

PARENT INFORMATION GUIDE



***WELCOME TO THE ADVENTURE
OF CUB SCOUTING***



BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA®

Serving Today's Families



BSA's mission is to prepare young people to make ethical and moral choices over their lifetimes by instilling in them the values of the Scout Oath and Scout Law. Our priority is to bring the benefits of Scouting to more youth while remaining true to our mission. We are excited to announce beginning in 2018, our Cub Scouts program will be open to boys and girls. By welcoming both girls and boys into the program, even more youth will have access to the character development and values-based leadership that Scouting promises and be better prepared for future success.

Starting in 2018, families can choose to sign up their sons and daughters for Cub Scouts. Existing packs may choose to establish a new girl pack, establish a pack that consists of girl dens and boy dens or remain an all-boy pack. Cub Scout dens will be single-gender — all boys or all girls. Using the same curriculum as the Boy Scouts program, the organization will also deliver a program for older girls, which will be announced in 2018 and projected to be available in 2019, that will enable them to earn the Eagle Scout rank. This unique approach allows the organization to maintain the integrity of the single gender model while also meeting the needs of today's families.

Contact Longhouse Council, BSA at 315-463-0201 for more specific details regarding Unit registration.



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 child to do things together.
- Cub Scout-age youth benefit developmentally from belonging to a group of youth their own age. Through this sense of belonging, youth build self-esteem and learn to get along with others.
- As a parent, you want to be assured that the groups that your child 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 child is taught that winning is everything, Cub Scouting teaches youth to “do their best” and to be helpful to others.
- Scouting teaches family values and works to strengthen your relationship with your child. Scouting activities can bring added value to the time you already have with your child.
- Youth will learn to live by the code of “On my honor.”

But we know that youth do not join Cub Scouting for character development alone. Youth 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. Youth 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 the entire family, join in on the program with your child, and you will help them along the way. Cub Scouting exists to support your family and help enrich your family time together. Scouts have a different handbook at each grade level, with adventures that are age-appropriate for their developmental level. As your scout advances through these books by working on adventures with you, they will earn badges and other recognition that they can wear on their 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 youth in the same grade level who usually meet weekly. All dens, from grades K through 5, make up a *pack*. Once a month, the dens, with their families, are together at the pack meeting, where scouts show off the new skills they have learned during the month and are recognized for the badges they have earned. All scouts, when they join, earn the Bobcat badge first. Your den leader will show you how.



Dens

The Lion Den (Kindergarten)

The activities introduce the family to Cub Scouting, and provide an exciting way for the 5 year olds to explore the world around them. The program will fuel their imagination, creativity and fun as they experience the growth Scouting can provide. At the end of the Lion year, they “graduate” to Tiger and advance through Cub Scouting.

LIONS are kindergarten age youth learning about Cub Scouting.

LIONS join with a parent or caring adult partner.

LIONS form dens of six to eight Lion pairs.

LIONS will have one den meeting and one outing per month.

LION dens are part of a Cub Scout pack.

LIONS may wear a special T-shirt or neckerchief for their activities.

LIONS have their own Lion Adventure Book to track their adventures.

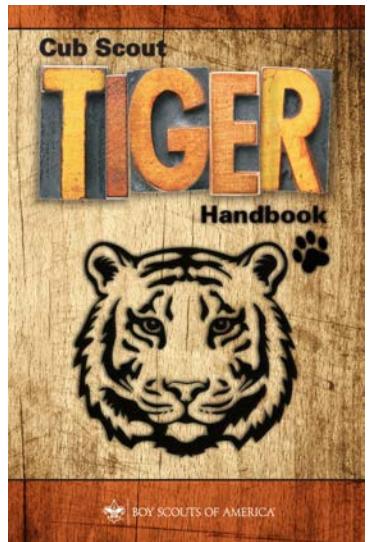




The Tiger Den (Grade 1)

Parents are most involved at the Tiger level. The scout 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-scout teams. Each den also has a Tiger den leader (usually one of the parents) who helps coordinate the meetings. The parent-scout 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-scout 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. Youth at this age 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 youth), and often a den chief (an older 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 scouts learning to take leadership roles and preparing to become Scouts BSA.



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 scouts 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 scout.

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 child that will last a lifetime!

How Can You Help?

The most important help that you, as a parent, can give your child is to work with them on their Cub Scouting adventures and help them achieve their badge of rank. The handbook is full of age-appropriate activities that you will enjoy doing together at home. When your scout completes a project, it is your responsibility to sign the book to verify completion. This will help the den leader know that he or she can sign off on that part of your scout's rank requirements and arrange for recognition for their efforts. And then it is all-important for you to attend the monthly pack meeting with them, so you can celebrate their 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 youth the gift of your time. What could be more valuable? You will have an opportunity to be a positive influence in their life.

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 scout 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, Scouts BSA, 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.):\$69

Council Resource and National Registration fee breakdown:

National Registration Fee	\$33.00
Council Insurance Fee	\$12.00
Council Resource Fee	\$24.00
Total Fee.	\$69.00

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

Total with Boy's Life Magazine: \$81

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 scout is in Pack _____, which meets at _____ (location)
at _____ (time) on _____ (day and week of month).

He or she is in Den _____, which meets at _____ (location)
at _____ (time) on _____ (day of week).

Our pack's chartered organization is _____.

Our local council name is Longhouse Council _____.

Phone No. (315) 463-0201 Website www.cnyscouts.org _____

Our Leaders	Name	Phone No.	Email
Den Leader	_____	_____	_____
Committee Chair	_____	_____	_____
Cubmaster	_____	_____	_____





BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA®
LONGHOUSE COUNCIL