

# Welcome New Cub Scout Parents!



## What is Cub Scouting?

Family involvement is essential to Cub Scouting's success. When we talk about "family" in Cub Scouting, we're sensitive to the realities of present-day families. Many Cub Scouts do not come from traditional two-parent homes. Some boys live with a single parent or with other relatives or guardians. Cub Scouting considers a boy's family to be the people with whom he lives.

As a family, you want your son to grow up to be a self-reliant, dependable and caring person. Scouting has these same goals in mind for boys. Cub Scouting encourages closeness to family. The program will give you opportunities to take part in activities with your son that you normally couldn't do. It provides a positive way for parents and son to grow closer together, and encourages you to spend quality time together. In this way, Cub Scouting is a program for the entire family, and your involvement is vital to the program's success.

Some specific things you can do to help your son in Cub Scouting are:

1. Work with your son on projects
2. Help your Cub Scout along the advancement trail
3. Participate in monthly pack meetings
4. Attend parent-leader conferences
5. Go on family campouts with your son
6. Provide support for your son's den and pack

**YOUR PACK FACTS**

Your boy is a member of a **Den**

- A den has 4 to 8 boys from his grade
- The den meets once a week
- The den is led by a trained Den Leader (usually a parent)
- The Den leader is assisted by a Assistant Den Leader and a Den Chief (an older Boy Scout)
- Den meetings have games, crafts, stunts, songs, ceremonies, and lots of fun

Your boy is a member of a **Pack**

- A pack is made up of several dens
- The pack meets once a month – all Cub Scout families attend
- The monthly pack meeting is led by the Cubmaster
- The pack meeting is the climax of the month's den meetings and activities
- Pack meetings have games, skits, stunts, songs, ceremonies, and presentations of badges that the boys earned that month

The Pack is run by the **Pack Committee**

- The pack committee is made up of a group of qualified adults appointed by the chartered organization to administer the program of the pack. Usually the committee members, as well as other pack leaders, are parents of boys in the pack.
- The committee meets once a month
- The committee is led by a committee chair
- The committee plans den and pack meetings around the monthly theme
- The committee selects leaders, performs record keeping, manages pack finances, orders badges, maintains pack equipment, helps train leaders, and recognizes leaders.

The Pack is owned by the **Chartered Organization**

- Chartered organizations include schools, religious organizations, service clubs, and other groups interested in youth
- The chartered organization approves leaders, provides a meeting place, and operates packs within the guidelines and policies of the chartered organizations and the Boy Scouts of America
- The chartered organization selects a chartered organization representative who serves as a liaison between the pack and organizations

## **OUR PROGRAMS**

In June of their kindergarten year or when they reach age 7, boys are eligible to join Cub Scouts.

### **FIRST GRADE BOYS – TIGERS**

- Boys become part of a Tiger Cub den
- Each Tiger den has 4-8 boys and their leaders
- Tiger Cub dens meet once a week
- Take part in a monthly pack meeting
- The Den Leader is assisted by one or more assistant leaders

### **SECOND & THIRD GRADE BOYS – WOLF & BEAR**

- Second grade boys are in Wolf Cub Scout dens
- Third grade boys are in Bear Cub Scout dens
- Each den meets regularly (usually weekly)
- Dens also participate in monthly pack meetings
- The Den Leader is assisted by one or more assistant leaders

### **FOURTH GRADE BOYS – WEBELOS**

- Fourth grade boys work on five required adventures and two electives to earn the Webelos badge.
- Fifth grade boys complete 7 more adventures to earn the Arrow of Light
- Each den meets regularly (usually weekly) and participates in monthly pack meeting
- The Den Leader is assisted by one or more assistant leaders

## **WHAT DO CUB SCOUTS DO?**

All boys in grades 1-5 work toward specific rank advancements. All ranks are designed to be age relevant and grade specific. The responsibility of a boy's advancement in Cub Scouting lies with the family. Some advancement requirements are completed at den meetings, but most are done at home with the family.

Regardless of grade or age, all boys who join Cub Scouts start by earning the Bobcat badge. After receiving the Bobcat badge, a boy works on the requirements based on his grade level.

