their first experience in Scouting.

- You will be helping to create memories that will last a lifetime and be helping to build stronger families as they discover the fun of Scouting.
The Lion Program

• Created by the Boy Scouts of America to address the needs of kindergarten-age boys.
  – Must be 5 years old or the year before first grade and not yet 7 years old to participate.

• Designed as an introduction to Cub Scouting

• Should be implemented as the curriculum is written to ensure the validity of the pilot.
Overview

The Lion program offers kindergarten-age boys and their adult partners an experience that includes:

- Fun while achieving Scouting’s desired outcomes
- Active and fast-paced excitement
- Hands-on exploration
- Values-based and relevant content
- Focused time together as a family
Scouting is designed to provide a fun adventure for boys that helps them “Be Prepared” for their future. Scouting will:

- Build character
- Foster citizenship
- Develop personal fitness
- Develop leadership skills
- Participate in outdoor activities

*But the kids just want to have fun…*

Of course they do! Lions will be too caught up in fun to realize how much they’re growing.
Getting Started

• Recruit Lion youth and leaders.
• Adult partners complete one application or online registration for both youth and adult then submit youth fees to the pack.
• Lion guides complete the adult application or online registration and submit fees to the pack.
• Lion guides complete the required Youth Protection training.

Youth Protection training is available free online at www.scouting.org/training/youthprotection.aspx.

Although Youth Protection training is required only for Lion guides, it is suggested that all adult partners complete the training.
What Do You Need to Start?

• You’ll need the program materials kit (*Lion Parent and Leader Guidebook*, *Lion Adventure Book*, and stickers).

• The youth *Lion Adventure Book* is designed as a memory or keepsake book.

• The uniform is a Lion T-shirt and an optional cap.

• Adults are encouraged to wear either a Cub Scout uniform, Lion polo shirt, or Lion T-shirt.
Basic Structure

• Dens have six to eight boys, plus adult partners

• Two den meetings per month
  – Den meeting
    • Usually lasts about 45 minutes
  – Outing
    • Field trips with the entire family
    • Participation in two to three pack meetings.
    • Each individual family may decide to attend more pack meetings as it works with their schedules.
Lion Leadership and Den Meetings
Lion Guides Set the Example

Get started on the right foot.

• Help families agree to a meeting location and time.
• Plan and prepare for the initial den meeting.
• Show the families a well-run den meeting.
• Have each adult partner sign up for a turn leading a den meeting and outing during the year.
• Help with communication and coordination of the Lion Den.
Shared Leadership

Lion guide (an experienced den leader)

• Oversees the den
• Communicates with participating families
• Leads initial den meetings and outings
• Mentors adult partners as they lead den meetings and outings during the year
• Integrates with the pack and pack leadership
Shared Leadership, continued

Adult partner

- Participates with Lion in all meetings, outings and pack activities.

- Takes turns leading a den meeting and outing, which is important for several reasons:
  1) It shows you leading, and your son will be proud of you.
  2) Leadership is easier when everyone takes a small part.
  3) It’s fun to be a part of contributing to the den’s success.
Why is Shared Leadership Important?

✓ Engages the families and helps create ownership of program by families.

✓ Creates a stronger loyalty and connection to the den, families, and Scouting.

✓ Provides an opportunity to watch potential leaders in action—as a unit or pack considers future leaders.

✓ The boys love watching their “parents be the leader!”

✓ Millennial parents want to try things out before committing. They prefer to commit to small roles first.
Leading a Den Meeting

Everything you need to lead the den meeting or outing is in the *Lion Parent and Leader Guidebook*.

- Preparation
- Gathering
- Opening
- Talk time
- Activities
- Closing
- After the meeting

We’ve made it easy—it’s all here! Just follow this guide and you’ll be fine. Your Lion Guide is there to mentor you.
Take a Look Inside the Guidebook

Everything you need is here.

GIZMOS AND GADGETS

RATIONALE FOR ADVENTURE
Gadgets are designed to make tasks easier. Think about the difference between a can opener you turn and one that plugs into the wall. Computers are designed to move information around quickly. Some gizmos and gadgets are designed just for fun, like games or apps. They all start with moving parts. Can you make a gadget?

TAKEAWAYS
• Learning about gadgets and time-saving devices
• Learning about gizmos designed just for fun

CONNECTIONS WITH DESIRED OUTCOMES
• Character development
• Personal fitness

REQUIREMENTS
1. Explore properties of motion.
2. Explore properties of force.
3. Use household materials to create a useful object.

MEETING I PLAN

PREPARATION AND MATERIALS NEEDED
• One 1-gallon milk jug with the bottom cut out per Lion
• Beanbags or other items to toss
• Magazines, scissor, glue, construction paper
• Pre-made and bring “Genius Kits” (Limit the kit to six to eight items and place in paper bag. Suggestions include: ice cream sticks, marbles, cork, glue, aluminum foil, chenille stems, golf tee, wire hanger, nuts and bolts, washers, screws, etc.)
• Drinking straws, ping-pong balls, dominoes

GATHERING
• Milk Jug toss: Collect enough 1-gallon milk jugs for each Lion to have one. Cut out the bottom of the jug, and leave the handle intact. Use the milk jugs to play catch with beanbags, ping-pong balls, tennis balls, etc. As the Lions develop some skills in catching the objects, increase the challenge by switching to a different item to catch.

