Congratulations... not only have you made the choice to work with your first-grade boy in Scouting, you decided to take a big leap of faith and lead the Tiger Den. Yes, they are full of energy. Yes, the attention span is equivalent to that of a squirrel after a double espresso. Sure, it may seem easier to herd cats. But do not be intimidated, below are several tips and tricks to running a Cub Scout Tiger Den. Who knows, maybe you both will have fun and learn some things along the way.

There is a tried-and-true format that breaks up the time into eight manageable chunks: Before the Meeting, Gathering, Opening, Share, Discover, Search, Closing, and After the Meeting. The Program Helps guide lays out ideas for every meeting every month and takes the guesswork out of crafts, ceremonies, themes, games, etc. It really makes it easy to plan how the den will work out the Tiger Cub motto: Search, Discover, Share. Combine that with your group of highly motivated, totally invested adult partners, and this will be a snap.
1. **Before the Meeting** - Actually way before the first meeting ever happens, set up an adult partners meeting to discuss what everyone expects to happen during the year. Read through the Tiger Cub Handbook and brainstorm together on how to handle the Go-See-Its. Find out when would be the best time to go because not everyone works the same shift, or has the same days off. Find out if there are some of the requirements that interest someone who might like to be in charge of that particular section. Remember this is a shared leadership based program, there are no lone rangers needed to make it successful.

   In your brainstorming session, look at the different materials that are available to you. There is the Tiger Cub Handbook, the Cub Scout Leader's Book, the Cub Scout Academics and Sports, Family Activity Book, oh and the Internet (Google/Yahoo)!. Read through these resources to see how you can combine activities and outings to cover multiple achievements and awards. For example, say you are going to take the Tiger Den on a hike to do Go-See-It 5G. If you combine that with an outing to a park where everyone brings a dish to pass you have a picnic (elective 22). Add a song that everyone learns and sings before you eat and you have completed Elective 6. Talking about wearing sunscreen and sun safety (Elective 29), watching the weather (5F), and then playing a game outdoors (Elective 35) along with the adults would be a natural fit to that day's activities. Collect some leaves and do the leaf rub activity (5D). Finish by playing Clean Up Treasure Hunt (Elective 33), and you have a very productive outing that has completed Achievement 5, and Electives 6, 22, 29, 33, and 35. Not bad for 3 hours of fun!

2. **GATHERING** - Have someone take attendance and another person collect the handbooks for recording the Achievements and Electives. There are forms already created in the Leader's Book, so there is no need to make some from scratch. This will free up your time to answer questions, give and gain information from other adult partners, and prepare to get started. The easiest way to get help is to ask. "Hey, can you help me?" is good way to start, then, just ask them to do the task. Start the den meeting on time. Do NOT wait for stragglers as this will send the wrong message about the importance of the meeting. If someone comes late, don't scold them or point out that they are late. Make them welcome and greet them with excitement. "Glad you’re here, give your handbook to (whoever you have handling the recording of Electives and Achievements) and join us."
3. **Opening** - The actual start of the meeting. Start on time! If your meeting time is 7:00pm, then start the flag ceremony at 7:00pm. Everyone should be gathered beforehand and color guard assignments given. Recite the Pledge of Allegiance, Cub Scout Oath, Tiger Motto, etc. Whatever you have selected for your opening, do it with excitement so that the kids and adults will catch the excitement of Scouting with you.

4. **Share** - The part of the meeting devoted to the boys sharing what they have done outside of the den related to that month's theme. The boys will be doing most of the talking, with you giving guidance by asking questions. I have used the rug as a tool just like the teachers do in the classroom. The boys are familiar with the rug as a place to show respect to each other and to pay attention to the teacher. Use this pre-programmed idea from the classroom to your advantage. Set up rules for who talks and when. You may even want to create a "talking stick." This is a dowel rod or just a large stick that you decorate with beads and feathers. It signifies that the person holding the stick is to have everyone's attention and respect. Even the adults that will tend to blend into the background at this point to "talk amongst themselves," should be redirected to give attention to the kids who are sharing their life with the group. The big trick is to make sure some boys do not monopolize the Share section and that all have a chance. Another problem that might arise is "rabbit trails." This is where the kids take the conversation off topic and you need to steer it back on track. Politely stop the conversation, remind them of the topic that is supposed to be talked about, ask if there is a part of the current conversation that deals with the den meeting topic, and if not ask the child if he does have a statement to make that is relevant to the den topic. Modeling respect and patience at this point will go a long way, along with remembering to breathe.

