

THE YARDSTICK STORY

Stand holding the yardstick about chest high.

Look at this yardstick as your son's life. Each inch is about 2 years. The 36 inch yardstick becomes 72 years, about the average person's lifespan. Here he is today (point to the 3 or 3 ½ inch mark). Here is where he started school at 5 (point to the 2 ½ inch mark). At this point (the 5 inch mark) he will be starting middle school or junior high. And here (9 inch mark) he is graduating from high school. And four years later he may be graduating from college and starting his own career and family.

All of that lies ahead in the future. Here today (again point to the 3 or 3 ½ inch mark), these are critical years in your son's development. These are the years (spread your thumb and forefinger about 2 inches or 4 years) when many of his decision-making skills, ethics and moral values will be developed. Besides having fun these are key elements in the Tiger Cub and Cub Scout program. Studies continue to show that young people who are close to caring adults and involved in this type of youth program are less likely to get into trouble with drugs and crime, and more likely to continue successfully in school.

These 4 years are the years of the Cub Scout – Tiger Cub through Webelos Scout. In Cub Scouting we need every family to get involved this much (hold up your hand with the 2 inch spread between thumb and forefinger). "This much" is different for everybody. Your "this much" might be as a committee member, or a den leader for your son. It might be helping to plan an outing, writing a newsletter, working on the Pinewood Derby, or Blue and Gold Banquet. If everyone does "this much", in your son's Scouting career, both you and he will have a great experience.

We need you to sign up tonight right along with your son. Then, these 4 years (again pointing to the Cub Scout years – 3 inch to 5 inch) will provide wonderful memories and a great foundation for the rest of his life (as you sweep your hand to the 36 inch end of the yardstick).