

Lion Pilot for Kindergarten Age Boys



Goal Study the value and effectiveness of a new, Kindergarten-aged Scouting pilot program that will grow membership by expanding the current council pilot to other councils across the nation.

Why Research shows that child educational development begins by age 4 and as youth engage in the formal educational process at school, we want to support their efforts with Scouting's programs. The purpose of this package is to share that after successful results of 4 councils that piloted the Lion Program for 5-year old Kindergarten boys, any council who believes that this will enhance their ability to grow and serve the youth of their council can apply to be a part of an expanded National Lion Pilot Program beginning in the Fall of 2016.

Early Results Initial data from Northern Star Council over a number of years was supporting the same trends as other councils not running a Kindergarten program. They were tracking to graduate 30% of the original class of Lions into Boy Scouting. Then came the Membership Standards debate, and as you know, everything changed – but for all the wrong reasons, not related to program or delivery. Data from the Beta councils is yet unknown, as this was just their first year. Retention stats were consistent with our other program levels but we don't have long-term data yet. We're tracking them by individual name, as well as by Pack and by Den, to better understand the meaning behind the numbers.

Approval Process Any council wanting to be included in a Kindergarten program will submit their request (see attached) approved by their Council President & Scout Executive to their Area Director.

Implementation Schedule

- Early May Materials and training/webinars to be available.
- Summer Approved Councils recruit volunteers and provide training.
- Fall 2016 Councils recruit youth.
- Aug/Sept 2016 Councils begin offering Lion program as school year begins.
- Summer 2017 New Lions graduate and attend Day Camp as new Tigers, officially bridging into the Cub Scout program.

Materials available for this Pilot Program in Scout Shops (for approved Councils)

1. Parent and Leader Guidebook with 12 Den Meeting Plans
2. Adventure Book for youth
3. Adventure stickers for youth to place in their adventure book as activities are completed.
Items 1-3 are a shrink-wrapped set and are \$9.99 for participants.
4. Lion Patch—to be awarded youth upon completion of the five required adventures: Lion's Honor, Fun on the Run, Animal Kingdom, Mountain Lion and King of the Jungle.
Item 4 runs \$1.99 to participants.

Coming before Fall — Lion youth shirt and cap

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