



**NEW BIRTH OF FREEDOM** COUNCIL  
BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA



# CUB SCOUT PARENT'S ORIENTATION GUIDE

## WELCOME TO THE ADVENTURE OF CUB SCOUTING!!

Welcome to Cub Scouting—the best program for your child (in Kindergarten through 5<sup>th</sup> grade) and your family!

As a parent, you want your son or daughter to grow up to be a self-reliant, dependable, and caring individual and by joining a local Scouting program you can help him or her make that goal a reality. Since 1910 we have been weaving lifetime values into fun and educational activities designed to assist parents in strengthening character, good citizenship, and physical fitness in youth.

Scouting programs in the New Birth of Freedom Council strengthen **family relationships**, provide caring **mentors**, inspire **civic pride** and **compassion** through **service** to others, and increase **self-confidence** through achievement and recognition.

Scouting teaches family values . . . We know that youth do not join Scouting just to get their character built. Youth join because it is **FUN!**

## Scouting is **FUN** with a Purpose!

# How Does Cub Scouting Work?

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

The Cub Scouting program takes place at two levels. Your child will be a part of a *den*; a small group of boys or girls in the same grade level who meet weekly. All dens, from grades Kindergarten through 5, make up a *pack*. Once a month, the dens with their families come together at the pack meeting. At the pack meeting, Scouts show off the new skills they have learned during the month and are recognized with the badges they have earned.

## The Lion Den (Kindergarten)

Lion Scouts are a new program in the Boy Scouts of America. Though Lions are registered with the Pack, this program is designed to give Scouts a 'taste' of what it is like to be a full fledged Cub Scout. Lions have their own advancement program. Similar to the Tiger program below, parents are required to register with their Scout and be present at all meetings.

## Bobcat (The Joining Badge)

All youth, when they join, earn the Bobcat badge first. Since the Lion Program is considered as an entry point to give Scouts a sampling of the program, Lion Scouts will earn their Bobcat Badge between their Lion and Tiger year. Your den leader will show you how.



## The Tiger Den (Grade 1)



Parents are most involved at the Tiger level.

The Scout and his or her parent or guardian join the den and attend all meetings and activities together.

The den is usually made up of three to eight of these parent-child teams.

Each den has a Tiger den leader (usually one of the parents) who helps coordinate the meetings.

The den has two to three meetings a month. The Tiger Badge has 6 Core Requirements. Some of the requirements for the Tiger Badge include: **Backyard Jungle** where a Scout and his or her family learn about the amazing environment in their own backyard; **Tiger Games** where a Scout and his or her family and den play and practice games or sports and learn about healthy choices; and **Tigers in the Wild** where the Scout and his or her family get to have an experience in the outdoors. There are also 14 Tiger Electives that the Scout and his or her family can work on.

## **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 children are beginning to be more independent, and not every youth needs a parent at every meeting.

The den consists of four to eight youth, a den leader and assistant den leader (usually parents of some of the Scouts), and often a den chief (an older Scouts BSA 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 (Grade 4 and 5)**



The Webelos den is much like the Cub Scout dens, but there is more emphasis on the Scouts learning to take leadership roles and preparing to become full fledge Scouts. The youth will work on their Webelos badge in the first year.

In the second year of Webelos, a Scout works to earn the Arrow of Light. The Arrow of Light is the highest award a Scout may earn in Cub Scouting.

We aim to graduate every Cub Scout into Scouts, BSA. Generally, your son or daughter will be prepared to join a Scout troop in February or March of his fifth-grade year.

## **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 Scouts have earned during that month. This is where families—not just parents, but siblings, too—can see the achievements of their Cub Scout.

## **The Advancement Plan**

The responsibility of a Scout's advancement in Cub Scouting lies with the family and not with the pack. Some advancement requirements are done at den meetings, but most are done at home with the family.

