



St. Matthew Pack 8 Parent Guide

2007-2008

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About This Guide

This guide was produced to inform Pack 8 Cub Scouts and parents about the year's program plans and key policies and procedures that all parents need to know. We strongly encourage you to review this guide at the beginning of the Pack year and keep it available for reference later. One printed copy of this guide will be given to each family in the Pack. Extra copies of this manual may be found as a PDF document at the Pack Web site. If you notice items that need correction or that you believe could be improved please contact the Pack Committee Chairman. Updated information will be shared with you as it becomes available by your Den Leader and on the Pack Web site.

Critical Information: Please Read!

Make sure you are aware of all Den and Pack meeting and activity dates and ensure your son has a ride to and from these events. Remember the whole family is welcome to attend Pack meetings. Tiger Cub parents – remember that a parent or adult partner must attend ALL activities with Tigers. Parent of older Cubs are encouraged to stay with their Wolf, Bear or Webelos Scouts during Den meetings although it is not required.

Please be sure to read the Parent Guide in your son's Tiger Cub, Wolf or Bear handbook. Webelos parents should read the sections entitled *Welcome to Webelos Scouting* through *Earning Activity Badges* in the Webelos Scout book.

About Cub Scout Pack 8

Pack 8 is a youth ministry of St. Matthew Catholic Church. The Boy Scouts of America (BSA) has granted St. Matthew a charter to operate Pack 8 according to the principles and policies of the Boy Scouts of America.

St. Matthew Pack 8 welcomes boys and families of all faiths. Community related activities are generally oriented around St. Matthew Catholic Church. Membership in the Pack is open to any Cub Scout-aged boy regardless of where they live or what school or church they attend.

Fun With a Purpose

As a parent, you want your son to grow up to be a self-reliant, dependable and caring individual. Cub Scouting weaves lifetime values into fun and educational activities designed to assist parents in strengthening character, developing good citizenship and enhancing personal fitness in youth.

Cub Scouting is fun! But it is fun with a purpose. Woven through all the activities is an inspiring program that works. The proven methods that are used in Scouting instill traditional values, build character and develop leadership skills — all in the context of fun and family togetherness.

What is Cub Scouting?

In short, Cub Scouting is a family-centered program for boys in the first through fifth grades, designed to instill strong moral values; build character, fitness, and confidence; and develop citizenship and leadership skills — all within the framework of fun activities.

Cub Scouting is centered around boys and their families working together in a quality, time-tested program. Cub Scouting offers opportunities to develop new interests and skills, participate in sports and competitive activities, fulfill a boy's desire for adventure through an active outdoor program, and gain confidence, self respect and a sense of belonging. Cub Scouting offers a well-defined advancement plan designed to encourage the natural interests of a boy in a natural way and teaches them to "do their best."

Cub Scouting is also a community-centered program supported and enabled by chartered organizations such as churches, schools or community organizations. Cub Scouting is designed to strengthen family ties and to improve the life of their community by enriching the lives of the people who live there. Cub Scouting provides opportunities for boys to reach out into their communities and help others as they take part in service projects and other community-related activities.

Cub Scouting teaches "duty to God and Country." Scouting has always been known for service to others, a foundation of good citizenship. Patriotism also plays a significant role in preparing our nation's youth to become useful and participating citizens. The Boy Scouts of America believes that no member can grow into the best kind of citizen without also recognizing an obligation to God, and encourages both youth and adult leaders to be faithful in their religious duties.

Cub Scouting provides positive role models to guide boys in making ethical choices and developing strong values. Leaders have both the responsibility and the opportunity to positively influence a

boy's development and to help families better understand their sons by providing a quality fun-filled program. By better understanding the **Aims, Purposes** and **Methods** of the Cub Scouting program, you will be better able to work with your son and Pack leaders to get the most you can from Cub Scouts.

AIMS of Scouting

There are three broad objectives of the Boy Scouts of America which are set out in the BSA charter issued by the United States Congress in June 1916:

1. To build desirable qualities of character
2. To train in the responsibilities of participating citizenship
3. To develop personal fitness

These "Aims" are progressively applied, woven into all Scouting programs (Tigers, Cubs, Webelos, Boy Scouts and Venturing) with the goal of teaching boys important values that will help and guide them the rest of their lives.

PURPOSES of Scouting

The Cub Scout program is designed for parents, leaders and organizations to work together to achieve the following:

1. Character Development
2. Spiritual Growth
3. Good Citizenship
4. Sportsmanship and Fitness
5. Family Understanding
6. Respectful Relationships
7. Personal Achievement
8. Friendly Service
9. Fun and Adventure
10. Preparation for Boy Scouts

We achieve the purposes of Cub Scouting through fun-filled activities. Some significant things happen while the boys are having fun. From their point of view, fun is the most important thing. At the same time, they gain worthwhile values and lessons without realizing it. The founder of Scouting, Robert Baden-Powell, recognized this as a powerful tool from the very beginnings of the movement. "Fun with a purpose" is not just a catchy slogan, it's the glue that binds the various pieces of the program together and makes it all work. All activities planned by leaders and enjoyed by the boys should relate to one or more of these purposes. These purposes help us achieve the overall aims of the Boy Scouts of America.

METHODS of Scouting

Cub Scouting uses seven specific methods to achieve the aims of Character, Citizenship and Personal Fitness. These methods are incorporated into all aspects of the program. The importance of understanding how these methods are intended to work cannot be over-emphasized! These 7 methods are:

1. Home and Community Centered

Cub Scouting happens in the homes and neighborhoods, community centers, churches and fellowship halls, in large cities, small towns and rural communities - wherever boys live. It is intended to be a part of the fabric of the community and, thereby, to improve and enrich the lives of the people who live there.

