

How can your Pack have successful Lairs ?

Take a moment to think of a successful team that you were on. The success of the team may not necessarily be measured by wins, but by the fun you had playing and learning together. The team was considered successful because the members knew how to work together, helped each other, maximized the individual strengths of its members, supported each other through losses and celebrated successes. It was an awesome feeling to be part of that kind of team.

How can the Cubs in your Pack discover that great feeling of teamwork?

Lairs / small teams are a great way to get the Cubs engaged in programming – some Cubs may not be comfortable sharing their voice in a larger group but may be more comfortable sharing in a smaller group, like a Lair. Lairs allow for different voices to be heard, and for more Cubs to take on leadership roles. Lairs encourage sharing and teamwork and are a key part of Section programming. Small teams can be static or ad hoc as needed.

Even if you meet as a Pack, meeting in Lairs at the beginning of a Pack meeting, is a great way to start the night. Cubs can use their Lairs to take attendance, gather dues, and get ready for that week's meeting. During Outdoor Scouting, they can be a great way to break into smaller groups for activities, as well as to gather feedback.

Getting started

At the beginning of the year split the Pack into small groups of 8 youth maximum. There should be a mixture of brand new Cubs, Runners (8-9 years), Trackers (9-10 years) and Howlers (10-11 years). Look at which youth should be put together, two friends might be great together, they might not. Look also at the older Howlers, do a couple shine out to be the leaders of the Lair?

This is a great time to chat to the Colony Scouters and see who worked well together. The Lairs can be juggled in the first few weeks, so that all personalities work smoothly together.

Each Lair should have a Section Scouter/s assigned to that Lair. This Section Scouter/s should be the main Scouter/s for that Lair for the whole year. The Scouter/s assigned to the Lair get to really know the Cubs within their Lair. This builds great relationships with the youth and the Scouter/s. (the first-year, second-year and third-year Cubs, respectively)

Picking their Lair Emblem/ Badge

Each Lair should designate a coloured wolf as their Lair name. The Scout Shop has these badges available to buy. (visit www.scoutshop.ca to purchase). Your Lair may already have a name from the year before.

Using Patrol Boxes

Each Lair should have its own individual patrol box-it should include but is not limited to: scissors, glue, crayons, pens, pencils, pencil sharpener and eraser.

By having a Patrol Box it gives the youth everything they need, and they don't need to wander around looking for equipment or wait to use the equipment.

This also keeps them well controlled and less chance of them getting into mischief.

How to use the Lairs in a meeting?

Designate an area of your meeting location or a corner of your room (when we are back indoors) as that Lair's corner. This location should stay the same every week.

As soon as the Cubs arrive, they should be sent to their Lair corner. Try to stop them gathering at the start unless there is a Scouter already running a gathering game. This is a surefire way to have youth not listening and hard to get to settle down.

When the first cub arrives from that Lair, their job is to collect their Lair's Box. There should be activities inside the box to keep them busy such as crosswords, colouring pictures, puzzles, individual packs of Legos etc. When the Lair Patrol Leader arrives, they should collect the dues and are responsible for marking in the due book who has paid. They may have other duties such as checking that the Cubs arrive with all their uniform on etc. you may hear some Scouters refer it to as Paws (clean hands), Claws (clean nails) and Fur (brushed hair). Once everyone has arrived the Cubs should be gathered for Grand Howl and Opening Ceremony.

The Cubs should return to his Lair corner to do the meeting's activity. The Cubs stay in these small groups for everything except games, Open and Closing Ceremonies.

By using Lairs in this way, the youth remain calm and attentive by being in smaller groups.

