



WHAT SHOULD ELEMENTARY TEACHERS KNOW ABOUT CUB SCOUTING?

WHAT IS CUB SCOUTING?

Cub Scouting is the elementary-age program level in the Scouting program. A number of the boys in your classroom are very likely Cub Scouts. Scouting is a worldwide movement that has shaped the development of youth and adults for more than 100 years. Scouts are often identified by their acts of service, outdoor program, uniform, and ideals expressed in the Scout Oath and Law. Millions of young people participate in Scouting, and Scouts are present in every community and around the world. Young people involved in Scouting are drawn from across social classes, and represent every faith, every race, and every ethnic group across the nation.

WHAT DO SCOUTS DO?

The aim of Scouting is to encourage the physical, intellectual, emotional, social, and spiritual development of young people so they may play a constructive role in society as responsible citizens and as members of their local and international communities. This aim is achieved through a strong and active program, designed around positive outcomes in personal fitness, character development, participatory citizenship, outdoor skills and appreciation, and leadership, that inspires young people to do their best, to always be prepared, and to lead their adventures for the good of themselves and their community.

SCOUTING AND SCHOOLS

Scouting activities contribute to the academic development of the children who participate. In the elementary grades, the Cub Scouting program is built around a series of *adventures*. Adventures are theme-based explorations in areas such as service, outdoor adventure, fitness, and leadership. Boys also have the opportunity to explore other areas of interest such as STEM investigations, crafts, and outings within the community. Some of the specific positive effects documented by researchers include the following:

- The time that children spent in structured activities such as Scouting has been correlated with higher academic and conduct grades, constructive peer relations, and positive emotional adjustment (Posner and Lowe, 2008).
- Involvement in activities such as Scouting is correlated with a decrease in delinquency rates (Agnew and Peterson, 1989).
- The time that children spent in Scouting shows that scout programs help young boys develop a sense of themselves as people who are broadly competent, who can work constructively in groups, and who can complete poorly defined tasks. Boys in Scouting also have an increased sense of obligation to the community and its institutions (Kleinfeld and Shinkwin, 1983).
- Children involved in Scouting are identified as demonstrating higher affective and cognitive regard for learning science content (Jarman, 2005).
- Scouting programs support the growth of developmental assets (Search Institute, 2004).

SCOUTS AS RESOURCES

Young people involved in Scouting develop skills that can be leveraged in support of overall classroom activities and goals. Some that may be of benefit in your classroom include the following:

- *Skills:* Help lead games and activities, problem solving
- *Knowledge:* Knowledge of science and technology content in real-world context; experience with non-competitive and initiative games
- *Dispositions:* Positive self-concept, solution-oriented, independent problem solver, community service orientation

Your interest and support of your students' participation in Scouting is appreciated.