2. Family involvement

Family involvement is an essential part of Cub Scouting. When we speak of parents or families, we are not referring to any particular structure. Whoever a boy calls his family is the family we are talking about. Cub Scouting is a program put on by the families of the boys for their benefit and, by that very process strengthens family bonds.

3. Advancement Plan

Recognition is important to boys. The well-defined advancement plan provides fun for boys, gives them a sense of personal achievement as they earn badges and strengthens family understanding as adult family members work with boys on projects.

4. The Den

Boys like to belong to a group. They have fun in Den meetings, during indoor and outdoor activities and on field trips. As part of a small group (6-8 boys), they are able to learn sportsmanship and good citizenship, how to get along with others and how to do their best, not just for themselves but also for the Den. The Den is the place the boys learn new skills and develop interests in new subjects.

5. Ideals

The Cub Scout Promise, which is a pledge of good citizenship; the Law of the Pack, a simple formula for good Cub Scouting; and the Cub Scout Motto, "Do Your Best," are but a few. Such symbols as the Cub Scout sign, handshake and salute all add a sense of mystery and exclusiveness that most boys enjoy, and add to the appeal of belonging to a widely respected organization.

6. Uniform

The Cub Scout and Webelos uniforms help build pride, loyalty and self-respect. Wearing the uniform to all Den and Pack meetings and activities also encourages good behavior and a neat appearance. Uniform guidelines are provided in Appendix A.

7. Activity Program

Boys will participate in a variety of Den and Pack activities. These help fulfill a boy's desire for adventure and allows him to use his vivid imagination while taking part in skits, games, songs, trips, outdoor activities and more. There is adventure in exploring the outdoors, learning about nature and gaining a greater appreciation of our beautiful world. There is also the Cub Scout Sports and

Academics program which includes individual achievement and family involvement recognition.

Family Involvement

Cub Scouting is a FAMILY program; it always has been. Cub Scout parents have ALWAYS been encouraged to help their Cub Scout with advancement work, attend Pack meetings, become Den and Pack leaders, and help conduct activities. In fact, FAMILY involvement is so vital to Cub Scouting's success that without it, there can be no Cub Scouting.

Cub Scouting gives families an opportunity to spend quality time together. It is the leaders' role to provide interest, skill and time in developing a good program. The family provides help and support for the Den and Pack. Families can help in many ways, including:

- Working with their sons on achievements and electives
- Attending and assisting at Den and Pack meetings
- Providing help to the leadership when asked
- Conducting activities and Den outings
- Assisting with transportation needs
- Participation at fund raisers, district and council events

How the Pack Works

The Pack

The Pack is a group made up of several Dens. The Pack includes not only the boys in those Dens, but also their families and their leaders. The Pack meets once a month with Cub Scouts, leaders, parents and other family members attending. The Pack meeting is the climax of the month's Den meetings and activities. This is a chance to recognize the boys, their parents and their leaders.

In addition to its regular meetings, the Pack sponsors or participates in special events and projects. These include community projects (e.g., Toys for Tots and Scouting for Food), outdoor activities (e.g., field trips, family campouts, etc.), fundraising activities and fun competitions (e.g., Pinewood Derby).

The Den

A Cub Scout Pack is divided into small groups of about six to eight boys called Dens that meet weekly under the direction of adult Den Leaders and, in some cases, Boy Scout Den Chiefs. The Den Leaders are trained volunteers and almost always parents. The Den allows boys to get to know each other better and engage in activities that would be difficult in a larger group.

Den meeting activities are planned around the monthly theme and include games, handicrafts, hikes and other outdoor fun, practicing skits and stunts in preparation for the next Pack meeting and taking part in simple ceremonies and songs. Sometimes work on advancement requirements is included, but the boys accomplish most of that work with their parents (see details on the Webelos rank for an exception). The Den Leaders may ask for special help occasionally from parents (helping with a meeting, sharing a special skill, or just providing a snack for the boys).

Dens are organized by rank. Ranks are organized by grade and age.

- TIGER CUBS -- In the first grade (or 7 years old)
- WOLF CUBS -- In the second grade (or 8 years old)
- BEAR CUBS -- In the third grade (or 9 years old)
- WEBELOS SCOUTS -- In the fourth and fifth grade (or 10 years old)

Pack Leadership

The Pack leadership consists of Den Leaders, the Chartered Organization Representative, the Pack Committee Chairperson, the Pack Committee, Coordinators and the Cubmaster. These are adult positions that can be filled by both men and women.

The Pack Committee

The Pack Committee is a group of adult volunteers who plan the Pack program and individual activities as well as managing such things as record keeping, finance, leadership recruitment and registration. The Pack Committee meets monthly and meetings are open to any interested parent. It is organized and chaired by the Pack Committee Chair. The committee is responsible for:

- Scheduling Pack and Den meeting places
- Setting the Pack policies in accordance with BSA and the chartered organization.
- Coordinating the Pack program with that of the chartered organization (St. Matthew Catholic Church).
- Assist with the annual Pack charter renewal.
- Carrying out the policies and regulations of the Boy Scouts of America.
- Recruiting and arranging training and guidance for leaders carrying out the Pack program.
- Managing the finances and coordinating fundraising for the Pack.
- Recommending Pack leadership to the chartered organization for final approval.
- Coordination between the Pack and other scouting units.

Chartered Organization Representative

This person is the liaison between the Pack, the chartered organization and the BSA. They make sure that the chartered organization is aware of what the Pack is doing, and coordinates activities between the chartered organization and the Pack. It is also the responsibility of the chartered organization representative to communicate any relevant policies that the charter organization has to the Pack Committee.

A point that a new Scouter often misses is that the chartered organization "owns" the Pack. The Pack Committee is simply an administrative arm of the chartered organization.

