



Parent's Guide to Cub Scouting

Welcome to the Adventures of Cub Scouting

Today you and your son begin an adventure of learning, sharing and having fun together. This guide will help you make the most of your scouting experience.

Scouting is fun with a purpose. It is a home and neighborhood-centered program for boys in grade one through five. It teaches values and skills in an environment of fun and adventure.

How Cub Scouting is Organized:

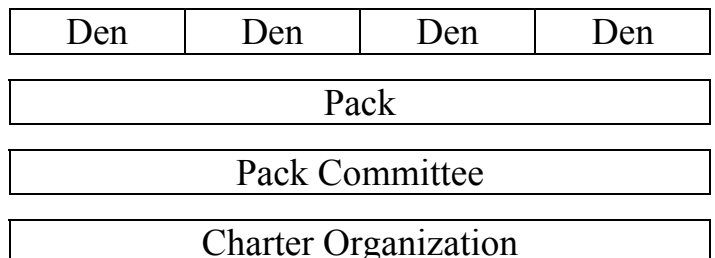
Wolves travel in packs. Geese gather in gaggles. But what do you call a bunch of Cub Scouts? Here's a brief overview of the organization you're joining.

The Den: Your son is a member of a den. A den typically consists of four to eight boys in the same grade. The den usually meets once a week and is led by a parent (adult) called a den leader and one or more assistants (also parents). Den meetings consist of games, crafts, stunts, ceremonies, and lots of fun.

The Pack: A pack is made up of several dens. The pack meets once a month under the leadership of the Cubmaster. These pack meetings, which all Cub Scouts families attend, let the boys show off the skills they've learned in their den meetings. At the pack meeting, Scouts receive the badges and awards they've earned.

The Pack Committee: The pack Committee is the "board of directors" of the pack. This group of parents plans pack meetings and other activities, manages the pack's money, order badges and supplies and takes care of other behind the scenes tasks.

The Charter Organization: Your pack is "owned and operated" by a local community organization, such as a church, school, or civic organization. The chartered organization provides meeting space, approves adult volunteer leaders, and makes sure the pack follows the guidelines of the Boy Scouts of America.



Tigers and Wolves and Bears ... Oh My!!

In Cub Scouting, your son is an animal - a Tiger, Wolf, Bear, or that strange creature called a WeBeLoS Scout. Which animal depends on what grade he's in.



Tiger Cubs: Tiger Cubs are first graders, or age seven. They work directly with an adult partner (usually a parent) as they explore such "Big Ideas" as "Know Your Community", "Fitness and Sports", and "Family Entertainment". As they progress, Tiger Cubs earn Tiger-Totem Beads and the Tiger badge.



Bobcat: When boys in grades two through five join Cub Scouting, they first earn the Bobcat badge, which teaches them the basics of the program. After receiving the Bobcat badge, boys move on to the Wolf, Bear or WebeLos program depending on their age.



Wolves: Boys in the second grade, or age eight, are called Wolf Cub Scouts. To earn their Wolf badge, these boys complete 12 achievements, like "Feats of Skill", "Family fun", and "Your Flag". Wolf Cub Scouts can also earn arrow points for completing extra projects.



Bears: Third-graders, or boys of age nine, are Bear Cub Scouts. Their program is similar to the Wolf program, although the activities are more advanced.

WebeLos Scouts: Fourth and Fifth graders, or boys age ten, are called WeBeLoS Scouts. Boys usually work on the WeBeLoS badge in fourth grade and the Arrow of Light (Cub Scouting's highest award) in the fifth grade. The WeBeLoS program helps prepare boys to become Boy Scouts at the end of the fifth grade.

"WeBeLoS" means "We'll Be Loyal Scouts"



In addition to all the badges described above, boys can earn other awards, including belt loops and pins in 40 areas of sports and academics.



Special Activities and Outings

Everything in Cub Scouting is designed to be fun, but the real highlights of the program are activities like Family Campouts and the Pinewood Derby. Here are some highlights.

Pinewood Derby: You and your son work together to build a miniature gravity-powered race car.

Blue and Gold Banquet: This banquet is a special birthday party for Scouting. It also is the time that we celebrate to graduation of the Pack's WeBeLoS II's to Boy Scouting. It may be a seated dinner or a potluck.

Family Campout: Usually held twice a year, these camping trips let your whole family enjoy a weekend of Scouting activities.

TLC Pantry: Each month, Scouts are asked to bring a canned food item to the Pack Meeting for the church to disperse.

Service Projects: Packs participate in keeping the environment beautiful throughout the year. The projects remind our Cub Scouts the importance of keeping the environment safe for others.

Resident Camp: Camp Wiley is a Disney World version of summer camp for your son and you. Lots of fun, and lots of advancements and awards for your Scout to earn!

Help Wanted: Apply Within

Cub Scouting is a family oriented program. With few exceptions, all the volunteer leaders in your pack have a vested interest in the community.

So, what role should you take? That depends on your time, abilities and interests. There's a job for everyone in Cub Scouting.

First of all, you have some specific jobs as a parent. If your son is a Tiger Cub, you will probably be his adult partner and work with him on all his activities. If your son is a Wolf or a Bear Cub Scout, you will work with him on advancement requirements and sign off on his advancements.

But you should plan to do more. Below is a partial list of other jobs you might want to take on. (By the way, either men or women can fill all these positions).

Den Leader: Leads the weekly den meeting. Coordinates the den's participation in monthly pack meetings, attends monthly pack leaders' meeting and Roundtable meetings.

Assistant Den Leader: Assists Den Leader and fills in as necessary.

Cubmaster: Helps plan and carry out the pack program. Emcees the monthly pack meeting. Attends monthly pack leaders' meetings and Roundtable meetings.

Assistant Cubmaster: Assists Cubmaster and fills in as necessary. Takes responsibilities for specific area of program.

Committee Chair: Chairs monthly committee meeting, ensures enough parents are recruited to do behind-the-scenes work.

Pack Committee: Meets monthly. Positions include secretary, treasurer, advancement chair, historian, activities coordinator, and outing coordinator.

Other Jobs: Throughout the year, parents will be needed to chair one-time events like the Blue and Gold Banquet, Pinewood Derby set-up, Turkey Shoot, or a money-earning project. Parents are also expected to help out at the Den Meetings. Some Dens take turns having each parent lead a section of the Cub Scout Book for a particular Den Meeting.

The Dollars and Cents of Cub Scouting

Compared to other youth programs, Cub Scouting is a bargain. But it's not free. It takes a lot of money to run your son's den and pack.

Expenses include awards and recognition's, outings, program materials, equipment, and leader training.

Dues: Most dens charge weekly dues to cover the cost of program materials and supplies. Paying dues teaches boys responsibility and the importance of paying their own way.

Money earning projects: The main source of money for your pack is money-earning projects. Some of these projects are Trail's End Popcorn sales, a cake bake and auction, and more.

Activity Fees: Programs like camp outs are designed to be self-supporting, so boys are charged an activity fee. Financial-aid may be available for some activities.