

Cub Scout PACK



PARENT HANDBOOK

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Pack Mission

The committee and leaders of this Cub Scout Pack are committed to providing a quality, year-round program of Cub Scouting activities. Scouting aims to develop its youth into participating citizens of good character who are physically, spiritually, and mentally fit. We want to encourage each scout to incorporate the ideals of scouting into his everyday life and assist them in achieving the 10 Purposes of Cub Scouting.

The 10 Purposes of Cub Scouting

The Boy Scouts of America began Cub Scouting as a program for younger boys more than 75 years ago. The purposes of Cub Scouting state that Parents, Leaders and Organizations work together to achieve the following:

- Influence the development of character
- Encourage spiritual growth.
- Develop habits and attitudes of good citizenship
- Encourage good sportsmanship and pride in growing strong in mind and body
- Improve understanding within the family
- Strengthen the ability to get along with and to respect others
- Foster a sense of personal achievement by developing new interest and skills
- Show how to be helpful and to do one's best
- Provide fun and exciting new things to do
- Prepare Cubs to become Boy Scouts

Cub Scouts are required to memorize the Cub Scout Promise and Law of the Pack. We seek to make them real in their lives and hope that you will encourage your son as he strives to do so.

The Cub Scout Promise

I, (name), promise to do my best
to do my duty to God and my country
to help other people and to obey the
Law of the Pack

Law of the Pack

A Cub Scout follows Akela
The Cub Scout helps the Pack go
The Pack helps the Cub Scout grow
The Cub Scout gives goodwill

Pack Code of Conduct

The Pack Code of Conduct outlines the obligations of boys, parents and leaders with respect to one-another. Respect for this Code is essential for the successful operation of the Pack.

Cub Scouts and Tiger Cubs...

- Respect one another, keeping their hands and feet to themselves.
- Wear a proper uniform—clean, neat and complete—to all Scouting events.
- Demonstrate respect for all adults in authority. “The Cub Scout Follows Akela” Akela is a parent, teacher, religious leader, or Cub Scout leader -- someone who has shown the ability and willingness to be a good leader for Cub Scouts to follow. One must first learn to be a good follower in order to be a good leader.
- Pay attention, and in response to the "wolf ears" signal, silently return the sign.
- Show respect for their surroundings, indoors and out, leaving them in as good or better condition than they were found.

Parents...

- Assist their son's in learning the Pack Code of Conduct.
- Work with leaders as requested to assure all boys in their den follow the Code.
- Act as role models, following the policies of the BSA, supporting the program, demonstrating proper behaviors, language, volunteer to be the lead adult for rank assigned events, or actively assist the other adult leaders.
- Pay attention, and in response to the "wolf ears" signal, silently return the sign.

Adult Leaders...

- Treat all Cub Scouts as individuals, respecting their unique needs and capabilities.
- Know and adhere to all BSA policies and procedures.
- Always use 2-deep leadership.
- Make sure the objectives of Cub Scouting are the natural outcome of the activities.
- Protect the health and safety of all members and assure them of a program that will hold their interest.
- Act as role models, demonstrating proper behaviors, language, etc.
- Wear full uniforms to all Scouting events.
- Assume responsibility for the safety, well-being, and behavior of their charges at all times.

Cub Scouting is a Family Program

Families are the basis of our society. In the family, children learn about love, values, and social interactions. Family is vital to the future of our communities and our nation. The Boy Scouts of America has a great interest in the strength of the family and therefore Cub Scouting is a family program. It gives families an opportunity to spend quality time together participating in various activities and events. Family involvement is vital to Cub Scouting's success.

Who Runs the Pack?

Committee

The Pack Committee is a group of adult volunteers who plan the Pack program and monthly activities. They also manage such things as record keeping, finance, leadership recruitment, and registration for the Pack. The Pack Committee Chairperson, who is the administrative head of the Pack, runs this group. The Pack Committee meets monthly and meetings are open to any interested parent. Ask your den leader for dates and times. The committee currently consists of (but is not limited to):

- Committee chair – Head of Pack, position must be filled in order for Pack to exist
- Secretary – Records all meeting minutes, event information and prepares forms for re-chartering
- Treasurer – Pays Pack bills, reports on financial budgets, reimburses for Pack purchases
- Advancement/Awards Chair – Tracks and purchases all awards and rank advancements
- Pack Trainer – Updates Pack members of upcoming training courses available for all levels of scouting. Conducts a one day training class for new den leaders each fall.
- Religious Chair – Provides information and tracks progress on various religious emblems available to scouts

