

Cub Scout Academics: Video Games



REQUIREMENTS

Tiger Cubs, Cub Scouts, and Webelos Scouts may complete requirements in a family, den, pack, school, or community environment. Tiger Cubs must work with their parents or adult partners. Parents and partners do not earn loops or pins.

Belt Loop

Complete these three requirements:

- _____ 1. Explain why it is important to have a rating system for video games. Check your video games to be sure they are right for your age.
- _____ 2. With an adult, create a schedule for you to do things that includes your chores, homework, and video gaming. Do your best to follow this schedule.
- _____ 3. Learn to play a new video game that is approved by your parent, guardian, or teacher.

Academics Pin

Earn the Video Games belt loop and complete five of the following requirements:

- _____ 1. With your parents, create a plan to buy a video game that is right for your age group.
- _____ 2. Compare two game systems (for example, Microsoft Xbox, Sony PlayStation, Nintendo Wii, and so on). Explain some of the differences between the two. List good reasons to purchase or use a game system.

- _____ 3. Play a video game with family members in a family tournament.
- _____ 4. Teach an adult or a friend how to play a video game.
- _____ 5. List at least five tips that would help someone who was learning how to play your favorite video game.
- _____ 6. Play an appropriate video game with a friend for one hour.
- _____ 7. Play a video game that will help you practice your math, spelling, or another skill that helps you in your schoolwork.
- _____ 8. Choose a game you might like to purchase. Compare the price for this game at three different stores. Decide which store has the best deal. In your decision, be sure to consider things like the store return policy and manufacturer's warranty.
- _____ 9. With an adult's supervision, install a gaming system.

Entertainment Software Rating Board

Before buying any video game, be sure to check for a rating by the ESRB. This rating will help you decide whether a game is right for you and your family.



EC: Early Childhood. Content may be suitable for persons ages 3 and older. Contains no material that parents would find inappropriate.



E: Everyone. Content may be suitable for persons ages 6 and older. May contain minimal violence and some comic mischief or crude language.



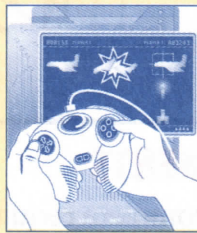
E10+: Everyone 10+. Content may be suitable for persons ages 10 and older. May include more cartoon and fantasy and some mild violence, mild language, and a small degree of suggestive themes.

Only games with an “EC,” “E” or “E10+” rating may be right for Cub Scout–age children. There are other ratings for older and more mature audiences.

Family Guidelines

Here are some suggestions for families.

- Make a plan. Schedule video gaming times and choices in advance, just as you would other activities.
- Set time limits. Limit children’s total screen time, usually no more than 1 to 2 hours per day and with periodic breaks.
- Make video gaming a family activity.
- Set family guidelines for video game content.



Rules for Online Safety

- I will talk with my parents so that we can set up rules for going online. We will decide on the time of day that I can be online, the length of time I can be online, and appropriate Web sites for me to visit. If I want to visit other Web sites, I will get my parents’ permission first.
- While I’m online, I will not give out personal information such as my address, telephone number, parents’ work addresses/telephone numbers, or the name and location of my school without my parents’ permission.
- I will tell my parents right away if I come across any information that makes me feel uncomfortable.
- I will not respond to any messages that are mean or in any way make me feel uncomfortable. It is not my fault if I get a message like that. If I do, I will tell my parents right away so that they can contact the online service.
- I will never agree to get together with someone I “meet” online without first checking with my parents. If my parents agree to the meeting, I will be sure that it is in a public place, and I will bring a parent or my adult guardian along.
- While I’m online, I will never send a person my picture or anything else without first checking with my parents.

Helpful Hints

- Be sure you have your parent or adult partner’s permission whenever you want to use the Internet. Search the Internet for video games only with a parent’s or adult partner’s permission and help.
- Play fun games that are right for your age group.
- With your parent or adult partner, always check the rating symbols and description on a game before purchasing it.