



Cub Scout Parent's Orientation Guide

This booklet is designed to:

- Inform new parents and boys about Tiger Cubs and Cub Scouts
- Explain why parents will want to be involved as helpers/leaders

Welcome to the Fun and Adventure of Scouting!

Pack Information:

My son's Pack is: _____ His Den is: _____

My son's Den Leader is: _____

Phone Number: _____ Email: _____

Dens Meets: _____ At: _____

Location: _____

Our Pack Meets: _____ At: _____

Location: _____

My son's Cubmaster is: _____

Phone Number: _____ Email: _____

Atlanta Area Council Cub Scout Parent's Orientation Guide

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1. Introduction

This handbook is intended to provide leaders and parents an overview of the Cub Scout Pack organization, operation and procedures.

2. Cub Scouting Goals

The goal of Scouting is to help a Scout to grow in both physical and mental ability, to introduce new skills and activities and to have fun. The program is structured around family participation.

Cub Scouting is a program outlined by the Boy Scouts of America (BSA). Parents and Leaders work together to:

- Influence each Scout's character development and spiritual growth
- Develop habits and attitudes of good citizenship
- Encourage good sportsmanship and pride in growing strong in mind and body
- Improve understanding and communication within the family
- Strengthen skills in getting along with and respecting others
- Foster a sense of personal achievement by developing new interests and skills
- Provide fun and exciting things to do
- Encourage each Scout to "Do Your Best"
- Prepare each Cub Scout to become a Boy Scout

The Pack is a family based organization and is run by parents who volunteer as Den Leaders, assistants, and committee members or as planners for a special event. In order to successfully achieve the stated goals of Scouting, the involvement of all parents is needed. Please be prepared to volunteer for pack and den activities. Your participation benefits the boys in the Pack, the community, yourself and your own son.

3. Charter Organization

The Charter Organization is the sponsoring organization for a Pack. It is their obligation to provide us with a meeting place and offer support as needed. It is the Pack's responsibility to consider how our actions as a Pack reflect upon the Charter Organization. We are also expected to offer our time and energy to the Charter Organization on occasion for service projects.

4. Pack Structure

A Cub Scout Pack serves the boys in the first to the fifth grades.

1. Pack Committee

The Pack Committee plans and runs the Cub Scout program under BSA guidelines. Discussed at the meetings are Pack policies, future events and activities, coming Pack meetings, Pack administration, and a review of previous events.

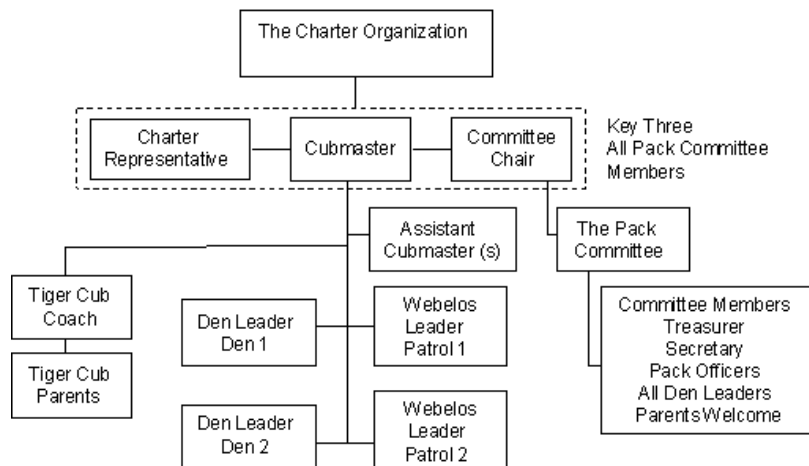
2. Leadership Positions

To run effectively the Pack has the following registered leaders:

- ***Committee Chair***
 - Runs committee meetings, makes sure re-registration, Pack business and Pack activities are completed in a timely manner
 - Confers with the Cubmaster on policy issues and maintains records
 - Recruits volunteers for leadership positions
- ***Cubmaster***
 - Plans the program year
 - Plans and runs Pack Meetings, round ups, and other program events
 - Maintains relations with Dens and parents
 - Plans and conducts advancement ceremonies
 - Recruits parent assistance in the Pack
- ***Charter Organization Representative***
 - Provides a formal link to the Charter Organization
- ***Assistant Cubmaster***
 - Assists Cubmaster in planning and running Pack meetings, functions, etc
 - Fills in for Cubmaster as required
- ***Den Leaders***

