MEMBERSHIP RECRUITMENT TEAM MANUAL

Theodore Roosevelt Council
Boy Scouts of America

www.trcbsa.org
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Dear Unit Leader,

We are approaching one of the most important dates on the Scouting calendar, – the “OPEN HOUSE” date for your Cub Scout Pack. Throughout the Theodore Roosevelt Council, Cub Scout Packs are focusing their efforts on this night. To sum it up, this recruitment will set the tone for the entire Scouting year!

Every unit leader should be expected to be available to help at their Pack’s Open House. It’s a total team effort! The question is: Will your unit grow significantly (steady growth is the best indicator of a healthy unit), and will positive, helpful new parents be recruited to fill every volunteer role?

The Council plan to assure an effective “Open House” is enclosed. Experienced volunteer and staff leaders have been working for months, laying the foundation of support, to guide you toward success… now, it is up to you. Follow the plan – give your kids, and their friends-- and all boys who are interested-- the opportunity to join a great program.
CUB RALLY MANUAL

PURPOSE:
To enroll prospective Tiger Cubs, Cub Scouts and their families in existing Cub Scout Packs, to enlist parent participation in the unit program, and fill the need for new boys who want to join existing and new units.

PREPARATION:
All leaders should attend Open House Training! If not to help your unit, to help another!

PROMOTION:
• Attractive posters will be provided for school bulletin boards.
• “Save the Date” information printed on invitations (flyers) will be provided to be passed out to all prospects in each school.
• Cub Scouts will be asked to wear their uniforms to school during the week of Open House.
• Rallies will be held in schools to personally invite boys to join.
• Schools should be asked to keep our “Join Scouting or Open House” date on their marquees.

THE BASIC PROGRAM:
The Unit Open House Coordinator will be in charge at each Pack.

What to do:
• Welcome joining families as they arrive. Have demonstrations and exhibits showing what Scouts do. Make sure everyone signs in on an attendance sheet.
• Scouting information, including what Scouting is, and parent responsibilities will be given to those present. (Welcome Book)
• Parents and boys are organized into dens by grade level, using the “circle up” method; leaders will enroll boys and parents and give additional information about their Units.
• Unit Commissioners can assist inexperienced units, or organize new units where none exist. In schools where Packs are saturated (have enough youth members), additional packs will be started -- so every boy has the opportunity to join.
• Training courses are available for new volunteers and training information should be given to new volunteers that night. “Youth Protection Training” should be taken by all new leaders within days following Open House. It can be taken online at www.myscouting.org.

FOLLOW - UP:
Unit leaders will submit all boys’ applications to the Council Service Center within days after the Open House and a unit check for fees collected. Unit Leaders should keep the copies of the Adult Leader Applications until the new leader can show proof of Youth Protection. Units should also keep a copy of the sign-in sheets.

Important: It is imperative that the Open House Coordinator report with all applications to the District Membership Chair, and that the applications are turned in to the Council Service Center As Soon As Possible.
INDIVIDUAL OPEN HOUSE TEAM MEMBERS
JOB DESCRIPTIONS AND TIME TABLE

OPEN HOUSE COORDINATOR

March/August
Attend Open House for Scouting Training. Confirm your Open House team (3-4 helpers -- bigger Schools require additional helpers)

1 1/2 - 2 weeks
Contact your school’s principal (or secretary) to confirm details. Ask him/her to:
before Open House
a. Make sure school will be open and check facilities to be used.
b. Check arrangements with custodian.
c. Distribute flyers, and put up posters.
d. Put your “Join Scouting or Open House, with the date and time” message on the marquee.

Day before Open House
Call school principal (the day before Open House) to:
a. Make sure promotional materials have been distributed to boys.
b. Make sure school will be open (custodian is reminded to open)

Day of Open House
Preside at Open House for Scouting program. Agenda is provided on page 10.
Collect all applications following the meeting. Then, immediately take report envelope, applications, Pack check and sign-in sheets to District Reporting Location. They will help you sort through it all. It doesn’t have to be perfect -- just bring it in.

