

10 Commandments of Den Control

1. **Regularly use the Cub Scout Ideals:** the Motto, the Promise and Law of the Pack, in ceremonies, and as a guide to conduct. You must set the example.
2. **Use Den Rules.** Start using them immediately. Boys need to know what is expected of them. Make sure both boys and parents know what the rules are.
3. **Make uniforms important.** Have regular uniform inspections and instill pride in wearing their uniforms. Boys behave differently when they dress up.
4. **Be firm, fair and consistent.** They will test you from time to time to make sure that you really mean it.
5. **Use positive incentives.** When the conduct candle burns down or the marble jar is full, give them the special party or outing you promised.
6. **Make each boy feel special.** Use warm greetings, compliments, words of praise, and fond farewells, liberally for each boy. Make them feel appreciated and wanted.
7. **Boys must have input to rules.** If you want them to cooperate they should feel that they have some control of how the den operates. You empower them and teach responsibility when they help set the rules.
8. **Den programs must be full of short, fun activities.** Boys at this age are active and quickly become bored or frustrated. Long talking sessions and complicated craft projects make it difficult to keep control of the meeting.
9. **Use lots of help.** From time to time, boys require individual attention. They will need help, encouragement, reassurance, advice or just want to tell you something important. You can't give them that attention if your doing it alone.
10. **Get to know each boy.** Every boy in your den is a unique individual with his own dreams, fears, and sense of humor. He needs to know that you care about him.