

Pack Parent Handbook Information

Greetings Fellow Scouters! My name is Ed Horowitz, a Scouter from Pine Island District in South Florida Council.

Over the years, I have put together this Pack Parent Handbook, and have distributed it throughout some of our Districts to fulfill the needs of parents having a concise definition of what to expect when they sign their boys up for Cub Scouting.

This year, I have updated it to include the latest Tiger Cub Den and uniform changes and other things. Once downloaded, you can make the necessary changes to fit your individual Pack's needs and policies.

Throughout the handbook you will see certain words in the following type brackets: [your Council] Words within these brackets are to be substituted with your individual information inserted, and followed by removing the brackets. Sentences in regular parentheses (such as these) are to be used as written unless you wish to change them.

In addition, I have included other messages from me to you written in *italics* that once read, should be deleted.

When done, you should have a 'tailor made' Pack Parent Handbook that will fit your needs as each Pack is unique in it's own Scouting way.

This handbook is designed to be given out to your new families that have joined up on School Night / Join Scout Night / Fall Recruitment, etc. as well as a 'refresher' for those who have been a member of your Unit for several years.

I hope this helps you, even in some small way, to strengthen your Unit, and provide a much needed information reference.

If you ever want to say 'Hi' or offer suggestions, please feel free to contact me at one of the addresses below. Thank you very much.

In Commissioner service,

Ed Horowitz
8901 NW 79 St.
Tamarac, Fl.
333321

Horowitz1@aol.com

This message can be deleted after reading. Thank you, ED

Cub Scout Pack [000]

Chartered to:

[your Chartered Organization]

[your city, state]

Affiliated with:

[your District]

[your Council]

Boy Scouts Of America



Parent Handbook



Cub Scouts Pack [000]

Hi, and welcome to Cub Scouts Pack [000]! Here's hoping the information and guidelines presented to you in the next few pages will help you get off to a good start for the coming year. Please keep this packet as a handy reference for future information needs regarding Pack policy and uniform information. Thank you.

To begin with, your son is a member of Pack 000, which is in the [your District], belonging to the [your Council], which encompasses [your counties]. The Pack is made up of Dens, which is a group of boys usually in the same grade as that of your son. Each Den has a specific numeral attached to it. Collectively, we are Cub Scouts, and are members of the National organization, the Boy Scouts of America.

All Packs have a Chartered Organization which acts as a 'sponsor', and ours is the [your Chartered Organization] located at [your CO location].

The Pack is run by the registered BSA Adult Leaders of the Pack who make up the Pack Committee, which includes a Committee Chair, Secretary, Treasurer, Event coordinators, Awards coordinators, Den leaders, Assistant Den Leaders, and others. All parents of a Cub Scout in Pack 000 are welcomed and encouraged to become a Committee Member. Our committee meetings are held the [second Monday] of each month at [your time] at [your location] and is open to all parents of Scouts in Pack 000.

Den meetings are held *weekly* on [Tuesdays] at [your location] at [your time].

Unless previously announced, our Pack meetings are always the *fourth* [your day] of every month at [your location] at [7:00 p.m].

Den Meetings

Lots of Cub Scouting happens in the den. Please remember that your son's Den Leader is a *volunteer* putting forth his or her time and effort to help your boy 'do his best' to earn his badges, participate in the fun, and gain all the positive values that the Cub Scout program offers. Please assist them in the following ways.

- Please have your son to den meetings on time. Your den leaders have lots of activities planned and it is important to have the whole group together to begin the evening's fun and projects.
- Please pick up your son from den meetings on time. Your den leader has places to go and kids that they have to put to bed, too. Better yet, ask your den leader if they could use an extra pair of hands that night and stay. Not only will your help be appreciated, but also you can see what your son is working on. Tiger Cubs must have an Adult Partner with them at all meetings, trips, etc. Enjoy the time together!
- Please pay your den dues promptly. Your den leader or other parents will be purchasing various items for craft projects, supplies, snacks, etc., and it sure helps to have the money 'on hand'. Also, please make sure your son has his handbook, and anything else he needs for the meeting before leaving the house.
- Be an active parent. *Everybody* has some special abilities and 'know how' that can be of great help in matters relating to Cub Scouts. Please make sure you have completed the Parent Talent Survey Sheet and return it to your leader. In addition to the boys learning new skills from *you*, I promise that you will have a good time helping *them*.

