

10 Commandments for Cub Scout Parents

1. Thou shalt be prompt in arrivals and departures--also in turning in monies or forms due, or responding to email from leaders.

Prompt arrival ensures activities get started on time and your scout doesn't miss anything. Picking up your scout on time allows the leaders to pick up their scout and get on with their life. Getting monies and forms on time enables the leaders to make effective use of their time and energy in planning and delivering a quality program that benefits the entire group.

2. Thou shalt see that thy scout arrives in uniform with appropriate supplies.

Uniforms are easy enough to remember when you're playing sports, but may get forgotten for those weekly meetings. Uniforms create a sense of belonging to the group and build a sense of pride as your scout shows off their awards and accomplishments. You wouldn't show up to sports without the right clothing and supporting equipment. Scouting is no different. Be sure they have their handbook every week.

3. Thou shalt not wait to be called upon to help.

Plan on staying at meetings to help once in a while. Oftentimes with a Pack this size, on any given evening there is a need for additional adult help. I know we're all busy, but a little help goes a long way. If every parent who's involved puts in a little effort it would go a long way with the volunteers who make your child's Den and Pack possible.

4. Thou shalt take time at home to help thy scout with their achievements.

Leaders cannot possibly do all achievements at their meetings without boredom soon setting in and lack of time to complete them all. Some achievements must be done at home. The same goes with practice for any sport or requirements for any club. Your child spends a limited time at scouts. To get the most from their experience, they will need to put in some time at home.

5. Thou shalt accompany thy scout to events.

If thou cannot, thou shalt make arrangements with another parent to take responsibility for your scout's transportation and behavior. This other parent is NOT to be the leader. Cub Scout leaders already put in a lot of time to assure your scout has a quality program. They have a lot to organize for any event they attend. Don't add to that. Finding another parent to help you out allows the leader to concentrate on their own duties. An important note: be sure the leader knows if your scout will be going home with another parent.

6. Thou shalt keep thy own scout under control when you are present at functions.

It is awkward for a leader to reprimand a child when their parent is sitting right there! Thou shalt reinforce with thy child that the rules of the meeting place are to be obeyed. If you have other children with you, they need to behave, also. Nothing is more disruptive than children running through a meeting and can be dangerous if a little one wanders onto a ball field or other dangerous activity.

7. Thou shalt set a good example for all scouts during functions and activities.

Thou shalt be a good sport about participating in the fun and games and keeping annoying chit-chat to a minimum during ceremonies and awards. Grown-up chit-chat during quiet events is even more disruptive than unruly children. It certainly sets a bad example and tells the children that their event isn't important to you.

8. Thou shalt honor thy scout leaders with TLC.

A smile and a kind word of gratitude will make up for a lot of noise and rowdiness. Leaders, coaches and any volunteer who works with children expects a certain amount of craziness, and that's OK, but it can be tiring. Sometimes simply knowing they're appreciated makes all the difference.

9. Thou shalt notify thy leaders in advance when thy scout has to miss a meeting

Sickness, vacation, and many other things come up. Please be courteous to your scout's leaders and let them know in advance of any absence.

10. Above all, thou shalt remember that the leader's job is one you didn't want.

Do whatever you can to make that job easier.