The Cub Scout Advancement program is an excellent way for you to spend quality time with your child. For each special skill or activity your son or daughter completes with you, you can sign off one of the requirements needed to earn the next award. As a result, the awards he or she earns increases their knowledge, skills, self-esteem and confidence. You can be a part of it by participating in the Cub Scout program with them.

# About our new Pack

By now you have met your Den Leader, some of the other parents, and the Cubmaster, but a pack also has some other very important people involved. Crucial to the success of a pack is its Pack Committee and its Chartered Partner who provides a liaison to the pack known as the Chartered Organization Representative.

## The Pack Committee

The Pack Committee is made up of the committee chairman, the treasurer, the Chartered Organization Representative, and other adults from the community. (Most of these leaders are parents of the youth in the pack.)

The committee meets once a month or more often if needed and are led by a committee chairman.

The committee selects leadership, finds meeting places, performs record keeping, manages pack finances, orders badges, maintains pack equipment, helps train leaders, and recognizes leaders.

## The Chartered Organization

The Pack is owned by a Chartered Organization. Chartered Organizations include schools, parent-school organizations, religious organizations, service clubs, and other organizations interested in youth.

The Chartered Organization approves leadership, helps secure a meeting place, keeps the pack within the sponsor's and Boy Scout guidelines and policies.

The Chartered Organization selects a chartered organization representative (a liaison between our pack and our sponsor).



## Scouting is a Safe Adventure

### 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 your Scout is about to experience. Log onto [www.scouting.org](http://www.scouting.org), click the “Parent” tab, then “Training,” and you will discover all of the courses available. Simply, 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, Scouts BSA, 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 stresses **two-deep leadership**—no one-on-one adult and youth interaction, **separate accommodations for adults and Scouts, no hazing, no bullying, and appropriate steps for identifying, stopping, and reporting suspected cases of abuse.**

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 Scouting handbooks, or go to [www.scouting.org/Training/YouthProtection.aspx](http://www.scouting.org/Training/YouthProtection.aspx).

If you serve as a leader or as an active parent you will also be required to meet the standard of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania to obtain background check clearances. Your Den Leader or Cubmaster will be able to assist you in getting started or visit [www.newbirthoffreedom.org](http://www.newbirthoffreedom.org).

### 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 and daughter’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 youth grow up to be good citizens. This packet shares some great ways that you can get involved in your child’s den and pack!



## Do Your Best

In society where your son or daughter is often taught that winning is everything, Cub Scouting teaches him or her to “do their best” and be helpful to others as expressed in the Scout Oath and Law.

Cub Scouting is a home and neighborhood-centered program designed to support family life for youth in Kindergarten through fifth grades. Each Cub Scout learns to respect their home, country, God, and other people. The program also helps Scouts this age to:

- Learn new physical skills through sports, crafts, and games.
- Learn how to get along with others through group activities.
- Reinforce mental skills such as writing and calculating.
- Develop personal independence.



A Cub Scout den provides your child with a group of boys or girls his or her own age in which he can earn awards and recognition. In the den, your Scout will also gain a sense of personal achievement for the new skills learned.

## How much does Scouting cost?

**Registration fee**—annual fee for youth and leaders.....\$75

**New Member fee**—one-time fee charged when you join Scouting.....\$25

**Scout Life magazine**—optional, but strongly recommended.....\$15

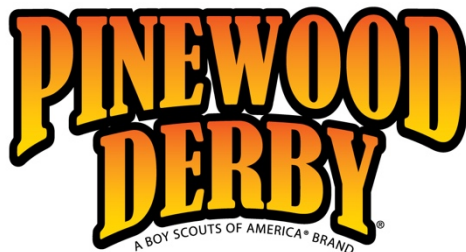


**Pack dues**—The amount varies by pack, depending on money-earning projects conducted by the pack to decrease the amount needed to run the pack program.

**Uniform**—The uniform and its cost vary by program for both youth and adult. A flier is part of your Welcome Packet and you can visit the local Scout store to get everything you need.

