



Cub Scout Parents'
Orientation Guide
WELCOME to SCOUTING!



As a parent, you want your son to grow up to be a self-reliant, dependable and caring individual. Scouting has these same goals in mind for him. 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 teaches family values - but we know that boys do not join Scouting just to get their character built. Boys join because it is:



Scouting is fun with a purpose!

Your Son, Scouting, and You

This orientation guide is a quick reference for parents to help you "hit the ground running" with a brief overview of what's involved for you and your son, how to advance, and generally what this Cub Scouting business is all about. If you want to know more, feel free to ask other adults in your unit or seek out leaders in your district. Your son's handbook also covers many of the details as well - and don't forget about the internet! It's a great resource for scouting. In fact, at the end of this guide there are resources listed for you to use and take advantage of - many of them local with details about how you and your pack can get in on all the fun and adventures - so read on!

So what do you need to know?

First thing: the animals!



First Grade -- TIGERS



Tiger Cubs is a one-on-one program for boys and adults. Each boy/adult team is a member of a Tiger Cub Den which:

- o Normally has 3 to 8 boy/adult teams.
- o Meets once a week.
- o Meetings focus on age-appropriate activities.
- o A Tiger Cub Den Leader helps **coordinate** the Tiger Cub Den Meetings **which are run by the adults**.
- o Each boy/adult team takes a turn running the activities and working with the Tiger Den Leader.



Second through Fifth Grades WOLF, BEAR & WEBELOS



Boys at this age are members of a Den which:

- o Normally has four to eight boys
- o Meets once a week
- o Den Leadership:
 - Den Leader (adult)
 - Assistant Den Leader (adult)
 - Den Chief (an older Boy Scout)
 - Denner (A Cub Scout)
- o Den Meetings include games, crafts, skits, songs, ceremonies and periodic field trips.



All Cub Scouts

All of the boys are members of a Pack which:

- o Is made up of one or more dens.
- o Meets once a month.
- o Pack dues vary by pack. Dues help buy awards and pay for some of the activities the boys participate in. Talk to your Pack Treasurer about these costs.

- o All Cub Scout Families are expected to participate.
- o The Pack meeting is led by the Cubmaster.
- o The Pack meeting is the climax of the month's den meetings and activities.
- o Pack meetings have games, skits, songs, ceremonies, and presentation of badges that boys earned that month.

How Packs deliver the FUN!

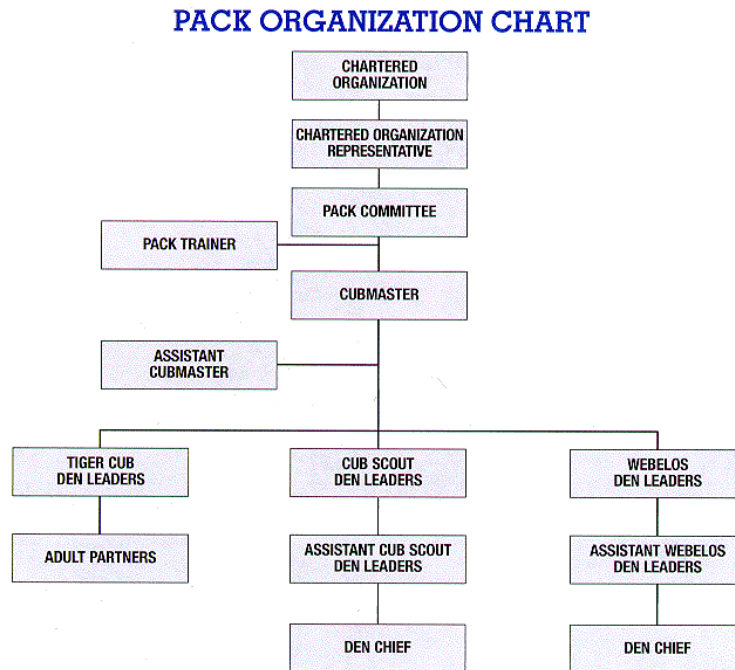
Packs are run by the Pack Committee

- o It is made up of den leaders, pack leaders, the pack trainer, and all parents.
- o Meetings are once a month or more often if needed.
- o It is led by a committee chairperson.
- o The committee selects leadership, manages pack finances, orders badges, maintains pack equipment, helps train leaders, and recognizes leaders.

Packs are owned by a Chartered Organization

- o Charter Organizations can be schools, parent-school organizations, religious organizations, service clubs, and other organizations interested in youth.
- o Charter Organizations approve pack leadership, help secure a meeting place, and keep the pack within their and the Boy Scouts of America's guidelines and policies.
- o Charter Organizations select a Charter Organization Representative to be the liaison between the Organization and the pack.

