



# Parents' Guide to Cub Scouting



## **Welcome to the Adventure of Cub Scouting!**

*Tonight, you and your son begin an adventure—an adventure of learning, sharing, and having fun together. This guide will help you make the most of your Scouting experience.*

*Cub Scouting is fun with a purpose. It's a home and neighborhood-centered program for boys in grades one through five. It teaches values and life skills in an environment of fun and adventure.*

## **How Cub Scouting is Organized**

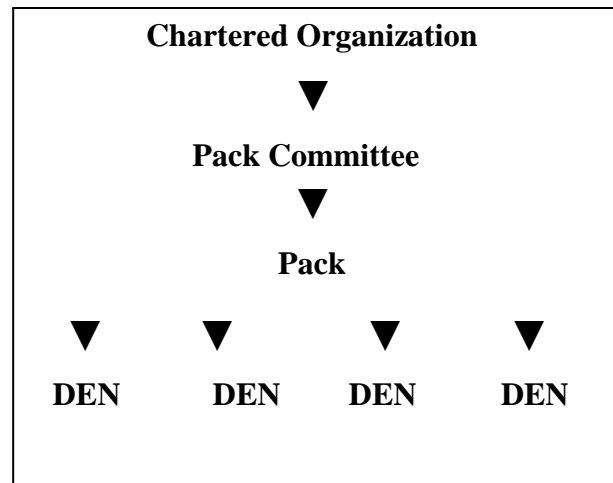
Wolves travel in packs. Geese gather in gaggles. But what do you call a bunch of Cub Scouts? Here's a brief overview of the organization you're joining.

**THE DEN.** Your son is a member of a den. A den typically consists of four to eight boys in the same grade. The den meets once a week and is led by a parent called a den leader and one or more assistants (also parents). Den meetings consist of games, crafts, stunts, ceremonies, and lots of fun.

**THE PACK.** A pack is made up of several dens. The pack meets once a month under the leadership of the Cubmaster. These pack meetings, which all Cub Scout families attend, let the boys show off the skills they've learned in their den meetings. At the pack meeting, Scouts receive badges and awards they've earned.

**THE PACK COMMITTEE.** The pack committee is the "brains" of the pack. This group of parents plans pack meetings and other activities, manages the pack's money, orders badges and supplies, and takes care of other behind-the-scenes tasks.

**THE CHARTERED ORGANIZATION.** Your Pack is "owned and operated" by a local community organization, such as a church, PTO, or civic organization. This chartered organization provides space, approves adult volunteer leaders, and makes sure the pack follows the guidelines of the Boy Scouts of America.



*Southwest Michigan Council, Boy Scouts of America  
1035 W. Maple St. Kalamazoo, MI 49008  
Phone: 269-343-4687 or 1-800-272-7962  
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*For all the latest information about our local Council and Districts, please visit:*  
**[www.bsaswmc.org](http://www.bsaswmc.org)**



## Wolves and Tigers and Bears. . . Oh My!

In Cub Scouting, your son is an animal—either a Tiger, Wolf, Bear, or that strange creature called a Webelos Scout. Which animal he is depends on what grade he’s in.

**Tiger Cubs.** Tiger Cubs are first-graders. They work directly with an adult partner and are part of a den. They earn five achievements dealing with family, home, outdoors, communication, and safety. As they progress, Tiger Cubs earn the Tiger Badge and belt totems.

**Bobcat.** When boys in grades two through five first join Cub Scouting, they earn the Bobcat badge, which teaches them the basics of the program. After receiving the Bobcat badge, boys move on to the Wolf, Bear, or Webelos program, depending on their age.

**Wolf.** Boys in the second grade are Wolf Cub Scouts. To earn their Wolf badge, these boys complete 12 achievements, like “Feats of Skill”, “Family Fun”, and “Your Flag”. Wolf Cub Scouts can also earn arrow points for completing extra projects.

**Bear.** Third-graders are Bear Cub Scouts. Their program is similar to the Wolf program, although the activities are more advanced.

**Webelos Scouts.** Fourth- and fifth-graders are called Webelos Scouts. Boys usually work on the Webelos badge in fourth grade and the Arrow of Light (Cub Scouting’s highest award) in fifth grade. The Webelos program helps prepare boys to become Boy Scouts at the end of fifth grade. (“Webelos” means “We’ll be loyal Scouts.)