Pack Meetings

Whereas at weekly Den meetings the boys might do activities towards earning rank badges and awards, the monthly Pack meeting is *where* these awards are presented. It is an **important** part of the program, as it allows the boys to receive their recognition in front of the group as a whole, inspires the younger scouts to strive towards achieving future ranks, and brings everybody together for the big night!

At Pack meetings, the Cubmaster will 'do their best' to make sure that each Den has a chance to display that special craft they made, song they learned, skit they've rehearsed, or interesting place they visited. In addition, there might be a drawing, advancement ceremony, or other themed event planned for the evening.

Please observe the followings guidelines in regards to Pack meetings.

- Please accompany your son to his Pack meeting. Pack meetings are a *family* event - brothers, sisters, grandparents, but most of all, **YOU!** We require you there not only to help keep order at the meeting (things *can* get a bit rowdy), but also because in Scouting many awards are presented to the parent who then presents it to the Scout. Cub Scouts is a family program.
- Please arrive to Pack meetings on time. Plan on arriving at least ten minutes early to receive a ticket for a drawing, confer with your son's Den leader about upcoming things, chat with friends, etc., as the meeting needs to begin on time. If your son is helping out as a member of a flag ceremony, or assisting with other Pack meeting activities, it is imperative to have him there on time. Thank you.
- If your son has a uniform, the Pack meeting is *definitely* the place to wear it.
Class A - Shirts tucked in - looking sharp!

Most of all, we hope to make Pack meetings entertaining, enriching, and FUN!!!

\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$ Pack 000 and B.S.A. Dues \$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$

Throughout the Scout year, your Den leader or Pack Treasurer will be collecting money for various Pack functions and activities. These will be addressed in the monthly newsletters that will be handed out at Pack Meetings, and also via weekly information given to you at Den meetings. The following is a reminder of what two fees are required for your son's involvement in the Pack.

B.S.A. Dues \$11.00 This annual fee must be collected in January from every registered Scout and Adult leader for the annual rechartering of the Pack. This fee includes the \$10.00 yearly membership to B.S.A. and \$1.00 for the insurance issued to cover the boys and Adult Leaders at all Scout functions. The deadline for this is the [your deadline]

Pack 000 Dues \$25.00 This fee goes towards the cost of your son's Pinewood Derby car, a subscription to Boy's Life magazine and the many awards that will be presented to him throughout the year. The deadline for this is the [October] Pack meeting. If you just signed up on Join Scout Night, you've already paid this.

The Pack maintains a separate bank account at (your bank) with records being kept by a Pack Treasurer.

Attention Unit Leaders that have downloaded this handbook. Some Units charge Pack dues... others do not. In no way am I suggesting or advising on your Pack policies. Please delete this message after reading. Thank you, ED

Fund Raisers

Throughout the year there will be various fund-raisers. Some of these might go to benefit the Pack for a trip, outing, or needed supplies, and some to benefit the Scout, Pack, and [your Council]. As Cub Scouts, we will always try and make sure to emphasize the *fun* in *fund*raising. Thank you.

Cub Scouting and You

When your son earns his Bobcat badge he learns the Law of the Pack. One of these laws states “The Cub Scout Helps the Pack Go”. Throughout the year there are banquets, fund-raisers, Scout shows, parades, derbies, camping trips, and many other activities and functions. Ambitious as they are, a Cub Scout still needs *your* help in implementing the program and thereby giving *us* the chance to keep our promise in the part of the Law that states “The Pack Helps the Cub Scout Grow”.

Remember, the Pack is all of us working together... leaders, parents, and Scouts.

