

PACK 4652: DEN LEADER TIPS

Official Den Rosters

It is important for our unit's certification with Boy Scouts of America, that each den in our pack have at least two registered official leaders. One should be identified as the Den Leader and one as the Assistant Den Leader. Both leaders must have completed the required online training, verified by the Pack Trainer. A den may have more leaders and helpers, but two active registered leaders are required on the roster at all times for our unit to remain certified.

Leaders in Uniform



It is the policy of our pack that den leaders wear BSA leader uniforms whenever possible. Uniform wear is an important part of your scouts' experience. For the scouts, uniforms symbolize character development, citizenship training, and personal fitness and they help create a sense of belonging and commitment. Your scouts will look to you to set an example. Leaders without uniforms are much more likely to have dens that show signs of: poor attendance, low enthusiasm, & conduct problems.

If you are concerned about the cost - our Charter Organization, 465 Alumni, maintains a "uniform bank" at the Troop 465 Scout hut. Contact **HOPE THOMPSON**, our Committee Chair, for information on how to purchase uniform parts from the bank.

Scheduling Den Meetings

The trick to having well attended, successful den meetings are to schedule them in advance and to rotate some of the planning and execution responsibilities.

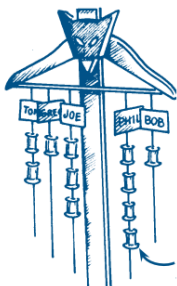
SCOUTTRACK provides a calendaring tool that you should use to schedule your den meetings far in advance and see how they are positioned along other pack activities. It will even send out e-mail reminders to your den as the date is drawing near. We recommend settling on a general meeting cadence (*1st/3rd Wednesdays, or 2nd/4th Sundays, etc.*) with your den in August when the scout year starts. Go ahead and put the dates on the calendar for the whole year, and then reschedule only the ones that are likely to have conflicts (*holidays, pack events, etc.*)



Set the expectation with the parents in your den that you will need them to host the activity for two of the meetings over the year. The earlier you can assign each parent a date and a topic – the more time they will have to plan.

Example meeting plans for each rank are available at: <http://pack4652.org/resources.html> You can follow these plans exactly or use them as guideline for your own meeting plans.

Using Den Flags



Each den in our pack is strongly encouraged to build a Den Flag or Den Doodle that represents their scouts. Having the flag present at den and pack functions helps strengthen your den's group identity and build den enthusiasm.

Periodically through the scout year, contests or den challenges may be issued and result in an award that can be displayed on the den's flag or doodle. Likewise, dens can use their flag for displaying their own awards or simple totems they earn for good conduct at den meetings.

More information on building a Den Flag can be found at: <http://pack4652.org/resources.html>

Involvement at Pack Meetings

As a Den Leader, your involvement in our monthly pack meetings is critical and can mean the difference in total chaos and a smooth successful meeting.

At every meeting, Den Leaders should identify a seating location for their den, display their den flag, and remain nearby to help make sure their scouts stay orderly and engaged during the meeting.

Each den in our pack rotates responsibility as a "Service Den" for monthly pack meetings and other events. When your den is the Service Den, it is responsible for:

- Arriving 15 minutes early to organize a Color Guard for the opening flag ceremony
- Conduct the opening flag ceremony with supervision from a Den Chief or Den Leader
- Come prepared to lead a 15 minute game, or fun activity during that portion of the agenda
- Conduct a closing flag ceremony with supervision from a Den Chief or Den Leader



Pack Committee Meetings

Once a month, during our scouting year, all the leaders from our pack meet to conduct planning for upcoming events and discuss the next pack meeting agenda. At least one Den Leader from each den is encouraged to attend and provide feedback about upcoming events, & how the program can improve. Attending these planning meetings will also help you understand how you can assist at upcoming pack meetings.



Pack Committee Meetings are normally scheduled for **6:30PM – 8:00PM ON THE 1ST TUESDAY OF THE MONTH @ THE 465 SCOUTHUT.**

District Roundtable Meetings

The Cherokee-Pickens district hosts a "roundtable" meeting once a month for scout leaders and parents from units all over the district. The meeting is attended by Den Leaders, Cubmasters, Committee Members, and interested parents looking for a fun way to meet other area scouters with the same challenges and share ideas.

Cherokee-Pickens District Roundtable meetings are normally scheduled for **7:30PM – 9:00PM ON THE 1ST THURSDAY IF THE MONTH @ CANTON FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**