5. **Discover** - This is where the craft time begins, the monthly theme is related to the activities, and a short discussion about what the den will be doing for the pack meeting with both the Scouts and the adult partner occurs. Usually right after the share part, explain the project or game to the boys and then say "go get your adult partner and explain to them what we will be doing." This breaks up the "coffee talk" that always happens when adults get together and allows the Scout to have some responsibility in listening and teaching. It also is a gentle reminder to the parents that they need to pay attention to the share time as well or they will miss out on important details.
6. **Search** - During this time the adults discuss the Go-See-It for the month with the Scouts. Questions will be answered and details hammered out. Boys love to see and do new things, so remember to be excited and include them in the planning. They have a responsibility to be well behaved on the outing and need to help set the rules and expectations. This activity can be used to fulfill a requirement, an achievement, relate to the monthly theme, or just be a fun thing to do. It's up to you and the other adults in the den to decide what you will do and the costs associated with it. Make sure you fill out a tour permit and file it with your Council in advance so that liability is covered, drivers have appropriate booster seats, and everyone obeys the speed limits. Make a list of contacts that everyone has made in relation to setting up the outings to keep in a binder for future reference. This helps next year's Tiger Den not have to "reinvent the wheel" when coming up with outing ideas, and allows the cub master to have access to the whereabouts of the den and who to contact in case of emergency.

7. **Closing** - End the den meeting with last minute reminders, reciting the Tiger Cub Motto or Cub Scout Promise together, a thought for the day, or use the moment to reinforce Cub Scouting's 12 Core Values. Baden-Powell set up Scouting to be "fun with a purpose," so after the fun, it's good to remind the boys, the adult partners, and ourselves of why we joined Scouting. We want to build into our boys values and character and the courage to do the right thing. Make sure you communicate these scouting ideals to the boys and the adults.

8. **After the Meeting** - Review the events of the meeting with the adult partner who was helping this meeting and the adult for the next meeting. Discuss what worked and what didn't. Make changes for the next meeting and finalize them or set up a time to do so.

Remember the shared leadership concept, everyone needs to participate. The name of the organization is Boy Scouts of America, not baby sitters of America. All of the adults need to take part, not abdicate their personal obligation in working with their boy to another person. Ask for help from the other adults, use the Program Helps, read the Handbook, and the Tiger Cub year will be a fantastic experience for you and your boy.
Overview and Guide Forms

**Tiger Cubs** is an exciting introduction to the scouting program for first grade boys (or 7 years old) excited to get going! Tiger Cubs *do stuff* - lots of stuff - with their adult partners. This program is intended to open up the world to inquisitive minds along with the caring guidance of adults. The first steps along the Boy Scout Trail are laid here and every rank advancement through the scouting program builds on the basic categories of activity done as tigers.

The Tiger Cub program runs on two levels. The scout and his adult partner meet weekly to do activities centered around the family. Then, the scout and adult partner meet with the rest of the tiger den to fulfill Den Activity and Go See It requirements.

- 1 den meeting each month
- 1 Go and See (can be on any night)
- 1 pack meeting each month – Monday at 7pm

**Tiger Cub Den Leader:**
An energetic, well-trained, and caring Den Leader is critical to the success of a Tiger Den. The Den Leader plans the program of activities for the year and makes that plan available to all the adults. But, the den leader does **NOT** organize and run every den meeting and outing, instead the actual running of the program is done through shared leadership with the adult partners. A Tiger Den relies on the support and enthusiasm of its families! Each adult partner (Adult Guide) should sign up to lead at least one month’s meeting and Go See It outing. This shared leadership helps ensure participation by all, provides a sense of ownership to all, and gives each scout a chance to work on leadership skills - skills that he will work on all the way through Eagle Scout.