Pack Committee Chairperson

The Pack Committee Chair organizes and facilitates the running of the Pack Committee. This person works with the Cubmaster and Chartered Organization Representative to make sure that the responsibilities of the Pack Committee are being met. For more information, see the section on the Pack Committee.

The Cubmaster

The Cubmaster is an adult volunteer who serves as master of ceremonies at Pack meetings and leads Pack activities of all kinds. The Cubmaster, who is sometimes referred to as the unit leader, is up front. Most parents think the Cubmaster runs the show all by himself. Now you know different. So what does a Cubmaster do? Plenty! The Cubmaster is responsible for:

- Conducting the Pack program, which includes leading the monthly Pack meeting with the help of the other leaders.
- Guiding, supporting, motivating and inspiring the other adult leaders. Make sure they receive training for their positions.
- Making sure the Dens are functioning well.
- Planning the Den and Pack programs with the help of the other leaders.
- Coordinating the total Cub Scout program for the Pack.
- Helping recruit Den leaders and coaches.
- Establishing and maintaining a good relationship with St. Matthew Boy Scout Troop 8.

Please visit the Pack 8 Web site at <http://www.bsapack8.org> for a current Pack leadership roster.

Making the Pack Go

The principals that make the Pack run smoothly are encapsulated in the **Law of the Pack**, which each Cub promises to obey. It is a model of community and participative citizenship:

The Cub Scout follows Akela,
The Cub Scout helps the Pack go,
The Pack helps the Cub Scout grow,
The Cub Scout gives Goodwill.

In this, the Cub Scout promises to help the Pack go, which will in turn enable the Pack to help Cub Scouts grow. Although our Cubs do have a critical role in making the Pack successful, they are not old enough to handle most of the responsibilities of the Pack. That's where YOU come in. The Cub Scout **PARENT** helps the Pack go!

Den Duty Assignments

Another way that we model the Law of the Pack in Pack activities is by assigning a different task to each Den for all Pack meetings and major events. In many cases, these assignments will involve the boys AND their parents. Every Den will find that they are equally responsible for the success of Pack events because they each will have a part in them. Once again, this is an opportunity to practice participative citizenship. When your Den leader tells you what your Den has been assigned each month please be sure that you and your Cub Scout do your best to help out. You son is a part of a team (the Den) and all Dens are part of a bigger team (the Pack)

Advancement & Awards

Advancement

The advancement program is an excellent opportunity for families to get to know their own son better, and there is much satisfaction to be gained both on the part of the family and the boy. Your son won't be able to accomplish some of the achievements without the family's help. Requirements for each rank can be found in the appropriate Cub Scout Handbook. Your Cub will need to do most of his advancement work at home with your help until he becomes a Webelos. As a Webelos, he will work with his Den and with experts from the community to advance. Even so, he will still need the help and encouragement of his parents and family.

The following badges are part of the Cub Scout advancement program:

- Bobcat Badge – First rank earned by all Cubs.
- Tiger Cub Badge – 1st Grade – One-on-one parent/child participation is required. Program teaches 12 core values with special emphasis on responsibility, citizenship, health, respect, and faith.
- Wolf Badge – 2nd graders – Boys complete 12 achievements to earn the Wolf Badge. Then he may choose from 22 electives to learn new skills and have fun. Arrow Points are used for recognition of completed electives.
- Bear Badge – 3rd graders – Boys complete twelve achievements to earn the Bear Badge, choosing from 24 achievements in four broad areas: Family, Country, God and Self. Electives and Arrow Points
- Webelos Badge & Arrow of Light – 4th & 5th graders – Choose from twenty challenging activity badges in the categories of physical skills, mental skills, community, technology and outdoors. Additional requirements introduce boys to Boy Scouting.

Belt Loops and Pins

The Cub Scouts Academics and Sports Program is one method of addressing the third aim of Scouting: the development of physical, mental and emotional fitness. As in most activities in Cub Scouting, this is not meant to be a highly competitive program, instead, the boys are encouraged to DO THEIR BEST. The Academic and Sports Program is an optional program for all Cub Scouts. It is not part of the normal requirements towards ranks, except where used in obtaining various Webelos activity badges and Wolf Elective 20 (Sports). Its purpose is to assist the Scouts in learning a new skill, or improving one they already possess.

As recognition for their efforts, Cubs are awarded belt loops when they complete the three belt loop requirements in an academic subject or sport. Academic belt loops are gold and Sports belt loops are silver (except for the Archery and BB-gun Shooting belt loops, which are brass colored). Pins are awarded to boys who choose to continue their involvement in an Academics or Sports area and earn the pin by meeting the appropriate requirements.

Cub Scouts may satisfy requirements for these awards with their families, through Cub Scouting activities, or as part of community events or leagues. Requirements for these belt loops and pins can be found online at <http://usscouts.org/advance/cubscout/a-sindex.asp>.

Religious Emblems

Most major churches and religious bodies in the United States have religious emblem programs, which recognize Cub Scouts who demonstrate faith, observe their religious creeds or principles, and give service. Many Denominations also award religious emblems for adults. Earning the Religious Emblem of your faith is an impressive accomplishment. Upon completion of the requirements the Cub's religious leader presents him with a medal, which he may wear on his uniform at formal events such as the Blue & Gold banquet. The Pack also presents the Cub with a special patch that he may wear on his uniform at all times. Earning the Religious Emblem is one way of satisfying requirements for the Bear and Webelos badges.

As a ministry of St. Matthew Catholic Church, Pack 8 has an organized program for helping Cubs to earn the two Cub Scout Roman Catholic religious emblems offered by the National Catholic Committee on Scouting – the Light of Christ emblem for Tiger Cub and Wolf Cub Scouts, and the Parvuli Dei emblem for Bear and Webelos Cub Scouts. Books that set out the requirements for each are distributed in the fall. Cubs work through most of the requirements with a parent or adult partner, then boys meet as a group with a priest to meet the remaining requirements.