Unlike other programs your son might enroll in, Cub Scouting involves the whole family, no matter what size or parental make-up exists in the home. In Tigers, you are your son’s Adult Partner. In Wolves and Bears, you are Akela, the wise leader of the tribe of Webelos, and the final judge of your son’s efforts. At the Webelos rank, you are the Activity Badge counselors that could help influence a boy’s career direction

Throughout the year you will be asked to assist on different committees, and at different events. Please volunteer freely, and give of yourself when called upon to help. You will find it a rewarding experience, and one in which you and your son will remember that you did together. Thank you.

Uniforms, Patches, and Accessories

Scouts in uniform are more conscious of their role in Cub Scouting, and feel a sense of pride and belonging when wearing one. A uniform provides a proper place for the display of badges earned and a way for him to ‘show the world’ that he has been rewarded for his achievements.

In addition, Scouts in uniform create a strong, positive, *visible* image in the community that helps to strengthen the important ties between the public and the Scouting organization.

Where to Buy

Uniforms, patches and accessories are available at (your local store) located at (address) in (city). Their phone number is (phone number), and they will be happy to assist you.

For a *real* treat, take a drive down to (city where your National Scout Shop is located) and visit the wonderful (name of Scout Shop). In addition to uniforms, they carry everything you see in the Scout Catalog and then some. Enjoy the time spent there! Your son will love it!

Also, the Pack might have some ‘experienced’ uniforms for sale. Please see the Pack Secretary for details.

Shirts and [Shorts / Pants]

The main article of the uniform is the shirt, as it displays the rank of the Scout, and identifies him as belonging to a certain Den, Pack and Council. When purchasing a new uniform, remember that your son is growing and if, for example, he is now a newly signed up Wolf Cub, get an extra size or two larger, so he can wear it for his Bear year as well.

Although a complete official uniform for your son is strongly encouraged, if cost is an object, many of the large discount stores sell [shorts / pants] in colors that closely resemble those of the official uniform.

**Note: Blue jeans and other ‘unofficial’ uniform colored clothing is discouraged. Thank you*
Pack 000 also has ‘Class B’ Pack T-shirts for sale for many of our outdoor activities.

Attention Unit Leaders that have downloaded this handbook. Here in South Florida, Scouts do not generally wear long pants. Please specify your choice, if any. Please delete this message after reading. Thank you, ED

Patches

In addition to the purchasing of a uniform, there will be many patches that need to be sewn on your son's shirt. Please pay close attention as to *where* on the uniform these need to be placed. (Please refer to uniform insignia placement on the next page).

It is important that when your son receives a badge that is to be a part of his uniform, you affix it to his shirt as soon as possible. He earned it, and he deserves to have it displayed. Thank you.

A uniform is something that a Scout can help pay for himself by assigning him various chores around the house, or helping out with other home projects. Also, keep in mind that uniforms, Scout accessories, camping supplies, and other 'Scout stuff' make *excellent* birthday and holiday presents for your son or the Scouter in your family.

What to Buy

Tiger Cub Adult Partners

- Orange Tiger Cub T-shirt

Tigers, Wolves and Bears

- Tiger, Wolf or Bear Handbook (please purchase handbook as soon as possible)
- Blue Cub Scout Shirt with U.S. flag – [(short sleeve / long sleeve)]
- [your council] Patch
- Pack 000 (red and white numerals)
- Your son's Den Number Strip
- World Crest Emblem (purple patch with the fleur-de-lis symbol)
- Tiger (orange) Wolf (yellow) or Bear (blue) Cub Scout Neckerchief and Cub Scout Slide
- Official Tiger, Wolf or Bear Hat
- Cub Scout Web Belt And Buckle (These are designed to fit the Belt Loop awards that Scouts can earn)
- Official Cub Scout [Shorts / Pants]
- Official Tiger (orange stripe) or Cub Scout (yellow stripe) Socks