The week following
Get your copy of adult applications signed by the Charter Representative and Committee Chair to the Council Service Center. **Make sure all adult applications have a social security number, a position description, the unit number, Adult Disclosure Form, and a copy of the completed Youth Protection certificate.** Remind all new leaders to take “Fast Start”, “This is Scouting” at www.myscouting.org and sign up for Cub Scout Leader Specific Training.
TIGER CUB GROUP ORGANIZER

Purpose: To ensure that we bring new boys and new leaders -- the future of our program -- into scouting as smoothly as possible.


Week of Open House
- Help with 1st grade classroom rallies, if possible.
- Preside at the “Tiger Cub Den organization” during Open House for Scouting.
- Register Tiger Cub Den during Open House for Scouting and turn in completed registrations, monies and sign-in sheets to your Open House Coordinator.

Follow-up
- Follow-up on Tiger Cub Den as suggested in the Handbook.
- Promote District Tiger Cub Events for new Tiger Cubs (Tiger Cub Field Day, Tigerama, Tigermania, etc.), as well as Cub Leader Specific Training.

OPEN HOUSE HELPERS (Pack and Troop Unit Leaders)

Reminders: Youth applications must be signed by a parent. A copy of every application must be turned in (even those who have not yet paid) Keep checks (or cash) with each application (should have “paid” written on applications also) until you have organized all paperwork. Also, turn in the sign in sheets--you will get a copy back. The last copy of youth application (with health records on the back) should be retained by the Pack.

March/August
- Attend District Open House for Scouting Training.

Week of Open House
  a. Set up display and sign-in sheets; organize a “gathering period” activity or song.
  b. Assist in opening ceremony; make sure everyone signs in.
  c. Present a brief description on Pack or Troop’s program.
     (Why troop? Many Cub Scouts have older brothers ready to join, or have already turned eleven.)
  d. Assist Open House Coordinator with “circle up” and registration.
     They need your help - Open House is not a one person job!

After Organizing Dens
- Arrange a parents’ orientation and “Fast Start” Training; usually the same place (school cafeteria) one week later works best. Fast Start Training can also be accessed on-line at www.trcbsa.org. “Youth Protection and online training” can be taken online at www.myscouting.org. Promote Cub Leader Specific Training for all new Unit Leaders and parents. Don’t forget to follow-up with unregistered Scouts, call those youth who signed in but did not join, for whatever reason.
VOLUNTEERS WHO DELIVER FLYERS TO SCHOOLS

Your role is vitally important! Thank you very much for making sure that each Scout-aged boy gets the opportunity to join Scouts! Here are some suggestions for working with your school. Please keep in mind that a good rapport with principals and their secretaries is vital to the success of your Pack’s Open House.

Here are some DO’s and DON’Ts:

DO’s:
1. Make sure “Open House” flyers go out with the information folders.
2. BE PLEASANT-- You are Scouting’s representative for that school!
3. Make sure that flyers (pre-sorted, 15-18 boys per classroom) are delivered to the schools at the proper time. Ask for space on the marquee out in the front of the school -- provide the exact wording you want.
4. Be sure that the principal understands that flyers are to be distributed only to boys in the first, second, third, fourth, and fifth grades. (That includes ESE &ESOL programs but NOT Kindergarten for Fall recruitment.)
5. FOLLOW UP! Call the secretary to ensure the flyers have been distributed.
6. Be sure to remind the principal that the Open House is on the calendar - that’s why these Open House flyers must go home with the boys.

DON’Ts:
1. Don’t just go in and leave flyers on the secretary’s desk. (Pre-sorted flyers should go in teachers’ boxes.)
2. Don’t demand anything. Ask for permission.
3. Don’t forget to FOLLOW UP, to be sure they were passed out -- even teachers forget sometimes!

HOW TO DO A CLASSROOM RALLY

Class-to-Class Promotion

WHEN: Two to Three days before - the Open House

WHO: Only trained Rallymasters.

PURPOSE: To create excitement and inform boys of Open House for Scouting.

PREPARATION: Ask principal for 5 minutes to talk to the boys in each classrooms. They should announce (over PA system) that you will be coming by.

FLYERS: Each boy in grades 1st through 5th needs to be handed an Open House flyer.