How Does Your Son Get His Awards?

As your Cub Scout completes requirements for Tiger Cub, Wolf and Bear ranks, record the progress in the handbook and online at www.scouttrack.com so that the awards can be ordered and presented to him after verification by the Den Leader. The same principle applies for belt loops and pins earned in the Academics and Sports Program. **If accomplishments aren't reported on the website, your son won't get the award!**

A specific difference for Webelos scouts is that they must have an adult leader sign-off the completion of their activities. These should then be entered into Scout Track.

The Cubmaster will present awards in ceremonies at Pack meetings.

Camping

Family Campouts

The Pack holds family campouts in the fall and spring of each year. Family campouts are a highlight of the Scouting experience! We encourage all of our families to participate. Contact your Den leader if you need help preparing for a family campout.

What is Family Camping?

Family camping means all Cubs spending the night must be accompanied by an adult 18 years old or over. Older siblings, uncles, aunts, grandparents or other adults (except Pack leaders) designated by the Cub's family will satisfy this requirement. It is fun for the WHOLE family!

What to Bring:

Families must bring their own camping equipment on family campouts. Inexpensive, light duty equipment may be purchased at stores such as Wal-Mart or from the Campmor catalog or Web site. Some families in the Pack may also have extra equipment you may borrow. If you have trouble obtaining appropriate equipment, contact your Den leader. You may wish to bring the following equipment with you:

Extra Clothing	Personal First Aid	Rain Gear (plastic garbage bags will work in a pinch)
Water bottle	Flashlight	Sunscreen
Tent	Sleeping pad or air mattress	Ground cloth (if your tent does not have a floor)
Cooking Stove or Charcoal	Cooking and eating utensils as required	Garbage Bags
Paper Towels	Bath Towel	Shoes (sandals/crocs don't work well in the woods!)
Cub Handbook	Fishing Equipment	Frisbee, balls, etc.
Cards, games to play in tents.	Telescope if you have one!	

See the description of each campout for further equipment and Packing instructions.

What NOT to Bring:

Please do not bring alcoholic beverages or firearms to any campout. These are prohibited by BSA policy at all functions where Scouts are present. Pack 8 and BSA also **strongly** discourage electronic games such as Game Boys and PSPs at any Scouting events.

Meals

Meal planning will vary from event to event, depending in part on the number of campers who have registered. Families often combine efforts informally to share in the planning and preparation of meals. Working with others to plan and prepare meals is a great learning experience for Cub Scouts. Exceptions to this will be indicated in the information about each camping event. Each family or Den must provide all other food, drinks and snacks. When cooking, everyone is welcome to be elaborate if they wish, but if you want to keep it simple, here are some ideas:

- For breakfast, bring cereal and fruit for a no-cooking meal.
- For lunch, you can prepare sandwiches with chips, fruit, etc (cooking at lunch time is not always a lot of fun).
- For dinner, hot dogs, hamburgers and steaks are an easy meal to cook (you've done this in your backyard, right?).
- Be sure to bring along plenty of extra fruit and energy filled snacks like granola bars (or whatever your kids will eat) since our campouts are action Packed!

Fires and Cooking:

Most campsites have a fire ring or standing charcoal grill for you to cook on but conditions vary from location to location. Some places allow wood to be collected and others don't. During dry

seasons, fires may not be allowed at all. See the description of each campout for details. You may bring your own charcoal grills for cooking. If you use charcoal, bring charcoal that does NOT require lighter fluid for ignition. You may use propane and liquid gas stoves if you wish. Propane and liquid gas appliances may be operated only by adults and liquid fuel **MUST** be kept out of reach of all children at all times! Liquid fuels and lighter fluids may not be used to start any type of OPEN fire including charcoal! This is BSA policy.

Upon Departure:

1. Leave your campsite cleaner than it was when you arrived.
2. Be sure all fires have been **THOROUGHLY** extinguished.
3. Drive safely!

Summer Camps

The Mecklenburg County Council and the Apache District provide several outstanding summer camp options for our Cubs. Costs vary slightly from year to year.

Cub Scout Resident Camp is an action-filled 3 days and 2 nights of fun at Clear Creek Scout Camp in eastern Mecklenburg County with activities including BB-gun shooting, sling shots, archery, Canoeing, crafts, nature study, swimming, and science! Parents are welcome to attend with their Cub. Webelos Resident Camp is similar but is for 4 days and 3 nights with additional or more advanced activities like climbing.

Day Camp provides many of the same activities as resident camp but without the overnight experience. Day Camp runs 5 consecutive days (M-F) but only meets during the day.

Membership and Attendance

The Pack secretary is responsible for maintaining the Pack's membership records. Your information will be added to the Pack roster upon completion of your BSA membership application and payment of the Pack's annual registration fee. If any membership information changes for your Cub Scout or you please be sure to inform your Den Leader AND the Pack Secretary so that we may keep your records up to date and you will not miss out on any important communications.

Your son's name will be noted on the Pack roster as having either an active or inactive status. A Cub's status will be changed to inactive if his Den Leader reports that he has missed 3 Den meetings during the previous two months without giving the Den Leader advance notice of each absence. If this happens, the Committee Chairman will contact you to offer you assistance with getting your Cub to Den meetings on a regular basis. He will also remind you that each Cub or his parent is required to let the Den Leader know if he will not be attending any Den or Pack meeting. Unless you contact them, the Den Leader will expect your son to be in attendance and will plan accordingly. The Pack does not prescribe any punishment for excessive absences, but merely wishes to help you solve attendance problems before your son is in danger of dropping out of the Pack.

