



PARENT ORIENTATION GUIDE

*Welcome to the Adventure
of Cub Scouting!*
**Where Character Counts and
the Adventure Begins**

Pack 85

Meets at Magnolia Presbyterian Church,
28th W. and W. Dravus St.
Seattle, WA

Please email to info@pack85.org, or call Paul at (206) 283-8686.

For a schedule of upcoming events, visit our web page at
www.pack85.org.

YOUR SON · CUB SCOUTING · AND YOU

As a parent, you want your son to grow up to be *a person of worth*, who is a *self-reliant, dependable, and caring* individual. As your son moves from Tiger Cubs to Cub Scouting, you will find that Scouting has these same goals in mind for him. Since 1930, Cub Scouting has been weaving lifetime values into fun and educational activities designed to assist parents in *strengthening character, developing good citizenship, enhancing physical fitness, and building self-esteem and ethical values in youth*.

Imagine a program that can help your son learn, grown, and mature while he is having fun. There are activities in which you and he can participate together with the rest of the family and get to know each other even better. This is exactly what Scouting is. Every activity gives you and your son the chance to discover and share together.

What does your son learn in Scouting? Well, it is a lot more than crafts, games, and outdoor skills. All of the Cub Scout programs in which you and your son will participate are carefully designed to teach your son something he will use throughout his life. Every activity is specially designed for your son's age, development, and personal needs. Here are just a few of the things your son will gain through Cub

Scouting:

- A feeling of belonging to a positive and fun group of boys and caring adults.
- New social skills that will help him get along with others.
- Develop new mental skills from reading and writing, to planning and organizing.
- A greater understanding of other people and the world around him.
- A system of values that will help him grow and make good decisions.
- A concern and caring for people, and even opportunities to help others.
- Self-confidence and stronger self-esteem.

In a society where your son is often taught that winning is everything, Cub Scouting teaches him to "do his best" and be helpful to others as expressed in the Cub Scout Promise. These values help your son make good decisions throughout his lifetime and give him confidence as he becomes an adult leader of tomorrow.

With all the negative influences in today's society, Scouting provides your son with a positive peer group and a program that is fun and adventurous and helps him to "be prepared" to shape his own future. And the best thing about it all is that you do, learn, and experience the program along with your son, making it all the more special and valuable through your involvement in Scouting with him!

HOW CUB SCOUTING WORKS

Scouting is Family Oriented:

- Activities are intended for the whole family.
- You work with your son on his various award requirements. · Many skills he will learn are family oriented.

The Cub Scout Den:

- Your boy is a member of a Cub Scout den.
- The den meets one to three times a month (usually once a month).
- The den is led by a den leader (usually a parent). In Tiger Cubs each family takes turns hosting the meetings.
- The den leader is sometimes assisted by an assistant den leader, a den chief (an older Boy Scout), and a denner (Cub Scout elected by den members).
- Den meetings have games, crafts, songs, ceremonies, and lots of fun.
- Instead of den meetings, there will sometimes be field trips or other outings.

The Cub Scout Pack:

- Your boy is a member of a Cub Scout Pack.
- A 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 Committee:

- The Pack is run by the Pack Committee of volunteer parents.
- The Pack Committee is made up of den leaders and assistants, Webelos leaders and assistants, and the Cubmaster and assistants as well as 2-5 parent committee members. Most of these leaders are parents of boys in the Pack.
- The Committee meets every month or two.
- The Committee is led by a 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.

Your Chartering Organization:

- The pack is owned by a chartered organization.
- Chartered organizations include schools, parent associations, 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 organization and the Boy Scouts of America.
- The chartered organization selects a chartered organization representative who serves a liaison between the pack and organization.

THE ADVANCEMENT PLAN

The responsibility for a boy's earning of awards in Cub Scouting lies with the family and not with the pack. Some advancement requirements are done at den meetings, but most are completed with you. You can sign off on his requirements when you and your son feel that he has done his best. As a result, the awards he earns raise his self-esteem and confidence.

You can be a part of it by participating in the Cub Scout program with him. The rank awards he earns are listed below.



TIGER (First Graders)

Tiger Cubs is for first graders and their adult partners. Tigers work out of a handbook that will teach them to Search, Discover, and Share!



BOBCAT (Earned by ALL NEW Cub Scouts, regardless of grade)

All boys, regardless of age, earn the Bobcat badge first by learning the Cub Scout Promise, Law of the pack, handshake, salute, sign, motto, and the meaning of "Webelos." After receiving the Bobcat badge, the boy works on requirements based on his grade or age.



WOLF (Second Graders)

A Cub Scout who has completed first grade (or is age 8) works on 12 achievements to earn the Wolf badge. Each achievement is designed to teach simple skills and initiate family discussions on values, drug awareness, health, etc.



BEAR (Third Graders)

A Cub Scout who has completed second grade (or is age 9) completed 12 of 24 achievements to earn the Bear badge.



