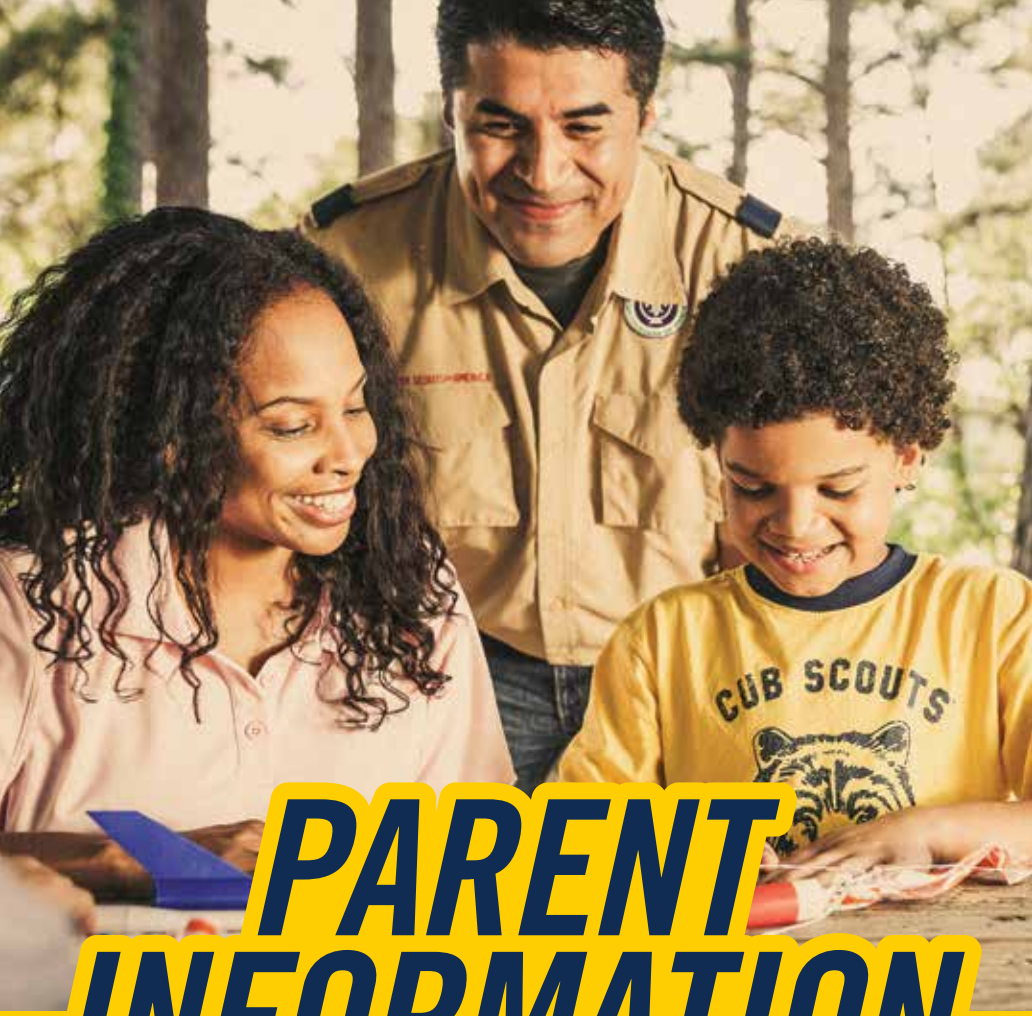

PARENT INFORMATION GUIDE

WELCOME TO THE ADVENTURE OF CUB SCOUTING

BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA®

Why Join Cub Scouting?

- Your time is valuable. More than ever, today's families strive to find quality 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.
- Cub Scout-age boys benefit developmentally from belonging to a group of boys their own age. Through this sense of belonging, boys build self-esteem and learn 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.
- He will learn to live by the code of "On my honor."

