

Factsheet

Cub Scout Unit Council



For a Cub Scout program to be relevant and engaging to the young people participating in it, they must always be involved in the planning and reviewing phases. The program must reflect the interests, goals and aspirations of the Cub Scouts participating in it and is fundamental to the success or failure of a Cub Scout Unit.

In a Cub Scout Unit, the Unit Council is the group of Cub Scouts that work together to make the program adventurous, fun, challenging and inclusive. To do this, they provide input and direction into the program and ensure that all Cub Scouts in the Unit are engaging with the program.

Who runs the Unit Council?

A Cub Scout should be leading the Unit Council. They should be leading the way, setting the agenda and running the meeting. Adult leaders are there to support and coordinate the meeting and discussions.

How often should the Unit Council occur?

A Unit Council should occur regularly – at least once a term in the Cub Scout section! By having regular Unit Councils, all members of the Unit maintain a feeling of engagement and direction with the creation of their program and its implementation.

Remember – these don't have to be boring, formal meetings inside the Scout hall! There are benefits to having Unit Councils in an outdoor, unfamiliar or creative location.

How do we know if we are on the right track?

Take the time to go through the following statements with your Unit, Unit Council and adult leaders.

- We are heavily involved in the planning and reviewing of activities and program with guidance from adult leaders.
- We ensure that the whole Unit is following the concept of **youth leading, adults supporting**.
- The Unit Council has a significant position of leadership, allowing us to support all Unit members in both their Scouting journey and personal life.
- We discuss the Scout Method and how we can or cannot see it in our Unit.
- We solve problems and issues if or when they arise. Adult leaders help us to come up with solutions if the problems or issues are challenging.
- We engage in activities and events with other Cub Scout Units and sections.
- We discuss and approve achievements, challenges and endorse peak awards.
- We are encouraged to sometimes do activities in Patrols and not always as a whole Unit.
- We actively review our activities individually, as well as part of a program cycle.
- We set a clear standard of behaviour through a Unit Code and support all Unit members in maintaining it. Adults guide us to help us achieve this task.
- We undertake a constant review of our performance as members of the Scout Unit.

How to make your Unit Council as successful as possible!

- A Cub Scout should lead the meeting, this could be the Unit leader.
- Adult leaders need to provide an appropriate level of support to the Unit and Unit Council.
- Ensure that when support is given that it is at a level that empowers the Unit Council to work with adult leaders to come up with a solution.
- Have a plan to follow for the meeting and after the meeting.
- Ensure that there is creative and active time during the Unit Council meeting.
- Ensure that all members present are engaging and participating in the meeting.
- Record all the creativity, decisions, discussions and reviewing that occurs during the meeting.
- Celebrate important achievements!

For more information about Unit Councils and programming for the Cub Scout section, please refer to Scouts | Terrain, the Program Handbook, **youth leading, adults supporting** documentation and Scouts Australia program support documentation.