

Fun, Family, and Fútbol!

Soccer and Scouting is a membership resource that gives local councils an innovative way to deliver a traditional program to a diverse and growing demographic.

Many view soccer as an international sport, and the Boy Scouts of America brings together the most exciting and fastest-growing youth sport in the United States with the nation's foremost youth program of character development and values-based leadership training.

In Soccer and Scouting, boys learn the life-long values taught in the Scouting program and, at the same time, are taught soccer skills while participating in exciting competition. It combines the citizenship, character building, morals, and values for which Scouting has been known for the past 100 years with the competition and excitement of youth soccer.

An important aspect of Soccer and Scouting is character development. At every opportunity, there will be time devoted to an activity meant to develop a skill, teach a lesson, or provide an educational opportunity. Utilizing Scouting as a resource, youth gain experiences and knowledge that are vital in today's world.

Year after year, the Soccer and Scouting program catches on and the number of youth that are reached keeps growing. Councils across the United States have blended soccer with traditional Scouting programs in an effort to reach youth and have been successful in recruitment, program delivery, and retention.

Some of the benefits this program will bring are the following:

- o Teaches soccer skills and provides healthy competition.
- o Offers life-long values that are taught through the Scouting program.
- o Engages parents in being parent helpers and soccer coaches.
- o Provides family fun and excitement for all the members and the school.
- o Leads to involvement in other programs such as camping, archery, swimming, sailing and many more.
- o Provides high-level training in soccer to build the youth in performance, skills and agility, as well as prepare them for tournaments.

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: Are players required to wear shin guards and cleats?

A: Shin guards are mandatory for all soccer activities, but cleats are optional.

Q: Do parents get a refund if their child starts the program late or drops out early?

A: No. The fee for the Soccer and Scouting program is a flat fee, regardless of when the player joins or leaves the program.

Q: Why was soccer chosen for the pilot test over baseball, football or basketball?

A: Many councils have experienced tremendous growth recently in their Hispanic American/Latino communities, especially among first-generation families from Mexico and Central and South America. The vast majority of these families view soccer as their

national sport. Councils that have blended soccer with traditional Scouting programs in an effort to reach Hispanic youth have been successful in recruitment, program delivery, and retention. "It's in our blood" was the phrase one Latino professional Scouter used to explain the success of Soccer and Scouting.

Q: How does a council register someone who doesn't have a Social Security number?

A: In April 2003, a letter went out to Scout Executives from Ed Weisshaar, Director of Registration Service, detailing the procedure for this. The SE submits a written request to the Director of Registration Service at the national office detailing the reasons for an exception. The personal profile report must be included as an attachment to the letter for exception.

Q: Can a boy or girl still join Soccer and Scouting if he's missed the first few weeks of the program?

A: Yes. The scenario of a boy joining Cub Scouting weeks after fall roundup is similar in Soccer and Scouting. First, new boys should be added to the appropriate grade-specific den, preferably with the least number of players. This helps to even up the number of players per den. The volunteer coach may need to spend time with the new boys to summarize some of the practice materials or techniques. A team buddy can help the volunteer coach tremendously to orient a new boy with some of the activities that he has missed. The idea is to help new boys feel welcomed into the program.

Q: Besides schools, churches and community-based organizations endorsed by BSA, can a youth-serving executive approach existing soccer leagues as prospective chartered organizations for new Soccer and Scouting units?

A: Though the idea of approaching already existing soccer leagues to charter new units would seem enticing to any membership-minded youth-serving executive, we don't recommend this approach for two reasons. First, youth soccer leagues are governed by their own rules and regulations set forth by their national soccer organizations. These rules and regulations may conflict with some of BSA's membership standards. Second, most soccer leagues focus their programs in the spring or fall and don't offer a year-round program. Soccer and Scouting offers a year-round character-building experience for young people.

Q: What Soccer and Scouting resources are available in both English and Spanish to support youth-serving executives and program directors?

A: The Cub Scout Division has produced the following English/Spanish resources:

- Program Helps - one for each of the four seasons for Tiger Cubs (first grade), Wolf Cub Scouts (second grade), Bear Cub Scouts (third grade), Webelos (fourth and fifth grades). These are published in English and Spanish.
- Family Time Posters - one for each of the four seasons for Tiger Cubs, Wolf Cub Scouts, Bear Cub Scouts, and Webelos Scouts. These are published in English and Spanish.