The **Adult Guide** is responsible for planning and leading the *den activities* and *Go See It activities* for the month. The guide uses a **Den Meeting Planner document** (see below) to organize the plan and gives it to the den leader for review at least 2 weeks before the month begins.
Example – Tiger Den Schedule:

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<th>Guide</th>
<th>Activities</th>
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| September | Dave | Your program will probably start after the first Pack meeting of the year so there won’t be much time in September for den activities. Be sure to tell your advancement chairperson how many Tiger Totems and Bobcat ranks are needed well before the pack meeting.  

**Den Mtg**: Explain the Tiger program and that scouts will first earn a Tiger Totem, then Bobcat badge, and then start on Tiger achievements. The Tiger Totem is used to track advancement and requires a Tiger to learn the Cub Scout Motto (Do Your Best), Cub Scout Sign, and Cub Scout Salute. So, scouts should earn this after just one meeting. Start teaching the Bobcat Requirements (Cub Scout promise, motto, sign, handshake, salute, Law of the Pack, and what Webelos means) so the scouts are ready to receive their Bobcat rank at the October pack meeting. See Bobcat Requirements for details.  

Do #1D (Make a Family Scrapbook). Each scout gets a 3-prong cardboard folder with punched typing paper. Decorate the covers and make a title page. Insert a dozen blank pages. Doing this now gives the scouts some place to keep all their memories of the year. Plan #1F (chores at home). Give each scout and partner paper or poster board on which to make a chart listing the chosen chore and dates it will be done. The scout and adult should work together to decide on a chore and how they will do it together. Decide where to take a hike for the den Go See It outing next month.  

**Go See It:**  

**Family**: Do #1F (chores at home)

| October | Andy | Den Mtg: Do #2D (Pledge of Allegiance) at the den meeting. Practice the Bobcat requirements. Now, at every meeting you can have a flag ceremony and repeat the pledge and motto using the salute and sign. Do Elective #35 by playing a couple of fun outdoor games - see Tiger Cub Games.  

**Go See It**: Do #5G (take a hike) at the end of the month. It may be more difficult to do outdoors activities later in the year and this will be a good way for the scouts to become a den. Bring along healthy snacks and each scout should have a water bottle. Include a picnic lunch in the hike to fulfill Elective #22 if you want.  

**Family**: Do #3Fa (fire drill)  

**Pack Meeting**: Receive Bobcat badge and Tiger totem. |
**TIGER CUB SCOUT ACHIEVEMENTS**

Starting the path to the Tiger Cub Rank, a scout first earns the Bobcat badge - this is the first step for all Cub Scouts. But, a Tiger Cub will really earn his Tiger Cub Totem first because its requirements are very simple and it gives him something tangible to receive at the first pack meeting, even if he did not complete all the Bobcat requirements. The Tiger Cub Totem requirements are:

- Learn the Cub Scout Motto
- Learn the Cub Scout Sign
- Learn the Cub Scout Salute

He can then use the totem to display his achievement beads as he earns them. An orange bead is presented for each Den requirement, white for each Family, and black for each Go See It. A yellow 'Tiger Track' disc is presented, only after the Tiger rank is earned, for every group of 10 Electives the scout completes.

The Tiger Cub badge is presented to boys who have completed all 15 parts of the five separate achievements - five Family activities, five Den activities, and five Go See It outings. Once a boy, or all the boys in a den, earn their Tiger Cub badge, it should be presented to the scout's adult partner at a pack meeting, who then presents it to the boy. The badge is sewn on the left pocket of the Tiger Scout uniform.