Should you ever decide you no longer wish for you son to be a member of Pack 8, we ask that you *please* contact the Committee Chairman to so we may remove your son's name from our roster. We would also like to have your suggestions on how to improve our Pack for other Cubs.

Communications

Your Den leader is your best source for information about Pack events and news. The Cubmaster and other Pack leaders make regular contact with all Den leaders to keep them informed of Pack events and news. Much of this information is also published on the Pack website. The Pack website is located at <http://www.bsaPack8.org>.

Information on advancement is recorded online at the www.scouttrack.com website. It is up to you, the parents of the Cub Scout, to ensure that this website is updated as your son completes the requirements for various awards. **If the website is not updated, your son will NOT receive the award.** The Den Leader will verify that awards have been earned before the Pack meeting.

Pack Finances

The Pack Treasurer oversees all Pack financial affairs. Here is some important information regarding Pack 8 financial matters.

Cost of Cub Scouting

How much does it cost to be a Cub Scout in Pack 8? Well the answer varies according to what activities your Cub participates in, but here is an example of what it will cost a very active Cub Scout for 1 year:

Required of Each Member:

- Registration fee & Boys' Life Magazine Subscription. (Annual) ...\$45
- Handbook (1st year of membership only)... \$5
- Uniform (can be worn multiple years)... about \$45

Optional:

- Fall campout fee per person ... \$10
- Catholic Camporee fee per person ... \$15
- Spring campout fee per person ... \$25
- Cherokee Event per person ... \$55
- Summer Resident Camp...\$85-100
- or Summer Day Camp...\$75

Limited scholarships are available. Contact the Cubmaster or Pack Committee Chairman to make a confidential request. We don't want anyone to miss out on the Cub Scouting experience due to financial difficulty.

When your son's uniforms are no longer needed, please consider donating them to the Pack. We will make them available to other Cubs. Your generosity will allow us to reduce the out of pocket cost for the parents of our future Cub Scouts!

Popcorn Sales

Each year Pack 8 participates in the Mecklenburg County Council's annual popcorn sales event to raise funds for the Pack. This is the Pack's primary fundraiser, which provides the majority of funding for the Pack's financial needs. We need everyone to do their part and sell as much popcorn as possible to help the Pack go! Sell to your relatives, friends and neighbors. Parents, you too can sell popcorn to help your Cub! Sell to your co-workers and sell a case to your employer! This is a great time for you and the Pack to help your son learn an important lesson on the importance of "paying his way."

In addition to helping the Pack go, each Cub can earn great prizes. We also have a sales competition with special prizes for the top salesmen in the Pack.

Here is the easy way to sell 12 boxes of popcorn fast! First, put on your uniform! Sell 2 boxes to your parents, 2 boxes to your next-door neighbor on the left, 2 boxes to your next door neighbor on the right, 2 boxes to your neighbor across the street, 2 boxes to your Mom's parents, and 2 boxes to your Dad's parents. Our goal is to have each Cub Scout sell \$250 worth of popcorn.

Above all else, please be safe when you sell popcorn. Cubs who choose to sell popcorn door to door or in front of a store must not do so alone.

Details about the Pack 8 Popcorn Sale will be communicated in the fall.

Refund Policy

The Pack does not give refunds for Pack dues, campout fees, and other fees that the Pack may assess. The Pack committee may make exceptions and provide full or partial refunds after ensuring that all costs associated with the original payment have been covered.

Financial Assistance

We do not want any boy to miss out on the benefits of Scouting due to financial difficulty. Confidential requests for assistance should be made to the Cubmaster using the form on the Pack website. The Cubmaster will make a decision on the amount and type of assistance to be provided. The Cub's participation in the Pack's annual popcorn sales fundraiser will be taken into consideration when making the decision. *If you are having financial difficulty, don't let your Cub drop out - contact the Cubmaster!*

Mecklenburg County Council Friends of Scouting

Every year we encourage the families of Pack 8 to make a direct tax-deductible financial contribution to the Mecklenburg County Council through Friends of Scouting, commonly known as FOS. It costs our council approximately \$100 per Scout to maintain the excellent program and facilities offered to your son and other Scouts in the council.

A representative of the Council will make a special presentation at one of our Pack events to explain how your money will be used. If you are in a position to make a charitable contribution we hope that you will decide to support the Mecklenburg County Council by making a donation during the FOS presentation. If you can, consider donating at least \$100. If your employer has a matching gift program, you should take advantage of that as well. If you can't do this, please consider making a donation of any other amount. Of course, this is completely voluntary and will have no bearing on your son's participation in Pack 8.

Pack Planning

Planning for Pack 8 begins with the annual Pack planning meeting held in May. At that meeting, parents are invited to give feedback about the past year's events and make suggestions of what the Pack should do during the next year. The Pack Committee then meets to develop the Pack's annual budget.

Youth Protection

BSA and St. Matthew Catholic Church are very attentive to youth protection issues. All adult leaders registered with BSA are required to complete BSA Youth Protection Training for Leaders. In addition all adult leaders in Pack 8 are required to complete *Protecting God's Children*, which is offered through the Diocese of Charlotte. Although the training relates to all areas of youth protection, its primary focus is the prevention of sexual abuse. In addition, all Pack leaders and parents must always follow these guidelines at Den and Pack activities to ensure the general safety of our Cubs:

1. Two adults must be at all Den or Pack activities. One MUST be a registered BSA leader. The other must not be a member of the first leader's household/family. One leader must be 21 or older while the other only needs to be 18 or over.
2. Adults may never be completely alone with any minor other than those from their own household/family. An adult may take a child another part of a room if a situation demands privacy, but they must stay in plain view of others.
3. In camping situations, adults may not share a tent with minors who are not part of their household/family.
4. All vehicles used to transport Cubs must be legally registered, inspected, and insured. A seat belt must be provided and used by all occupants. Transportation in the back of pickup trucks or on trailers is expressly prohibited except in the case of parade participation.
5. Absolutely no alcohol or controlled substance use is permitted at any Scouting functions.
6. Those who must smoke are required to do so out of sight of Cub Scouts to avoid setting a bad example for the Cubs.