The Unit's organization looks somewhat like this:



So how does it work?

Do Your Best

In a society where your son is often taught that winning is everything, Cub Scouting teaches him to "do his best" and be helpful to others. This is expressed in the Cub Scout Promise. Cub Scouting is a home- and neighborhood-centered program designed to support family life for boys in the first through fifth grades. Each Cub Scout learns to respect his home, country, God, and other people. The program also helps boys this age to:

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

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



So what now? **ADVANCEMENT!**

The responsibility for a boy'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. If your son has genuinely "done his best" to complete an achievement (actually completing an achievement is not required - only a boy's best efforts), simply sign and date his handbook in the appropriate place and then have his den leader also sign off and note the completion in the den's records. Ranks and Rank-specific awards, including beads and arrowhead points, can be earned through the last day of school, after which the boys start working towards their next rank (For example, if a boy does not earn his Wolf Badge by the last day of second grade, he will not be able to complete that badge and will be working towards his Bear Badge the day after second grade ends. Likewise, he will not be able to earn any more arrowhead points related to his Wolf badge). NOTE: there are many other awards available to be earned. Talk to your Cubmaster or Den Leader about all the opportunities and experiences that await you and your son!



Bobcat

The very first thing all boys must earn is the Bobcat Badge. All boys in 1st thru 5th grades earn the Bobcat badge by learning

the Cub Scout Promise, Law of the Pack, handshake, salute, sign, motto, and meaning of the secret word "Webelos". There is also an important safety conversation you must have with your son as well. After receiving the Bobcat badge, the boys work on their requirements based on their individual grade level. Your Bobcat Badge can be earned immediately after joining the pack.



The Tiger Cub badge is earned after completing five achievements grouped in three areas: den activity, family activity, and Go See It. For details about the achievements, take a look at the Tiger Handbook.

After completing the Tiger Cub rank, boys may earn one Tiger Track bead when they complete 10 electives. There is no limit to the number of Tiger Cub Beads a boy can earn. Advancements are displayed on a Tiger Cub Totem, which is worn on the left shirt pocket.



A Cub Scout who has completed first grade (or is age 8) works on 12 achievements to earn the Wolf badge. The Wolf Handbook has all the details regarding how to complete these achievements. After he earns his Wolf badge, a boy may work on electives in different areas interest area until he completes the second grade. For every 10 electives, the boy earns an Arrowhead Point.

Bear



A Cub Scout who has completed second grade (or is age 9) works to complete 12 to 24 achievements to earn the Bear badge. The Bear Handbook has all the details regarding how to complete these achievements. After he earns his Bear badge, a boy may work on electives in different areas of interest until he completes the third grade. For every 10 electives, the boy earns an Arrowhead Point.

Arrow Points



For every 10 electives a boy completes, he earns an Arrow Point. A boy in a Wolf or Bear den may earn as many Arrow Points as he can.

Webelos



When a Cub Scout has completed the third grade (or becomes 10 years old), he transfers to a Webelos den, led by an adult Webelos leader. The secret word "Webelos" stands for "WE'll BE Loyal Scouts". It is for this reason that the word "Webelos" is like the word "deer": whether there is one or many, they are called "Webelos" with an "S". The boys work on requirements for the Webelos badge, 20 activity badges, and the Arrow of Light Award (the highest award in Cub Scouting).

Camping and outdoor programs are an important part of Cub Scouting, but are especially so for Webelos. In the spring of a Webelos Scout's 5th grade year, he graduates from Cub Scouting into Boy Scouting at an impressive crossover ceremony.

Uniforms



As an organization chartered by the United States Congress, the Cub Scouts are a uniformed organization. Class A uniforms are required to be worn at all pack meetings, times when the pack or den will be in the public eye, and on the way to and from outdoor activities. A Class A uniform consists of an official shirt, shorts (or pants), socks, belt, and neckerchief (unit neckerchiefs are often the required neckwear - and you'll also need a neckerchief slide, but that does not have to be "official" and is usually something made by each boy at some point during his scouting career). Many packs permit what is often called a Class B uniform for den meetings and during times in camp or outdoors. A Class B uniform is the same as a Class A, except that a scout-related T-shirt is worn in place of the official uniform shirt. Non-uniform pants, belts and hats are not permitted - just as they are not permitted in the various sports in which your son may also be involved.



