



Leader Recruitment Tool – “The Yardstick Story”

Supply needed – Yardstick

Objective – To emphasize the amount of time in a child’s life where parents are the number one influencer and how a portion of that time correlates to the “Cub Scout years”.

(Stand holding the yardstick about chest high).

Look at this yardstick as your child’s life. Each inch is about 2 years. The 36 inch yardstick becomes 72 years, about the average person’s lifespan. Here they are today (point to the 3 or 3 ½ inch mark). Here is where they started school at 5 (point to the 2 ½ inch mark). At this point (the 5 inch mark) they will be starting middle school or junior high. And here (9 inch mark) they graduate from high school. And four years later they may be graduating from college and starting a career and family.

All of that lies ahead in the future. Here today (again point to the 3 or 3 ½ inch mark), these are critical years in your child’s development. These are the years (spread your thumb and forefinger about 2 inches or 4 years) when many of their decision-making skills, ethics and moral values will be developed. Besides having fun, these are key elements in the Lion Cub and Cub Scout program. Studies continue to show that young people who are close to caring adults and involved in this type of youth program are less likely to get into trouble with drugs and crime, and more likely to continue successfully in school.

These 5 years are the years of the Cub Scout – Lion Cub through Webelos Scout. In Cub Scouting we need every family to get involved this much (hold up your hand with the 2 inch spread between thumb and forefinger). “This much” is different for everybody. Your “this much” might be as a committee member, or a den leader. It might be helping to plan an outing, writing a newsletter, working on the Pinewood Derby, or Blue and Gold Banquet. If everyone does “this much”, in your family’s Scouting experience, both you and your kids will have a great experience.

Then, these 5 years (again pointing to the Cub Scout years – 3 inch to 5 inch) will provide wonderful memories and a great foundation for the rest of their life (as you sweep your hand to the 36 inch end of the yardstick).