NOTE: ** If only assembly-type rally is allowed, it is better to meet separately with Tiger Cubs [1st grade], Cub Scouts[2nd & 3rd grades] and Webelos [4th & 5th grade] -- not all grades at once.
Rally Agenda

I. ACKNOWLEDGE GIRLS’ INTEREST IN SCOUTING AND GIVE PHONE NUMBER OF GIRL SCOUT COUNCIL.
   A. Ask boys to tell you what kind of activities they see on the flyer.
   B. Show boys creative ways to get flyer home to parent. (Multi-fold, place in socks - put in school bag, etc.)
   C. Show a pinewood derby car before and after carving... or other scouting prop.

II. DISTRIBUTE FLYERS -- Students can help you pass them out (to boys only).

III. Describe “WHAT SCOUTS DO.”
   A. Give examples of activities.
      1. Cub Scouts
         a. Day Camp - Fishing, Climbing, Sports, and Crafts.
         b. Pinewood Derby Races.
         c. Scout Walk, Cub/Parent Weekends, Cub carnivals, Tiger field days
         e. Don’t emphasize “shooting” -- BB’s and Archery -- often upset teachers

IV. OPEN HOUSE FOR SCOUTING INFORMATION
   A. EMPHASIZE (For example): “This Thursday Night at 7 o’clock - here at your school cafeteria.”

V. WHAT TO BRING TO OPEN HOUSE FOR SCOUTING
   A. Registration fee
   B. Parents, or Guardian

VI. INCENTIVE
   A. Show boys what they get when they join

VII. DON’T TAKE ANY QUESTIONS -- Explain that more information will be available Thursday night.
**OPEN HOUSE “TEAM ROSTER”**

Fill out as you secure your team. Confirm them at least one week before Open House. Turn in this form to your District Executive after your District Cub Rally Roundtable Training and before Open House for Scouting.

Open House Team Members for ____________________________ Elementary School
Principal / Secretary is: ____________________________ Phone No. __________
Total Number of boys in the School __________________________
Last Year’s Result: ____________ (# of Youth Recruited) Goal This Year ____________
RALLY MASTER (Who is going class-to-class?) ____________________________

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**Open House Coordinator**

Name ____________________________
Address ____________________________
City __________________ Zip ____________
Home Phone (______) __________________
Work Phone (______) __________________
E-mail ____________________________

**Open House Helper**

Name ____________________________
Address ____________________________
City __________________ Zip ____________
Home Phone (______) __________________
Work Phone (______) __________________
E-mail ____________________________

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**Tiger Cub Coordinator (Pack)**

Name ____________________________
Address ____________________________
City __________________ Zip ____________
Home Phone (______) __________________
Work Phone (______) __________________
E-mail ____________________________

**Cub Scout Dens Coordinator**

Name ____________________________
Address ____________________________
City __________________ Zip ____________
Home Phone (______) __________________
Work Phone (______) __________________
E-mail ____________________________
SCHOOL COORDINATOR’S CHECKLIST

KEY ITEMS TO HAVE ON OPEN HOUSE:
- Plenty of helpers.
- Your Open House agenda and script.
- Sign-in attendance sheets provided.
- Unit organization chart / flip chart.
- Plenty of applications - both youth and adult.
- Enough “Welcome to the Adventure of Cub Scouting” books for all families who attend.
- Pens, pencils and change.
- Mini Boys’ Life magazines.
- Grade-level table markers with job description.
- Tiger Cub handbook.
- Training flyers.
- Any local Pack displays.

BEFORE YOU LEAVE HOME:
- Rehearse your pre-opening activity.
- Prepare your Pack organization chart (see page 8).
- Wear your complete uniform (Must be full class A).
- Review agenda and practice your presentation.
- Take a pocket calculator.
- Take 20-30 pens and/or pencils.
- Take some change, both bills and coins.
- Take masking tape (check with custodian before putting tape on the walls).
- Take Open House for Scouting (packet of materials).
- Take agenda and script.

WHEN YOU ARRIVE AT THE SCHOOL (by 6:15 p.m.):
- Empty your packet and organize your materials.
- Set up tables, by grade (see “how to organize and register” sample layout of Room - page 9).
- Check with other Open House Team Members on their part of the program.
- Display your Pack organizational chart.
- Unit Leaders set up displays by 6:30.
- Pre-opening activity ready to begin at 6:45 as first families arrive.
- Station someone at the door to welcome and sign-in families (by 6:30).
- Keep boys and parents in the room, boys and parents should stay together for “circle up.”
- Do not allow uncontrolled running, shouting and horseplay.
- Have a helper assigned to each age group.
THE GENERAL PRESENTATION:
- Begin promptly at 7:00 p.m.
- Be confident - you are prepared and have support.
- Be enthusiastic - you set the tone!
- Follow Open House for Scouting agenda -- pages 10-12.
- Provide training info “Welcome to the Adventure of Cub Scouting” for all new leaders.

