

Den Leader and Assistant Den Leader Responsibilities

The Den Leader is crucial to the proper functioning of a Den and ultimately our Pack. Without parents volunteering as Den Leaders new Dens cannot be formed. A Den Leader can be male or female. The Den Leader coordinates the Den meetings and activities and/or delegates that to other parents within that Den. The Den Leader's primary duties include the following:

- Fill out the adult scout application (all expenses paid for by the Pack)
- Attend Den Leader training (Fast Start video and a couple ½ day classes to start)
- Plan and carry-out Den meetings and trips (and/or facilitate other parents to do this)
- Forward e-mails from the Pack leaders to the Den (many things are done via e-mail, such as taking signups for Pack events and trips, etc.)
- Attend the monthly leader meetings (with the Assistant Den Leader or another den parent to go to represent the den and to obtain handouts and take notes).
- Keep the scouts in the Den moving along the achievement trail and work with scouts and parents who are falling behind.
- Coordinate the popcorn drive for the Den or delegate this task to a parent in the Den.
- Help plan and execute a Pack Meeting and/or at least one Pack Event per year.
- Wear the scout uniform at Den and Pack events and generally set a good example for the scouts. Pack will reimburse for leader uniforms.

How much time does it take? At a minimum it will require a few hours a week, at least on average; this is in addition to being a scout parent, which also takes some time (e.g. working in the scout handbook on achievements, helping build a pinewood derby car, etc). Initially it will take some extra time to get up to speed, especially if you've never been involved with scouting before. Notably one of the advantages to being a leader is in setting schedules and providing input to the Pack.

What does the Assistant Den Leader do? They assist the Den leader with all of the above activities as needed. Generally he or she is there to backup the Den Leader, for example when the Den Leader cannot make an event or meeting for some reason then the Assistant should try and attend (preferably both). You also have some input at meetings.

What are the advantages to being a Den Leader? You can ensure that your son and others have a fulfilling scout experience. It's time well spent with your son and his old or new friends. You actually learn a lot from the scout handbooks (i.e. both the leader and scout handbooks). You have a big say as to when the den meetings are, when and where the den trips will be, etc. As a member of the Pack Committee you also have a voice as to how the Pack is run and what Pack events will take place. The Pack is always looking for more volunteers so *please step up and help out.*