

Cubmaster Minutes

Date used: _____ **Thank You:** Two important words that tell someone else that you are appreciative, courteous and thoughtful. We do many good turns for others...but do we always take time to thank others for a good turn for us?

Date used: _____ - **A Smile:** A smile costs nothing, but creates much. It happens in a flash, but the memory sometimes lasts forever. It cannot be bought, begged, borrowed, or stolen, but it is something that is of no earthly good to anyone unless it is given away. So, if in your hurry and rush you meet someone who is too tired or sad to give you a smile, leave one of yours. No one needs a smile quite as much as person who has none left to give.

Date used: _____ **The Law:** Nations, states, communities, and even families have laws...rules by which people must live in order to have harmony. Laws are based on your rights and the rights of others. If a law is broken, our freedom can be taken away. Every individual has laws, too—his personal moral standards—the laws by which he lives. If those laws are broken, we are unhappy and disappointed in ourselves. You have promised to obey the Law of the Pack. By doing so, you'll have a much happier life and be respected by your fellow Cub Scouts, and be a citizen of whom your community and nation can be proud.

Date used: _____ **Natural Disasters** Tsunamis, hurricanes, floods, tornadoes and earthquakes left thousands dead, homeless and without food and water. Many people lost loved ones. In the midst of these devastations, we saw others sacrifice hours and money to help and assist those in need.

Lord Baden Powell said, "You should not be content with sitting down to defend yourselves against evil habits, but should also be active in doing good. By 'doing good' I mean making yourselves useful and doing small kindness' to other people whether they are friends or strangers. It does not matter how small the 'good turn' maybe even if it is only to help an old woman across the street, or to say a good word for somebody who is being badly spoken of. The great thing is to do something."

It was this philosophy that brought Lord Baden Powell to ask, "Why not train boys as peace scouts, ready at all times to help others?" May we remember his words and give what we can to others who are less fortunate than ourselves.

Date used: _____ - **Fitness:** A Cub Scout keeps himself strong and healthy—not just for his own sake, but also so that he can be a more useful citizen. When you are physically fit, you can be more helpful to those around you.

Date used: _____ - **Do Your Best:** One of the hardest things for anyone to do is to stick to what he knows is right, while his friends are coaxing him or his enemies are threatening him to do just the opposite. A Cub Scout Always does his best.

Date used: _____ - Mary Pickford was a Canadian born actress. She was a star in and a producer of the silent movies of old and she had a significant impact on the early film industry. She also had some ideas about what it means to make a fresh start. She once said

If you have made mistakes, there is always another chance for you. You may have a fresh start any moment you choose, for this thing we call 'failure' is not the falling down, but the staying down.

We all make mistakes. We can either focus on what we have done in the past or start anew, trying even harder in the future. Just remember that the real failure in life is letting our past mistakes hold us back from doing the good things we are truly capable of.

Date used: _____ - **Freedom:** We shouldn't take our freedom for granted. Our rights of free speech, to worship as we choose, to enjoy the freedom we have as Americans too often is taken for granted. There was a time in our history when men could only hope for these freedoms...and now they have become a reality. Our

freedom is a result of courage and sacrifice of thousands of our forefathers. Let's remember what it cost those men to provide the freedom we have today

Date used: _____ - **Cheerful:** We have a choice. We can be pleasant or unpleasant. Which do you choose? You can be grouchy and grumbly, or you can be happy and cheerful. Which would you rather be? It's up to you.

Date used: _____ **The Sky is the Limit:** Cub Scouts, it wasn't long ago that we heard some people say: "The sky is the limit." That meant that a man could make anything of himself that he wanted...at least on earth. Well, that limit is now off. There is no limit to what you can aspire to do, either on earth or in space. Our astronauts have shown us that.

Colonel "Buzz" Aldrin, the second man to walk on the moon, was a member of Troop 12 in Montclair, New Jersey. He said to a group of Scouts: "Set your goals high and settle for nothing less than accomplishment. Don't settle for mediocrity."