OPENING
• Select a Lion to light the Good Conduct Candle and tell help from his adult partner.
• As a group, recite the Pledge of Allegiance and the Scout Oath.

GATHERING
• Milk Jug Toss: Collect enough 1-gallon milk jugs for each Lion to have one. Cut out the bottom of the jug, and leave the handle intact. Use the milk jugs to play catch with beanbags, ping-pong balls, tennis balls, etc. As the Lions develop some skills in catching the objects, increase the challenge by switching to a different item to catch.

Activity 1: Rolling Investigation
• Collect many different-sized balls, cylinders, pipes, and other similar items to use to investigate movement. Have Lions observe as you roll them down an incline.
• Ask Lions questions such as these: Which ones roll faster—solid objects or hollow objects? Cylinders or spheres? Objects with large diameters or small diameters? When they roll down the incline, which one rolls the farthest? When they are pushed across the floor, do they roll at the same rate?

TRANSPORTATION TO OUTING
• Establish details for travel to destination.

ACTIVITIES
• Option 1: Visit a museum that shows the progression of gadgets and gizmos over time.
• Option 2: Visit a hardware store to see what makes up gadgets and gizmos.
• Option 3: Visit a community member who has an interest in historical artifacts and can show the Lions antique gadgets and gizmos.
Adventures

Enjoy the program, have fun, and engage all families.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Required Adventures</th>
<th>Elective Adventures</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lion’s Honor (First meeting)</td>
<td>I’ll Do It Myself</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fun on the Run!</td>
<td>Pick My Path</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Animal Kingdom</td>
<td>Gizmos and Gadgets</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mountain Lion</td>
<td>On Your Mark</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>King of the Jungle</td>
<td>Build It Up, Knock It Down</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Rumble in the Jungle</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Ready, Set, Grow</td>
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The timing for completing adventures is at the discretion of the den.
Remember Your Audience…

• Kindergartners bring many great attributes to your den. They are eager to learn, with high energy and very short attention spans. It’s a time of wonder and curiosity.

• In your den meetings and outings, remember that kindergartners haven’t yet mastered sitting still for long periods.

• To help Lions focus for success, have active time ready to go at a moment’s notice. Have them do jumping jacks or stretches with their arms reaching up to the ceiling.

• If they are having a hard time listening or engaging, STOP what you are doing and try one of these to get back on track.
  o Try some fun or active elements. Activity will help Lions refocus their energy and be ready to listen and participate.
  o Be creative, ask them questions, and have fun!
  o More information available in the Lion Parent and Leader Guidebook.
Recognition

• Lions are recognized for each completed adventure with a sticker for their *Lion Adventure Book*.
  – No advancement report is required.
  – Stickers come with each Lion program kit. And extra sticker pages are available in your Scout Shop.
  – Award stickers immediately.

• The Lion badge is earned by completing five required adventures.
  – The badge may be attached to the Lion cap or T-shirt or put on a red vest or in a book.

• Adventures are completed during the den meetings and outings.
Adventure Stickers

Located inside your Lion program kit as shown here:
Packs, Training, and Resources
Pack Participation

- Dens from other grades hold their own den meetings.
- Once each month, all dens in a pack get together for a pack meeting led by the Cubmaster.
- Lions are a part of the pack, at an introductory level.
- Lions attend two to three pack meetings. Each individual family may decide to attend more pack meetings as it works with their schedules.
- When selecting pack meetings, consider these ideas:
  - Pick a few really special or fun pack meetings, and make sure the Lions feel included.
  - You may want to consider a holiday pack meeting, blue and gold banquet, or end-of-year celebration.
Training

• Youth Protection training
  – Required for Lion guides
  – Available free online at www.scouting.org/training/youthprotection

Although Youth Protection training is required only for Lion guides, it is suggested that all adult partners complete the training.

• Lion Guide and Parent Orientation video (2 minutes)
  – Required for both Lion guides and adult partners

• Lion Guide and Parent Orientation slide presentation
  – Required for Lion guides
  – Recommended and encouraged for each adult partner
Online Resource

Lion web page:  www.scouting.org/lion

One-stop shop for parent and leader resources
• FAQs
• Program overview
• Lion Guide and Parent Orientation video
• Lion Guide and Parent Orientation slide presentation
• Recruiting materials—fliers, promotional video, photos, etc.

Need help?
Contact Member Care at 972-580-2489
or MyScouting@Scouting.org

Check here for the most up-to-date Lion information.
Parent/Leader Resources

Den meeting and outing plans—everything you need!

Program overview

“Lion Guide and Parent Orientation” video and Lion Guide and Parent Orientation Powerpoint

YPT—Youth Protection Training for Lion Guides

Parent/Leader Resources

LION
PARENT AND LEADER GUIDEBOOK

Pilot Materials

BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA

LION PILOT Overview

LION is a formal plan program of the Boy Scouts of America, whose mission is to help young people build character, develop leadership, and achieve their full potential as citizens of their community, the Nation, and the World. LION is designed for girls and boys in kindergarten through 5th grade. It is to be implemented by parents, guides, and leaders.