AFTER THE MEETING
- Meet with new adult leadership, promoting training and arranging “Fast Start” training.
- Collect all applications and money — write on the bottom of the applications “Paid, amount, cash/check #”
- Review youth applications:
  - Parent signature
  - Cubmaster signature
  - Grade in School
  - Unit #
  - Boys’ Life magazine box marked if applicable.
- Review adult application:
  - Charter Organization Representative signature
  - Unit #
  - Committee Chairman’s signature
  - Position description
  - Social Security Number is required.
  - Signed Disclosure form is required.
- Report to District headquarters immediately from school. District representatives will wait for your arrival.
  - Turn in all applications (even those who have not paid)
  - Money — please bring one signed Pack check- there will be plenty of time for the individual checks to clear your Pack account!
  - Sign-in sheets (copy)
  - Identify potential new members that are not completely enrolled, missing signatures, short on money or still need den leadership.
  - Turn in your Open House team roster (page 6).
# CUB SCOUT PACK ORGANIZATION

## LEADERSHIP POSITIONS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>POSITIONS</th>
<th>CODE ON ADULT APPLICATION</th>
<th># NEEDED</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>* Committee Chair</td>
<td>CC</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>* Committee Members (2 req’d)</td>
<td>MC</td>
<td>2 [minimum]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>* Cubmaster</td>
<td>CM</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assistant Cubmaster</td>
<td>CA</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>* Tiger Den Ldr, Den Ldr, Webelos Ldr (1 req’d)</td>
<td>TL, DL, WL</td>
<td>1 per 6-8 boys</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>* Assistant Den Ldr, Assistant Webelos Ldr</td>
<td>DA, WA</td>
<td>1 per 6-8 boys</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>* Charter Partner Representative</td>
<td>CR</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(note: * = required position)

## UNIT LEADERS CONTINUING FROM LAST YEAR ARE:

(Record addresses and phone numbers for newly recruited leaders)

- CHARTER PARTNER REPRESENTATIVE ____________________________
- COMMITTEE CHAIR _________________________________________
- COMMITTEE MEMBERS _______________________________________
- CUBMASTER ______________________________________________
- ASSISTANT CUBMASTER _____________________________________
- TIGER CUB DEN LEADER _____________________________________
- WOLF DEN LEADER __________________________________________
- BEAR DEN LEADER __________________________________________
- WEBELOS I LEADER _________________________________________
- WEBELOS II LEADER ________________________________________

NOTE: Each Den should include 6-8 boys, a Den Leader and an Assistant Den Leader (minimum 2-deep leadership req’d.)

DEN LEADERS FOR DEN 1 ARE: __________________________________

There are ________ boys active in Den 1.

DEN LEADERS FOR DEN 2 ARE: __________________________________

There are ________ boys active in Den 2.
The above is a sample layout of a typical Open House setting for elementary schools. Be sure all tables are clearly marked by grade. As parents and boys enter the room, have them sign-in. Assign them to the appropriate table at this time. Ask them what grade their son is in; point out the corresponding table and marker.

Doing this simple task at the beginning will save a tremendous amount of time and organization later. Parents are already “circled up” and the Open House Registration process can begin.

**Open House Helpers should:**
Make them feel welcome by introducing them to a “Host Scout” who can show them the unit display, where to sit and any other pre-opening activities.
GENERAL PRESENTATION
OPEN HOUSE COORDINATOR AGENDA AND SCRIPT

ARRIVAL AND SET-UP - 6:00 p.m. Everyone signs in

I. OPENING CEREMONY - 7:00 P.M.
   A. Briefly state purpose of meeting, tell about Scouting’s opportunities in neighborhood and inform how everyone may participate.
   B. Explain how Scouting “does business”.
      1. Creates partnership with an institution such as PTA, church, civic group.
      2. Prepares program, literature and other materials, training for leadership [volunteers and professionals] and major activity schedule including camping facilities.
      3. Introduce Unit Leaders — Unit Leader takes two minutes to tell about their unit, including Chartered Partner, size of unit, day, time and place of Pack meeting and hands out flyer.