Cubmaster

The Cubmaster, who is sometimes referred to as the unit leader, is the person up front. Most parents think he runs the show all by himself, but he actually works under the guidance of the Pack Committee. The Cubmaster is responsible for:

- Conducting the Pack program, including leading the monthly Pack meeting, with the help of the other leaders.
- Guiding, supporting, motivating, and inspiring the other adult leaders. Making sure they receive training for their positions.
- Making sure all the dens are functioning well.
- Planning the den and Pack programs with the help of the other leaders.
- Coordinating the total Cub Scout program for the Pack.
- Helping recruit den leaders and coaches.
- Establishing and maintaining good relationships with local Boy Scout Troops.

Den Leaders

Den leaders are your main “go-to” in the Pack. If you have request, questions, or forms and fees to turn in, go to your den leader first. If, at any time, you feel your den leader is not fulfilling his/her duties, speak to the Cubmaster directly. The Cubmaster will work with the leader and committee to resolve any situation.

If your son is a Tiger Cub, leadership duties will be shared across all parents, though one lead parent will be designated the "Den Leader." This parent will keep the other parents of the den informed, making sure all parents are aware of the meeting schedule and share information and ideas regarding meetings.

NOTE: All new den leaders will need to attend the training class offered by the council in the fall. You will receive your leader essential handbooks and your "Trained" badge upon completion of the class.

The den leaders are generally responsible for:

- Organizing and running your son's den. Conducting two to four meetings per month and overseeing any den outings that may take place.
- Involving parents in the leadership of the den, including recruiting assistant or co-leaders. Seeing that parents attend relevant den meetings, sharing what talents they may have.
- Working directly with each boy to assure his needs are being met through scouting.
- Providing advice and consultation to boys and parents regarding rank advancement, badges and awards.
- Interfacing with the Pack Committee and Cubmaster to represent the interests of the den and the boys in it.
- Organizing the den to execute its responsibilities at the Pack meeting, and seeing that the boys exhibit appropriate conduct at Pack meetings.
- Collecting dues and maintaining the finances of the den.

You

You, the parent, have a role in running the Pack, your son's den, and in controlling the quality of your son's overall scouting experience. You do this by...

- Making sure he has the proper uniform and handbook for his current rank
- Reading through the current handbook in order to best assist you scout with his rank advancement requirements
- Volunteering as required to assist the major events assigned to your son's rank that year and to assist the Pack during the year. This is a necessary of all parents.
- Encouraging your son to participate in den and Pack meetings and events.
- Encouraging rank advancement and the earning of badges and awards. Many requirements can only be done at home or with an adult partner. Try to be available for him when he needs you.
- Supporting your den leader by helping with meetings and outings however you can.
- Return information forms and event fees in a timely manner.
- Doing your part in Pack fund-raising activities. This is a requirement of all parents.
- Speaking up and sharing your ideas and talents to improve the den and Pack.
- Helping the den leader maintain your den's proper scout behavior at Pack meetings.
- Assisting in the recruitment of new boys to the Pack. Being a positive advocate for scouting when given the opportunity at other community functions, school meetings, and talks with neighbors, etc.
- Becoming a leader or assistant leader yourself, or backing up the den leader in an emergency, or by offering to watch the den leader's children during den meetings.
- Becoming a committee member and help to assure the life of the Pack.
- Become a Cubmaster or Assistant Cubmaster

Where Does My Son Start?

Cub Scout rank is generally determined by the grade of the boy (except in cases where a boy is older than usual for his school grade). EXAMPLES: If he starts as a first grader, then he will start in a Tiger Den, working on his Tiger Rank. If he starts scouting as a 3rd grader, then he will start in a Bear Den working on his Bear Rank. He will only receive the badge for a rank, if he has completed all of the requirements of that rank. Otherwise, at the beginning of the next school year, he will simply move on to working on the next rank without receiving the badge for the previous rank. This will not be the case with Boy Scouts. In Boy Scouts, each rank is predicated by earning the previous rank. Regardless of when a boy joins Cub Scouts, he will first work toward earning his **Bobcat Badge**, which shows he knows the Cub Scout Promise as well as the Law of the Pack. The guidelines for where your son starts are as follows:

- **Tiger Cubs-** For first graders and an adult partner,
- **Cub Scouts-**
 - **Wolf Scouts** - Second graders
 - **Bear Scout** - Third graders
 - **Webelo's (Web I's)**- Fourth graders
 - **Webelo's (Web II's)** – Fifth graders
- **Boy Scouts** - Have completed the fifth grade & be at least 10 years old, or have earned the Arrow of Light badge & be at least 10 years old, or be 11 years old and under 18years old.