How well you perform as a man will depend on how you accept the new challenge which says, "The sky is not the limit." A Cub Scout who does his best in everything he undertakes now is preparing himself for that new challenge. If you want to aim for the stars, you must remember that you are building your launching pad right now by your willingness and initiative in every task you tackle.

Date used: _____ - **Courage:** When we begin to feel that life is hard and the task before us is more than we can handle, stop and remember the pioneers that forged the trails West. They left in covered wagons for a life in the unknown. They knew not what was ahead of them, but with courage they moved on. They faced the mountains, hot dry deserts, dried up water holes, a lack of fresh food, the fever, dying oxen and livestock, Indian raids, outlaws that took their belongings, and sand storms, just to name a few. But they drew upon their faith in God and their courage and determination to get the job done. Remember it takes courage to accomplish your goals in life, even when our goals seem impossibly high. Have courage, and you'll reach your goals.

Date used: _____ **The Pocketknife:** Cub Scouts, I hold in my hand a pocketknife. This is a valuable tool because it can be used for many useful things. It is a dependable tool as long as the blade is kept sharp and free from rust and the working parts are in good condition. But, if it is neglected and becomes dull and rusty, it can be a dangerous tool. The same principle applies to us. We have a body, which when kept in good condition, will serve us well. But if we fail to take care of ourselves, we can become rusty and dull like a neglected pocketknife. Do your best to keep fit!

Date used: _____ **The Value of a Badge:** A badge in Cub Scouting is a piece of embroidered cloth. If you were to try to sell one of the badges, you'd find that it wouldn't bring much money. The real value of the badge is what it represents...the things you've learned to earn it...how to keep healthy, how to be a good citizen, good safety practices, conservation and many new skills. Does your badge truly represent all these things? Were you prepared to meet each new test at the time you passed it, or did you try to just get by? Maybe you were prepared when you passed the test, but through neglect you have forgotten the skill now. If this is true, then the badge you wear has little value. Don't wear a cheap badge. Wear one that has real value...one that represents what you can really do. Wear a badge that shows what you really know.

Date used: _____ **Cheerfulness is catching:** A while back there was a TV program on General Eisenhower. When he first took command in World War II things were not going well. The Germans had been steadily winning and he had a big job ahead of him. It was up to him to turn this around and start winning. He found out something very soon. If he acted like he felt this attitude spread and pretty soon the people around him were gloomy and depressed. He decided he should act cheerful and confident no matter how bad things looked and no matter how he felt. And this attitude spread, too. Pretty soon other people felt more confident and cheerful. It's the same for us. If we act depressed, or unsure, or angry the people around us will be the same. But if we act cheerful, even if we don't feel it, this cheerfulness is catching.

Mark W. Arend, Scoutmaster, Troop 736, Beaver Dam, WI, from Scouts-L

Date used: _____ **Practice it First:** I recently saw a program on TV about President Harry Truman and one event stuck in my mind. When he first ran for office in the early 1920s—it was for something like County Board—some of his army buddies thought it would be impressive for him to arrive for a speech by airplane. Now, this was in the early days of flying and a lot of people had never even seen a plane, much less flown in one. He agreed and at the appointed time the small plane circled the fairgrounds and landed. The candidate got out of the plane, sort of staggered across the field, leaned over a fence, and threw up.

This was not the impressive entrance he had planned.

But Mr. Truman learned something from this experience. Sometimes ideas that sound good don't work out well when you go to try them. So it's a good idea not to do it for the first time in front of a crowd. Practice it through first to see if this idea is really going to work as well as it sounds or are there some bugs to be worked out.

Mark W. Arend, Scoutmaster, Troop 736, Beaver Dam, WI, from Scouts-L

We all need fantasies to keep reality in perspective.

We function like bicycles: unless we are traveling at a certain speed, we fall over.

If you want to soar like an eagle, you need to earn your wings every single day.