Camping

Camping is an integral part of the Cub Scout experience here in the Gulf Stream Council. It's an activity for all Cub Scouts that includes crafts, games, nature, sports, songs and skits. Boys get to participate in lots of great activities they don't normally get to do at other times, such as earning their Archery and BB Belt Loops. They have great fun! Most districts in our council hold a fall Spook-o-ree as well as a Spring Family Campout. Many packs have their own camping trips as well.



Pinewood Derby

The Pinewood Derby is a scouting tradition that has been going on for nearly 50 years. It is a parent/son project that involves building a racecar made from a block of wood. Boys will race the cars they have made with their parent's supervision at the Pinewood Derby. Successful racers can advance to the district and council races as well! Your son won't want to miss this event!

Blue and Gold Banquet

The Blue and Gold Banquet is a birthday party for Cub Scouting. Each pack celebrates this event as they choose, with some serving dinner, while others simply hold an extravagant pack meeting. But by and large, the Blue and Gold provides each cub scout and scouter an opportunity to be recognized for what they have achieved during the prior year. It's a great chance to say "thank you" and fellowship with everyone in the Pack!

Boys' Life Magazine

Boy's Life is a magazine for boys (and adults!) that has interesting features on Scouting, sports, hobbies, magic, science, and U.S. History. There are also jokes, comics, and short stories. There are special Tiger Cub and Cub Scout editions as well.



We need YOUR help!



-- and there are **BENEFITS!!!**

Scouting operates through volunteer leadership. Volunteer leaders are an example of Scouting's principle of service to others. Naturally, parents are the primary source of leaders in the Scouting program. You volunteer not only to serve scouting, **but also to help your son and his friends** -- and to have the chance to be a positive influence on the youth in your community. Being a leader is fun, challenging and rewarding. Many leaders find that their experiences help them to become better parents. Here are some of the many dividends that will enrich your life as you dedicate your time, talents, and enthusiasm to Scouting:

- o Fun and fellowship with other families, sharing your pride in the boys' accomplishments.
- o The privilege of helping to enrich and strengthen families.
- o A chance to help boys learn good citizenship and to help shape them into men who have strength of character and are sensitive to the needs of others.
- o The opportunity to help make a difference in the lives of boys as they grow strong in mind and body.
- o A code to live by which sets a worthwhile example for both boys and adults.
- o 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 and stand up for the ideals and objectives of the BSA).



Volunteer Jobs in Cub Scouting

Den Leaders -- Lead the den at weekly den and monthly pack meetings. They also attend the monthly unit leaders' meeting and district roundtable.

Cubmaster -- Helps plan and carry out the pack program with the help of the pack committee, Emcees monthly pack meeting, and makes sure that each den is giving the boys the best program possible. Cubmasters also attend the monthly unit leaders' meeting and district roundtable.

Committee -- Pack committee members perform the administrative functions of the pack. All committee members attend pack meetings and monthly pack leaders' meetings. They are encouraged, but not required, to attend the monthly district roundtable.

Committee Chairperson -- Presides at all pack committee meetings. Helps recruit adult leaders and organize events. The Chairperson also attends the monthly unit leaders' meeting and district roundtable.

Pack Secretary -- Keeps all records for the pack, including medical forms, but not bank account and financial records. Many packs also make this person responsible for pack communications, including emails, websites and newsletters. The Pack Secretary is encouraged, but not required, to attend the monthly district roundtable.

Pack Treasurer -- Keeps all bank account and financial records.
The Pack Treasurer is encouraged, but not required, to attend the monthly district roundtable.

Advancement Chair -- Maintains advancement records for the pack. Orders and obtains all badges and insignia. The Advancement Chair is encouraged, but not required, to attend the monthly district roundtable.

Parent Helpers -- Function as chairpersons for committees that perform "one shot" program jobs, such as coordinating pack participation in sales events, Pinewood Derby, Camping events or other activities. These are vital jobs, but are also short duration jobs that often wind up in 60 days or less. For those with limited time or who just want to "get their feet wet" first, these are great positions to get involved in. Parent attendance at the District Roundtable is, as above, strongly encouraged, but not required.

Pack Trainer -- Coordinates "Fast Start" and other training for adults, often organizes the Tiger Cub dens and promotes leader training and District Roundtable meeting attendance. Pack Trainers also attend the monthly unit leaders' meeting and district roundtable.

Important information:

My pack number is _____ and its website is: _____.

My Cubmaster's name is _____.

Phone number(s) _____.

Email Address _____.

My den number is _____ and my den leader's name is

_____.

Phone number(s)_____.

Email address_____.

My den meets on _____ at _____ PM at

_____.

Names of my new Cub Scout Friends:

My council is the **Gulf Stream Council**. Its website is

www.gulfstreamcouncil.org.

My Scouting district is _____. Its website is

_____.