But we know that boys do not join Cub Scouting just to get their character built. Boys join because it is fun. And fun is at the heart of everything Cub Scouts do—from exploring natural habitats to building model cars and robots to trying sports like archery or telling stories around a campfire. Boys in Cub Scouting might be learning great lessons, but they're far too busy having fun to notice.

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. Cub Scouting exists to support your family and help enrich your family time together. Boys have a different handbook at each grade level, with adventures that are age-appropriate for their developmental level. As your boy advances through these books by working on adventures 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 usually 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 Den (Grade 1)

Parents are most involved at the Tiger 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 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 den leader. The den usually meets weekly either at the homes of host parent-son teams or at a designated facility; participates in adventures, some of which involve outings; and attends the monthly pack meeting.

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

Parents are vital to the Cub Scout dens, both in the role of home support and to help the den leader. Boys at this 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 usually 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 Wolf and Bear 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 weekly 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— takes place 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—Den outings are a great way 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 adventures and help him achieve his badge of rank. His handbook is full of age-appropriate activities that you will enjoy doing together at home. When he completes a project, it is your responsibility to sign his book to verify that he has done his best. This will help the den leader know that he or she can sign off on that part of your son's rank requirements and arrange for recognition for his efforts. And then it is all-important for you to attend the monthly pack meeting with him, so you can celebrate his achievement. **Your role as a parent is the secret to a successful 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. 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 his life and in the lives of 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

Every Cub Scout parent or guardian is invited to become a member of the pack committee. Pack committee members perform administrative functions of the pack. The committee meets monthly and includes the responsibilities below.

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.

Membership chairman. Manages the transition of new Scouts into the pack and coordinates orientation for new Scouting families. Responsible for the marketing and recruiting initiatives of the pack, as well as the growth and retention of the unit.

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 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 parents who volunteer to serve as leaders. As a new parent, you can learn all about Cub Scouting and how quality Scouting programs are built at the pack level. Log on to My.Scouting.org and create an account to gain access to all available training content. For more information about training at all levels of the program, go to www.scouting.org/training.

We encourage all parents to take the BSA's Youth Protection training, which is required for all adult leaders.

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 www.scouting.org/Training/YouthProtection.aspx. Completion of the "Exercises in Personal Safety Awareness" in the Parent Guide with your son is a requirement for rank advancement.

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. Parents are strongly encouraged to take Youth Protection training to become familiar with policies, procedures, and guidelines.

New leaders are required to complete Youth Protection training within 30 days of registering. To take the training online, go to My.Scouting.org and establish an account using the member number you receive when you register for BSA membership. If you take the training online before you obtain a member number, be sure to return to MyScouting and enter your number for training record credit. Your BSA local council also provides training on a regular basis if you cannot take it online. For more information, refer to the back of the BSA adult membership application, No. 524-501.

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. For more information about Youth Protection, please see BSA's Youth Protection website at www.scouting.org/youthprotection.aspx.

Volunteer Incident Report Form: www.scouting.org/filestore/pdf/680-676_WEB.pdf

How Much Does Scouting Cost?

Registration fee—annual fee for youth and leaders
(The leader's fee includes a subscription to *Scouting* magazine.): **$24**

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

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

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. Uniforms may also be purchased at your local Scout shop. See www.scoutstuff.org for details and current prices.

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.

Many volunteers and BSA professionals are interested in the success of your pack. A special volunteer assigned to help your pack is called a **commissioner**. The commissioner helps the pack provide a successful and high-quality program. The commissioner is also the communication link between your pack and the local council.

All leaders need training to be effective. The BSA provides both online and instructor-led training for adult volunteers in how to be a successful leader.

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. Local Council Locator: www.scouting.org/LocalCouncilLocator.aspx

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 local council name is _____.

Phone No. _____ Website _____

Our Leaders	**Name**	**Phone No.**	**Email**
Den leader			
Committee Chair			
Cubmaster			

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