

TRADITIONAL AND MAORI NAMES FOR LEADERS

By Steve Roberts, Assistant District Cub Leader, Upper Hutt.

Why have Scout names?

It has long been felt that all adult leaders should have a familiar name by which they are addressed by all members of the movement whilst present at youth meetings.

Take as an example a leader with the name Steve Roberts. To have up to 30 boys and girls clamouring to speak to Mr Roberts is very formal and may make the children feel that they are back at school and not as free as they might be. On the other hand, many leaders feel that Steve is far too informal and the leader himself may not feel comfortable with such familiarity.

Scouting has evolved a system whereby the leader chooses for him or herself a familiar name by which they will henceforth be known, even by other leaders when at Scout Youth meetings.

Traditional names

By tradition, the Cub Scout Section has used names from the original Jungle Book stories by Rudyard Kipling. These are not limited to the more well known names such as Mowgli, Baloo and Bagheera as the stories include a wealth of other very suitable names for people aspiring to give role models to young people.

In Cub Scout Pack usage the names are essentially sexless, both male and female leaders happily using them. In a Scout District with 6 leaders named Kaa from 6 different packs, it is quite likely that 3 will be women and 3 men but all are quite at home using the name.

Role models

You are welcome to choose any name that embodies the ideals of the Scout Movement. For this reason Cub Leaders never use the names of Jungle book characters who are in some way unsuitable as role models. A short list of Jungle Book names both suitable and unsuitable for an adult is displayed on the next page.

Important

Whether you decide to choose a traditional Jungle Book name or a Maori name it may be a good idea to have the youngsters in your section assist you with the choice. It is, however, very important that the name you finally choose must be one that you are prepared to live with as it is not a good idea to keep changing names.

continued on the next page

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Jungle book names

Names derived from the Jungle Book stories that are considered suitable for Cub Leaders are listed below.

Akela	The Lone Grey Wolf, Leader of the Pack <i>by Tradition this name is reserved for the Warranted Cub Leader</i>
Bagheera	The Black Panther, trainer in physical activities and arbiter of physical proficiency.
Baloo	The Brown Bear, Trainer in the Law and arbiter of its application.
Chil	The Kite, trainer in Observation.
Dahinda	The Bull Frog.
Hathi	The Elephant.
Iagoo	The Story Teller
Jacala	The Crocodile, teacher of Acting.
Kaa	The Rock Python, teacher of Patience.
Keego	The Fish, teacher of Swimming.
Kim	Little Friend, a name usually reserved for a regular Pack Activity Leader.
Toomai	The Elephant Boy.
Mang	The Bat.
Mowgli	Little Frog. The little boy brought up by wolves, subject of many Jungle Book stories.
Nushka	"Look" : a guide.
Raksha	Mowgli's Wolf Mother.
Rama	Great Herd Bull : a leader.
Rikki Tiki Tavi	The Mongoose, protector of all youngsters.
Sahi	The Porcupine: Scribe and keeper of records.
Won - Tolla	The Solitary Wolf.

There are also some names which, due to their cowardice, cruelty, lack of discipline or just plain nastiness are not considered suitable for Cub Leaders. Here are just a few:

Buldeo	a hunter and teller of stories always about himself.
Grampus	the Killer Whale.
Nag	the big Black Cobra, kills for pleasure.
Shere Khan	the Tiger, a cowardly killer particularly fond of eating small boys.
Tabacqui	the Jackal, a sneak.

continued on the next page

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Leaders Names (Maori)

As an Adult Leader in the New Zealand in the late 1990's, you may feel that a Maori name would be more appropriate. If you make such a choice remember to keep it simple. Too long or complicated a name, no matter how suitable, will rapidly fall into disuse as not only the youth membership but also other leaders will forget it or, worse still, mispronounce it.

Names of native trees (Kauri, Matai) and birds (Tui, Huia) are easily remembered and quickly adopted by all, but other very suitable names can be constructed by combining words (Tatau rangi = door of heaven). A short list of Maori words suitable either separately or in combination are listed below.

Maori Words suitable, either alone or in combinations, as Leaders names together with a brief idea of their meanings.

ara	way, path	puti puti	flower
ako	learn	piriti	bridge
ahi	fire	ra	day
ata whai	be kind	rakau	wood, stick, tree
ahiahi	evening	raumata	summer
awa tea	daylight	rama	lamp
aroha	love	rangi	day, heaven, song, tune
ata	morning, shadow	reo	voice, sound, language
auahi	smoke	roto	lake, pond
Hau	wind	tahu	set on fire, light
hia hia	wish	taitama	youth
Huka	frost, cold, foam	takaro	cause, reason
ika	fish	taringa	ear
kaea	leader	tatau	door
kaha	strength	tika	straight, true
kapua	cloud	tiki	greenstone figure
kara	eye	timata	begin
koroua	old man	titiro	open their eyes, look
kotiro	girl	toa	warrior, leader
koa	merry	toka	rock
mana	prestige, fame	toro	explore
manu	bird	wai	water
marama	moon	waiata	song
maunga	mountain	wira	will
moana	sea	whakaako	teach
mo hio	know, understand	whakaarua	rouse, awake
motu	island	Direction	
nga here	forest	North	tokerau
ora	life, health	South	tonga
oranga	life, living	East	rawhiti
patia	question	West	hauauru, uru
pono	true	Colours	
pounamu	greenstone	Red	whero
pua	blossom	Yellow	kowhai
puaotanga	dawn	Blue	kahurangi
		Green	kakariki
		Black	mangu
		White	ma

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