

Introduction

This is a handy guide on how badges and awards work at Cubs. It is particularly relevant if your child wants to achieve their Chief Scout's Silver Award, as unlike Beavers (where dedicated attendance is often enough to earn the award) Cubs and Scouts are expected to complete some of the requirements in their own time.

Note that all badges are eligible for reasonable adjustments for children with additional needs. Please speak to Akela in confidence if this might apply to your child.

Chief Scout's Silver Award (www.scouts.org.uk/top-awards/chief-scout-s-silver-award/)

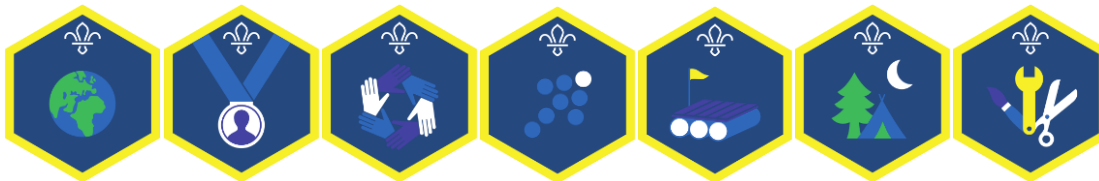


In order to complete the Silver Award your cub must do the following.

- Complete all 7 Challenge Badges
- Complete 6 Activity Badges (in addition to those gained at Beavers)
- Attend at least one Camp

Silver awards are a big deal, and will be worn on your child's Scout Uniform. Not everyone gets one, and completing this is something to be proud of.

Challenge Awards (www.scouts.org.uk/cubs/awards)



Challenge Awards are completed at Cubs during meetings and particularly at camp, or on nights away. We tend to jump around quite a lot in clauses, so you will find that it takes quite a long time to get one, and then a whole load will come along at once! Obviously regular attendance is important for these awards.

- We cover all parts of these awards at least once every 2 years, and many more often.
- The Leadership & Personal Challenge Awards tend to not be started until they are 9 ½, and probably a sixer. They tend to be the last completed.

When your child is in your last term at Cubs, if they are close to their silver, we may ask you to complete clauses that they missed at home. Please wait to be asked to do this!

Activity Badges (www.scouts.org.uk/cubs/activity-badges/)



There are 2 types of Activity Badges – Activity Badges are red and Staged Activity Badges are blue. We do a few badges at Cubs, often bits and bobs over time like the challenge awards. You can also do them at home.

To complete the Silver Award you will normally need to do 2 or 3 badges at home to reach the target number. Only the highest stage of each staged badge counts towards the Silver award tally.

There are three special staged badges 'Nights Away', 'Hikes Away' and 'Time on the Water'. These are a count of the nights, or sessions done by a young person on these activities. Nights away can only be done on Cub Camps. The Hikes and Water versions can include activities outside of Cubs (See 'Easy Wins' below).

How to do Badges at Home

To complete a badge at home you need to complete all the clauses and share evidence of this with Akela. Akela is a busy man, especially during Cub meetings, so emailing your evidence to cubs@spscouts.co.uk for him to review over a cup of tea and a biscuit is the easiest way to go. You can send individual clauses, or evidence for whole badges. Please be clear about which badge and clause your evidence is for. Send...

- Photographs of things that were made or certificates.
- If something requires writing, you can do it on a computer or take an image of the final version to send.
- If the badge requires you to 'talk about' or 'demonstrate' make a video on a mobile phone to cover the knowledge.
- If the badge is for a skill that your child does with a coach, or instructor then print off the badge requirements, and get them to sign off all of the clauses. Then photograph/scan and email in.

Note that things done as part of the compulsory school day do not count towards these badges, but voluntary activities such as after-school or lunchtime clubs do.

Easy Wins

You will be pleased to know there are some really easy wins, great for getting started! We have listed a few in no particular order. But checkout the [website](#) as there are options for everyone.

When your child has been in Cubs a while, we recommend checking [OSM](#) to see if there are any badges they need just one or two clauses to complete.

- [Cyclist](#) - A photo of a Bikeability 2 Certificate is enough to gain this badge. Courses are often run in the school holidays if your school doesn't do it.
- [Physical Recreation](#) - If your child regularly plays on a sports team or goes to any kind of sports coaching (not school PE), the coach will normally just sign this one off.
- [Skater](#) - This can be done on a Scooter or Skateboard as well as traditional Skates. It requires making a few videos to demonstrate knowledge of safety rules, simple riding skills and tricks.
- [Entertainer](#) - If your child does performing arts again this one can often be signed off by the coach.
- [Hobbies & Collectors](#) - Two badges here, but both can be gained by making a video where the Cub talks about their hobby or shows off their collection.
- [Martial Arts & Equestrian](#) - Another two badges that will normally be signed off by coaches. The equestrian badge is Pony Club D Test standard, we will accept the certificate for this as evidence.
- [Snowsports](#) - The Mendip Activity Centre regularly run Ski\Snowboard taster sessions, which will cover level 1 of this badge. Keep an eye on the website as they tend to have special offers in the holidays.
- [Swimmer](#) - A photo of your swimming certificate is now enough to gain these badges. There are several standards, so check the 'tips' box on the website for the relevant scheme.
- [Hikes Away](#) - Been on a family walk for 3hrs or more? Send a picture and a small summary of the distance and purpose of the walk e.g. "Explored Stourhead Estate, 4hrs 4.6 miles" to gain a hike credit.
- [Time on the Water](#) - Been surfing, paddle boarding, boating or sailing for 1-2hrs or more? Send a photo with details of what you did to gain a credit. Check the website for a list of valid activities, some are surprising! If you spend a lot of time messing about in boats also check out the [sailing](#), [water sports](#), [paddle sports](#) and [nautical skills](#) badges as relevant.
- [Artist](#) - This one involves doing 3 art based activities from the list.
- [Photographer](#) - Got a camera? If they know how to use it, this one is a good one to look at and involves taking pictures and displaying them in an interesting way.
- [Book Reader](#) - The main part of this involves reading 10 books, and writing a review of one of them.

Enjoy!