How Much Does This Cost?

Dues and Fundraising

The annual dues for membership in this Pack are approximately \$55. At the end of each year the Pack committee will review the annual expenses and adjust the cost accordingly. The annual dues are collected each September.

Every fall, the Pack participates in the major annual BSA fundraiser, sale of *Pecatonica River Popcorn*. Every spring, the Pack participates in a spring fundraiser. Every boy is encouraged to participate in both of our annual fundraisers, as they keep our registration fees to a minimum. The combination of dues and fundraising proceeds are used to pay for or reduce the cost of:

- Annual registration fee (goes to Boy Scouts of America National office)
- All awards for each boy (rank badges, arrow points, instant recognition, Academics and Sports belt loops and pins, Webelo's activity badges, etc)
- Rank neckerchief awarded to each boy as he 'crosses over' to new rank (Tiger/Wolf, Wolf/Bear, Bear/Webelo's)
- Food and refreshments at Pack outings and events (Fall Hike and campout, Lock-In, Blue & Gold, etc)
- Campsite rental for the annual Pack campout

As parents, you will need to pay for:

- Uniform and basic insignia (council strip, unit number, etc.)
- Book for current rank
- Pinewood Derby kit
- Space Derby kit
- Boys Life subscription for 1year (optional)
- Fees for district/council events or other special events (overnighters, etc)

Uniforms

Wearing the uniform signifies membership in the BSA and commitment to its aims. The Scouting movement is built on positive values. As we wear the uniform, we are openly identifying ourselves with those values. We stand together, not alone, in encouraging others to live by those same values. It is the scout's responsibility to take care of and prepare his uniform. Wear it and take care of it proudly. Costs approximately \$60.00

Tiger Cub, Wolf, Bear, & one of two options for Webelo I

- Navy blue chino style pants or Official Navy Cub Scout Pants
- Official navy blue Cub Scout Shirt with proper insignia (see rank book and/or scout store personnel)
- Rank specific neckerchief and neckerchief slide
- Rank specific Cub Scout Cap
- Official Cub Scout navy blue web belt
- Webelo I only – Webelo's Colors

Webelo II and 2nd option for Webelo I

- Official Boy Scout olive pants
- Official Boy Scout tan shirt with proper insignia (see rank book and/or scout store personnel)
- Webelo's neckerchief (provided by Pack) and neckerchief slide
- Webelo's Cap
- Olive web belt (belt loops cannot be worn on this belt)
- Webelo's Colors

Pack 123 provides the rank neckerchief to all scouts registered with our Pack. In order to keep the expenses down, we ask that you "recycle" the neckerchief at the end of the Pack year. By creating a savings, we are able to use the funds that would be spent on new neckerchiefs toward other activities or events for our scouts.

What if I Don't Have Enough?

This Pack does help out those who may need some help with the cost of Scouting:

Assistance Fund. The Pack has set aside money each year to assist families in Scouting. This money may be used to pay for registration fees or fees associated with summer camp. Requests should be made directly to the Cubmaster or Committee Chair, and will be kept strictly confidential. We only ask you give your best effort during fundraising opportunities as they are what make the assistance fund available.

What Happens in the Den?

Cub Scout and Webelo's Dens

The den is where Scouting really happens. Your den leader will have specific ideas and plans, but will also ask for your input in planning the den program. Each den is different, here are some generalities:

- The BSA suggests from four to eight boys comprise a den.
- Three-quarters of "scouting" is "outing." Your den will go places and do things
- Dens meet from two to four times a month. One of these meetings might be an outing. Tigers often complete outings on weekends.
- Den meetings start in September, and end in late May. Dens choose their own meeting day.
- Most dens meet in parents' homes, schools or churches. .
- Den meetings generally last from one to two hours, outings last longer.
- Boys at this age are very proud of their parents, and want to show them off. Try to help at den meetings if and when you can.
- Many dens rotate among families the responsibility of bringing a snack each meeting.
- Most dens struggle with discipline. Boys of this age are particularly hard to control. Please support your den leader in this regard.

