



## Yardstick or Timeline Presentation Script

You will need a standard yardstick with colored marks at the 3 inch, 5.5 inch, 9 inch, and 11 inch marks. These correspond to the ages of six, eleven, eighteen, and twenty-two. [NOTE: You can also do this with a strip of paper or ribbon with ages marked from 1 to 100, usually at 5, 7, 11, 18, 20, 30, 40, 50 ... 90, 100; [here's a video](#)]\*.

- [STAND HOLDING THE YARDSTICK ABOUT CHEST HIGH]: Look at this yardstick as your Child's life. Each inch represents 2 years of their precious life, transforming this 36-inch yardstick into 72 years—a bit shorter than the average persons lifespan.
- At 0.5 inches, they are cruising the carpet, getting into all kinds of things they shouldn't. At about 3.5 inches, they're seven and in first grade all excited about school. At 5.5 inches, they're eleven, and moving on to Middle School. At 9 inches, they're eighteen and graduating high school. You're busting your buttons with pride for them in their cap and gown. At 11 inches, they're graduating college and have moved on to their own life and family.
- But let's focus back on the 3 inches between six and eleven years old (3 and 5.5 inch marks). [HOLD YOUR FINGERS AT THESE TWO MARKED LINES] These 3 inches, or six years, are critical years in your Child's development. Many of their decision-making skills, ethics, and morals will be established and reinforced during this time. A recent study showed that young people who were close to a caring adult in these early years were less likely to get into trouble with drugs, crime, etc., and were more likely to continue in school.
- These six years are the years of the Cub Scout — Lion through Webelos Scout. You are here tonight because you know that these are the years that count ... if you wait until your Child is in High School or even Middle School, your chance to really connect, to be seen as their leader, will be gone ... so we need to be that leader for them during "these years" between 6 and 11 years old
- [AT THIS POINT DROP THE YARDSTICK, BUT KEEP YOUR FINGER SPACED 3 INCHES APART]: And to do that, we can make you successful as the leader of your Scout and their friends, because in Cub Scouting, we are all leaders. So in our Pack we need every family to get involved THIS MUCH—(referring to the distance between your fingers). THIS MUCH might be different for everybody. Your THIS MUCH might be as a Den Leader or assistant den leader for your child and the other kids their age. It might be organizing an outing or assisting with a special event or unit activity. No matter how you choose to define your THIS MUCH, every little bit helps.
- [LIFT THE YARDSTICK AGAIN]: If one person tries to do THIS MUCH [the whole yardstick], the program will surely fail – it's too much for one person to do everything. However, if everyone chips in ... if everyone does just THIS MUCH [3 inches] in your child's Scouting career, both them and you will have a wonderful, fulfilling experience! So, let's work together to make your child's Scouting experience something they will remember for a lifetime!
- "Having leaders and helpers to get this done is key. In Cub Scouting there are only two types of parents: either you're a Leader, or your job is to help your Leaders. You have to be one or the other ... thank you to our Den Leaders, and everyone else who participates and helps the leaders.

\*The video does not include Lions so the marks will be a little different than what is outlined in this script