

*A Scouting Opportunity for Everyone*



# Back to the Pack Program

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Each fall, Cub Scout Packs get a “fresh start” as they welcome in brand new Scouts through Fall Round-up. New Cubs join the packs and new dens are formed.

Sometimes amidst the hustle and bustle of recruiting new boys and the excitement of a new year, not all of the returning Cub Scouts get invited back from summer break to take part in the new year of Cub Scouts. In order to make sure that every Scout knows that the new year of Scouting is about to start, it is recommended that a Pack holds a BACK TO THE PACK meeting to engage those boys and parents who were part of the pack last year!

## What is a “Back to the Pack” Event?

A “Back to the Pack” event is meant to be an event for your entire Cub Scout Pack, but is not a regular Pack meeting. It is meant to be a fun activity that all youth can participate in and make sure that every Scout and parent is invited to come back after the summer break. The idea is to help get ready for the fall by signing up old members early and recruiting needed leadership before School Nights in the fall.



It has been proven that Scouts and their families, who otherwise had a great Scouting experience, leave Cub Scouting because they did not get contacted to come back after the summer break. With families trying to get in last vacations before the start of the school year, sometimes families get missed and feel left out of the program.

## When should it be held?

“Back to the Pack” events should be held in late August or early September. Ideally, it will serve as your first unit gathering for the fall. The event can be held during the week or a weekend depending on what works best for the families and the leadership of the pack.

## Why should my unit hold one?

There are many reasons for holding a “Back to the Pack” event including:

- Opportunity to make sure that all of the boys and their families are going to be a part of the program for the upcoming year
- Opportunity to identify leadership needs and recruit new leaders
- Opportunity to sign up younger brothers who are now Cub Scout age
- It is a fun activity for youth to have a great kick-off for the upcoming year

## What are some ideas for a “Back to the Pack” event?

- Pool party with a picnic
- Movie night with a slideshow of fun activities from the summer and popcorn
- Bowling party
- Belt Loop Party (teach a few sport belt loops and have a cookout)
- Fishing party with a cookout
- Race some Rain Gutter Regatta boats or Space Derby Ships
- A baseball or soccer game
- An Olympic themed event

## How do I plan a “Back to the Pack” Event?

- Hold a planning meeting with unit leaders in late July or early August
- Set a date and location for the event
- Invite Scouts and their families to the event through emails, text messages, or whatever works best for the pack and set an early RSVP date



- Any families that have not responded to the RSVP should get a phone call from the den leader or Cubmaster to remind them about the event and make sure that the boy and his parents will be returning to the pack
- If there is no response or a boy says they are not returning please fill out the attached form and return it to your District Executive

## Sample Agenda

### I. Before the Meeting

- Set-up the area with tables/decorations/food/pictures
- Make sure you have any pack materials such as:
  - Pack calendar/schedule
  - Any new contact information for unit leaders
  - New youth and adult applications

### II. Pre-Opening

- Greet everyone as they arrive
- Collect email addresses and any updated contact information
- Play a game
- Have a video/slideshow showing pictures from camp/summer activities

### III. Opening

- Welcome and Introductions of any guests
- Pledge of Allegiance and Cub Scout Promise

### IV. Meal and Program

- Have your meal/picnic
- Talk about exciting plans for the year
- Start activity with the youth
- Talk with parents about any leadership changes/needs and pass out information
- Answer any questions about the upcoming year
- Ask parents to help spread the word about recruiting and sign-up to help with the Back-to-School night
- Sign-up any younger siblings or friends that are now Cub Scout age

### V. Enjoy the Activity/Fellowship Time

### VI. Closing

- Make sure that everyone is taking home the vital information about the year
- Make sure that everyone knows when the first meeting is

### VII. Follow-up

- Call any Scouts/families that did not attend and invite them to the first meeting
- Notify District Executive of any Scouts that will be dropping from the unit and of anyone that you were unable to get a hold of

## Boys Not Returning to the Pack Report

Pack \_\_\_\_\_ Unit Leader \_\_\_\_\_

	Scout's Name	Den (i.e. Tiger, Wolf, Bear, Webelos)	Reason for not returning
1			
2			
3			
4			
5			
6			