Tiger Cub Dens

Tiger Cub Dens have a minimum of one Den meeting per month. These meetings are based upon the five achievement areas outlined in the Tiger Cub Handbook. The concept of shared leadership is applied. Each boy-parent partner team assumes the responsibility of hosting one or more den meetings. The newly formed den assigns responsibilities for these meeting to each team at the Rally Night.

The host team plans the meeting program, location, date, and time. If needed, assistance for the host team in planning and conducting the program meeting can be obtained from The Tiger Cub Resource Book and/or Tiger Cub Den Leaders.

Den Responsibilities within the Pack

Throughout the scouting year, each rank will be assigned a Pack meeting to host. Your rank will be responsible for set-up and clean-up, opening and closing ceremonies, conducting a gathering game, planning and running the activity stations for the boys to participate in. Activity Station examples:

- Do activities that meet belt loop or rank requirements
- An activity where the scouts take something home
- Physical activity
- Preparing for a campout
- Proper Uniforms
- Learning / skill development activity – like knot tying
- An experiment
- A snack
- A skit
- A song
- A game
- A magic trick
- Popcorn / Fundraising training
- One station where the Webelos teach a skill to the younger scouts

What About Awards?

Belt loops, pins, activity badges, etc.

You are responsible to track you son's progress. As he completes requirements for various sports and academics, you will need to update his record on Scouttrack.com to receive the belt loop or pin. The Pack will provide one belt loop or pin in each qualifying sport or academic for each scout. If the belt loops or pins are lost, or if the scout has earned the same belt loop or pin more than once in the same scout year, it is the parents' responsibility to purchase or replace the additional belt loops or pins.

How Does My Boy Advance?

The den leader is not responsible for advancement, you and your son are. All of the information necessary is included in the Tiger, Wolf, Bear and Webelo's books which should be purchased at the beginning of each scout year. Many of the activities necessary for advancement will be done in the den setting, but not all of them.

Your den leader may provide you with suggestions as to what achievements need to be done at home in order for your son to advance in coordination with Pack targets. Your den leader will also tell you what will be accomplished related to rank advancement and other awards in the den meetings.

Rank Advancement Ceremonies

Rank advancement ceremonies are held to show recognition from the Pack to the scouts success and hard work. Ceremonies will be held twice per year with exception to the tiger rank ceremony which will be presented each April. This is done in order to plan activities and games for Pack meetings on a monthly basis as well as set target dates for each rank. Boys will still receive the rank badge and parent pin as they fulfill the rank requirements. Advancement ceremonies will take place first during our February Blue & Gold event for any scout making rank prior to February. Our second ceremony will be held during our May crossover ceremony.

Other Awards

There are a vast number of other awards available, some specific to certain ranks. These include awards for academic, religious and sporting accomplishments. Many of these can be done at home, but some must be accomplished in the den setting. Not all of these will be presented personally at the Pack meeting. Consult with your den leader, awards chair or look under awards and advancement on the Simon Kenton BSA website (www.skcscouts.org) for more information.

Scouttrack.com

This Pack uses an internet tracking program for all scout ranks. Once you have joined the Pack, one of the Committee leaders will send you an invitation via email to join Scouttrack.com. Once you have created a username and password you will be able to track your own scout's progress, check for forms, current newsletters, up to date event information on the calendar, as well as contact various Pack leaders and parents with ease. Scouttrack.com is a vital tool in the progression of your scout. All awards requests must be made through the web site in order to receive awards and advancements. If you do not have internet access, please contact either your leader or the Advancement/Awards Chair to make alternate arrangements. (www.Scouttrack.com)

Major Event/Project Assignments

Every year the Pack leadership meets to plan the program for the next year. They develop the activities and calendar of events, then make the rank and den assignments for those events. Our major calendar planning is done in late spring or early summer. You are welcome to attend our annual planning session. We generally try to have one Pack event each month (plus the Pack Meeting). We realize that every family has different needs and we attempt to plan a program that meets as many needs as possible. It is not expected that each scout attend every event throughout the year. It is expected that every parent in a den will assist with the running of the major event or project assigned to their rank or den. Also, one or more of the adults in the rank, other than the Den Leaders, must assume primary responsibility for heading up or coordinating the major event or project assigned.

