CUB SCOUT

PARENT INFORMATION GUIDE

Welcome to the Adventure of Cub Scouting

Where Character Counts and the Adventure Begins!

For Boys in Grades 1–5

BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA®

Why Join Cub Scouting?

- Your time is valuable. More than ever, today's families struggle to find time to spend together. Cub Scouting helps to support your family by providing ready-made opportunities for you and your son to do things together.
- Your son needs to belong to a group of boys his own age. Through this sense of belonging, he builds his self-esteem and learns to get along with others. As a parent, you want to be assured that the groups that your boy joins will teach values consistent with good citizenship, character development, and physical fitness. The Boy Scouts of America has been weaving these lifetime values into fun and educational activities since 1910.
- In a society where your son is taught that winning is everything, Cub Scouting teaches him to "do his best" and to be helpful to others.
- Scouting teaches family values and works to strengthen your relationship with your son. Scouting activities can bring added value to the time you already have with your son.

But we know that boys do not join Cub Scouting just to get their character built. Boys join because it is fun.

Scouting is fun with a purpose!

ScoutParents

ScoutParents assist with short-term projects in the den or pack. This might be coordinating pack money-earning projects, service projects, conservation projects, field trips or outings, blue and gold banquet, day camp, pinewood derby, pack overnight camping, or field day events.

What Is a ScoutParent?

A ScoutParent is a parent or adult mentor of a Scout who enthusiastically participates with their Scout and also helps other volunteers to provide the best quality program experience to all youth in every unit.

A ScoutParent

- Leads their family in obtaining the values, benefits, and rewards from their family's Scouting participation, and in sharing these with others.
- Enjoys participating with his or her Scout, and inspires their child to persevere in Scouting with their tenure, activity participation and achievement.
- Helps enhance youth and parent-mentor recruitment, retention, enthusiasm, commitment, and participation in the passionate GREAT family FUN of Scouting!

How Does Cub Scouting Work?

One unique thing about Cub Scouting is that you, as his family, join in on the program with your son, and you will help him along the way. The family is the basis of Cub Scouting. It exists to support your family and help enrich your family time together. Boys have a different handbook at each grade level, with suggested activities that are age-appropriate for their developmental level. As your boy advances through these books by working on activities with you, he will earn badges and other recognition that he can wear on his uniform. Your son's success in Cub Scouting depends on you!

The Cub Scouting program takes place at two levels. Your son will be a part of a *den*; a small group of boys in the same grade level who meet weekly. All dens, from grades 1 through 5, make up a *pack.* Once a month, the dens, with their families, are together at the pack meeting, where boys show off the new skills they have learned during the month and are recognized for the badges they have earned. All boys, when they join, earn the Bobcat badge first. Your den leader will show you how.

Dens

The Tiger Cub Den (Grade 1)

Parents are most involved at the Tiger Cub level. The boy and his parent or guardian join the den together and attend all meetings and activities together.

The den is made up of three to eight of these parent-son teams. Each den also has a Tiger Cub den leader (usually one of the parents) who helps coordinate the meetings. The parent-son teams take turns running the activities and planning meetings with the Tiger Cub den leader. The den has two meetings a month, either at the homes of host parent-son teams or at a designated facility, participates in one "Go See It" activity (the den, as a group, visits a community place of interest), and attends the monthly pack meeting.

The Wolf Cub Scout (Grade 2) and Bear Cub Scout (Grade 3) Dens

Parents are vital to the Cub Scout dens, both in the role of home support and to help the den leader, but their sons are beginning to be more independent, and not every boy needs a parent at every meeting. The den consists of four to eight boys, a den leader and assistant den leader (usually parents of some of the boys), and often a den chief (an older Boy Scout or Venturer who helps the den leader).

They meet once a week at a regularly scheduled time and place, and they also attend the pack meeting with their families.

The Webelos Scout Den (Grades 4 and 5)

The Webelos den is much like the Cub Scout dens, but there is more emphasis on the boys learning to take leadership roles and preparing to become Boy Scouts.

Pack Meetings

The Cub Scout pack is made up of all the dens, which meet monthly at the pack meeting, led by the Cubmaster. This is the climax of the monthly den meetings and activities. There are games, skits, songs, ceremonies, and presentations of badges that boys earned during that month. This is where families—not just parents, but siblings, too—can see the achievements of their Cub Scout.

The pack, including families, also participates in other special events throughout the year, including:

Pinewood derby®—You can build and race a model car with your son.

Blue and gold banquet—Cub Scouting's birthday party—for all pack members and their families—in February.

Camping—Overnight and day camp opportunities introduce your family to the camping experience.

Service projects—Packs may participate in food drives, conservation projects, or other community activities.

Field trips and special outings—Great ways to learn more about the people and places in your community.

Make memories with your son that will last a lifetime!

How Can You Help?

The most important help that you, as a parent, can give your boy is to work with him on his Cub Scouting activities. His handbook is full of age-appropriate activities that you will enjoy doing together at home. When he completes an activity or project, it is your responsibility to sign his book to verify that he has done his best. And then it is all-important for you to attend the monthly pack meeting with him, so that you can celebrate his achievement. **Your role as a parent is the secret of success of the Cub Scouting program!**

The den and the pack also rely on parent participation to run a successful program. Cub Scouting operates through volunteer leadership. Consider volunteering as a member of the pack leadership team or as a parent helper. Volunteer leaders are an example of Scouting's principle of service to others. By volunteering in Scouting, you are also giving your son the gift of your time. What could be more valuable? You will have an opportunity to be a positive influence in the lives of him and his friends. Here are some of the ways you could volunteer:

Den leader. Leads the den at weekly den and monthly pack meetings. Attends the monthly pack committee meeting.