Webelos

- Webelos Handbook (please purchase handbook as soon as possible)
- *Tan Boy Scout Shirt with U.S. Flag - [(short sleeve / long sleeve)]
- [Your Council] Patch
- Pack 000 (red and white numerals)
- Your Den Number Strip
- World Crest Emblem (purple patch with the fleur-de-lis symbol)
- Checkered Webelos Neckerchief and Webelos Slide
- Blue Shoulder Loops for tan shirt
- Official Webelos Hat
- Cub Scout Web Belt and Webelos Buckle (These are designed to fit the Belt Loop awards that Scouts can earn. The Webelos / Boy Scout green belt is wider and Belt Loops must be expanded to fit)
- Webelos Colors (optional) Activity Badge pins may be worn on the Webelos Hat or the Webelos Colors
- Official Boy Scout Socks to match shirt worn
- Official Boy Scout [Shorts / Pants]

*Note: A Webelos Scout may wear either the Blue or Tan shirt. If you are just signing on as a Webelos, it is recommended to purchase the Tan uniform.

A Brief Summary of Scouting and the Cub Scout Program

Scouting has been around a long time. The Boy Scouts of America was founded in 1910, and became federally chartered with the United States in 1916. Cub Scouts came into being in 1930. Millions of boys have worn the uniform, cooked over an open fire at a campsite, earned their Bobcat, raced their Pinewood Derby cars, worked on service projects, and made new friends under the umbrella of Scouting. Flowing underneath all this fun and excitement is a character-building program that encourages making good ethical choices, family strengthening, physical fitness, and citizenship skills in the lives of our boys.

Scouting utilizes an advancement system that requires a boy to 'do his best' to fulfill and complete the requirements outlined in his handbook so that he may earn his rank badge. After receiving his badge, these Scouts can go on to earn other awards by completing a series of electives. Please keep in mind that although there are lots of awards and recognitions in Scouting, Pack 000 will strive towards the end that these are earned through significant, meaningful methods that your son will remember for a long time.

At the Tiger, Wolf, and Bear ranks, Cub Scouting centers around monthly themes that have lots of appeal to boys at this age. During den meetings, the boys will be playing games, building craft projects, learning songs, etc. relating to this theme. In doing so, these boys will be improving on different skills as they learn to get along with others, become more resourceful, and participate in new activities and venues.

At the Webelos level, in lieu of the monthly theme, the boys are introduced to several diverse Activity Badges and, within the framework of the Webelos den, they work on completing these badges.

If you'll notice, there are Webelos 1's (4th graders) and Webelos 2's (5th graders). At the first level, after earning their Webelos badge, Webelos 1's continue to earn additional activity badges and gain new knowledge and skills in these areas. The Webelos 2's, though maybe still earning Activity Badges, also begin focusing on completing other requirements for their Arrow of Light award and will be conducting activities with various Boy Scout Troops.

Pack 000 follows a 'Scout year' of September to June and upon nearing the end of the school term, all the boys 'cross over' into the next rank. During the summer, Den meeting work on achievements may be suspended as the Pack will meet monthly at fun outings such as a bowling derby, fishing derby, kite derby, baseball game, Pack swim, etc. that goes toward the boys earning their Summertime Award pin.

There are many, many events offered in Scouting. In addition to the events at Den meetings, Pack 000 will have family camping trips, Pinewood Derby races, a Blue and Gold dinner, and much more that's just for us in the Pack 000.

In addition, there are District events, which unites us with hundreds of Scouts, and Council events that can have thousands of Scouts in attendance. Your participation at these functions will definitely add to your son's Scouting experience.

Thank you for taking the time to go over this handbook with your new Cub Scout! With your help, this will be an exciting, rewarding experience for you, your son, your family, and your Pack.

We're glad you've joined us! If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to ask.

Yours in Scouting,

[Your name / names / Committee Chair / Cubmaster / etc., / telephone number / Email etc.]

*Attention Unit Leaders that have downloaded this handbook. Just a quick thank you for taking the time to serve our youth!
Please delete this message after reading. YIS, Ed Horowitz*