(Open House Coordinator - walks around room, identifying potential den leaders, assistant den leader, or committee members from the den.)

II. GENERAL PRESENTATION
   A. Parent Participation— “every adult plays a role in the success of our pack”
      1. Great emphasis should be placed on giving each parent the opportunity to join Scouting with his/her son.
      2. Families with sons of Scouting age are the major resource of Scouting’s leadership.
         a. Program leadership is totally volunteer.
         b. Full support and cooperation of every family is essential to a successful Scouting program for boys.
         c. Scouting is a family program. “BSA” does not stand for “Baby Sitters of America.”
   B. REVIEW PARENT CONCERNS:
      1. “There are some questions I would like to ask. Parents....
         1. “Do you realize that your son has spent almost one-half of his life at home already?” (expand)
         2. “Next, do you know what influences our youth today in how they think, and what they do?”
         3. “Well, when you and I were growing up, the biggest influence on our lives were: 1-Family; 2-School; 3-Religious institution; 4-Peers and 5 TV
         4. “But for today’s youth, these influences have changed, and not necessarily for the good. 1-Peers; 2-Family; 3-TV; 4-School; 5 Religious institution
         5. “Since ‘peers’ have such a big influence on our kids, a program like Scouting is more important than ever. We must expose our sons to ‘peer groups’ with the ‘proper ideals’ and positive objectives.” (Expand)
         6. “Yes, we all want our sons to grow up into good citizens with good character and a respect for themselves and others. Scouting will certainly help.”
         7. “Now for your son to join in Cub Scouting, he must join a Pack.”
            a. Demonstrate how a Pack is organized.
               i. Show already prepared organizational chart. (Explain)
         8. “Now where do these leaders we’ve talked about come from?”
            a. Get the audience to tell you that — Yes, from the parents.
            b. Parents run the Pack.
         9. “Yes, for your son to be involved in Cub Scouts you, the parents, must be involved. By your presence here, you have already shown that you want to be involved in his life.”
C. “Now, I know all of you are sitting there thinking of all the reasons why you cannot be a Cub Scout leader. There are really only three objections you may have.”

a. 1st — YOU WORK — Well there aren’t many people here who don’t work. 75% of the Den Leaders work, but they still find time to hold a Den Meeting on:
   i. their day off
   ii. early evening after work, or
   iii. on Saturday morning or Sunday afternoon — So, this is not a good objection.

b. 2nd — YOU ARE TOO BUSY IN OTHER ACTIVITIES AND ORGANIZATIONS — It’s great that you’re busy - busy people get things done. We realize that there are many worthwhile things you may be involved in, but are they all a benefit to our sons? Cub Scouting is a great benefit, so maybe you may have to reset your priorities, as most of us have had to do and get involved with your son in Cub Scouts.

c. 3rd — YOU DON’T KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT CUB SCOUTS, SO HOW COULD YOU GET INVOLVED
   i. The local Council volunteers and staff will see to it that you will have all the training and information you need to be a successful leader.
   ii. For whatever position you hold, there is a handbook explaining your job in detail. (show)
   iii. “Program Helps” spells out exactly what to do at each of your meetings. (Show and explain)
   iv. A Cub Scout Roundtable is held once a month. All leaders should this meeting where the following month’s theme is thoroughly discussed and seen in action. New Pack leaders especially learn a lot from other leaders.
   v. Most important — WE WILL TRAIN YOU either at a formal course or through personal coaching, DVDs, and online training. We have a training team made up of former Cub Scout people ready, willing and able to help you be successful. So, not knowing anything about Cub Scouts is not an objection

III. Recruit (If You Need) Pack level leadership
   A. Refer to Pack Organization Chart - Identify specific needs.
   B. Read corresponding “Leaders’ Responsibilities”, so they understand the jobs. Job descriptions also appear on the back of their table tents.
   C. Remind them that “each of us has a talent to share with others. There is a position in Scouting that will match up with your talents and time constraints - we need your involvement now. Who will fill the job of ____________?"
   D. Get the popcorn chair also, if a new pack or your pack needs one.