The den activities and Go See events should be completed with the entire den. Attendance at den events is important - for both the scout and adult partner. Of course, if a scout has a conflict with a den event, he can perform that activity with his adult partner at some other time.

**Tip:** Keep in mind that participation is the key goal of the Tiger Cub program. There is no level of competence or skill required to earn the rank badge. Don't push your scout to succeed, just participate and enjoy the time together.
1. Making My Family Special
   - 1F - Think of one chore you can do with your adult partner. Complete it together
   - 1D - Make a family scrapbook
   - 1G - Go to a library, historical society, museum, old farm, or historical building, or visit an older person in your community. Discover how family life was the same and how it was different many years ago.

2. Where I Live
   - 2F - Look at a map of your community with your adult partner.
   - 2D - Practice the Pledge of Allegiance with your den, and participate in a den or pack flag ceremony.
   - 2G - Visit a police station or fire station. Ask someone who works there how he or she helps people in your community.

3. Keeping Myself Healthy and Safe
   - 3Fa - With your family, plan a fire drill and then practice it in your home.
   - 3Fb - With your adult partner, plan what to do if you become lost or separated from your family in a strange place.
   - 3D - Make a food guide pyramid.
   - 3G - Learn the rules of a game or sport. Then go watch an amateur or professional game or sporting event.

4. How I Tell It
   - 4F - At a family meal, have each family member take turns telling the others one thing that happened to him or her that day. Remember to practice being a good listener while you wait for your turn to talk.
   - 4D - Play 'Tell It Like It Isn't.'
   - 4G - Visit a television station, radio station, or newspaper office. Find out how people there communicate to others.

5. Let's Go Outdoors
   - 5F - Go outside and watch the weather.
   - 5D - With a crayon or colored pencil and a piece of paper, make a leaf rubbing.
   - 5G - Take a hike with your den.
TIGER CUB SCOUT ELECTIVES

A yellow 'Tiger Track' disc is presented to a scout for every 10 Tiger Electives he completes. He can do electives at any time but can only receive the yellow discs after earning his Tiger rank badge.

1. **How Do You Celebrate?**
   Think of a time when your family celebrated something, and then tell the den about it and how it made you feel.

2. **Making Decorations**
   Make a decoration with your family or with your den. Display it or give it to someone as a gift.

3. **Fun And Games**
   With your family, play a card game or board game or put a jigsaw puzzle together.

4. **Display A Picture**
   Make a frame for a family picture.

5. **Family Mobile**
   Make a family mobile.

6. **Song Time**
   Along with your adult partner, teach a song to your family or to your den and sing it together.

7. **Play Along!**
   Make a musical instrument and play it with others. The other can sing or have instruments of their own.

8. **Your Religious Leaders**
   Invite a religious leader or teacher from your place of worship to your home or to your den meeting.

9. **A New Friend**
   Help a new boy or girl get to know other people.

10. **Helping Hands**
    Along with your adult partner, help an elderly or shut-in person with a chore.

11. **Helping the Needy**
    Help collect food, clothing or toys for needy families with your pack or den.

12. **A Friendly Greeting**
    Make at least two cards or decorations and take them to a hospital or long-term care facility.

13. **Making Change**
    Using U.S. pennies, dimes, nickels, and quarters choose the correct coins to make the following amounts: 15 cents, 50 cents, 29 cents, 60 cents, 35 cents, 59 cents.

14. **Reading Fun**
    Together with your adult partner, read a short story or magazine article.

15. **Our Colorful World**
    Mix the primary colors to make orange, green and purple.

16. **Collecting and Other Hobbies**
    With your den, show or tell about something you like to collect. -OR- Tell your den about a favorite hobby or activity.

17. **Make a Model**
    Make a model.

18. **Sew a Button**
    Sew a button onto fabric.

19. **Magic Fun**
    Learn a magic trick and show it to your family or den.

20. **Get the Word Out**
    With your den, make up a PSA skit to tell people about Tiger Cubs.

21. **The Show Must Go On**
    Make a puppet.