**Books**—Youth handbooks are the *Lion Handbook*, *Tiger Handbook*, *Wolf Handbook*, *Bear Handbook*, and *Webelos Handbook*. Adult leaders use books specific to their areas of responsibility (i.e. *Bear Leader Book*, *Webelos Leader Book*). If your pack does not have any of these books on hand they are available at the local Scout store.

## Special Programs for you and your child



### Pinewood Derby

Parents and their child work together to build a gravity-powered miniature race car from a special kit. Most packs schedule this annual event in winter or early spring.

### Blue and Gold Banquet

This is a birthday party for Cub Scouting usually held in February. Most often it is a seated dinner, but sometimes it is a covered dish supper. Dinner format using a special program or entertainment is customary. This is a time for the youth to receive recognition for their accomplishments.



### Cub Scout Camp

Cub Scout Camp is an exciting summertime activity that includes archery, BB guns, crafts, swimming and boating, games, skits, songs, and sports. Cub Scout Camp is an excellent way to introduce youth to the outdoors and teach them new skills. It also helps strengthen the pack's summer program.

### Scout Life Magazine

This magazine for youth and adults has interesting features on Scouting, sports, hobbies, magic, award winning fiction, science and U.S. history. There are also jokes, comics, and short stories.



## Family Camp

Here's an opportunity for the **WHOLE FAMILY** to camp together over a weekend. Activities include crafts, fishing, games, swimming, hiking, and just plain relaxing.



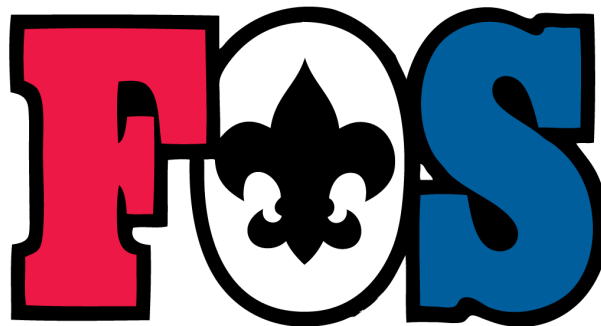
## Good Turn

This is a pack service project to benefit the community, such as a park clean up, Scouting for Food, planting trees, etc.

## Friends of Scouting

The Friends of Scouting campaign is the New Birth of Freedom Council's annual fund drive. The Council conducts the drive once a year to request financial investments from parents of Scouts, volunteer leaders, Scouting alumni, businesses, foundations, and people in each community who value the Scouting program.

Your pack will have a brief Friends of Scouting presentation at an upcoming meeting to request financial investment from each of the families in the pack. Investments of all kinds are welcome.



## Popcorn & Nuts for Scouting Sale



The Popcorn and Nuts for Scouting Sale is an opportunity for your child to "earn his or her way" in paying for Scouting activities. Ask your Cubmaster or Den Leader how your Scout can participate in this sale.

Product selling will teach your Scout people and selling skills. Great prizes are awarded for outstanding efforts. Your pack committee will determine how the Popcorn and Nuts for Scouting Sale proceeds are used. This and the Spring Camp Card Sale is the only product sale that your Scout may wear on his or her uniform while selling.



## You Are Not Alone!

Our staff at the New Birth of Freedom Council Service Centers in Mechanicsburg (717-766-1591) and York (717-843-0901) can help or put you in touch with someone who can help you succeed.

At the service centers you will find: National Scout Shops to purchase all of your Scouting supplies and badges, Support Services, and a Field Services Department with full-time professional Staff who serve each part of the council.

Your Pack is part of a district. A Scouting district is a geographical region of the BSA local council that has its own committee and commissioner staff to assist each unit.

Roundtable, a monthly leaders' meeting for all adult Scout volunteers in your District, is available. You can get help with crafts, games, skits, and songs for use at den and pack meetings. It's a great place to ask questions and share ideas.

