

Hello Pack 268,

I found this article in a magazine I receive once every couple of months as being a registered leader of the pack (see next page). I decided to forward it to you all because I thought the cartoon was quite funny....actually it was hilarious. I found myself in the same situation four years ago and again now but reversed!

I remember serving about two years in the boy scouts off and on. Back then I never received the same support I give my own son now. Things were different, money was tight and pops was never hardly home because he was off at work! Mom and dad have been gone for fifteen years now, my children never met them. I wish I had more support from my parents back then or just a little more encouragement to stay involved in scouting. I really would have liked to have been an Eagle scout! I know this because I really enjoy being a leader or maybe just an oversized scout now. The best part is I get to be a scout with my son, I just make it up as I go along and no one is the wiser. I took a few out door classes offered through the scouting program for leaders and voila!

Back to the real story. It all started with a scout flyer that came home in my son's Thursday folder, advertising the cub scouts. When we showed up to the pack meeting I met the leader which was John Gillen. He was the cub master, and the pack's only leader. This was five years ago. I don't remember if I was more excited or my son! Any way, back then the whole pack was meeting at Searles in the cafeteria every Friday all at once! No dens! Just John and all the boys, about 25-30 of them. John was great. You could feel the spirit of scouting emanating from him. There would be the flag ceremony and announcements, scout craft's and a game every Friday. As I got to know him, I learned he had no sons in the pack, they were already boy scouts. He volunteered his time to Pack 268 to keep the pack from dissolving. So I became a den leader and took my son's age group and formed Den-1. We had five boys then over the course of five years we have ten in the den and all but one of the original five are still serving. It's been fun. I wore a few hats, I Invested in my sons future! I am sure these skills we learned together will keep the memories alive for ever!

Scouting for food 2011 was a success and it did not take any effort other than getting out of bed to go for a walk! Thanks all of you for the help! This time around I got to meet and work with some of you from the other dens and it was great. I wanted to socialize and talk with others but it did not happen. I'll get around to you all soon! I really enjoyed your enthusiasm. It put some wind in my sails. The pack can really use some more good leaders. Think of it as an investment for your sons future!

Allen Tarnowski

# Help Wanted

Ideas from the field: Looking for leaders.

**Scouter S.B. needs help—literally. Plenty of boys want to join the Cub Scout pack at his church, but few parents are willing to serve as leaders. He wants to know how to engage uninterested parents.**

#### SELL THE SIZZLE

When pitching the idea of becoming a leader, I tell parents it's about more than just the boys' experience; it's about the leaders' experience, too. I have made many new friends I wouldn't have met if not for Scouting; my fellow Scout leaders have become some of my best friends.

**Cubmaster R.B.**  
SALEM, ORE.

#### COMBINE AND CONQUER

Many parents are concerned about the time commitment and about working with energetic young boys. Encourage interested parents to pair up and share the leadership role. New den leaders should ease their workload by asking all parents to teach at least one badge requirement and to host at least one den meeting a year. Asking parents to attend all den meetings and outings with their Scout helps new den leaders with crowd control, as well.

**Troop Committee Member A.M.**  
BATAVIA, ILL.

#### JUST ONE THING

Ask parents individually—not in a large group—if they can do one thing. Can they transport Scouts to the park or make the den or pack news-



DAREN THOMPSON

letter? Can they help man the attendance table at pack meetings? Can they provide refreshments? Can they help the Bear leader? Can they teach crafts? If they help with one small thing, eventually they see that it's not really that hard.

And always say thank you. Recognize your leaders or helpers monthly—especially those who do once-a-year things. If parents see others are appreciated, they will want in, too.

**Chartered Org. Representative P.A.**  
FERNANDINA BEACH, FLA.

#### OVERCOME OBJECTIONS

Address the concerns that may be holding back a parent from volunteering. Discuss the available training, especially online training, and have handouts available with local training schedules. Show a copy of the *Den & Pack Meeting Resource Guide*; underscore that the guide has den and pack meet-

ings planned out so that preparation and planning are minimal. Show a copy of the *Cub Scout Leader Book* and demonstrate its usefulness as a handy reference for answering Cub Scouting questions. In short, tell them, "We'll teach you how."

**Unit Commissioner S.E.**  
HURST, TEX.

#### THREE IDEAS

First, at a mandatory parent meeting, have a flip chart on which an eagerly awaiting youth can write down suggestions for programming that parents would like to see. Ask them if they have anything that they can do to help.

Second, find out what specialties the parents have. Those are areas that you can tap into. Third, have everyone raise their hand to questions like "Who likes to do crafts?" Then point to them and say, "You're it!" †

**Unit Commissioner M.P.**  
FUQUAY-VARINA, N.C.

## NEXT QUESTION

### FOOD FIGHT

**We have a Scout with very poor eating habits, and his parents are enabling him to continue eating in this manner. On numerous outings he has collapsed, partly because of his lack of adequate nutrition. Our leadership is in agreement that he cannot be allowed to participate in our more rigorous activities. What can we do to make this Scout's parents understand the seriousness of this situation?**

**B.P.**  
BOWIE, MD.

**WE WANT YOUR SOLUTIONS!** Send your answer to What Would You Do?, *Scouting* magazine, P.O. Box 152079, Irving, TX 75015-2079. Responses will appear in *Scouting's* next issue. We also solicit new questions and pay \$50 for each one used in this column. Submit responses or a new question electronically, or view selected responses from past columns, at [scoutingmagazine.org](http://scoutingmagazine.org).