Knives, Hatchets, etc.

Pocket knives may be carried and used by Cubs who have received and are carrying their Whittlin' Chip card. Any adult may ask a Cub to present their Whittlin' Chip card at any time. If a Cub does not have one (give him a chance to retrieve it from his campsite), the knife should be confiscated and turned in to the Cubmaster. If any Cubs wish to earn their Whittlin' Chip card, they should contact the Cubmaster at the campout. The use of hatchets, axes, and bow saws should be reserved for use by adults only. ANY ADULT who observes a Cub exhibiting unsafe practices with a knife may confiscate the knife and turn it in to the Cubmaster or other adult leader.

Discipline & Behavior

Cubs are expected to behave within reasonable expectations for their age. The Pack and Den programs have times when absolute discipline is required. At other times, chaos is expected! Your son is expected to treat others with respect and follow Akela.

Den Leaders or the Cubmaster may administer discipline at Den or Pack meetings in accordance with the following guidelines: Failure to obey a rule will result in a warning on the first offense. The Cub Scout will be removed from the rest of the group after a second offense and placed in time out. After a third offense, the parents may be called to remove the child from the meeting. If problems persist, the Scout's name will be turned over to the Committee via the Cubmaster for further action. In extreme cases, the Cubmaster may dismiss the boy from the Pack for misconduct.

Duty to God

The Boy Scouts of America believes that no member can grow into the best kind of citizen without also recognizing an obligation, a "duty," to God and encourages both youth and adult leaders to be faithful in their religious duties. This includes remembering to thank God for good friends, good health, and all the things he provides for us, including our family and those who love and help us.

"Duty to God" is an essential part of Scouting, however, the Boy Scouts of America is completely nonsectarian in its attitude toward that duty. This means we make no attempt to determine how a member accomplishes his duty to God. As citizens of the United States of America, we believe in religious freedom. That is why we respect others whose religion may be different than ours, even though we may not agree with their beliefs.

It should be noted that boys must complete religious requirements to earn their Wolf, Bear, and Webelos badges. As the boys complete these requirements, we are helping them understand their "duty to God" as determined by their family.

Prayer

We allow opportunities for our Cubs to pray at our meetings. This is an "opportunity" and not a requirement, so Cubs pray only on a voluntary basis. In order that their prayers are consistent with their beliefs, we do not ask the Cubs to make their prayers "politically correct." You may hear prayers that are of faiths other than your own. At these times, we ask that you show respect for the right of each family's way of doing their "duty to God" by remaining silent or praying silently according to your own faith.

Duty to Country

Scouting has long been known for service to others. "Duty to Country" starts with being a good citizen and is an obligation of service to others. This means caring about the people in our communities and helping those in need. We believe patriotism also plays a significant role in preparing our nation's youth to become useful and participating citizens. This includes obeying the law and using our country's resources carefully

We show our love of country by respecting and saluting the U.S. flag and standing at attention when our national anthem is played. The Pledge of Allegiance is recited at all Den and Pack meetings

Getting Started

As a new Cub Scout, here is what you need to know to get started!

<p>1.) Get the Uniform</p> <p>Boys should wear a uniform to all Cub Scout functions! We refer to the official Cub Scout uniform as the Class A uniform. You can get it at either the Mecklenburg County Scout Shop, 1410 E 7th St. (704 333-5471) or the Carolina Scout Shop, 2121 Westinghouse Blvd (704 583-2627). <i>(Parent Note: You may want to buy the uniform a little large for it to last through 2-3 years of growth!)</i> The Class B uniform is the Pack 8 t-shirt and the Cub Scout belt, and is worn at events where the Cub Scouts will be active outdoors. T-shirts are also often supplied for specific District and Council events and may be worn as part of the Class B uniform.</p>			
<p>Tigers – 1st Grade</p> <p><u>Required:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Blue Cub Scout Shirt Blue Cub Scout Belt Standard Uniform Insignia including Pack & Den #s Orange Tiger Cub Neckerchief Cub Scout Neckerchief Slide <p><u>Optional:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tiger Cub Cap Blue Cub Scout Shorts/Slacks Blue & Orange Cub Scout Socks 	<p>Wolves – 2nd Grade</p> <p><u>Required:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Blue Cub Scout Shirt Blue Cub Scout Belt Standard Uniform Insignia including Pack & Den #s Gold Wolf Scout Neckerchief Cub Scout Neckerchief Slide <p><u>Optional:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wolf Cub Scout Cap Blue Cub Scout Shorts/Slacks Blue & Gold Cub Scout Socks 	<p>Bears – 3rd Grade</p> <p><u>Required:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Blue Cub Scout Shirt Blue Cub Scout Belt Standard Uniform Insignia including Pack & Den #s Blue Bear Scout Neckerchief Cub Scout Neckerchief Slide <p><u>Optional:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bear Cub Scout Cap Blue Cub Scout Shorts/Slacks Blue & Gold Cub Scout Socks 	<p>Webelos – 4th & 5th Grade</p> <p><u>Required:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tan Webelos/Boy Scout Shirt Blue Shoulder Loops Blue Cub Scout Belt (belt loops don't fit on the Olive belt!) Standard Uniform Insignia including Pack & Den #s Webelos Plaid Neckerchief Webelos Neckerchief Slide Webelos Colors <p><u>Optional:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Plaid Webelos Scout Cap Olive Green Webelos/Boy Scout Shorts/Slacks Green & Red Webelos/Boy Scout Socks <p>(Webelos Scouts may continue to wear their blue uniform until they outgrow it if they wish. Many boys wear the blue uniform until they earn the Webelos badge, then graduate to the tan and olive uniform for their second Webelos year. The tan and olive uniform will become their Boy Scout uniform.)</p>
<p>2.) Get the Handbook</p> <p>The handbook is necessary for you and your son work on his rank advancement. They cost about \$5 (\$6 for Webelos) and can be purchased at the either Scout Shop:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1st Grade – Tiger Cub Scout Book 2nd Grade – Wolf Cub Scout Book 3rd Grade – Bear Cub Scout Book 4th & 5th Grade – Webelos Scout Book <p>Note: You need to purchase a handbook for only your son's first year with Pack 8. Your son will be given a new handbook for the following year at the Pack 8 Graduation event each May.</p>			
<p>3.) Know when and where Den and Pack meetings will be held!</p> <p>Next Den Meeting Date: _____ Time: _____</p> <p>Place: _____</p> <p>Next Pack Meeting Date: _____ Time: _____</p> <p>Place: _____</p>		<p>4.) Know your Den Leader's name & phone number!</p> <p>Name: _____</p> <p>Den Number/Name: _____</p> <p>Phone#: _____</p>	
<p>5.) Start working toward the first rank!</p> <p>New Cub Scouts earn the Bobcat rank before earning any other rank. It's not hard and doesn't take much time.</p>			