- Conduct Den meetings and other Den level activities with the assistance of the Assistant Den Leaders and the parents
- Communicates planned Den and Pack activities to parents
- **Assistant Den Leaders**
 - Assists in planning and conducting Den activities
- **Den Leader Coach**
 - Serves as a resource for Den Leaders for information and ideas for running their Den
- **Tiger Cub Den Leader**
 - Serves as a resource for the Tiger Cub families
 - Informs Tiger Cub families about upcoming Pack activities
 - Ensures Tiger Cubs meet regularly, are preparing for advancement, are participating in Pack activities, and are recognized for their part in Pack activities
- **Pack Committee Members**
 - Treasurer – Maintains checking account, deposits money, writes checks and reports balances monthly to Committee
 - Secretary – Records minutes as Committee meetings and ensures all Leaders are given a copy of those minutes; maintains current Pack roster
 - Awards Coordinator – Maintains Advancement Records with all advancement and awards noted
 - Fund Raising Chair – Monitors participation of Scouts on Pack fundraising activities
 - Activities Coordinator - Examines outside activities, presents to Committee for review and arranges as needed
 - Webmaster - Manages the Pack website within the guidelines established by BSA

5. Organization Chart



6. Meetings

1. Pack Meetings

Pack meetings are held monthly and are the gathering of the Dens where the Pack recognizes achievements, plays games, sings songs, does skits and has some fun. Dens may be asked to conduct opening or closing ceremonies, skits, or demonstrations.

2. Den Meetings

The Cub Scout Dens are the basic unit of Cub Scouting. Dens are composed of up to 8 boys of the same rank and meet 2 to 4 times a month in addition to the Pack Meeting or additional Pack events. Den Leader (s) conducts meetings with additional help from parent volunteers and occasionally a Boy Scout from a local Troop may assist as a Den Chief. While some activities may be worked on at the Den Meetings it is the parents responsibility to assist Scouts in completing the achievement requirements.

Two adults must be present at every Den Meeting and function. No exception - this is the BSA two-deep leadership policy.

3. Tiger Cub Meetings

Tiger Cubs and their adult partners meet together at two, one-hour den meetings at the host adult partner's home or another location. The adult partners help with planning and running of a Den meeting under the direction of the Tiger Den Leader. Monthly field trips to locations associated with the monthly Cub Scout theme are encouraged. Active participation in the monthly Pack meetings are also expected.

7. Finances

1. Pack Level Finances

Cub Scout Packs are a non-profit organization. The Pack maintains itself through fundraising projects during the Scouting year. The Pack Committee will decide on the type of fundraiser and how many will be held during the year. Scouts are expected to participate in all fundraisers to the best of their ability. The ability for the Pack to provide a quality Scouting program is greatly increased with the active participation of the Scouts in the fundraisers. The monies raised by the Pack in the fundraisers are used to cover Pack expenses.

2. Den Level Finances

Den level finances are the sole responsibility of the individual Dens. Each Den sets their own amount for weekly dues and decides what is to be done with those dues. A standard of \$1 or \$2 per meeting per Scout is fairly common. The dues collected at the Den are to be used for the Den crafts, trips and activities. It is encouraged to have the Scout 'pay their own way' by working at home for the dues required at the Den meetings.

8. Obligations

The Scouts, the families and the Pack must work together to create a solid Scouting program. The Scouting program is an exercise in cooperation between all three. The Pack cannot give your son a good program if the support of the parents and volunteers is lacking. Participation by the Scouts in activities also leads to a better program.

1. The Scout's Obligations to the Pack

- Do My Best in everything I do.
- Obey the rules and regulations set down by the Pack.
- Obey the Den Leader(s) and Assistant Den Leader(s) and follow their rules and regulations.
- Work on my achievements and electives and advance in a timely manner.
- Participate in Scout activities whenever possible.
- Respect others, their rights and their property at all times.
- Show respect for the BSA. Treat the United States Flag and the Pledge of Allegiance with equal respect.
- Be on time for all meetings and functions. It is not fair for the others to have to wait for me.
- Call my Den Leader(s) or ask my parent to if I cannot attend a meeting or function.
- Keep my uniform clean and in good repair with all my insignia properly placed.
- Wear my uniform proudly to all events and functions unless told otherwise by my Den Leader(s).
- Do a chore or chores in order to earn the money needed for my Den dues.

2. Parental Obligations to the Pack

- Work with your son on his achievements and electives. Scouting is a "Family Affair" and he cannot do it alone. If assistance is needed, ask your son's Den Leader(s).
- Accompany your son to the monthly Pack meeting.
- Attend a Den meeting or two. You need to be available to get the latest information from the Den Leader(s). Get to know the Den Leader(s) so interaction is more effective.
- Volunteer and become involved. When we ask for parental assistance there is a reason. The more active and involved you are the more you will enjoy the Cub Scout experience.

