



Baden-Powell based the programme and structure of Cub Scouts around 'The Jungle Book.' The Grand Howl is based around the Wolves' assembly at Council Rock. Baden Powell created it in conjunction with Rudyard Kipling.

The 'Grand Howl' is one of the oldest Cub Scout ceremonies and is generally used to start and often to finish a pack meeting. It is used as standard in many English speaking Cub and Wolf Packs around the world, although in the UK, its use appears to have declined somewhat. It has been changed slightly over the years and no longer contains the 'Dyb, Dyb, Dyb' line that became synonymous with Scouting.

Why use the 'Grand Howl'?

It is an effective and consistent way of getting the Cubs together to start the meeting. It gets the Cubs listening and responding to the leader and also working together to make some noise. At the end of it, you should have a quiet attentive circle of Cubs, ready for your next command!

It is a ceremony and is part of what makes Scouting different from Youth Clubs. Cubs do not have to be invited to take part so it instantly includes new Cubs in something special.

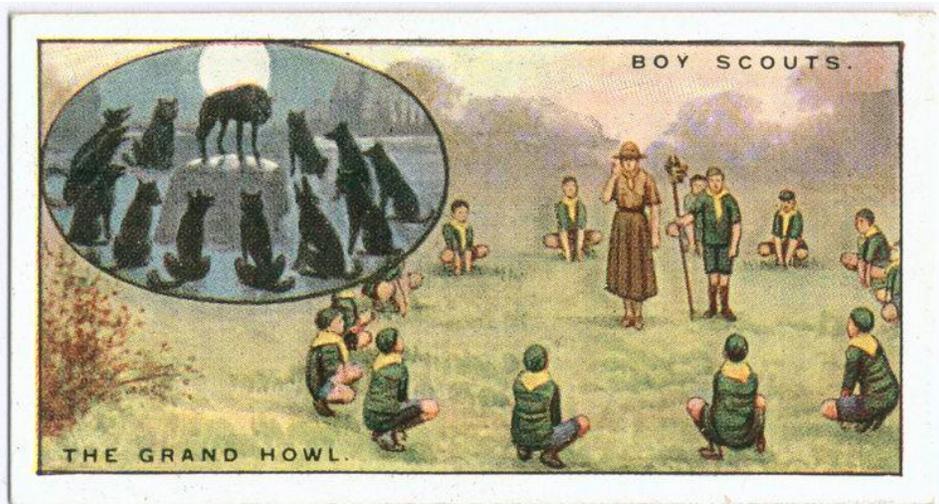
Children like routine and will come to expect it and recognize it as the start of the meeting. This should improve discipline!

Below is an outline of the Ceremony. Realistically, it is done slightly differently everywhere and YouTube contains hundreds of videos of variations. Also included is an adapted 'Jungle Book' excerpt that explains why we do the 'Grand Howl' and also introduces 'Akela' as the leader of the pack.

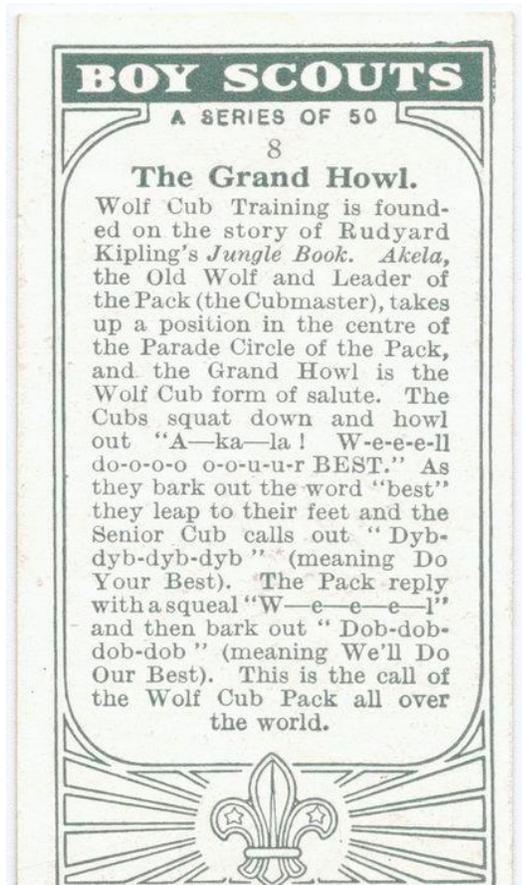
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The Grand Howl

-  Cub Scouts start by forming a circle, with Akela standing in the middle. Akela raises his arms until the Cubs are standing at alert. He then lowers his arms.
-  The Pack squats down like the wolves did and call out:
"Akela, we will do our best!"
(Kipling said it should be shouted as A-KAY-le, stressing the middle syllable)
-  The Duty Sixer then stands at alert, salutes Akela and says
"Cubs! Do your best!"
-  The rest of the pack then stands and salutes, saying
"We will do our best!"
-  *This can then be followed by the flag break or other instructions.*



A description of the Grand Howl from a 1920's cigarette box!!



The Meeting at Council Rock

Adapted from 'The Jungle Book' by Rudyard Kipling

Mowgli had lived with the Seeonee Wolf pack for several months. When the wolf cubs were old enough to run, it was time for them to be presented to the pack. The pack would recognize the cubs and help them or protect them if they met in the jungle.

The tiger, Shere Khan was still angry that Mowgli had been taken from his grasp but if the pack did not accept him as a cub, Shere Khan was ready to pounce.

Father Wolf and Raksha brought Mowgli and the other cubs to Council Rock. There was much noise and excitement until Akela, the leader of the wolf pack, sat upon the rock and called,

'Pack, pack, pack'

A hush descended as the wolves formed a circle around Council Rock. Each cub was pushed into the circle by its parents. They stood facing Akela and he called,

'Look well, O Wolves! Look well'

The pack responded, 'Look Well' and the cub took his place in the circle.

When it was Mowgli's turn, Raksha pushed him in to the circle. Akela didn't look twice. He called

'Look well, O Wolves!'

Shere Khan was furious. He knew he could not take on a pack of wolves but he had been certain that they would not accept a man-child into their pack.

"The man cub is mine," he shouted. "What have the free wolves to do with a man cub?"

Now there is a law in the pack that says if there is an argument about the right of a cub to join the pack, two people must speak for him.

'Who speaks for this cub?' Akela shouted.

Baloo, the sleepy brown bear who teaches the cubs about the law stepped in to the circle and spoke,

'I will speak for the man cub. There is no harm in him and I will teach him.'



'We need another,' said Akela. 'Who speaks with Baloo?'

A hush descended on Council Rock. The wolves held their breath and looked at one another. A black shadow dropped into the circle. It was Bagheera, the mighty black panther.

In his soft, calm voice he said,

'I believe if there a dispute, it may be settled at a price? To Baloo's good word, I will add a freshly killed bull, below in the valley.'

The wolves were always hungry and cheered, 'Look well, Look well.'

'It is so,' said Akela. 'Now take him away and train him in our ways and laws.'

And that is how Mowgli joined the Seeonee Wolf Pack.