

Make friends.

Catch fish.

Earn badges.

Climb rocks.

Explore caves.

Take hikes.

Visit museums.

Launch rockets.

Race cars.

Roast marshmallows.

Take pictures.

Help people.

Discover trails.

Ride bikes.

Play sports.

Learn games.

Build character.

Gain confidence.

Hit targets.

Laugh louder.

Camp out.

Work together.



# Parent Orientation Guide



Welcome to the fun and excitement of Cub Scouting!  
Where character counts and the adventure begins.



# YOUR JOURNEY BEGINS HERE

## THE BASICS

Youth Development Program for kids in grades First through Fifth

- Builds Character
- Teaches Citizenship
- "Do Your Best"



## WHY CUB SCOUTING?



- Brings the family together
- Master new skills
- Make new friends
- Learn to get along
- Build self-confidence
- Service Projects to help others
- FUN!

## SCOUTING ACTIVITIES

- Camping
- Pinewood Derby
- Raingutter Regatta
- Hiking, Fishing, Biking
- Get Active!
- Cool field trips



## THINGS TO BUY

- Book
- Uniform
- Scout Life Magazine
- Patches



# BE SURE TO CHECK OUT CUBSCOUTS.ORG



## THE BIG PICTURE

### Den Meetings

- Small groups organized by grade
- Pack Meetings & Activities
- Family Events combining all dens
- District & Council Events
- Community-wide activities



## ADVANCEMENT

- Age & grade based rank
- Awards and badges
- Recognizing effort and success
- Celebrating achievement
- Building self-confidence



## TRAINING

- Youth protection
- Job specific training available
- Printed resources
- Application based



## WHAT'S NEXT?

- Learn about your Pack
- Register tonight!

# THIS IS CUB SCOUTS



## CUB SCOUTS ARE AWESOME!

As a parent, you want your child to grow up to be a self-reliant, dependable and caring individual. But does Cub Scouting really improve a kid's character? According to research conducted at Tufts University, the answer is YES!

The research studied 4,000 kids, some who are in Scouting and some who are not. The findings show that Scouting...

1. Includes sustained, positive adult-youth relations with caring and supportive adults
2. Promotes development of life skills through program activities
3. Provides leadership opportunities



## Serving Today's Families through "Family Scouting"

The BSA's mission is to prepare young people to make ethical and moral choices over their lifetimes by instilling in them the values of the Scout Oath and Scout Law. We are excited to announce that our Cub Scouting program is now open to boys and girls (available in some areas). By welcoming both girls and boys into the program, even more youth will have access to the character development and values-based leadership that Scouting promises.



Learn more at [scouting.org/familyscouting](https://scouting.org/familyscouting).



# THE CUB SCOUT PACK



## YOUR CHILD IS A MEMBER OF A DEN WHICH:

- Has five to nine members, usually at the same grade level
- Meets 2-3 times each month in den meetings
- Is led by a Den Leader (usually a parent)
- Den Leader is helped by an Assistant Den Leader
- Meetings include games, sports, crafts, hands on learning and occasional field trips

## YOUR CHILD IS A MEMBER OF A PACK WHICH:

- Is made up of all grade levels dens
- Meets once a month at the Pack meeting - all Scout families are expected to participate
- Is led by the Cubmaster
- The Pack meeting is the highlight of the month's den meetings and activities
- Pack meetings follow a suggested theme that has games, skits, songs, ceremonies, and presentations of badges that youth have earned

## YOUR PACK IS RUN BY THE PACK COMMITTEE WHICH:

- Is made up of volunteer den leaders, pack leaders, the packtrainer, the new member coordinator and parents
- Meets once a month or more often if needed
- Is led by the Committee Chairman
- The committee selects leadership, finds meeting places, performs record keeping, manages pack finances, orders badges, maintains pack equipment, helps trains leaders, recognizes leaders, and plans activities

# THE **ADVANCEMENT** **PLAN**



## **LION - Kindergarten**

In Cub Scouting's newest program, Lions will experience the Scouting concepts of character development, leadership, citizenship, and personal fitness through engaging and exciting adventures. Each youth will complete each of the six required adventures with your den or family.

