

A Leader's Guide to Peer Leadership in Cubs

Peer leadership is a great way that you can support young people to develop their leadership skills- skills which are useful and relevant for later life. In addition, it helps young people develop in confidence and gives them something to aspire to. However, what we expect from young people is different through the sections.

This leader's guide is designed to support Cub Leaders with using Sixers and Seconders effectively.

Choosing Sixers and Seconders

It is not always easy to pick Sixers and Seconders for your Pack, as there are several factors to take into consideration.

Sixers and Seconders are Cub who stands out for being able to look after and lead a team. They are good at sharing, they are kind and they are a young person that is growing in confidence.

A Sixer is not necessarily the oldest Cub in the Pack. It is the Cub who demonstrates the qualities of an effective leader.

Being a Sixer or a Seconder is also a great opportunity for Cubs that may not necessarily stand out as the most confident or loudest but those that show that they are caring and helpful to others. Think about asking the Cubs themselves to help select the next Sixers and Seconders.

Here are some qualities and abilities to think about when selecting a Sixer or Seconder:

- Do they mix well with others?
- Have they some experience as a Cub Scout?
- Will they set a good example and be a positive role model for their Six?
- Are they reliable?
- Do they attend regularly?
- Are they a keen member?
- Will they commit to supporting others in their Six?

Top Tips

There are five top tips for being a Sixer or Seconder in Cubs. As a Leader, it is important to check that your young people understand the top tips and what is expected of a Sixer or Seconder.

Top Tip 1: Help with the start and close of your meeting

This is a really important part of the Sixer's responsibilities. The start and end of the meeting help to give the meeting structure and help young people reflect on the values of Scouting.

The Sixer can help with flag break and leading in any ceremonies, such as the Grand Howl.

Top Tip 2: Be kind and a role model for other Cubs in your Pack

Sixers and Seconders should be role models for other Cubs in the Pack. Explore what this means to the Sixers. What do they think is expected of them as a role model?

Top Tip 3: Help the leaders with deciding which activities to do and attend Pack Forums

Having the Sixers and Seconders help with choosing activities will help to make your Programme more youth shaped. A successful Pack forum will always involve young people, as they can give their views on a range of activities, badges and concepts for the Pack. They represent the whole Pack and they can help to make your Programme more exciting and relevant for young people. Cubs are more likely to show a higher engagement with activities that have been picked by their peers. Further support on running Pack forums, can be found on Member Resources at scouts.org.uk

Top Tip 4: Help with investitures and welcoming new Cubs

When a new Cub starts the pack it can be a daunting experience for them. A room full of young people that they don't know. A Sixer or Seconder can really support the new Cub to feel welcomed. Encourage your Sixers and Seconders to think back to when they were new in the Pack. How did they feel? How were they welcomed? They can be a buddy for a new Cub and explain the start and end of a meeting to them and introduce the others in the Six.

Top Tip 5: Have fun!

This is what Cubs is all about! We want Sixers and Seconders to have fun whilst leading a Six. It is a great opportunity and they should enjoy shaping how the Pack is run.

You may have some other responsibilities in your Pack that your Sixers and Seconders can help with, or that are more of a priority for you.

Personal Goal

As part of being a Sixer or Seconder you can set a personal goal for your Cubs. This can be linked to their Personal Challenge Award or can be one of the above top tips.

Extra opportunities for Sixers

You might like to think about running a day or overnight residential just for Sixers and Seconders.

Districts often choose to take this opportunity to get all the Sixers and Seconders in the District together. These days can look at themes, such as:

- Being in a team - why do we have teams, why teamwork is important, the roles that make up a team
- Team building- how to support the members of your team, what to remember when building a team activity
- Pack Forums- how a Sixer or Seconder can support with this
- Skills of being a good leader- respect, listening and decision making

You may also wish to have days out for Sixers and Seconders to reward them for taking on their role.

Resources

A resource for Sixers is available to support them in understanding what being a great leader is all about. These leaflets come with your Sixer stripes and can also be downloaded from the member's area of scouts.org.uk.