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The New Member Coordinator role is crucial in welcoming new families and ensuring they have a positive experience with Scouting. As we move forward, we kindly remind all Unit Committee Chairs to nominate New Member Coordinators (NMCs) from their units. Your support in this process is vital for our collective success.

Here are five easy steps to welcoming new families to the great scouting adventure!

1. Every unit should have one or more new member coordinators: friendly, experienced volunteers who can help new families feel welcome and learn how the unit functions
2. Within 48 hours of registering, first contact from a unit leader or new member coordinator team should include a warm welcome and provision of the unit calendar, an onboarding guide or welcome letter which includes relevant information, supplies needed, leader names and contact information.
3. A parent orientation should be held within the first two weeks.
4. Retention relies upon a fun unit program so new families need only be brought in and made welcome. Program quality should always be a top priority.
5. Track initial attendance and reach out promptly if a new family misses a meeting. Conduct informal check-ins at the 30- and 60-day marks regardless of their attendance record. These touchpoints ensure a smooth transition, help the scout and family feel a sense of belonging, and offer natural opportunities to discuss volunteer tasks or training.

Here's a timeline tailored for Cub Scout Packs which has proven to be very useful.

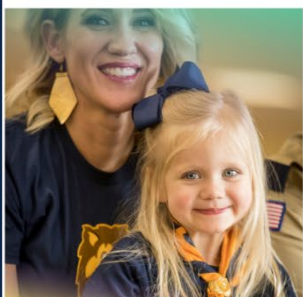


WELCOME → CONNECT → BELONG

A Leader's Guide for Welcoming Families



🌟 A positive first impression builds participation, retention, and a vibrant pack community. 🌟

 FIRST 24-48 HOURS	 FIRST 1-2 WEEKS	 DAY 30	 DAY 60 - 90
• Call, then text/email. • Deliver Welcome New Cub Scout Family Guide & pack information. • Share calendar; highlight next three meetings. • Assign a mentor family & Cub Scout buddy. • Invite parents to orientation. • Share uniform guide & welcome item. 	• Hold parent orientation. • Welcome every Cub Scout & family by name. • Introduce den Leader and den chief. • Connect new parents/adults to the pack. • Set the expectation: Every family helps. <i>"Most jobs take less than 30 minutes. No Scouting experience required."</i> 	• Ask: Is the Cub Scout enjoying the pack? • Confirm clear communication. • Host at least two meetings + one pack event. • Recognize advancement quickly. • Invite all adults to parent & leader meetings. • Follow up when participation slips. 	• Check in again. • Offer small, defined volunteer tasks. • Invite consistent helpers to lead. • Build community—and keep it fun! 

EVERY FAMILY WELCOMED. EVERY CUB SCOUT CONNECTED. EVERYONE BELONGS.

Scout recruiting ideas for Halloween

As we look forward to a "Scout-acular" Halloween holiday, some ideas to share Scouting within the community are:

- Participate in a trunk-or-treat event, especially if organized by your chartered organization and be sure that everyone can see you're from a scouting unit, include an imitation campfire scene, have a scout in uniform give out candy etc.
- Add QR code cards to the candy as you distribute it
- If available, ensure all of the families in your unit have yard signs out to capture that foot traffic
- Host a bring-a-friend costume meeting

A guide has recently been released to help us in dialogue with school teachers and administrators. This resource provides a one-page, state-specific starting point for showing school leaders how Cub Scout Adventures and Scouts BSA merit badges and programs reinforce what the state already requires students to learn.

Standards Domain	Cub Scouts (K–5)	Scouts BSA (6–12)
STEM — Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS) for Mathematics and Science, including inquiry- and engineering-design practices	STEM elective Adventures at every rank; Nova Awards; nature/science Adventures	Engineering, Robotics, Programming, Space Exploration, Chemistry, Physics, Astronomy, Geology, Weather, Nature merit badges
Civics & Government — Texas requires civics training for teachers and administrators under new legislation (TEC §21.4555, SB 3, 2021), aligned with civics instruction requirements in TEC §28.002(h-2) and §28.0022, under the Social Studies TEKS.	Citizenship required Adventure at every rank; Duty to Country themes	Citizenship in the Community, Nation, and World merit badges (all required for Eagle); Messenger of Peace service program
Financial Literacy — Standalone: one-semester personal financial literacy course required for 9th graders entering 2026–27 (HB 27, 2025), counting toward the social studies requirement.	Financial-literacy elective Adventures (age-appropriate budgeting, earning, saving)	Personal Management merit badge (required for Eagle; budgeting, saving, planning)
ELA / Communication — Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS) for English Language Arts and Reading	Adventures requiring presentations, journaling, den/pack communication	Communication merit badge (required for Eagle); badge process itself requires research and oral presentation
Health & Physical Education — Texas Health and Physical Education standards	Personal Fitness / Personal Health required Adventures at every rank	Personal Fitness, First Aid, Emergency Preparedness/Lifesaving merit badges (required for Eagle)
Environmental / Life Science — Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS) for Science, life/earth science content	Nature/conservation electives; World Conservation Award; Leave No Trace Award	Environmental Science or Sustainability merit badge (required for Eagle); Forestry, Soil & Water Conservation electives
Character & Social-Emotional Development — embedded across Texas social studies and health standards	Character-focused required Adventures at every rank; den/pack teamwork	Scout Oath and Law woven through every rank; Family Life and Personal Management merit badges
Leadership & Service — No statewide service-hour or Portrait of a Graduate requirement identified for Texas K-12 public schools.	Den/pack leadership roles (Denner, Assistant Denner); community-service-themed Adventures and pack service projects	Positions of Responsibility required for rank advancement (Patrol Leader, Troop Guide, Senior Patrol Leader, and more); National Youth Leadership Training (NYLT); the Order of the Arrow — Scouting's national honor society, built on cheerful service, to which Scouts are elected by their peers

For this and other useful information, remember to visit

<https://www.longhorncouncil.org/new-member-coordinator-resources>.

REMINDER: The annual Longhorn Council University of Scouting will be held on Saturday, November 14th at the Cross Church, North Richlands Hills campus <https://scoutingevent.com/662-UoS26>.

Within the many great courses available, we'll be conducting a one-hour training session for New Member Coordinators at 2PM so be sure to sign up or recommend the class to other adults in your unit! GEN207 New Member Coordinator Training covers the SCO_535 Welcome Course and SCO_536 Elements of the Job for new member coordinators. **If you plan to be there, let us know if you'd also like to help!**

Yours in Scouting,

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