OVERVIEW
LION is a family program. A parent and his or her child begin LION by joining a den, which meets on a regular basis. Dens meet weekly and may meet more frequently in preparation for den activities.

PROGRAMS
LION has a curriculum that is divided into four levels: LION, TIGER, WOLF, and EAGLE. Each level focuses on specific skills and abilities that are important for development and growth.

RECOGNITION
Den leaders and parents are recognized for their contributions to the success of their Lion Guide program.

Availabilities
- Loin Loin
- Family Fun
- Animal Kingdom
- Lion Safari
- Lion Play

Leadership
Den leaders and parents are responsible for the success of the den. They are to provide a positive and supportive environment for the girls and boys in the den.

Note: Den leaders and parents are encouraged to participate in the Lion Guide program by reviewing the materials and attending the Lion Guide and Parent Orientation.
New Resources
Lion Adult Apparel

Available through NDC Customer Service by calling 800.323.0736.

Adult Graphic Tee
Sizes S-3XL
SKUs #636420-25
$14.99

Adult Tee (Small Graphic)
Sizes S-3XL
SKUs #636465-70
$14.99

Ladies Polo
Sizes S-2XL
SKUs #636744-8
$29.99

Lion logo is embroidered on left sleeve of Ladies Polo
Councils may order custom Lion program recruiting patches directly through the BSA National Supply Group at NDCSpecialty.Products@scouting.org or through an authorized BSA Licensee at http://licensingbsa.org/bsa-licensee-list/.

Production time and pricing depends on quantity and various other factors.
Custom Lion Merchandise

Councils may order custom designed Lion merchandise directly through the BSA National Supply Group at NDCSpecialty.Products@scouting.org or through an authorized BSA Licensee at http://licensingbsa.org/bsa-licensee-list/.

Examples of custom designed Lion merchandise might include:

- Pens/Pencils
- String Bags
- Cups/Mugs
- Emblems

Production time and pricing depends on quantity and various other factors.
Pinewood Derby

• It’s fun! Do a Veggie car race.
• Doesn’t take much prep.
• Fun for All ages!
• Lions can easily be included.
• Can also be done as a Den meeting activity.
• More at www.scouting.org/lion
• Your pack may also integrate Lions into a regular Pinewood Derby too.

Buy wheels at Scout Shops
Consider making this a Den Meeting activity for some special fun.

It would work well especially before they make their Pinewood Derby car and compete in the Pack event.

Helpful Hint: Many grocery stores throw out their almost old veggies often. This may be something you could ask if your Lions could have some and therefore save additional cost of buying it.

Make a racing ramp from a big piece of cardboard.

Remember have lots of FUN!!
Appendix
# Lion vs. Tiger: Similarities

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>LION</th>
<th>TIGER</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>ADULTS:</strong></td>
<td>Adult partners required</td>
<td>Adult partners required</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>LEADERSHIP:</strong></td>
<td>Shared leadership</td>
<td>Shared leadership</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>RECOGNITION:</strong></td>
<td>Stickers and Lion badge</td>
<td>Adventure loops and Tiger badge</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>UNIFORM:</strong></td>
<td>T-shirt and optional cap</td>
<td>Cub Scout field uniform</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>OATH and LAW:</strong></td>
<td>Scout Oath and Scout Law</td>
<td>Scout Oath and Scout Law</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>CAMPING:</strong></td>
<td>Family camping with pack / No den camping</td>
<td>Family camping with pack / No den camping</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>FUN:</strong></td>
<td>ACTIVE and HANDS-ON!</td>
<td>ACTIVE and HANDS-ON!</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## Lion vs. Tiger: Differences

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>BOBCAT:</th>
<th>LION</th>
<th>TIGER</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Does not earn Bobcat</td>
<td>Earns Bobcat</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DEN MEETINGS:</td>
<td>1–2 times per month</td>
<td>3–4 times per month</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PACK MEETINGS:</td>
<td>Attends at least (2–3)</td>
<td>Attends all</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FUNDRAISING:</td>
<td>Participation is optional to each individual family</td>
<td>Participates in fundraising</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DAY CAMP:</td>
<td>No day camp (until Tiger)</td>
<td>Tiger/Cub Scout day camp</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Activation Timeline

- May – Aug.  Recruit and train Lion guides
- Aug. – Sept. Recruit youth, Lion pilot begins
- May 2018  Surveys, evaluations, and select focus groups conducted by the Pilots and Program Development Department
Lion Recruitment

• Councils participating in the Lion pilot are expected to actively recruit new members, not implement it solely as a sibling program.

• “Build an Adventure”–themed Lion recruitment materials are available on the website at www.scouting.org/lion
  – English, Spanish, and bilingual versions
  – Assets will include:
    • Fliers
    • Yard signs
    • Email blast templates
    • Social media artwork
    • Promotional video (sharable on social media channels)

• Special Lion stock photos are available for council use, but vendor and licensing rules still apply.