

Cub Scouts

Cub Scouting is based on the Jungle Book story, hence where all the leaders name come from.

The Jungle Book

Why The Jungle Book?

When Baden-Powell started the Scout Movement for eleven to sixteen year olds, he found that the younger children wanted to join too. Soon after he started a section off to cater for them and based the section ideas and the programme activities on one of the most popular stories at the time - Rudyard Kipling's **Jungle Book!**. This section was known as the Wolf Cubs and remained under that name until 1966, when it became Cub Scouts.

Today we all know the adaptation of Jungle Book as produced by Walt Disney, but if you can lay your hands on the original story, it's well worth spending the time to read it and teach it to the pack.

The story which inspired Baden-Powell has remained a very important part of Cub Scouting, the story tells how Mowgli, a small boy was found abandoned in the jungle and is raised and cared for by a wolf pack and trained by them in the very important skills of survival. Along his journey Mowgli meets Baloo, Bagheera and various other jungle creatures.

Today in our packs we call our leaders and helpers by the same names of those that Mowgli met in the Jungle. Many packs find that the children can be overwhelmed by the imagination of what happens in the jungle which is not only exciting, but also very adventurous.

Just as Mowgli became older and less interested in the Jungle, so too will the Cubs. Akela, the wise wolf taught Mowgli everything he needed to know to survive, until eventually he didn't need them any more and moved on, so too will the Cubs and any wise Akela will see that time as it arrives and help the Cubs move on away from the jungle and on to the Scouts.