

# Characteristics of Cub Scouts

(Compiled from various child development sources)

## Kindergartners and First-Graders/Lions and Tigers

- Just starting to refine their large motor skills. They may be riding tricycles or bicycles with training wheels.
- **Short** attention spans
- Easily bored
- Tire easily
- Love to be active
- **May** appear clumsy and accident-prone
- Need good supervision
- Socially, developing friendships and learning to play cooperatively
- Look for comfort and reassurance from their primary care givers and teachers, including their den leader
- Eager to share
- Enjoy boasting about accomplishments
- Enthusiastic about learning new skills
- **May** cry easily when embarrassed or hurt
- Sometimes throw tantrums when things don't go their way.
- Emotional regulation is difficult.
- Need adults to help them express feelings appropriately
- For these reasons, and others, having an adult partner with the Lion or Tiger at all Cub Scout den and pack meetings and activities is a requirement.



## Second- and Third-Graders/Wolves and Bears

- Growing in their physical strength and endurance
- Curious about the way things work and have vivid imaginations
- Understand the difference between right and wrong
- Have a keen sense of rules and will protest if they think someone is cheating
- May be highly critical of themselves and need some encouragement from caring adults
- Eager to please and demonstrate this by wanting to help
- Can tell time but have little understanding of what time means
- Cannot tell how much time has passed or how to manage their time on a project
- Have mastered the ability to play cooperatively
- Enjoy having a close circle of same-gender friends
- More susceptible to peer pressure, which can be positive or negative
- Wanting to play on the same sports teams or wanting to play together outside of school signals the importance of having close friends.
- Still need help managing and expressing their emotions but may show more empathy for one another

## Fourth-and Fifth-Graders/ Webelos

- Fine motor skills are becoming refined and have well-developed eye-hand coordination
- Can better think through an action before performing it
- Physical stamina is growing.
- More willing and able to take on more tedious tasks and crafts
- Sense of time has improved
- Can better manage their time to complete a project with help
- Like to be part of the planning process for projects, campouts, and pack meetings
- More organized in their thinking skills
- Growing in confidence and may be devoted to one or several sports or extracurricular activities
- Increasing attention spans allow them to sit and discuss issues of importance.
- May ask many questions and bring up topics other than what's in their adventures
- Understand rules better than younger Cub Scouts
- Understand the difference between intentional and accidental rule-breaking
- Appear more sensitive and curious about the feelings of others, including adults
- Very devoted to their friends and may have a best friend