Boys may join Cub Scouts at any point during the year. In some cases they may not be able to complete all of the requirements for advancement but they can still participate in all of the fun activities and growth opportunities.



## ADVANCEMENT IS FUN

**BOBCAT** - All boys earn the Bobcat badge first, by learning the Boy Scout Oath and Law, Cub Scout handshake, salute, sign, motto, and the meaning of “Webelos”. After receiving the Bobcat badge, the boys work on requirements based on their grade level.

**TIGERS** - The Tiger rank is for boys who are in first grade or are age 7. To earn the Tiger badge, a boy must complete six required adventures with his den or family and one elective adventure of his den or family’s choosing. As the boy completes each adventure, he will receive the adventure loop for that adventure, which he can wear on his belt. When the boy has completed the seven required adventures, he can receive the Tiger badge. The Tiger badge is given to the boy’s adult partner at a pack meeting. Then, during a grand ceremony, the adult gives the badge to the boy

**WOLF** - The Wolf rank is for boys who have finished first grade (or who are 8 years old). To earn the Wolf badge, a boy must complete six required adventures and one elective adventure. His parent or guardian and den leader approves each requirement by signing his book, and the boy receives an adventure loop for each adventure. When the boy has met all requirements, the Wolf badge is presented to his parent or guardian at the next pack meeting. During an impressive ceremony, the parent or guardian then presents the badge to the boy.

**BEAR** - The Bear rank is for boys who have finished second grade (or who are 9 years old). To earn the Bear badge, a boy must complete six required adventures and one elective adventure. His parent or guardian and den leader approves each requirement by signing his book, and the boy receives an adventure loop for each adventure. When the boy has met all requirements, the Bear badge is presented to his parent or guardian at the next pack meeting. During an impressive ceremony, the parent or guardian then presents the badge to the boy.

**WEBELOS** - Webelos dens are for boys who have completed third grade (or reached age 10). Webelos Scouts get to work on the five required Webelos adventures and choose two of the 18 elective adventures that are shared by the Webelos and Arrow of Light ranks. When a boy has done the requirements for an adventure, the Webelos den leader, rather than a

parent, approves most of the adventures. For each adventure a boy completes, he receives a pin to wear on the Webelos colors or on his hat. After completing seven adventures, including five required adventures and two elective adventures, a Scout can receive the Webelos badge.

After he has earned the Webelos badge, a Webelos Scout can work on the remaining 18 shared Webelos and Arrow of Light electives until he finishes fourth grade (or turns 11 years old). He can choose elective adventures that may show him new hobbies and teach him skills that will be useful during his Boy Scout years. When he completes an elective adventure, he receives an additional adventure pin to wear on the Webelos colors or on his hat.

**ARROW OF LIGHT** - The highest rank in Cub Scouting is the Arrow of Light. Earning this rank prepares a Webelos Scout to become a Boy Scout. Scouts must complete four required adventures and three elective adventures to earn the Arrow of Light rank. For each adventure a boy completes, he receives a pin to wear on the Webelos colors or on his hat.



The Arrow of Light badge is the only Cub Scout badge that can be worn on the Boy Scout uniform when a boy graduates into a troop. Adult leaders who earned the Arrow of Light rank when they were young may also show their achievement by wearing a special square knot on their adult uniform.

### **THE CUB SCOUT PACK PROGRAM**

Most packs conduct a well planned and organized annual program. You will receive a dates of events from your pack. Annual pack events can include:

Blue & Gold Banquet – Celebrate the anniversary of Scouting in February with your pack with dinner and special ceremonies.

Pinewood Derby – Boys and their parents build cars from pine blocks and race. Awards may be given for fastest, best design and much more.

Scouting for Food – Participate in a national service project to collect canned food that is then distributed to the needy in your community.

Summer Camp- opportunities are plentiful for your son to participate in high quality camping experiences from 1-5 days at Camp Boyhaven or Camp Wakpominee each summer.

Field Trips and Activities – your pack will participate in local field trips and in district and council activities like Scout Days with sports teams, Harvest Weekend and others.

Popcorn Sales – Sell popcorn to earn money to help pay for your pack’s activities and events. The sale also teaches your son the importance of being thrifty and about earning his own way.



