

9. Discuss long term goals. Keep a drawer or file for him to store his Scout paperwork. Create a display where his awards and accomplishments can be seen by his family and friends. As your son matures, allow him to make choices. Your role is to ensure safety as your son learns responsibility and consequences.
10. Allow him to make mistakes. Scouting is a safe place for boys to make mistakes and to learn from them. Cubs who create their own Pinewood Cars or Raingutter Boat learn far more than using one crafted by a parent. The greatest growth in leadership skills and character development often occurs through overcoming minor potholes and bumps in his journey. Experience teaches responsibility better than any speech. The pride of self-accomplishment will encourage his participation in the ideals of Scouting.



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Parent Tips!

Help Your Son Advance in the Cub Scout Program



1. Emphasize the fun of accomplishment. The Cub Scout books are full of opportunities to learn. KISKIF stands for Keep It Simple, Keep It Fun, and should be evident in everything your young Scout does. You provide the safety net for your son as he grows as a Cub Scout and learns from his actions.

2. Ask him what is his goal in Scouting. Encourage him to hike the Arrow of Light Trail. Help him create a timeline for this accomplishment. As your son accepts responsibility, rather than being “pushed” by a parent, the journey to Arrow of Light is more enjoyable for both parents and Scout.
3. Become a registered member of B.S.A. and set the example of dedication to the Scout Oath and Scout Law. Numerous opportunities exist, including Den Leader, Assistant Den Leader, Assistant Cub Master, or Member of Committee. Share the leadership in your son’s journey. As a parent and adult leader, select activities where you lead the den or pack, and are not constantly at his side. Tell him you have confidence in him, while keeping a watchful eye. Ask him what he enjoyed the most.
4. Attend an Eagle Court of Honor with your son. There’s more than one a week in West Michigan. Discuss how Cub Scout experiences, service projects, and family activities help your son develop character and leadership. Tell how proud you are of your son’s achievements and that of his peers.
5. Participate in service projects with your son. Be an example of leadership and character. What you do is much more influential than what you may say.
6. Help your son recruit one of his friends. Discuss with parents the values of Scouting while your son tells about the fun activities. Your son and his peers share the fun while challenging each other to excel. Many Scouts who earn their Arrow of Light and eventually their Eagle Scout Award admit that the fun activities with their friends is a major reason they remained in Scouting.
7. Encourage your son and the Pack to interact with other Packs and Scouts. His development should include much more than the basic requirements. Some opportunities are: Religious Emblem Award, Conservation Award, Cub Scout Day Camp, Cub Scout Adventure Land, Cub Scout Winterfest, Cub Scout Hike, and Service Projects. These activities are fun and support Scouting Principles of service to God, service to family, and service to community while developing your son’s character.
8. Discuss short term goals. Take a step on the trail to the Arrow of Light with each activity. Focus on the activities in which your son already has interest. Then as he nears completion, offer encouragement to finish. Avoid nagging and sarcasm, since your son is involved in Scouting for the FUN of his accomplishments. The journey as a Cub Scout should be enjoyable for both parent and child.