



Pack XXX (Your Town)

Parents Guide

Welcome to the Cub Scouts, and Cub Scout Pack XXX!

The purpose of this handbook is to provide an overview of the scouting program to new families. It is meant to be an introduction, not a comprehensive guide. The many aspects of the program may seem overwhelming at first. We strongly suggest that you retain this book and refer to it during the year as you experience the program.

Cub Scouting Overview & Philosophy

In 1930, the Boy Scouts of America launched a home- and neighborhood-based program for boys up to age eleven. The program focused on nature, hobbies, games, preparation for Boy Scouts, and above all, character development.

The Cub Scout Promise is

*I promise to do my best
To do my duty to God and my country,
To help other people, and
To obey the Law of the Pack.*

The "Law of the Pack" is

*The Cub Scout follows Akela.
The Cub Scout helps the pack go.
The Pack helps the Cub Scout grow.
The Cub Scout gives goodwill.*

Cub Scout Motto

Do your best!

The leaders of Cub Scout Pack XXX are committed to providing a quality, year-round program of Cub Scouting activities. Special emphasis is placed on character development, outdoor activities, sports, citizenship, and family.

Cub scouting is a family activity!!



Pack XXX (Your Town)

Organization

Cub Scout Pack XXX is presently made up of over XXX boys from (Your Town) in grades 1 through 5. Our pack is open to all elementary school-age boys. We are sponsored by the (Your Town's Community Based Organization).

The boys meet in small groups called **Dens** made up of 5 to 9 boys. Each Den has at least one parent leader called a **Den Leader**. Most dens meet about three times a month.

Pack XXX, together with other scouting organizations from Bergen, Passaic, Essex and Hudson counties, are part of the Northern New Jersey Council Boys Scouts of America. We are active members in the Lapogah Mountains District in the Northern New Jersey Council Boys Scouts of America. We also regularly participate in both **District** and **Council** events. In addition, the Council operates two summer camps for Cub Scouts – a day camp and a resident camp. (We've had great experiences with the camps...more on that later). The council office is located on Ramapo Valley Road in Oakland. The council website www.njbsa.org has interesting information about the Scout program.

The Cub Scout Ranks

Our youngest cub scouts are the **Tiger Cubs**. Tiger Cubs are first graders. Tiger Cubs work "as a team" with their parent or guardian.

Our 2nd graders work towards the **Wolf** achievements and electives.

Our 3rd graders form the **Bear** dens.

Our 4th and 5th graders advance to being **Webeles**. Once they complete the Webeles requirements, 5th graders are encouraged to work toward the "Arrow of Light," the highest award in the Cub Scout Program. In (Your Month) of their 5th grade year, the boys will "**bridge**" to Boy Scouts. Boys from our pack will "bridge" into **Troop XXX** which is also sponsored by (Your Town's Community Based Organization).



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Meetings

Den Meetings: In Pack XXX, our Dens usually have meetings three times a month, directed by a Den Leader and/or an Assistant Den Leader. Many times, the Den Leaders will ask parents to lend a helping hand in organizing the Den meetings. For 1st Graders (Tigers), parents are REQUIRED to stay at the den meeting with their scout. However, siblings are generally welcome to attend as well.

Pack meetings: We have one Pack meeting per month but not during the summer. The monthly Pack meeting is directed by the **Cubmaster**. The Pack meeting is for all of the boys from each den. We require a parent (and encourage the whole family) to attend the pack meeting with their sons. Cub Scouting is a family event. The Pack meeting is usually held on the (Your Meeting date and time). When not announced otherwise, pack meetings are held at the (Your meeting Place). at (Your Time). Please arrive on-time.

Committee Meetings: The leaders of Pack XXX meet monthly to plan events, exchange ideas and discuss organizational matters. Each Den is asked to have a leader or parent representative at each meeting. In addition, those parents working on events/meetings being planned / discussed should be present. All parents are welcome and encouraged to participate.

Advancements

The Cub Scout program uses advancements to challenge the boys to work on skills that match their ability and interest level. Again, the boys are not supposed to be perfect, but are encouraged to *do their best*. Because of our varied activities, the boys are motivated to try out lots of different activities.

All scouts will earn the **Bobcat** award first. They will then work toward the rank appropriate for their age level.

- 1st graders earn the Tiger rank by participating in age-appropriate activities
- 2nd graders earn the Wolf rank by completing 49 tracks in 12 achievements. After completing the requirements for the Wolf badge, they can earn Arrow Points for elective activities.
- 3rd graders earn the Bear rank (choice of 12 achievements) and then Arrow Points.
- 4th and 5th graders earn the Webelos rank and can earn additional pins to get Compass Points. In their second year, Webelos may earn the "Arrow of Light."