In addition to all the badges described above, boys can earn other awards, including belt loops and pins in 33 areas of sports and academics and awards for activity participation.



## Special Activities and Outings

Everything in Cub Scouting is designed to be fun, but the real highlights of the program are activities such as Cub Scout Summer Camp and Pinewood Derby. Each pack offers its own calendar of events, but here are some highlights:

**Pinewood Derby...** You and your son work together to build a miniature gravity-powered race car. Usually held in the spring.

**Blue and Gold Banquet...** Often held in place of the February pack meeting, this banquet is a special birthday party for Scouting. It may be a seated dinner or a covered-dish supper.

**Cub Scout Summer Camp...** A 3 days and 2 nights Scouting fun for second to fifth-graders, held at Rota-Kiwan Scout Reservation.

**Webelos Adventure Camp...** A 4 day 3 night Scouting adventure for older Cub Scouts, readying them for the transition to Boy Scouting. This event is also held at our local camp.

**Scout Nights...**An event that all Cubs are invited to, hosted by various local sports clubs or organizations. Depending on the activity, this may be an overnight invitation.

**District Activities...** Many packs are grouped together geographically to form districts. District activities such as Cub Fun Day, Hikes, Webelos Transition, and many other larger events for your son to enjoy.



## Positions Available:

Cub Scouting is a family program. With few exceptions, all the leaders in your pack have children in the pack.

So what role should you take? That depends on your time, abilities, and interests. There's a job for everyone in Cub Scouting.

First of all, you have some specific jobs as a parent. If your son is a Tiger Cub, you will probably be his adult partner and work with him on all his activities. If your son is a Wolf or Bear Cub Scout, you will work with him on advancement requirements and sign off on his achievements.

But you should plan to do more. Below is a partial list of other jobs you might take on. (By the way, all these positions can be filled by either men or women.)

**Den Leader...** Leads the weekly den meeting. Coordinates the den's participation in monthly pack meetings. Attends monthly pack leaders meeting and roundtable meetings.

**Tiger Cub Den Leader...** Coordinates the activities of the first graders and attends pack leaders meeting.

**Assistant Den Leader...** Assists den leader and fills in as necessary.

**Cubmaster...** Helps plan and carry out the pack program. Emcees the monthly pack meeting. Attends monthly pack leaders' meeting and roundtable meetings.

**Assistant Cubmaster...** Assists Cubmaster and fills in as necessary. Takes responsibility for specific area of program.

**Committee Chair...** Chairs monthly committee meeting. Ensures enough parents are recruited to do behind-the-scenes work.

**Pack Committee...** Meets monthly. Positions include secretary, treasurer, advancement chair, and outings coordinator.

**Pack Trainer...** Coordinates and promotes the training opportunities for all pack leaders.

**Other Jobs...** Throughout the year, parents will be needed to chair one-time events like the Blue and Gold Banquet, Popcorn Sale, Pinewood Derby, etc.

## The Dollars and Cents of Cub Scouting

Compared to other youth programs, Cub Scouting is a bargain. But it's not free. It takes a lot of money to run your son's den and pack.

Expenses include awards and recognitions, outings, program materials, equipment, and leader training.

These expenses are generally met in three ways: dues, money-earning projects, and activity fees.

**Dues...** Most dens charge weekly dues to cover the cost of program materials and supplies. Paying dues teaches boys responsibility and the importance of paying their own way.

**Money-earning Projects...** The main source of money for your pack is money-earning projects. One of the best is provided by the Southwest Michigan Council: the Pecatonica River popcorn sale in the fall. This no-risk fundraiser lets boys earn prizes while supporting their pack. For information on this sale, please call the Council Service Center (269) 343-4687.



**Activity Fees...** Programs like Cub Fun Days are designed to be self-supporting, so boys may be charged an activity fee.

## Your Council and You The Southwest Michigan Council

The Southwest Michigan Council serves northern Berrien, Branch, Calhoun, Kalamazoo, St. Joseph and VanBuren counties. The Council provides program support, camping, and Service Center facilities, the Scout Shop, and professional assistance. The Council is divided into four geographical districts. Programs such as training and activities are offered at the district level.