Cubmaster. Helps plan and carry out the pack program with the help of the pack committee. Emcees the monthly pack meeting and attends the pack committee meeting.

The Pack Committee

Pack committee members (positions listed below) perform administrative functions of the pack. The committee meets monthly.

Committee chairman. Presides at all pack committee meetings. Helps recruit adult leaders and attends the monthly pack meeting and pack committee meeting.

Advancement chairman. Maintains advancement records for the pack. Orders and obtains all badges and insignia. Attends the monthly pack meeting and pack committee meeting.

Secretary/treasurer. Keeps all records for the pack, including pack bank account, financial records, etc. Attends the monthly pack meeting and pack committee meeting.

Pack trainer. Coordinates Fast Start training for adults. Promotes leader training and roundtable meeting attendance. Attends the monthly pack meeting and pack committee meeting.

Training

The Boy Scouts of America offers convenient training for everyone—parents, leaders, and youth members. As a new parent, you can learn all about Cub Scouting and the wonderful year-round adventure he is about to experience. Log onto *www.scouting.org*, click the "Parent" tab, then "Training," and you will discover all of the courses available. Create a "My Scouting" account and get started.

Youth Protection

Child abuse is a serious problem in our society, and unfortunately, it can occur anywhere, even in Scouting. Youth safety is of paramount importance to Scouting. For that reason, the BSA continues to create barriers to abuse beyond what have previously existed in Scouting.

The Boy Scouts of America places the greatest importance on providing the most secure environment possible for its youth members. To maintain such an environment, the BSA has developed numerous procedural and leadership selection policies, and provides parents and leaders with numerous online and print resources for the Cub Scout, Boy Scout, and Venturing programs.

Youth Protection training is required for all BSA registered volunteers.

New leaders are required to take Youth Protection training before submitting an application for registration. The certificate of completion for this training must be submitted at the time the application is made and before volunteer service with youth begins.

Youth Protection training must be taken every two years. If a volunteer's Youth Protection training record is not current at the time of recharter, the volunteer will not be registered.

We encourage all parents to take the BSA's Youth Protection training.

To find out more about the Youth Protection policies of the Boy Scouts of America and how to help Scouting keep your family safe, see the *Parent's Guide* in any of the Cub Scouting or Boy Scouting handbooks, or go to *http://www.scouting.org/Training/YouthProtection.aspx.*

How Much Does Scouting Cost?

Registration fee—annual fee for youth and leaders
(The leader's fee includes a subscription to *Scouting* magazine.): **$15**

***Boys' Life* magazine—**optional, but strongly recommended: **$12**

Pack dues—The amount varies by pack, depending on money-earning projects conducted by the pack to decrease the amount needed to run the pack program.

Uniform—The uniform and its cost vary by program for both youth and adult. See *www.scoutstuff.org* for details and current prices. Uniforms may also be purchased at your local Scout shop.

Books—Youth handbooks are the *Tiger Cub Handbook, Wolf Handbook, Bear Handbook,* and *Webelos Handbook.* Adult leaders use the *Cub Scout Leader Book, Cub Scout Leader How-to Book, Cub Scout Den and Pack Meeting Resource Guide,* and *Webelos Leader Guide.* See *www.scoutstuff.org* or your local Scout shop for prices and a wealth of other reasonably priced resources.

Spending Time With Your Child: The Secret of Success!

Come join the fun of Cub Scouting as a family … it's fun! You'll make new friends, too, as you work with the parents of your son's new friends. No task is too difficult when you're having fun as part of a team of Cub Scout parents, reinforcing each other's efforts to help your boys grow up to be good citizens.

You Are Not Alone!

Your **den** is in a **pack** that belongs to an organization chartered by the Boy Scouts of America (BSA) to operate a Scouting unit (a **chartered organization**). The chartered organization approves leadership, helps secure a meeting place, and makes sure that the pack works within the guidelines and policies of their organization as well as those of the BSA.

Your pack is a member of a **district,** a geographic area of the BSA local council that helps support the pack in providing a successful and high-quality program. An employee of the local council, a **unit-serving executive** (district executive), is assigned to assist the packs in your district.

Your district also has a volunteer team called the **commissioner staff.** They are a "service team" that checks on the program "health" of your pack, and they are a communication link between your pack and the local council. A **commissioner** is assigned specifically to assist your unit.

All leaders need training to be effective. Your district provides online or CD-ROM-based training for adult volunteers in how to be a successful leader. Call your **district training chairman** for further training information. Your pack also has a **pack trainer** to oversee adult and youth training.

Your district is one of several in the BSA **local council.** The professional staff at your council service center can help or will get you in touch with someone who can.

My son is in Pack _____, which meets at _____ (location) at _____ (time) on _____ (day and week of month).

He is in Den _____, which meets at _____ (location) at _____ (time) on _____ (day of week).

Our pack's chartered organization is _____.

Our pack is in district _____.

Our local council name is _____.

Phone No. _____ Web site_____

Our Leaders	**Name**	**Phone No.**	**E-mail**
Den leader			
Cubmaster			
Unit-serving executive			
Pack commissioner			
District training chairman			
Pack trainer			

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