IV. Recruit Den level leadership - First, appoint a “temporary chair” at each table
   A. Explain temporary chair’s responsibility - “to obtain a Den Leader, Assistant Den Leader and Committee member from your Den.”
   B. I am going to read a poem called “A Boy’s Eyes.”
   C. Then I will turn your Den over to your temporary chair.
      1. The temporary chair will raise their hand when leadership is secured.
      2. “Youth and adult applications will be brought to your table once all leadership is identified.”
3. Read “Boy’s Eyes” - then leave them alone to organize Den. Do not answer any more questions from the front of the room — have an assistant occasionally visit their table, checking progress and answering questions.

V. Supply registration application forms **only as Den’s leadership is organized.** (Ideally, a current leader would assist each new Den.)
   A. Explain registration and **Boys’ Life** Fees.
   B. Have parents help fill out boys’ application.
   C. Collect applications and fees with assistance from current leader - write notes on application “Paid, $ amount (cash or check#).
   D. Front cover of application goes to parent and boy.
   E. All new leaders complete adult applications. **They should immediately get training information and a calendar.**
   F. Open House helpers turn in all applications and fees to Unit Open House Coordinator.
   G. Ask new leaders to remain for a brief orientation meeting about training and getting started. Provide a new leader handout with date and place of Pack Leaders Meeting, next Pack Meeting and key contacts, suggested Den meeting locations with key contacts.
   H. Dismiss other parents and boys.

VI. New Leader Orientation Meeting.
LEADERS’ RESPONSIBILITIES

COMMITTEE CHAIR
Conducts monthly Committee Meeting to oversee Committee Member functions and support and approve the Pack program. Ensures that adequate support is given to the Cubmaster and Den Leaders by Committee Members. Helps recruit additional leaders as needed. Attends training.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS
Provide Pack support by taking care of records, finances, advancement, activities, membership, etc. (Ideally, one committee member for each function: Treasurer, Advancement Chair, Special Event Chairs, Secretary, Popcorn Chair, etc.) Attends monthly Committee Meeting to report and perform committee responsibilities. Attends training.

CUBMASTER
Conducts monthly Pack Leader’s Meeting to plan details of upcoming Pack program with Den Leaders. Conducts monthly Pack Meeting for all youth, families, and leaders. Attends training and monthly Roundtable.

DEN LEADERS AND ASSISTANTS (1st - 3rd grades)
Meets weekly for one hour with den of 6-8 boys. Den Meeting can be held in Den Leader’s home, park, school or other suitable place. Den Leader and assistant determine time, day and location of Den Meeting that is most convenient for them. Attends training and monthly Roundtable.

WEBELOS DEN LEADER AND ASSISTANT (4th and 5th grades)
Same as Den Leader and encourages periodic father/son overnight campouts. Attends training and Roundtable.

CHARTER PARTNER REPRESENTATIVE
Assures meeting spaces, storage, and that additional help is available for the Pack. Serves as liaison with the Chartered Partner.
"I’d like to be a Cub Scout”…
[His eyes were clear and true]
“I’d like to learn, and play, and build,
Like Jim and Freddy do.”

“I know how to use a hammer;
I can drive a nail if I try…
I’m eight years old, I’m big and strong
And I hardly ever cry.”

I gave him the application
And parent-participation sheet
[His eyes were filled with sunshine
As he left on dancing feet.]

Next day my friend was back again,
A dejected little lad. He said,
“I guess I’ll skip the Cub Scouts.”
[His eyes were dark and sad.]

“See my Mom is awfully busy, She has
lots of friends, you see,
She’d never have time for a Den,
She hardly has time for me.”

“And Dad is always working…
He’s hardly ever there;
To give them anymore to do
Just wouldn’t be quite fair.”

He handed me back the papers
With the dignity of eight years,
And smiling bravely, he left me.
[His eyes were filled with tears.]

Do you see your own boy’s eyes
As other people may?
How he looks when you’re “too busy”
Or “just haven’t had time today”?  

A boy is such a special gift,
Why won’t you realize...
It only takes a little time
to put sunshine in his eyes.

You say, “I’ll start tomorrow”
But tomorrow is far away.
He’s a boy for such a short time --
So won’t you start today?