### **THE ROLE OF YOUR COUNCIL & YOUR DISTRICT**

The Boy Scouts of America aims to provide a program which will aid youth in:

1. Character Development
2. Citizenship Training
3. Personal Fitness (mental, physical and emotional)

The purpose of the Council is to guide and support its Districts for the achievement of the Scout movement’s purpose. The Twin Rivers Council encompasses 13 counties; Columbia, Rensselaer, Albany, Schenectady, Saratoga, Montgomery, Fulton, Hamilton, Warren, Washington, Essex, Clinton & Franklin. The purpose of the District is to organize and support successful Cub Scout packs and Boy Scout troops by working through chartered organizations. The end result of effective district support is continued growth in membership and the delivery of a quality program to all members.

WHICH DISTRICT AM I IN?

<u>Name</u>	<u>Area</u>
Fort Orange District	Albany County
Mahikan District	Columbia & Rensselaer Counties
Schenectady District	Schenectady County
Saratoga District	Saratoga County
Sir William Johnson District	Fulton, Montgomery & Hamilton Counties
Wakpominee District	Warren, Washington & Southern Essex
Adirondack District	Clinton, Franklin & Northern Essex

Each district has a Council employee, a Unit-Serving Executive (District Executive), assigned to assist the packs and troop in their assigned area. Your district also has a volunteer team called the commissioner staff. They are a “service team” that checks on the program “health” of your pack, and they are a communication link between your pack and the local council.

All leaders need training to be effective. Your district provides online or instructor-led training for adult volunteers in how to be a successful leader.

WHERE TO GO FOR HELP AND IDEAS

[www.trcscouting.org](http://www.trcscouting.org) is the council website and the hub of communication. **Please sign up for MyCouncil**; an important feature of the Twin Rivers Council website. MyCouncil is the membership system where you create a member account on the Twin Rivers Council website. Your member account will allow you to receive electronic communications from the council in the form of emails and e-newsletters. You can specify your interests and choose the type of communications you want to receive so that you get information that is both relevant and timely. Your MyCouncil account can also be used to collect and store favorite pages and events from the website, and can also be used to register for events.

### Other helpful sites

BSA National Website:	<a href="http://www.scouting.org">www.scouting.org</a>
Twin Rivers Council FB:	<a href="http://www.facebook.com/twinriversbsa">http://www.facebook.com/twinriversbsa</a>
Fort Orange District FB:	<a href="http://www.facebook.com/fortorangedistrict">http://www.facebook.com/fortorangedistrict</a>
Mahikan District FB:	<a href="http://www.facebook.com/MahikanDistrictBSA">http://www.facebook.com/MahikanDistrictBSA</a>
Schenectady District FB:	<a href="http://www.facebook.com/schenectadydistrictBSA">http://www.facebook.com/schenectadydistrictBSA</a>
Saratoga District FB:	<a href="http://www.facebook.com/SaratogaDistrictBsa">http://www.facebook.com/SaratogaDistrictBsa</a>
Sir William Johnson District FB:	<a href="http://www.facebook.com/Sir-William-Johnson-District">http://www.facebook.com/Sir-William-Johnson-District</a>
Wakpominee District FB:	<a href="http://www.facebook.com/pages/Wakpominee-District-BSA">http://www.facebook.com/pages/Wakpominee-District-BSA</a>
Adirondack District FB:	<a href="http://www.facebook.com/ADKboyscouts">http://www.facebook.com/ADKboyscouts</a>
Camp Boyhaven FB:	<a href="http://www.facebook.com/boyhaven">http://www.facebook.com/boyhaven</a>
Camp Wakpominee FB:	<a href="http://www.facebook.com/wakpominee">http://www.facebook.com/wakpominee</a>

One of the most helpful resources is **Google**. Forms can be found and most general questions can be answered by searching Google or your favorite search engine.

### **Scout Store:**

The Twin Rivers Scout Shop is located in the Albany Service Center. Their number is 518-690-0282. Hours of operation: Monday – Friday 9:00am to 6:00pm, Saturday from 10:00am-2:00pm. Or order online at: [www.Scoutsuff.org](http://www.Scoutsuff.org)

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