After he earns his Wolf or Bear badge, a boy may work on electives in different interest areas until he is old enough to begin work on the next rank. For every 10 elective a boy completes, he earns an Arrow Point. A boy may earn as many Arrow Points as he wishes, parents help boys learn more complicated life skills and values.



WEBELOS SCOUTS (Fourth and Fifth Graders)

When a Cub Scout has completed the third grade (or becomes 10 years old), he transfers to a Webelos den, led by an adult Webelos leader. The boy works on requirements for the Webelos badge, 20 activity badges, and the Arrow of Light Award (the highest award in Cub Scouting) which prepares for Boy Scouting.



BOY SCOUTS

When a boy earns the Arrow of Light or reaches 11 years of age or completes the fifth grade, he may graduate from Cub Scouting to Boy Scouting at an impressive graduation ceremony. We aim to graduate every Cub Scout into Boy Scouting. Generally, your son will be prepared to join a Boy Scout troop in February or March of his fifth grade year.



CUB SCOUT SPECIAL ACTIVITIES

- **Good Turn** - This is a pack service project to benefit the community, such as a park clean up, food shelf collection, or tree planting!
- **Pinewood Derby** - Parent and son work together to build a gravity-powered miniature race car from a special kit. Most packs conduct the derby races annually.
- **Blue and Gold Banquet** - This is a birthday party for your Cub Scout pack and is usually held in the spring. A special program or entertainment is customary.
- **Cub Scout Day Camp** - Day Camp is an exciting summertime activity that includes archery, crafts, games, sports, songs, and skits. This weeklong program is held at local parks and facilities in your area. Cub Scout Day Camp is an excellent way to introduce youth to the outdoors and teach them new skills. It also helps strengthen the pack's summer program.
- **Cub Scout Resident Camp** – Cub Scout Resident Camp is for Cub Scouts and accompanying parent or guardian. Program activities include swimming, outdoor cooking, nature, crafts, Scouting skills, and much more. Summer sessions are held at Camp Brinkley, winter sessions are at Camp Shepard.
- **Boys' Life Magazine** - This magazine for boys and adults has interesting features on Scouting, sports, hobbies, magic, science, and U.S. history. There are also jokes, comics, and short stories. The price is one -half of the regular cover price per year for members.



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WHAT YOU SHOULD DO NOW TO GET STARTED IN CUB SCOUTING...

- ❑ Carefully review this booklet so you know what Cub Scouting is all about and how you and your son can get the most out of it.
- ❑ Fill out the Parent Talent Survey and turn it in tonight so you can share your knowledge, experience, and skills with the boys in your son's den and the pack.
- ❑ Consider becoming a Cub Scout Leader of your son's Cub Scout den. Your son's experience in Cub Scouting depends on your involvement. Details are on the last three pages of this book.
- ❑ Purchase a Cub Scout Book now and begin doing activities in it with your son, especially those related to the outdoors.
- ❑ Find out what kind of activities your Cub Scout Pack is doing in the next few months, and put them on your calendar so you can participate.
- ❑ Scouting is more fun with friends! Every boy can join Cub Scouts at any time, not just on School Night. Talk to other parents and boys and have them join your son's Cub Scout den now to make Cub Scouting even more fun.
- ❑ Purchase a Cub Scout shirt for your son to wear his awards on. Be sure to get a size large enough to last several years as your son grows



HELPING YOUR SON'S PACK

How Can You Help?

Scouting operates through volunteer leadership. Volunteer Cub Scout leaders are an example of Scouting's principle of service to others. Naturally, parents are a primary source of leaders in the Scouting program. You volunteer not only to serve Scouting, but also to serve your son and his friends, and to have the chance to be a positive influence on the youth in your community.

What Do You Receive in Return?

Being a leader is fun, challenging, and rewarding. Leaders find that their experiences help them to become better parents. The following are some of the many dividends that will enrich your life as you dedicate your time, talent, and enthusiasm to Scouting:

- Fun and fellowship with other families, sharing your pride in the boys' accomplishments.
- The privilege of helping to enrich and strengthen families.
- A chance to help boys learn good citizenship and to help shape them into men who have strength of character and are sensitive to the needs of others.
- The opportunity to help make a difference in the lives of boys as they grow strong in mind and body.
- A code to live by which will set a worthwhile example for both boys and adults.
- The satisfaction of being a member of a worldwide movement, and pride in being publicly identified as apart of this organization - wearing the Scouting uniform is a visible means of showing you believe in and stand up for the ideals and objectives of the Boy Scouts of America.

Volunteer positions in the pack are held by adults like you, who work directly with the boys and organize the activities in which they participate.

PARENT VOLUNTEER POSITIONS IN THE PACK

Committee Chair

Conducts monthly pack leaders' meeting to help plan program. Ensures that committee members give adequate support for running the program to the Cubmaster and den leaders. Helps recruit additional leaders as needed. Views Fast Start video with viewer's guide and attends training.