Q: What other training resources are available in Spanish?

A: The following Cub Scouting training materials:

- 94-126 Youth Protection Guidelines Video and Leader's Guide
- 94-210 Guide to Safe Scouting
- 94-220 Cub Scout Leader Specific Training Video
- 94-221 Cub Scout Leader Specific Training Manual/CD-ROM
- 94-230 New Leader Essentials Video
- 94-231 New Leader Essentials Manual/CD-ROM

Q: Are any of the boy handbooks available in Spanish?

A: Yes. The following handbooks are available in Spanish:

- 94-217 Cub Scout Leader Book
- 94-219 Tiger Cub Handbook

The Wolf Cub Scout Book will eventually be available to local councils in Spanish.

Q: Who can I contact if I have other questions relating to Soccer and Scouting?

A: If your question is related to Cub Scout support materials and the implementation of Soccer and Scouting, please call Jon Maeda at 714-546-4990.

Q.) What is Soccer and Scouting?

A.) Soccer and Scouting is a program developed by the Boy Scouts of America and Major League Soccer Camps and was launched in August of 2004. Boys 6-10 years of age join Soccer Cub Scout Packs, with parents serving as soccer coaches and parent helpers. Soccer Cub Scouts work on the same requirements and badges as Cub Scouts in traditional Cub Scout Packs.

Q.) How does Soccer and Scouting Work?

A.) It is a 12 month Cub Scouting program divided into four seasons. Each season begins with a recruiting / organization day (Jump-Start Day), followed by 10 weeks of den and game-day activities, concluding with a tournament and graduation program. There is a one-week break between seasons and programs are provided for inclement weather situations.

Q.) What takes place at a typical practice or game day?

A.) A typical Midweek Practice and Game Day will look like this:

0:00 - 0:05 — Scout Opening Ceremony

0:05 - 0:30 — Soccer Skills Clinic

0:30 - 0:55 — Scouting Program Activity

0:55 - 1:00 — Rest Break

1:00 - 1:30 — Small-Sided Soccer Game

1:30 - 1:35 — Rest Break

1:35 - 1:45 — Core Values Reflection and Closing Ceremony

Q.) Do participants have activities to do at home?

A.) Each Soccer and Scouting participant will receive a "Family Time" poster to take home each season. This poster is full of activities for the boys to work on at home with

their families. By finishing their posters, they are able to earn their badges by the end of the year.

Q.) Who can join Soccer and Scouting?

A.) All boys and girls between the ages of 6-10 in the first through fifth grades are welcome to join.

Q.) What about my daughter? Is there a program for her?

A.) YES! Girls of the same ages are welcome to join and will become Learning for Life members rather than Cub Scouts. They will earn different awards, but will still take part in all of the same soccer activities.

Q.) What does the registration fee cover?

A.) Each participant will receive their own soccer ball, uniform shirt, shorts, and socks, a Family Time Poster, and insurance. \$10 of the cost is the annual BSA registration fee. The rest of the fee helps cover the costs of coach and team supplies (cones, whistles, nets, flags, scrimmage vests, etc.)

Q.) Who runs the Soccer & Scouting program for the kids?

A.) Much like a Cub Scout Pack, volunteers will be recruited from the parents of participants, as well as from the community. Soccer and Scouting is a family activity, so family members are encouraged to volunteer and be involved alongside their children.

Q.) What positions are volunteers needed for?

A.) The Soccer and Scouting program will need volunteer coaches, assistant coaches, parent helpers, and referees.

Q.) I don't know anything about Soccer or Scouting, can I still volunteer?

A.) YES! Training is provided for all of our volunteers. The program is very easy to run, and has many resources in place that help our volunteers. "Program Helps" outline the activities, soccer skills, Scout skills, games, etc. that take place at every Midweek Practice and Game Day. Just follow the guide and the program runs itself!

Q.) How many participants are required to start at Team?

A.) Eight boys per grade are needed to start one team. There are multiple teams in a Pack, with BOYS and GIRLS from first through fifth grades eligible to join.