Parent Commitment Form

Please read and initial each statement below to indicate agreement:

1. _____ I understand that much of the work for the Bobcat, Tiger, Wolf and Bear badges must be performed at home, often with my assistance or encouragement.
2. _____ I will provide a signature in my son's handbook whenever he does his best to fulfill a requirement of an achievement or activity badge.
3. _____ I will provide my son with transportation to Den meetings, Pack meetings and other Cub Scout activities. When I cannot provide my son with transportation, I will attempt to arrange transportation for him with other members of his Den or the Pack.
4. _____ When I am able, I will offer transportation to other members of my son's Den if they need it.
5. _____ I understand that being a member of the Den/Pack is the same as being part of a team. The team may suffer if team members do not participate on a regular basis. For this reason, my son or I will notify my son's Den leader before missing any Den meeting or Pack meeting.
6. _____ If I find it difficult for my son to attend Den and Pack meetings on a regular basis, I will not simply let my son drop out. Instead, I will take the initiative to discuss the situation with my son's Den leader or the Cubmaster so that we may attempt to make adjustments that will enable my son to have regular attendance.
7. _____ I will assist Pack leaders to the best of my ability when called upon at Den and Pack events.
8. _____ I will help my son keep track of his progress towards each badge/rank and help him to understand what remains to be completed in order for him to earn his next badge/rank.
9. _____ I will help my son to remember to work on advancement requirements and attend Den meetings and Pack events. I understand that at his age, he may not be able to effectively manage time by himself and will need my help.
10. _____ I will inform my Den leader when I no longer wish for my son to be a member of Pack 8.

Cub Scout Name(s): _____

Parent Name: _____

Please turn in this completed form with your son's membership application.

APPENDIX A – Uniform Examples and Inspection Sheet

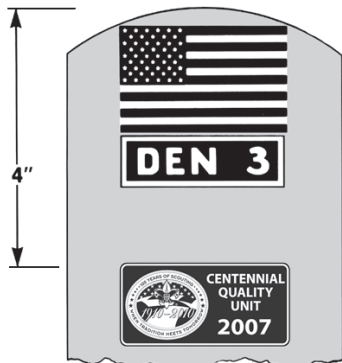
Example Cub Scout Uniform – (note that all left/right guidance are from the wearer’s perspective, not the observer’s – left sleeve means your cub scout’s left arm):

Left Sleeve :	Right Sleeve:	Left Front Pocket:
		

OFFICIAL PLACEMENT OF INSIGNIA

TIGER CUB, CUB SCOUT, AND WEBELOS SCOUT UNIFORM INSPECTION SHEET

SHOULDER SEAM



TIGER CUB, CUB SCOUT OR WEBELOS SCOUT RIGHT SLEEVE

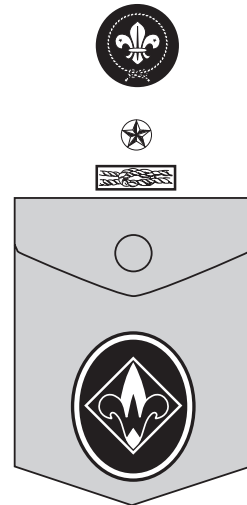


WEBELOS SCOUT RIGHT SLEEVE

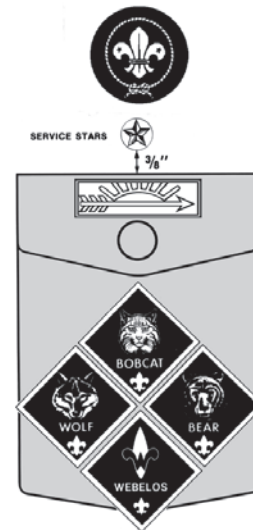


LEFT SLEEVE

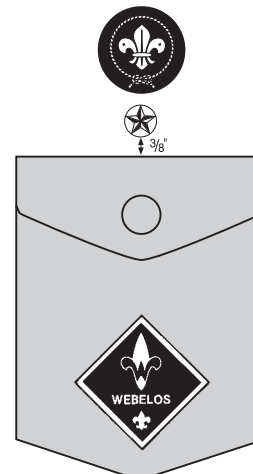
WEBELOS SCOUT LEFT POCKET OPTIONS



WEBELOS SCOUT LEFT POCKET (TAN SHIRT)



WEBELOS SCOUT LEFT POCKET (BLUE OR TAN SHIRT)



WEBELOS SCOUT LEFT POCKET (BLUE OR TAN SHIRT)

Conduct uniform inspections with common sense; the basic rule is neatness.