**FOS (Friends of Scouting)...** An annual campaign that will ask for your financial support to help build our local Scouting program. Pledged money is used for year round support of our local camp Rota-Kiwan, annual recruitment, training of leaders, yearly program planning packets for all units, and most importantly to keep providing a great program that teaches and instills great values and morals.

## Handbooks and Uniforms

As your son gets involved in Scouting, you'll want to buy him a few things. You don't have to spend a great deal of money for your son to enjoy Scouting and, you don't have to buy all these things at once.

The first thing you should buy is the appropriate handbook. First-graders need a *Tiger Cub* handbook; second-graders need the *Wolf Cub Scout Book*; third-graders need the *Bear Cub Scout Book*; and fourth-and fifth-graders need the *Webelos Scout Book*. All of these publications are available at the Kalamazoo Scout Shop and at the Battle Creek and Benton Harbor Service Centers.

Another purchase you should make fairly soon is a uniform. The blue Cub Scout uniform is worn by first-third graders. Fourth and fifth graders may wear either the blue Cub Scout uniform or the khaki-and-green Boy Scout uniform, at the pack's discretion.

Uniforms are available from the Scout Shop. The Scout Shop is located at 1035 W. Maple St. in Kalamazoo. Contact the Scout Shop at (269) 343-3775 for available hours. Select items can also be purchased in the Calhoun County Service Center (269)962-8513, please call for hours and available merchandise.

## Bobcat Requirements

- Learn and say the **CUB SCOUT PROMISE** and complete the Honesty Character Connection.  
"I .....(name).... 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. "
- Say the **LAW OF THE PACK**. Tell what it means.  
"The Cub Scout follows Akela. The Cub Scout helps the pack go. The pack helps the Cub Scout Grow. The Cub Scout gives goodwill."
- Tell what **WEBELOS** means:  
"WE'll BE LOyal Scouts "
- Show the CUB SCOUT SIGN. Tell what it means.  
[Webelos: **Make** the CUB SCOUT SIGN. Tell what it means.]
- Show the CUB SCOUT HANDSHAKE. Tell what it means.
- Say the CUB SCOUT MOTTO. A motto is a guiding principle. **"Do Your Best"**
- Give the CUB SCOUT SALUTE. Tell what it means.
- With your parent or guardian, complete the exercises in the booklet, *How to Protect Your Children from Child Abuse*
- The above items are the basic information that ALL Cub Scouts must learn, which is why EVERY boy who enters into Cub Scouting MUST earn the Bobcat Badge.

## Key Pack Information

Please fill in and save this important information.

Pack # \_\_\_\_\_ Den # \_\_\_\_\_

Den Leader \_\_\_\_\_

Den Leader Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

Den Meeting Time and Place \_\_\_\_\_

Cubmaster \_\_\_\_\_

Cubmaster Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

Pack Meeting Time and Place \_\_\_\_\_

## For New Leaders

### Available online

**This is Scouting...**Provides an overview of the Scouting organization, including history, values, programs, Youth Protection and training. Log on to **MyScouting.org** to take this course online.

**Youth Protection Training...**Designed to help keep your youth safe from abuse. Here you will learn the BSA's Youth Protection guidelines. Log on to **MyScouting.org** to take this course online.

**Fast Start Training...**Prior to running your first den or pack meeting, Cub Scout Leader Fast Start is the initial training course required for you to complete so that you may understand the fundamentals of the Cub Scouting program. There are separate fast start training courses for all Cub Scout leaders, catered to specific leadership roles in the pack. You will learn your specific responsibilities, how to keep your meetings fun and exciting, and what other resources there are to help assist you in planning for your den or pack meetings. Log onto **MyScouting.org** to take this course online.

### Held Locally

**Roundtable...**A casual meeting designed to help all volunteers gather leadership ideas and information. Held on a monthly basis.

Location: \_\_\_\_\_ Time: \_\_\_\_\_

**Leader Meetings...**A meeting of pack leaders and volunteers to discuss ideas and information. Held by unit volunteers.

Location: \_\_\_\_\_ Time: \_\_\_\_\_