There are many written resources available to assist you to be successful. Everything from a complete yearly meeting plan, to song books.

Most packs have a pack library that contains the leader books you need, if not visit the Scout Shops, or [www.scoutstuff.org](http://www.scoutstuff.org).

Your district has a volunteer crew called the district committee that conducts high-quality, district-wide programs in which Scouts can participate.

Your district has another volunteer crew called the commissioner staff. They are our "service crew." They check on the health of your pack and are a communications link between your pack and the Scouting organization. A commissioner is assigned to assist your unit.

## How Can You Help?

Scouting operates through volunteer leadership. Volunteer unit leaders are an example of Scouting's principle of service to others. Naturally, parents are a primary source of leaders in the Scouting program. You volunteer not only to serve Scouting, but also to serve your Scout and his or her friends, and to have the chance to be a positive influence on the youth in your community.

## What Do You Receive in Return?

Being a leader is fun, challenging, and rewarding. Leaders find that their experiences help them to become better parents. The following are some of the many dividends that will enrich your life as you dedicate your time, talent, and enthusiasm to Scouting:

- Fun and fellowship with other families sharing your pride in your child's accomplishments.
- The privilege of helping to enrich and strengthen families.
- A chance to help youth learn good citizenship and to help shape them into men and women who have strength of character and are sensitive to the needs of others.
- The opportunity to help make a difference in the lives of boys and girls as they grow strong in mind and body.
- A code to live by which will set a worthwhile example for both youth and adults.
- The satisfaction of being a member of a worldwide movement, and pride in being publicly identified as a part of this organization--wearing the Scouting uniform is a visible means of showing you believe in the ideals and objectives of the Boy Scouts of America.

Program positions in the pack are held by adults like you, who work directly with the Scouts and organize the actual programs they participate in.

Look on the following pages for important information regarding YOUR involvement in your Scout's new Cub Scout pack.

No previous Scouting experience is necessary. There are plenty of resources, including training, to help you become the best leader you can be. Most trainings are available online, such as Cub Scout Leader Fast Start and Youth Protection Guidelines. Check them out by visiting the National BSA website at [www.scouting.org](http://www.scouting.org).

# Volunteer Positions in the Pack



## **DEN LEADER (S)**

Leads the den at weekly den meetings and monthly pack meeting. Attends the monthly pack leaders' meeting and roundtable meeting.

## **CUBMASTER**

Help plan and carry out the pack program with the help of the pack committee. Emcees monthly pack meeting and attends pack leaders' meeting and monthly roundtable meeting.

## **COMMITTEE CHAIR**

Presides at all pack leaders' meetings. Helps recruit adult leaders. Also attends the pack meeting and roundtable meetings.

## **SECRETARY/TREASURER**

Keeps all records for the pack. Including pack bank account, financial records, etc. Attends pack meetings and pack committee meetings. May publish a monthly bulletin, newsletter or even a website.

## **ADVANCEMENT COORDINATOR**

Maintains advancement records. Orders and obtains all badges and insignia. Attends pack meetings and pack committee meetings.

## **PARENT HELPERS / COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

Each year the pack will undertake several short-term projects. Parents and other volunteers are needed for activities such as pack fundraisers (popcorn and nuts sale and camp cards), Scouting for Food, pack Good Turn, pinewood derby, Blue and Gold Banquet, Friends of Scouting, pack graduation, and camping programs. These jobs are of short duration, and still enable all families to assist with pack responsibilities.





### **Mechanicsburg**

Service Center Main Phone (717) 766-1591  
Scout Shop Main Phone (717) 795-2703

### **York**

Service Center Main Phone (717) 843-0901  
Scout Shop Main Phone (717) 885-9039

### **Council Website**

**[www.newbirthoffreedom.org](http://www.newbirthoffreedom.org)**

### **Council Facebook Page**

**[www.facebook.com/newbirthoffreedomcouncilBSA](https://www.facebook.com/newbirthoffreedomcouncilBSA)**