

## Conduct Candles

***Q. I'm a parent of a Scout, was in Tiger Cubs last year. Can someone explain the conduct candle?***

- A conduct candle is generally used in conjunction with a treat. You start off by saying that when the candle burns down to a certain point that all boys will participate in a pizza party or special field trip/treat. The candle is lit at the start of the meeting & stays lit till the closing or when someone in the den misbehaves the candle is blown out. Usually the boy who misbehaves blows it out, this is an incentive for the boys to behave.
- As for the conduct candle, it's a gimmick you use to control your Den meetings. What you do is light the candle at the beginning of your Den meeting and if you lose control of your meeting you put the candle out until you regain control. When the candle is completely burned up, you provide the boys with some form of reward such as a pizza party. Make sure you don't use too small a candle or you'll be rewarding the boys quite often.
- We started with a small candle and moved to progressively bigger ones. That way the boys got the idea that there really would be a reward.
- If you keep the candle in the freezer between meetings, it will burn slower.
- A way to put a little bit of a positive spin on this is to give each boy who attends a bead, if they misbehave, take the bead away. At the end of the meeting they put the beads in a jar. When the jar is full, they get the treat. Of course you don't want to start out with a 5 gallon water jug, maybe a baby food jar with a smaller prize like ice cream and then work on larger jars, or smaller beads.