3. The Pack's Obligations to You and Your Son

- Provide a solid Scouting program that you can both be proud of.
- Provide the means of advancement in a timely manner for the Scouts.
- Provide quality trained Den Leaders.
- Provide the opportunity to participate in various outings and activities.

- Provide a safe Scouting environment and meeting place.
- Communicate news and current Scout events to you in a timely manner.

9. Advancement, Achievements and Awards

The Cub Scout Advancement program follows the school grade levels and aim to introduce new skills and areas of interest as well as to build self-esteem, self-awareness and a sense of citizenship and good sportsmanship. Parental involvement is crucial to achieve the advancement of the Scouts and responsibility for advancement in rank rests with the parents; verification and assistance of the Den Leader is secondary.

- **Tiger Cubs (1st grade)** work toward their Tiger Cub patch and earn beads by participating in activities. Beads are awarded for participation to enhance the Tiger Cub Program and ease the way into Cub Scouting.
- **All other Cub Scouts** earn the Bobcat rank first and later the rank appropriate for their age level.
- **Wolf Cubs (2nd grade)** earn the Wolf rank by completing 49 tracks in 12 achievements. After the Wolf badge they can earn Arrowpoints. The 12 achievements are all identified in the Wolf handbook and each consists of a number of activities to be earned during Den meetings and at home. Arrowpoints are electives that can be earned after the Wolf (and Bear) badge are awarded. These are all electives in the back of the Wolf handbook. There is no limit on the number of Arrowpoints that can be earned by a Scout.
- **Bear Cubs (3rd grade)** earn the Bear rank (choice of 12 achievements) and then Arrowpoints. There are some required achievements in this rank with some options available. After the rank of Bear has been achieved, Arrowpoints can again be earned. There are 25 different categories of electives, which can be completed for Arrowpoints. The parent signs Wolf and Bear advancements; Webelos advancements are signed by the Den Leader.
- **Webelos (4th and 5th grades)** earn the Webelos rank and can earn activity pins to get compass points. The second year Webelos earn the "Arrow of Light", the highest award that can be earned by a Cub Scout.

Sport and Academic belt loops are awarded for trying out a number of various sports and academic subjects. For those Scouts with more serious participation Sport and Academic pins are awarded. These awards are available to all Scouts of all ranks. Your son's Den Leader will be able to help you find out more about the different categories and subjects available.

10. Annual Events and Activities

Cub Scout Packs participate in a number of events and activities throughout the Scouting year. Some are community related, others are fundraisers, some are educational and others are just for fun! Some events are considered "*Spirit of Scouting*"

events. We strive for 100% Scout participation at these events so please mark your calendars early and make plans to attend. Parent and Leader volunteers run all events and your help is always welcome.

- All monthly Pack Meetings are considered *Spirit of Scouting* events. We strongly encourage the Scouts and parents to attend with their Dens. The Pack gathers once a month to celebrate Scouting together whether it is with theme-oriented skits, songs or games. This will also be the time when the Pack and Den leaders recognize those Scouts that have earned awards or badges of rank. Guests and siblings are always welcome to attend.
- The Atlanta Area Council hosts Popcorn Sales and participation in this fall fundraiser is strongly encouraged. The Pack earns a substantial portion of its operating budget from the popcorn sales so we request that parents support their son's effort to give something back to the Pack.
- Scouting for Food, a community effort, is a *Spirit of Scouting* event and takes only a few hours in the Fall. We ask that every Scout participate and help out.
- The Pinewood Derby is strictly for FUN! The races give you a chance to show your mechanical and engineering ability. The Scouts all make a Derby car to race against all the others in the Pack. The cars start as simple blocks of wood but with a little time and a little assistance it is amazing what they become.
- The Blue and Gold Banquet in February is a *Spirit of Scouting* event for all the Pack Scouts. This is the graduation ceremony for the senior Webelos from Cub Scouts to Boy Scouts and a celebration of the birthday of Scouting. We feel the younger Scouts should be there to give the older Scouts the recognition and respect they deserve.
- Pack Summertime Activities are planned each year and can include a Fishing Derby, Skating, a Pack picnic, a local area hike or the Family Camping Weekend run by the Council All of these events have minimal or no costs and are strictly for fun. There is plenty of opportunity to earn lots of belt loops and awards if you decide to attend.

