



AMONG THE BOY SCOUTS— THE CUB DEN

By Horacio Ochangco*



The Den Chief

The Den Chief is a very important factor in successful Cubbing. He is both a kindly big brother and a hero. He is an "older Scout," and the most important thing is that he is able to do the job. Usually Den Chiefs are 17, 16, 15, 14 years of age and must have sufficient maturity, ability and the interest to do the job. This Chief may be picked by the Pack Committee or by the mothers of the boys or better still by the boys themselves.

In case he is not connected anymore with Scouting he should re-register in some Troop, or as an Associate Scout. Usually Den Chiefs are taken from the Troops under the same institution sponsoring the Cub Pack.

In selecting the Den Chief, it is not necessary to choose the Scoutmaster's right-hand helper or Senior Patrol Leader. Indeed, very frequently excellent Den Chiefs can be found among the Boy Scouts themselves. This sort of selection is desirable as it opens the door to leadership opportunity.

Den Chiefs should be carefully trained so that in cooperation with the Cubmaster and the Pack Committee he can take over the official training course of the boys.

The Den chiefs, with the Cubmaster should organize a sort of "Cabinet" to plan meetings for the Den work. Results of each meeting should be recorded and reported. As an active leader of the Den, he should call meetings as often as two times a week. He should help stimulate boys in their projects. He and the Cubmaster should work together to think of some ideas in wood project, leather-craft or braiding, or painting, for the boys to do.

Den Chiefs, with the help of the Cubmaster and the Den Mother is directly responsible for the boys' advancement.

His instructions should be made in the Dens where Cubmasters and his members are present as a Den. When one of the Den is to receive any award, the whole Den rises to show acknowledgment.

The Denner

The Denner, who is the younger boy leader of the Den, is selected by the boys themselves. He has no specific duties although wise educational princi-

ples demand that he be given the chance to bear a few responsibilities in the beginning. It is also important that his leadership does not "go to his head."

In opening a Den meeting, the Den Chief can call on the Denner to do things, when the latter has mastered an achievement. He can be used to show another boy to master also the same achievement so that this boy will be able to show it to the rest of the boys, thus creating leadership experience among them.

The Denner with other boy leaders, also takes charge of their footdrills and games. This also creates an invaluable sense of leadership when he plans their games with the Den Chief.

The Den and the Home

Very few realize the close relationship between the Den and the home. The Cub Den's activities are carried on in and around the homes involved. It

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is important that parents sense the educational importance (1) of the chances to do things there, (2) of the chances to play and interact with other personalities, (3) of the significance of happy atmosphere—and a consciousness of being wanted (4) of the sheer necessity for each boy to feel that his home is his home and that he may ask his friends into it.

It is fundamental for the people in the home to sense the importance of what the Cub is doing. It is equally fundamental for them to encourage him by their attitude. If father and mother, older sister and brothers can show an interest in what Jose has made or is doing—then that seems much worthwhile to Jose and he feels like doing more. This "home attitude" toward Jose and his projects can make or break him.

* Manager, Publicity Department, Boy Scout Headquarters, Manila.

In the next issue: "Scouting in the Philippines."