22. **Picnic Fun**
    With your family or with your den, have a picnic: outdoors or indoors.

23. **What Kind of Milk**
    Find out what kind of milk your family drinks and why.

24. **Help in the Kitchen**
    Help the adult who is preparing a family meal to set the table and clean up afterward.
25. **Snack Time**
   Make a snack and share it with your family or den.

26. **Phone Manners**
   With a toy phone, or a disconnected phone, practice making phone calls and answering the telephone.

27. **Emergency!**
   Talk to your adult partner about what to do if these things happened:
   - The adult who is caring for you becomes ill.
   - You are alone with someone who makes you feel uncomfortable.

28. **Smoke Detectors**
   With your adult partner, check the batteries in the smoke detector in your home or in another building.

29. **Safety in the Sun**
   Talk with your adult partner about when you should use sunscreen. Find out whether you have any in your home and where it is kept. With your adult partner, look at a container of sunscreen and find out whether it still protects you when you are wet. Also find out how long you are protected before you have to put on more. Look for the expiration date and make sure the sunscreen is not too old.

30. **Plant a Seed**
   Plant a seed, pit, or greens from something you have eaten.

31. **Learn About Animals**
   Learn about an animal.

32. **Feed the Birds**
   Make a bird feeder and then hang it outdoors.

33. **Cleanup Treasure Hunt**
   With your den or family, play Cleanup Treasure Hunt.

34. **Conservation**
   With your adult partner, think of a way to conserve water or electricity and do it for one week.

35. **Fun Outdoors**
   Play a game outdoors with your family or den.

36. **See a Performance**
   With your family or your den, go see a play or musical performance in your community.

37. **Take a Bicycle Ride**
   Take a bicycle ride with your adult partner.

38. **Bicycle Repair**
   Visit a bicycle repair shop.

39. **Go to Work**
   Visit the place where your adult partner or another adult works.

40. **Fun in the Water**
   Together with your adult partner, go swimming or take part in an activity on water.

41. **Transportation**
   Visit a train station, bus station, airport, or boat dock.

42. **Fun at the Zoo**
   Visit a zoo or aquarium.

43. **Pet Care**
   Visit a veterinarian or an animal groomer.

44. **Dairy Products**
   Visit a dairy, a milk-processing plant, or a cheese factory.

45. **Fresh Baking**
   Visit a bakery.

46. **Health Teeth and Gums**
   Visit a dentist or dental hygienist.

47. **Reduce, Reuse, Recycle**
   Learn about what you can recycle in your community and how you can recycle at home. Learn about things that need to be recycled in special ways, such as paint and batteries.

48. **Go for a Ride**
   Take a ride on public transportation, such as a bus or train.
49. **Your Government**
   Visit a government office such as the mayor's office, the state capitol building, or a courthouse.

50. **Banking**
   Visit a bank.
**TIGER CUB DEN MEETING PROGRAM**

**DEN NO.** ____________ **PACK NO.** ____________

**MEETING PLACE** ____________

**DATE** ____________ **TIME** ____________

**THIS MONTH’S THEME** ____________

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**BEFORE THE MEETING**

The Tiger Cub den leader and host adult partner make final preparations.

**GATHERING**

While the Tiger Cubs and adult partner arrive, collect dues, check achievements and electives, and have everyone participate in gathering activity.

**OPENING**

Conduct a simple opening ceremony—a song, den yell, Tiger Cub motto, Cub Scout Promise, Pledge of Allegiance, membership inventory.

**SHARE**

Tiger Cubs share experiences that relate to today’s den meeting.

**DISCOVER**

Have games, tricks, puzzles, crafts; practice for the pack meeting; stimulate interest in achievements and electives.

**SEARCH**


**CLOSING**

Give announcements and reminders; have a brief inspirational closing or say the Cub Scout motto or the Cub Scout Promise.

**AFTER THE MEETING**

Den leader and host adult partner review the meeting and make plans for the next meeting. Put room in order.

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**Family:**

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**December**

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