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Academics and Sports Program

Scouts may also work towards *belt loops* and *pins*, to be displayed on their uniforms, for completing certain activities in the Academics and Sports Program Guide, which may be purchased separately at Ramsey Outdoor Store.

Belt loops are awarded for trying out many sports and academic subjects.

Sport and academic pins are awarded for more serious and extended participation.

Who is Who

Akela: A name given for a parent, a teacher, a Cub Scout leader, or other role model.
(In the "jungle-book" story, Akela is the leader of the pack).

Cubmaster: Responsible for the program; reports to the pack committee.

Pack Committee: Supervises the pack and accomplishes administrative tasks. All parents welcome!!

Pack Committee Chairman: Person in charge of the pack committee.

Den Leader: An adult in charge of a Den.

Den Leader Coach: Resource person, a "friend of the den leaders."

Den Chief: An older boy scout who helps to lead a den.

Denner: One of the cubs scouts elected by his den to help the den leader and den chief.

You: Current or future Den or Assistant Den Leader or Pack Committee member. Parents are also needed to volunteer to coordinate or help with outdoor activities or special events. *Your involvement and support is critical to the success of the program for your child.*

Uniforms

An essential component of Cub Scouting is the uniform. Cub Scouts are made to feel part of a group and have a place to display their awards when they wear their uniforms. Cub Scouts buy their own uniform, including Council patch and Pack numerals. The Pack provides badges and awards.

"Class A" uniforms are the formal dress of Scouting, and are worn at Pack meetings and most Pack functions. Tiger, Wolf and Bear cubs use the blue Cub Scout uniform. Webelos can choose to wear either the blue Cub Scout uniform or the tan Boy Scout uniform. Uniforms are available at Ramsey Outdoor Store or at the "Scout Shop" located at Boy Scout Council office in Oakland. The staff at each store can help you buy the right stuff, including the right color for the neckerchief. Uniforms can be bought at the Scout Store for approximately \$45 without trousers. Since your scout will be wearing this for multiple years, we recommend getting it in a size or two larger than your



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Scout. You may buy short- or long-sleeved uniforms, but short-sleeves are more versatile (your Scout can wear an extra shirt underneath in colder months).

Pack XXX T-shirts (also referred to as Class 'B' uniforms) are available for purchase at pack meetings. Class B uniforms are worn when scouts are involved in physical activities or crafts.

Handbooks

You will need to acquire an age and rank appropriate cub scout Book -- either the Tiger, Wolf, Bear, or Webelos Book. Books can be purchased at the same stores as uniforms. We recommend that parents read the book for their child's age group, cover to cover.

Camping

You can't say Scouting without saying "outing"! Pack XXX goes camping several times each year at various scout camps and parks in the area. We have a combination of day-trips and overnight events. Cub Scout camping is family camping, and we invite all families to participate in our campouts, no matter their level of camping experience. Many of our leaders are specifically trained in outdoor orientation and leadership programs, and are enjoy introducing Cub Scouts and their families to the fun of camping.

Pack XXX also participates in the Council Day Camp and Resident Camp programs.

Day Camp provides a five-day program of scouting activities, including swimming, boating, BB shooting, archery, fishing, crafts, and athletics. Many boys attend for a week or two each summer.

Resident Camp offers the same programs as the Day Camp, but allows the boys to spend more time with different programs, including the opportunity to participate in an overnight "camping" experience without their parent. Last summer a few of our scouts and parents attended as a group. We plan to do the same this year.



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Parents

The pack leaders do our best to provide a quality program. But all the leaders in Pack XXX are parent volunteers and depend on other parents to help ensure a quality program. We ask every parent to help the Pack in some capacity. The most important (and most fun) job is that of the Den Leader. However, there are many other areas where your help in running the Pack is needed and very much appreciated. After their scout's first year in the Pack, all parents are asked to serve on at least one Pack "committee". Parents (and scouts) are encouraged to use their first year to experience to learn about the program!!!

You should also plan to help with Den meetings and to work with your son's den leader.

NOTE: There are no secrets in cub scouts; parents are welcome in any organizational meetings of the den, pack, district or council.

Asking for help

Don't be shy or reluctant to ask questions!!

The leaders of our pack are all parents who believe in the value and benefits of the program and are committed to its success. Our ongoing success is dependent on having a dedicated group of leaders and parents. Each year, we must engage "new" parents. Any leader in the pack will be more than happy to spend time answering questions or sharing their programs, ideas, successes and lessons learned. A key function of our monthly **committee meetings** is to provide a forum for our leaders and parents to share ideas. Please feel free to attend.

We hope that your son has a fun experience with the pack and it is something he (and your family) continues throughout his youth.