



# CUB SCOUT PARENT'S ORIENTATION GUIDE

WELCOME TO THE  
ADVENTURE OF CUB  
SCOUTING!!

WHERE CHARACTER  
COUNTS AND

THE ADVENTURE BEGINS...



# Your Son, Scouting, and You!

Welcome to Cub Scouting—the best program for a boy in 1<sup>st</sup> through 5<sup>th</sup> grade and his family!

As a parent, you want your son to grow up to be a self-reliant, dependable, and caring individual and by joining a local Scouting program you can help him 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 Pennsylvania Dutch 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 boys do not join Scouting just to get their character built. Boys 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, and you will help him along the way. The family is the basis of Cub Scouting. It exists to support your family and help enrich your family time together. Boys have a different handbook at each grade level, with suggested activities that are age-appropriate for their developmental level. As your boy advances through these books by working on activities with you, he will earn badges and other recognition that he can wear on his uniform. Your son's success in Cub Scouting depends on you!

The Cub Scouting program takes place at two levels. Your son will be a part of a *den*; a small group of boys in the same grade level who meet weekly. All dens, from grades 1 through 5, make up a *pack*. Once a month, the dens with their families come together at the pack meeting. At the pack meeting, boys show off the new skills they have learned during the month and are recognized with the badges they have earned. All boys, when they join, earn the Bobcat badge first. Your den leader will show you how.



### The Tiger Cub Den (Grade 1)



Parents are most involved at the Tiger Cub level.

The boy and his 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–son teams.

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

The parent-son teams take turns running the activities and planning meetings with the Tiger Cub den leader.

The den has two to three meetings a month. One meeting is typically held at the home of a host parent-son team or at a designated facility like the pack meeting place. During the second meeting, a den may participate in a “Go See It” activity (the den, as a group, visits a community place of interest). Lastly, the den attends the monthly pack meetings.

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

The den consists of four to eight boys, a den leader and assistant den leader (usually parents of some of the boys), and often a den chief (an older Boy 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 boys learning to take leadership roles and preparing to become Boy Scouts. The boys will work on their Webelos badge in the first year.

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

We aim to graduate every Cub Scout into Boy Scouting. Generally your son will be prepared to join a Boy 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 boys 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 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.

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

# 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 Charter 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 boys in the pack.)

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

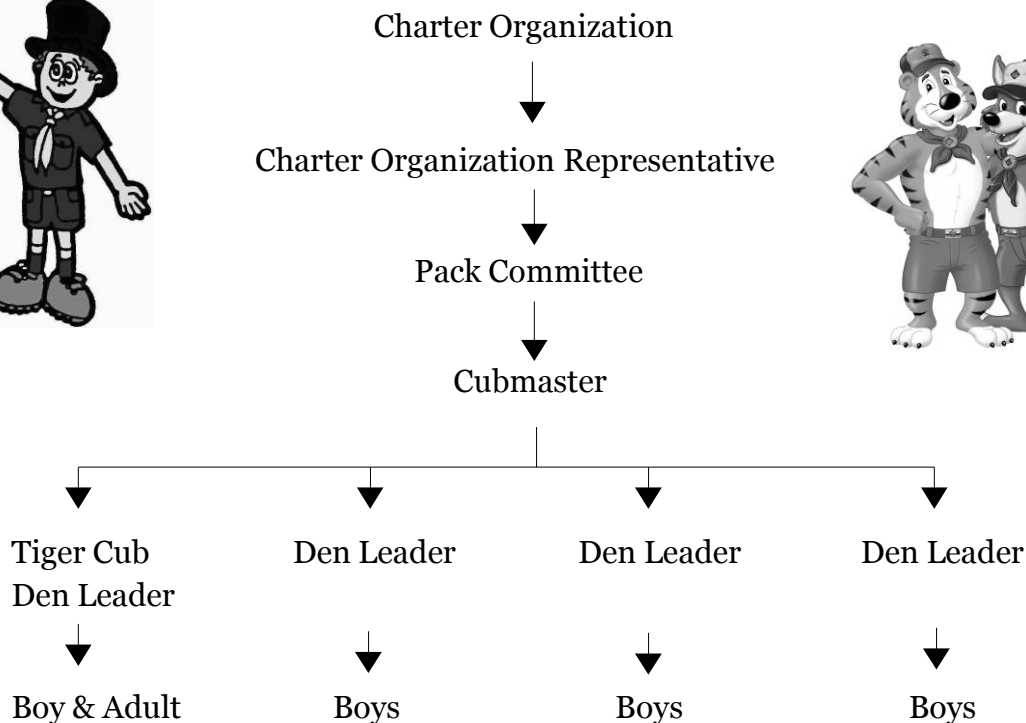
The committee selects leadership, finds meeting places, performs record keeping, manages pack finances, orders badges, maintains pack equipment, helps train leaders, and recognizes leaders.

## The Chartered Organization

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

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

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

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



## Do your Best

In society where your son is often taught that winning is everything, Cub Scouting teaches him to “do his best” and be helpful to others as expressed in the Cub Scout Promise.

Cub Scouting is a home and neighborhood-centered program designed to support family life for boys in 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:

- 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 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.

## How much does Scouting Cost?

**Registration fee**—annual fee for youth and leaders.....\$24  
(The leader’s fee includes a subscription to *Scouting* magazine)

**Boys’ Life magazine**—optional, but strongly recommended.....\$12



**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 *Tiger Cub Handbook*, *Wolf Handbook*, *Bear Handbook*, and *Webelos Handbook*. Adult leaders use the *Cub Scout Leader Book*, *Cub Scout How-to Book*, *Cub Scout Den and Pack Meeting Resource Guide*, and *Webelos Leader Guide*. 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 son



### **Pinewood Derby**

Parents and son 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.

### **Boys Life Magazine**

This magazine for boys 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 Pennsylvania Dutch 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 & Candy Sale

The Boy Scout Popcorn and Candy Sale is an opportunity for your son to "earn his way" in paying for Scouting activities available to him. Ask your Cubmaster or Den Leader how your son can participate in this sale.



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



## You Are Not Alone!

Our staff at the Pennsylvania Dutch Council Service Center in Lancaster (717-394-4063) can help or put you in touch with someone who can help you succeed.

At the service center you will find: the Scout Shop 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.

You are the member 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 Shop in Lancaster 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 boys 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 son and his 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 the boys' accomplishments.
- The privilege of helping to enrich and strengthen families.
- 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.
- The opportunity to help make a difference in the lives of boys as they grow strong in mind and body.
- A code to live by which will set a worthwhile example for both boys 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 boys and organize the actual programs they participate in.

Look on the following pages for important information regarding YOUR involvement in your son'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. MC's 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 sale, pancake breakfast, or similar events), 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.





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