

Cub Scout Academics: Communicating



REQUIREMENTS

Tiger Cubs, Cub Scouts, and Webelos Scouts may complete requirements in a family, den, pack, school, or community environment. Tiger Cubs must work with their parents or adult partners. Parents and partners do not earn loops or pins.

Belt Loop

Complete these three requirements:

- ___ 1. Tell a story or relate an incident to a group of people, such as your family, den, or members of your class.
- ___ 2. Write a letter to a friend or relative.
- ___ 3. Make a poster about something that interests you. Explain the poster to your den.

Academics Pin

Earn the Communicating belt loop, and complete five of the following requirements:

- ___ 1. Write an original poem or story.
- ___ 2. Keep a journal of daily activities for at least seven days.
- ___ 3. Listen to a news story on television or the radio. Discuss the information with an adult.
- ___ 4. Go to the library. Use the card catalog or computer reference system to find a book, and then check it out.
- ___ 5. Read a book that has been approved by your parent or teacher. Discuss the book with an adult.
- ___ 6. With a friend, develop a skit. Perform it at a Scout meeting, family meeting, or school event.
- ___ 7. Learn the alphabet in sign language. Learn how to sign 10 words.
- ___ 8. With an adult, use the Internet to search for information on a topic of interest to you.
- ___ 9. Watch three television commercials and discuss the information in them with your parent or den leader.
- ___ 10. Read the directions for a new game. Explain to a family member or friend how to play it.
- ___ 11. Learn about "reading" materials for people who have poor vision or who are blind.
- ___ 12. While traveling, make a list of road signs, animals, or license plates that you see.

Resources

Check out your local and school library, as well as a local university or community college for resources on communicating.

International Reading Association

800 Barksdale Road
P.O. Box 8139
Newark, DE 19714-8139
Phone: 302-731-1600, ext. 224; Fax: 302-731-1057
Web site: <http://www.reading.org>

READ*WRITE*NOW!

U.S. Department of Education
400 Maryland Ave., SW
Washington, DC 20202-0498
Phone: 1-800-USA-LEARN
Web site:
<http://oeri.ed.gov/inits/americanreads/readnow.html>
Children who participate in READ*WRITE*NOW! agree to read and write 30 minutes a day and learn a new vocabulary word, five days a week.

National Institute for Literacy (NIFL)

800 Connecticut Ave., NW, Suite 200
Washington, DC 20006
Phone: 202-632-1500; Fax: 202-632-1512
Web site: <http://www.nifl.gov>

Habits of Good Writers

- Decide on the topic you are going to write about.
- Brainstorm—think of what you are going to say about the topic.
- Make up a plan for how you are going to organize your ideas on the topic.
- Write down your ideas as clearly as you can.
- Reread your first draft to be sure you have said everything you wanted to say as clearly as possible.
- Make any changes so that your reader will understand exactly what you are trying to say.
- Edit your work for spelling, punctuation, and correct grammar.

Habits of Good Readers

- Recognize the words on the page.
- Know the meanings of the words.
- Think about the ideas of the story.
- Use the information you already know to understand what you are reading.

A Fistful of Words

1. Pick a page of a book or magazine you want to read.
2. Look at each word on that page. Begin to make a “fist” of words you don’t recognize. For each word that you don’t recognize, bend one of your fingers down.
3. If all five fingers are down, that is, if you have made a fist before you come to the last word on that page, then you have a “fistful of words” that you do not know. That is a sign that you probably will need some help in reading that book.

Sources for Children With Reading or Learning Disabilities

National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped (NLS)

Library of Congress
Washington, DC 20542
Phone: 202-707-5100; Fax: 202-707-0712
Web site: <http://lcweb.loc.gov/nls>

Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP)

U.S. Department of Education
330 C St., SW
Switzer Building, Room 4613
Washington, DC 20202
Phone: 202-205-5507
Web site:
<http://www.ed.gov/offices/OSERS/OSEP/index.html>

Learning Disabilities Association of America

4156 Library Road
Pittsburgh, PA 15234-1349
Phone: 412-341-1515; Fax: 412-344-0224
Web site: <http://www.ldanatl.org>