

SHOULD YOUR PACK USE THE CUB SCOUT MONTHLY THEMES?



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Cub Scout Program Helps!

Have you purchased or been given your *Cub Scout Program Helps* for the upcoming year? It will show you how to make the program work for you and your unit.

NOTE> Each month has a theme.

What are monthly themes?

BSA has a recommended program for Tigers, Wolves, and Bears based on a monthly theme or idea. Webelos Scouts work on activity badges at their den meetings. Many volunteers work together to come up with the suggested program themes that are put out by National every year. The monthly program themes are age appropriate, follow BSA guidelines, and unite the entire pack at the pack meeting. All Cub or Webelos Scouts can use the Pack meetings as a place to demonstrate any learned skill or show off made crafts at a craft table from those program themes or ideas. The Pack meeting is a culmination of that month's events and den meetings based on a particular monthly theme/idea where they get to celebrate their work and recognition.

Do we have to use BSA's monthly themes?

A unit does not have to follow the exact themes presented in the *Cub Scout Program Helps*. They can elect to switch some themes around to suit their needs or make up their own theme or idea for any given month as long as it follows the guidelines of BSA.

One thing you must ask yourself is why are you making up your own program? Is it for the boys' enjoyment, more fun for you, or for advancement?

Remember, **ADVANCEMENT** is not the purpose of Cub Scouting but a method. It is an ongoing process designed to help boys achieve Scouting's aims of character development, citizenship training, and personal fitness. So be careful you are not making up your own "themes" just to advance your cub scouts quicker.

Make sure your cub scouts are enjoying the monthly theme you have picked. We have to remember to think like 7-10 year olds.

When it comes to deciding whether or not to use BSA's themes or not, think about your new leaders or some of your not so new leaders. There are so many resources available to them.

- Cub Scout Program Helps
- Monthly Roundtables
- Boys Life
- Scouting Magazine w/ Program Helps
- Internet Sites

How would using the monthly program themes help my unit?

Each den leader would be able to rely on the *Cub Scout Program Helps*. Each weekly den meeting is planned from the gathering to the closing. Pack meetings are planned from ideas in this same resource as well. Why reinvent the wheel? It is already planned out for you. All you might have to do is adapt it to your needs and time arrangement. Your registered leaders would be able to watch for items on sale at craft stores, dollar stores, or even ask parents to save items from home knowing what they will need in advance.

Your *monthly district roundtable* gives ideas and helps on the same monthly themes in the *Cub Scout Program Helps*. So do many *internet sites* developed by many volunteer scouters across the country.

Remember, being a new leader can be confusing sometimes and we want to make it as easy as possible for them to have a great den meeting. That way their experience as well as the boy's experience is a pleasurable one. Both den leader and scout will want to return next year because of the great den meetings they have had. If a den leader is having a hard time programming a den meeting, the den leader may become stressed and the den meeting may not be so fun anymore. So let's keep it simple. Give them the tools they need.

Where and when do we use the themes?

- Den Meetings-crafts, games, songs, ceremonies, preparation for pack meetings.
- Pack Meetings
 - Decorations
 - Skits, songs, music
 - Ceremonies
 - Props, costumes
- Special Activities-other pack activities, district activities, council activities

