

Cub Scout Investiture Ceremony

It helps to involve all leaders in presenting badges and other items, with a description about each item. Perhaps safety-pin the badges in place – this helps to show parents where to sew them, plus the child feels that they have really been decorated.

If several Cubs are being invested, try to do them separately, as it is a special occasion for them and they deserve to be the focus of attention. It will also ensure that the promise chosen is really what they believe and not a majority vote of the group. If this will take a long time, break it up with investitures at the beginning and the end of the meeting. Cubs will not tolerate standing still and listening to ceremonies for an extended period of time. Also try to have an active game immediately after the ceremony and not a sitting down or listening activity.

With the Cub Investiture Ceremony, the Pack is assembled into the Pack Circle. Have the Pack “At Ease”, with their feet slightly apart and their hands behind their backs. Then the Akela will ask the Sixer to bring forward the child to be invested. The Sixer then returns to the circle. The following procedure is outlined below:

Akela asks: “Johnny, are you ready to become a Cub?”

Johnny answers: “Yes Akela, I am”.

Akela asks: “Do you know your Cub Scout Law and Promise?”

Johnny answers: “ Yes Akela, I do”.

Akela says: “Please tell me the Cub Scout Law”

Johnny answers: “Cub Scouts are loyal and obedient, Cub Scouts do not give in to themselves”
(Some children need a whispered prompting to get started).

Akela: “Thankyou. Now will you please make the Scout Sign?” (Johnny makes the sign, with his right hand raised like the salute, but only to his shoulder). Akela also makes the Scout Sign.

Akela also asks the rest of the Pack to make the Scout Sign at the same time. (This is to indicate that while Johnny is saying the Promise out loud, they are all re-affirming their promise in their heads at the same time).

Akela says: “Repeat after me..
 On my honour (*Johnny repeats*)
 I promise that I will do my best (*Johnny repeats*)
 To do my duty (*Johnny repeats*)
 to my God and the Queen of Australia (*Johnny repeats*)
 To help other people (*Johnny repeats*)
 And to live by the Cub Scout Law”(Johnny repeats)

Note: Johnny does not have to say” the Queen of Australia” if he does not want to. He can just say “to my God and to Australia” if he wishes. This option was introduced in 2001 to reflect changing views and individual choice in those views.

Akela drops her hand from the Scout Sign, and Johnny and the rest of the Pack follow.

Akela then shakes Johnny by the left hand (special Scouting handshake) and says:
“Welcome to the Worldwide Brotherhood of Scouting”.

Then she pins on the purple Membership badge on Johnny’s left pocket, explaining that this is the one badge that everyone in Scouting all around the world has the same, with the rope and reefknot symbolising the tie and unity of one movement.

She then pins on the Australian Scout badge above his left pocket, saying that this represents the fact that he is part of the Australian Scout family.

The scarf (previously rolled up ready) is then placed around Johnny’s neck, with an explanation of the necky, eg if there is a group badge, the explanation of it, or if it is the green State necky, explain that the Piping Shrike on the back is the State Emblem. He is also presented with his hat.

Johnny is then asked to go to other leaders for presentation of other badges or certificates. They will present their badges and also shake hands with him to congratulate him. Suggestions for badge presentations (depending on number of leaders present) are:

Group Leader to present the Membership Certificate, and Yellow Passbook if given.

Assistant Leaders to each present the Group nametape (right sleeve) & District badge (right pocket).

Johnny then returns to stand in front of Akela. She salutes him, he salutes her, and she asks him to turn around and salute the Pack. They are asked to Return the Salute.

Johnny then returns to his place in the Pack Circle, and his Sixer will pin on his Six Colour Patch (left sleeve).

Johnny can then take part in the Grand Howl opening and closing ceremonies for the first time, and will usually have a big grin of achievement.

Please note that the presentation and wearing of badges will change slightly with the introduction of the new uniform in July 2004, but as there is 5 years to change to the new uniform, this should not affect everyone straight away. Please ensure that the new Cub is made to feel like he is the same as everyone else.