Cub Scouts
Unit Code

A Unit Code is a way of expressing how members of our Cub Scout Unit are going to act, what acceptable behaviour is, and how members will treat others and the space around them.

A Unit Code is about:
- How members of the Unit behave & treat each other
- Respecting our environment around us, including people, each other's property and the natural environment
- How to be resilient and courageous in challenging times

When creating your Unit Code, the Unit should also consider the Australian Scout Promise and Law and the Cub Scout symbolic framework "Creating the Path".

Once it has been created by the whole Unit, all Cub Scouts and adult leaders then agree to follow the Code. Your Unit should display the Cub Scout Unit Code in a creative way so it acts as a reminder to the members of the Unit. The Unit Code needs to be reviewed or rewritten annually by the whole Unit, to ensure it represents the needs of the current members.

How to Develop Your Code

Plan>
- Decide who will lead pieces and how adults and youth will share the tasks
- Consider how you will make the creation of the Unit Code fun and inclusive to all Unit members
- Decide if you will write the Unit Code with the whole Unit, or if the Unit Council will take the ideas generated and collate it into a final document (often easier for large Units).

Do>
- Small groups within your Unit (Patrols) meet and do activities to discuss the Unit Code. They should cover the key areas that are important to them and draft ideas for inclusion in the whole Unit's Code. You can tailor this step to suit your own Unit, but make sure that everyone has the opportunity to provide input.
- It is recommended for the Cub Scout Unit that Patrols rotate around bases on the three core components of the Australian Scout Law (Be respectful, Do what is right, Believe in myself) to create ideas around how they would want to be treated and how they should treat others and the environment around them under these headings
- It may help to think about grouping the youth member's thoughts into 'What We Do' and 'What We Don't Do', but remember that it is up to you how you present your Cub Scout Unit Code. Would pictures help?

Review>
- The Unit Council then comes together to collate all of the teams' feedback. Don't forget, it's hard to follow a document that is too long or hard to remember!
- Make sure that your Unit Code covers the key areas –
  » respecting each other,
  » building resilience,
  » the environment
  » possessions and property.
- Present the Unit Code back to the Unit and make sure everyone is happy with what is included.
- Have everyone, including the adult Leaders, agree to the Code
- Display your Unit Code in a creative way up in your hall for everyone to see!
- Make sure that when new people (don't forget the adults!) join your section that someone explains your Unit Code to them.
- Review your Unit Code annually to keep it up to date.

The Patrol Leaders with adult leaders help will monitor Unit member's behaviour and may need to discuss managing poor behaviour of individuals.

How to link to Achievement Pathways

You may find that the creation of the Unit Code can link to the Achievement Pathways for one or more individuals. Some of the ways that this could link are…

- Participate, Assist or Lead for Unit members depending on their level of involvement
- Which Challenge Area does this activity fit into? Is it a Community Challenge? Could it be a Creative Challenge?
- Could the ongoing project be used as a Special Interest Area for someone?

Just remember – as the Unit, you know your members best. If someone is going to take on the Unit Code as part of their Achievement Pathways, don't forget to ensure that they are goal-setting and taking steps to achieve these goals!

Stuck?

Check out these resources to start you off but remember to make your Unit Code your own!

Refer to the Program Handbook for some more guidance or go to;

- Australian Scout Promise and Law resources
- Scouts Australia Website
- Scouts Australia Internal Compass resources