Right Sleeve. Wear U.S. flag, den numeral, and Centennial Quality Unit Award (if earned) as shown. Webelos Scouts may wear den emblem instead of den numeral. Only the most recently earned Centennial Quality Unit Award may be worn. If the pack elects, Webelos Scouts may wear the Webelos colors. Wear the Webelos colors immediately below and touching the U.S. flag if no den numeral is worn. If den numeral is worn, wear colors below and touching numeral. Wear activity badges on the colors if this option is elected.

Left Sleeve. Wear council shoulder patch and pack numeral as shown. The veteran unit insignia bar (25, 50, 55, or 60 years) if worn, is centered and touching the council shoulder patch (above) and unit numeral (below). Denner cord or assistant denner cord is worn over left shoulder.

Left Pocket. Cub Scouts wear badges of rank as shown: Bobcat, Tiger Cub, Wolf, and Bear. Gold Arrow Points are worn beneath the pocket and below the badge for which they were earned. Silver Arrow Points are worn below the Gold Arrow Points in double rows. Webelos Scouts have the option of wearing the oval-shaped Webelos badge by itself on the tan shirt only; or the diamond-shaped Webelos patch along with other rank badges on either the tan or blue shirt; or if the Tiger Cub patch was earned, the Webelos diamond-shaped patch may be worn on either the tan or blue shirt by itself and centered on the left pocket. The Arrow of Light Award is worn centered below the pocket of the tan shirt or on the pocket flap of the blue or tan shirt. Wear medals just above the pocket seam, and service stars centered just above medals or knots, or $\frac{3}{8}$ inch above seam if no medals are worn. Gold background disks are worn with service stars for Cub Scouting service, including Tiger Cub service. Not more than five medals may be worn. Wearing sequence for medals or knots is at the wearer's discretion. The only knots worn by Cub Scouts are the religious emblem knot and a lifesaving or meritorious award knot. The World Crest is worn centered between the left shoulder seam and the top of the left pocket.

Right Pocket. Temporary insignia are not necessary in uniform inspection, but if worn, must be centered on the pocket. Progress Toward Ranks (with thong and beads) for Tiger Cubs or Cub Scouts or Compass Points emblem for Webelos Scouts is fastened to button under flap of right pocket and flap rebuttoned. The National Summertime Award is pinned centered on the right pocket flap. The Cub Scout Outdoor Activity Award is worn on the right pocket flap. Each successive time the award is earned, a wolf track pin may be added to the flap.

Olive/Tan Webelos Scout Uniform. Webelos Scouts electing this option wear blue shoulder loops, Webelos neckerchief, and Webelos cap. Blue (preferred) or olive belt may be worn. Academics and Sports belt loops will fit only on the blue belt. Badge placement is same as for blue uniform.



TIGER CUB OR CUB SCOUT LEFT POCKET



CUB SCOUT RIGHT POCKET

TIGER CUB, CUB SCOUT, AND WEBELOS SCOUT UNIFORM INSPECTION SHEET

General Appearance. Allow 4 points for each: good posture, clean face and hands, hair combed, neatly dressed, clean fingernails.
20 pts.

Cap. Tiger Cub cap, Cub Scout Wolf cap, Cub Scout Bear cap, or Webelos cap, according to den. Webelos activity badges are worn on the plaid front panel of the Webelos cap or on the optional Webelos colors, if selected by the pack.
5 pts.

Neckerchief and Slide. Triangular. Orange with blue border for Tiger Cubs. Gold with blue border for Cub Scouts working in Wolf book. Light blue with dark blue border for Cub Scouts working in Bear book. Plaid for Webelos Scouts. Each is secured by a slide for that rank.
5 pts.

Shirt. Official long- or short-sleeve, blue for Tiger Cubs or Cub Scouts and either blue or tan (optional) for Webelos Scouts. If tan shirt is worn, wear blue shoulder loops on epaulets. Wear with either pants or shorts.
15 pts.

Belt. Official blue web belt cut to proper length with Tiger Cub, Cub Scout, or Webelos insignia on buckle. Webelos Scouts wearing optional tan uniform may wear either the blue belt (preferred) and Webelos buckle or olive belt and Webelos buckle. Cub Scout belt loops are worn only on the blue belt.
5 pts.

Pants/Shorts. Official, pressed; no cuffs. Blue for Tiger Cubs and Cub Scouts and either blue (with blue shirt) or olive (with tan shirt) for Webelos Scouts.
15 pts.

Socks. Dark blue official socks with orange tops for Tiger Cubs and gold tops for Cub Scouts. Webelos Scouts wearing optional olive/tan uniform wear official Boy Scout olive socks.
5 pts.

Shoes. Neat and clean.
5 pts.

Registration. Current membership card or temporary certificate on person.
5 pts.

Insignia. Correct placement: left pocket, 5 points; right pocket, 5 points; left sleeve, 5 points; right sleeve, 5 points.
20 pts.



TIGER CUB AND CUB SCOUT



WEBELOS SCOUT


Place this insignia diagram beside left shirt pocket to help guide the proper placement of badges and arrow points.



For more information about insignia, see *Insignia Guide*, No. 33066.

OUR UNIT INSPECTION WILL BE HELD ON _____

BRING THIS FORM WITH YOU



The Scouting Seal Is Your Guarantee of Quality, Excellence, and Performance.

UNIFORM POINTS

INSIGNIA POINTS

TOTAL POINTS

PERFECT SCORE 100 POINTS

UNIFORM INSPECTION SCORE

Name _____ Pack No. _____

Den _____

#34282



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