Committee Members

Attend monthly pack leaders' meeting to help plan program and take care of records, finances, advancement, activities, membership, etc. Views Fast Start video with viewer's guide and attend training.

Cubmaster

Conducts monthly pack meeting. Aids den leaders by coordinating monthly program for all leaders. Attends monthly pack leaders' meeting. Views Fast Start video with viewer's guide and attends training. Has one or more assistants.

Tiger Cub Den Leader

Meets weekly for about one hour with a den of six to eight boys and their adult partners. Den meeting is held in boys' homes in rotation. For each meeting, the den leader works with the host Tiger Cub/adult partner pair to plan the meeting. Attends monthly pack leaders' meeting. Views Fast Start video with viewer's guide and attends training. Has parent/adult partners as helpers.

Cub Scout Den Leader

Meets weekly for about one hour with a den of six to eight boys. Den meeting is held in den leader's home, a church, or other suitable place. The den leader determines time, day, and location of den meeting that is most convenient for him or her. Attends monthly pack leaders' meeting. Views Fast Start video with viewer's guide and attends training. Has one or more assistants and parent helpers.

Webelos Den Leader

Same as den leader except works with older boys, the Webelos Scouts. Encourages periodic parent/son overnight campouts. Attends monthly pack leaders' meeting. Views Fast Start video with viewer's guide and attends training. Has one or more assistants and parent helpers.

Adult Partners

Attend Tiger Cub den meetings and pack meetings with their Tiger Cubs. When hosting the den meeting, work with the Tiger Cub and the Tiger Cub den leader to plan and lead the meeting. Attend pack meetings with their Tiger Cubs.

Parent Helpers

Assist pack and/or den with specific projects as needed by the leaders. All parents help their sons with advancement. Review individual boy books for Wolf Cub Scouts, Bear Cub Scouts, and Webelos Scouts.

PARENT VOLUNTEERS, YOU ARE NOT ALONE

- *Tiger Cub and Cub Scout Program Helps, along with the Webelos Leader Guide* contain meeting plans for dens and packs and shows you how to do crafts and games. All leaders working with Tiger Cubs or Cub Scouts receive *Program Helps* in *Scouting* magazine.
- Most packs have a pack library that contains the leader books you need and Fast Start training videotapes and view guides designed to help you do your job.
- Monthly roundtable meetings for all adult Cub Scout volunteers are held. Participants receive help with crafts, games, skits, and songs for use at den and pack meetings. It's a great place to ask questions and share ideas.
- Your district volunteer crew, called the district committee, performs quality district-wide programs in which youth can participate.
- Your district has another volunteer crew, called the commissioner staff. Individuals on the staff serve as the sales and service crew. They check on the health of your pack and are a communications link between your pack and the Scouting organization.
- Your district has basic leader training available. All leaders need training! The district will also help you with Fast Start training.
- Each district is served by a full-time district executive.
- Staff members at the local council service center can help or put you in touch with someone who can help you succeed.
- For those connected to the Internet, you might enjoy visiting the National BSA website: www.bsa.scouting.org

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TRAINING FOR THE NEW CUB SCOUT VOLUNTEER

CUB SCOUT LEADER FAST START TRAINING:

Fast Start Training is a brief introduction to the Cub Scout program that will equip you with the basic skills and information that you will need as a new Cub Scout leader. There are two ways in which to view Fast Start Training. The first is through a VHS videotape with 20-minute segments for the Cubmaster, Den Leaders, Webelos Den Leader, and basic Pack Organization. Copies are available for check-out from the Scout Service Center. For individuals with Internet access, you may view Fast Start Training by visiting us on the web @ <http://olc.scouting.org>.

NEW LEADER ESSENTIALS TRAINING – (approx. 90 minutes)

The New Leader Essentials Course is a prerequisite for all other training courses! This brief, 90 minute session is designed for all Scout Leaders, regardless of position. Topics include rules & regulations of Scouting, the aims & methods of the Scouting program, and how to effectively work with young people.

CUB SCOUT LEADER SPECIFIC TRAINING – (approx. 2½ hours)

This training course is essential for all Cub Scout leaders. Basic Training covers the topics of den and pack meeting planning, pack finance and management, and special activity planning. The training includes special breakout sessions for each leader's position. All Cub Scout leaders should attend Leader Specific Training to help ensure a quality program to the Cub Scouts in your pack or den.

WEBELOS DEN LEADER OUTDOOR TRAINING:

This is a special supplemental training session for Den Leaders of 4th and 5th grade Webelos dens. It will give you the basic skills needed to conduct an outdoor program with your older Cub Scouts.

MONTHLY ROUNDTABLES:

Supplemental training offered each month for all Cub Scout leaders to provide additional den and pack meeting ideas. New Cub Scout leaders will find a wealth of information and activities to use with the Cub Scouts in the pack. This is a fun-learning evening!

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