Detailed planning guides and resources have been distributed to each Den Leader and Committee Member. You may request a copy from your Den Leader.

Pack Meetings

Monthly Pack meetings are held the last Tuesday of each month (from September until May) at 7:00 P.M. These meetings give the boys a chance to learn new skills and demonstrate the skills they have learned, as well as receive the awards they've earned. The entire family is welcome and encouraged to attend.

Popcorn Sale

This is the annual BSA Fundraiser in which all scout units participate to support the scouting program at the council level and at the national level. All families are expected to participate in this effort to support our state and national framework, programming, and camps.

Fall Family Campout

Each fall the Pack rents a campsite for a Pack Campout. The Pack provides the food and programming for the boys. This is a great chance for the boys and families to get a taste of camping; enjoying camp fire stories, skits, songs and s'mores, and generally begin building the family and scout relationships that bond and develop a Pack and motivate the Scouts. This is one of the highlights of the year and all cubs are strongly encouraged to attend.

St. Aloysius Family Night and Ice Cream Social

This is one of the service programs that we participate in each year. It is a way that we provide the opportunity for the scouts and their families to enjoy the benefits of doing for others and being altruistic.

Lock-In

This is an event held at the St. Aloysius Gym and we do an overnight lock-in there. We have theme based games and events for fun all evening. We have pizza and the scouts who sold the right amount of popcorn get to throw a whipped cream pie into a leader of their choice's face. We watch movies until late into the evening, then have donuts and juice before we leave in the morning.

Christmas Breakfast

In place of the December Pack meeting, we have a pot-luck style Christmas breakfast. This is a fun family event where the kids can create crafts, play games, and enjoy a visit from our extra special guest, Santa! As a Pack, we also participate in a community service project. Over the years we have raised supplies for victims of natural disasters, collected food for the local Reynoldsburg food pantry, and donated new toys to the Firefighter's annual toy drive.

Webelos Weekend

This is an overnight campout experience planned for the Webelos and their parents only. This is a fun weekend with different programming each year as planned by both the Webelo I's and Webelo II's. The Webelo rank is the only Cub Scout rank that is allowed, by BSA policy, to camp as dens. All other ranks can only camp during Pack campouts.

Blue & Gold Banquet

This Pack and Cub Scout Packs all over the USA celebrate Scoutings birthday each February by hosting a Blue & Gold Banquet. Our banquet is held as a brunch on a Saturday morning in February. The Knight's of Columbus join us for the event and act as our judges for the annual All-Male Cake Bake. That's right, no Mom's allowed. Each Scout and his family is encouraged to attend this event to show support for our Webelo II's who cross over to Boy Scouts during the event.

Mulch Sale

The mulch sale occurs each year in February and March and is one of the largest fundraisers for the Pack. Scouts usually receive the sale Packets and begin selling at Blue & Gold in mid-February. Scouts continue to sell mulch through March. Customer delivery and pick-up occurs in late March. Typically 2,500 bags are sold each year.

Pinewood Derby

Every March the Pack comes together on a Saturday morning for our annual Pinewood Derby. The Knight's of Columbus judge the races for the Pack as well as the appearance of the cars in each rank. The boys then cheer each other on during the racing. The emphasis is on fun, and each car is raced at least two times with our double-elimination races. Each rank will receive awards for the top three cars for both appearance and speed. A grand prize trophy is also awarded for both the top speed and best appearance for the Pack.

Summer Camp

The Pack strongly encourages the boys to attend Cub Scout Day Camp that is put on each year in June at Camp Falling Rock. This is a 4-day day camp designed to help scouts of each rank meet requirements for the coming scout year. It is also a great opportunity for the boys to fulfill activities (Archery & BB shooting) which require a trained scout leader be present. Our Pack will join other scouts from across Ohio to swim,

fish, go creaking, build projects and participate in many more exciting events while meeting new friends. Webelo scouts and their families are invited to camp overnight Boy Scout style on the last night each year. It is a wonderful experience for the boys and their parent(s).

Space Derby and Summer Potluck Family Picnic

Usually in July, we have our Space Derby. This is a race similar to the Pinewood Derby, but is intended to be more fun than competition, though there is some of that. We also have a potluck family picnic as part of the event which rounds out a very fun scouting afternoon.

NOTE: All events, unless advised otherwise, are CLASS A (full formal) uniform events.