



# Ready Cub! – Strengthen Your Community

Scouting relies on community partnerships to provide opportunities for our youth to learn and grow. Community partners are sought to provide leadership, materials, and programming to encourage youth participation. Our partnership with Federal Emergency Management Agency & the Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency (FEMA/MEMA) creates an umbrella environment to set the stage for deeper and local first responders and schools partnership by our local scout units. Read more below how your Pack can reach out to first responders and schools to create a better and stronger community together.

## First Responders & Cub Scouting. . .

Community first responders are sought to provide leadership, subject expertise, and inspiration to encourage youth participation and interest in emergency preparedness on a local level. Every rank in Cub Scouting (5-10 years) has a requirement to talk to or visit their local fire, police or EMS station and virtually all kids love that element of their adventure! First responders have for years readily welcomed visits by our Cub Scouts and by actively planning for regular yearly visits on a community level of Cub Scout units (i.e. Packs) together we could more consistently and holistically make our brave community first responders available to more youth, both Cub Scouts and non-scouts. We invite any first responder to study our Ready Cub! material to learn about our deep commitment to emergency preparedness and respect for our first responders' great service to our community.

### **Building Partnership with First responders in Your Community**

Every rank in cub scouting has a requirement to talk to or visit their local fire, police or EMS station and virtually all kids love that element of their adventure. Reciprocating your visit by offering them a clean-up project of their choice (any community place) accomplish another requirement in every rank by completing a service project.

- 1 Invite to talks with the Chief of local community fire-, police- and EMS departments.
- 2 Present and give them the Ready Cub! material. This material will present how cub scouts are trained in emergency preparedness from the age of 5 to 10.

- 3 Ask if you can set up for a month every year where cub scouts can come and visit each of the three branches of first responders. This can start with a single Pack starting this adventure and then inviting other Packs in the community or you do it all together. Important is to get it going and adopt it as more units join.

Example

- Lion & Tiger – Visit the fire station in September
- Wolf & Bear – Visit the police station in October
- Webelos & AOL – Visit the EMS first responders in November

Please note that October 28 is National First Responders Day which recognizes the heroic men and women who make it their business to take immediate action when disaster strikes.

- 4 Ask for how many people can join any event. Let the Scouts in the involved units have the first chance to sign up for participation.
- 5 After a certain time window please open up the remaining slots for any non-scout youth of cub scout age to join this event/bring a friend. This is a great recruitment opportunity for your Pack! Work with school superintendents/principals if they can send out a link for signing up to these visits.
- 6 Start every first responder visit with an adult or youth leader thanking and introducing the first responders on behalf of the units involved and make sure to welcome any non-scouts in the audience; and ask them to come and see you if they like to know more about Cub Scouting in town.
- 7 Ask the Chief if the Pack(s) could reciprocate their kind invite by asking parents to bring food/snacks/drinks that the first responders like. Make sure that you use a tool like SignUpGenius to get the best mix of things. Other ways to contribute back is to a clean-up project of their choice (any community place), have the cubs write Thank You cards etc. All dens have community service to achieve every year.
- 8 Please have a designated person in charge for the upkeep of the relationship (feedback, booking next year visit etc.)

## Is There a First Responder Day in Your Community?

National First Responders Day on October 28 recognizes the heroic men and women who make it their business to take immediate action when disaster strikes. Congress designated October 28th as National First Responders Day in 2017. The resolution honors the firefighters, police officers, EMTs, and all those who are first on the scene in stressful situations.

- 1 If there is one ask to join based on the Ready Cub material and be ready to set up a presence on this day and showcase how Cub Scouts are trained in emergency preparedness. Your presence will show support to first responders and will also be a great recruitment opportunity.
- 2 If there is nothing of its kind in your community, don't be afraid to explore. Establishing a partnership with first responders might be the right triggering event for setting one up to show your support? Maybe such an event could join a local town fair already existing?
- 3 All units, Packs, Troops, and Crews, could join for this event highlighting what Scouting is doing in emergency preparedness.
  - Each unit talks about what they do for Emergency & Preparedness
  - HAM Radio
  - Sell First Aid Kit