## **TIGER - First Grade**

The Tiger badge is earned after completing each of the six Tiger Required Adventures with your den or family, completing one Tiger elective adventure of your den or family's choosing, and completes the exercises in the Youth Protection Parent Guide.

## **WOLF - Second Grade**

A Cub Scout who has completed first grade, works to complete the six Wolf Required Adventures with your den or family, completes one Wolf elective adventure, and completes the exercises in the Youth Protection Parent Guide, to earn the Wolf badge. After earning the Wolf badge, they may work on electives in different interest areas until they are old enough to begin work on the Bear badge.







## **BEAR - Third Grade**

A Cub Scout who has completed second grade, works to complete the six Bear Required Adventures with your den or family, completes one Bear Elective Adventure, and completes the exercises in the Youth Protection Parent Guide. After earning the Bear Badge, they may work on electives in different interest areas until they are old enough to be a Webelos Scout.

## **WEBELOS & ARROW OF LIGHT - Fourth & Fifth Grade**

When a Cub Scout has completed the third grade, they transfer to a Webelos den. Led by an adult Webelos leader, they work on requirements for the Webelos badge, must be active for at least 3 months, work on the five required adventures, complete two elective adventures, and complete the exercises in the Youth Protection Parent Guide. The Arrow of Light – has similar requirements and is the highest award in Cub Scouting.

Camping and outdoor programs are an important part of the 18 month Webelos program. In February of a Webelos 5th grade year, they graduate from Cub Scouting into the adventure of Scouts, BSA at an impressive graduation ceremony. Every youth deserves an opportunity to be a Scout.



# CAMPING, ACTIVITIES & PROGRAMS



## CAMPING OPPORTUNITIES

Weekend Camping: our 3 Camp properties are available during the fall, winter and spring for units to use for weekend camping trips. There are tent sites, Leantos and cabins available to rent. For more information visit our website: [www.wnyscouting.org/camping/weekend-camp-reservations/67051](http://www.wnyscouting.org/camping/weekend-camp-reservations/67051).

## PINEWOOD DERBY

Cub Scouts along with a parent work together to build a racecar made from a block of wood. The scouts race their cars at the Pinewood Derby. Don't miss the big race!

## BLUE AND GOLD BANQUET

This is the yearly celebration of Cub Scouting's Birthday and is typically held at the February Pack meeting.

## ANNUAL FUNDRAISERS

Each year the Greater Niagara Frontier Council conducts our Popcorn Sale in the late summer and fall to benefit Scouting in Western New York. This sale teaches Scouts of all ages a valuable life lesson of earning their own way and helps to pay for Scouting expenses.



# FAMILY FUN DAYS



Family Fun Days are an opportunity for all Scouts and their families to participate in a variety of activities at either Camp Scouthaven or the Richard E. Garman Scouting Center. We hold these 3 Family Fun Days throughout the year. You can attend with your Pack or Troop, or you can attend as an individual Family. Each event has some unique activities as well as some camp favorites! You can talk a walk through the Haunted Cabin at Halloween Fun Day, learn how Maple Syrup is made at the Maple Fun Day, and visit our Scouting Museum and the Cub Scout Fun Day.

## **Cub Scout Fun Day**

Held in the Fall @ Richard E. Garman Scouting Center

## **Halloween Fun Day**

Held in October @ Camp Scouthaven

## **Maple Fun Day**

Held in March @ Camp Scouthaven

## **SCOUT FAMILY CAMPING IN THE SUMMER**

This event is an all-day Saturday of summer camp activities, and campfire program, and tent camping with your family overnight. All meals are included as part of the event fee, so all you need to bring is your family and a tent. This event is typically held in early June to give you a taste of what you can expect when you attend Summer Camp at Camp Scouthaven!

**(see event flyer for specific dates)**



Camp Scouthaven, Freedom NY

# THE BASICS FOR A NEW SCOUT

## HOW TO GET STARTED... BASIC NEEDS

Contrary to what your child may tell you, the first thing they will need to get started is not a uniform, but a book. The books in Cub Scouting are related to their age.

A Kindergartner uses the Lion Packet. A first grader will need the Tiger Cub Book, a second grader will need a Wolf Book, a third grader needs a Bear Book, and a fourth or fifth grader will need the Webelos Book.

These books contain the basics they will need for the coming year, especially the requirements for that particular advancement award.

## BOYS' LIFE MAGAZINE RECOMMENDED

*Boys' Life* Magazine has been around almost as long as there have been Scouts. It is the only magazine especially designed for the Scout.

With features such as camping around the world and hiking, hobbies such as model cars and boat building, bicycling, fishing and nature, and articles on current Scouting, sporting and new events, *Boys' Life* has just about everything to offer your child.

Make sure on your application you mark the *Boys' Life* square and put your correct mailing address. In approximately 2 to 3 months, your Scout will receive the first issue delivered directly to your home. This is one step you can take to make sure your child will receive a full year of great Scouting.



# HOW CAN I HELP?



Scouting operates through volunteer leadership. Naturally, parents are the primary source of leaders in the Scouting program. Being a leader is fun, challenging, and rewarding. Leaders find that their experiences help them to become better parents. You volunteer not only to help Scouting, but also to ensure your child and their friends have a great experience.

## TRAINING FOR VOLUNTEERS

Training is an important part of learning to become an effective leader. The main purpose of training is to provide you with the tools you need to put on a quality program for the kids. Leaders who understand the whys and hows of the program are more effective in their roles and have a better understanding of how to use all available resources to provide an exciting and worthwhile program for their Scouts.

## YOUTH PROTECTION TRAINING

The Boy Scouts of America places the greatest importance on creating the most secure environment possible for our youth members. This training covers the BSA's Youth Protection policies, kinds of abuse, how to respond to disclosure of abuse, and proper reporting procedures.

All registered leaders are required to take this training. In order for an adult to remain a registered leader in the Boy Scouts of America, Youth Protection Training is required every two years.

# CUB SCOUT VOLUNTEER LEADERSHIP



The Boy Scouts of America takes great pride in the quality of our adult leadership. Being a BSA leader is a privilege, not a right. The quality of the program and the safety of our youth members call for high-caliber adult leaders. The BSA's rigorous volunteer application and screening process includes local selection and screening as well as national criminal background checks.

## **DEN LEADER (s)**

Leads the den at weekly den and monthly pack meetings. Attends the monthly pack leaders' meeting.

## **CUBMASTER**

Helps plan and carry out the pack program with the help of the pack committee. Emcees the monthly pack meeting and attends the pack leaders' meeting.

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## **PACK COMMITTEE**

Pack committee members perform administrative functions.

## **COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN**

Presides at all pack committee meetings. Helps recruit adult leaders. Also attends pack meetings.

## **ADVANCEMENT CHAIRMAN**

Maintains advancement records for the pack. Orders and obtains all badges and insignia. Attends pack meetings and committee meetings.

## **SECRETARY/TREASURER**

Keeps all records for the pack, including pack bank account, financial records, etc. Attends pack meetings and pack leaders' meetings.

## **PACK TRAINER**

Ensures that all leaders of the pack are trained. Attends pack meetings and committee meetings.

## **NEW MEMBER COORDINATOR**

Engages youth and their families in the unit experiences so that they feel Welcomed and want to stay.



# YOU ARE NOT ALONE



Thank you for considering the Scouting program for your child and for volunteering to support your pack. We assure you that you are not alone and there are many people available to support you.

Please take advantage of the number of resources available to ensure a positive experience. By completing and submitting an Adult Application, you will receive up-to-date information about Scouting in our area.

The staff at the Greater Niagara Frontier Council can help you or they will get you in touch with someone who can.

Greater Niagara Frontier Council  
Boy Scouts of America  
2860 Genesee Street  
Buffalo, NY 14225  
Office: 716.891.4073  
Fax: 716.891.4008



## Other resources:

- SCOUTING.ORG - Information for adults
- MY.Scouting.ORG - Information for adults
- BEAScOUT.ORG - Information for scouts and adults
- CUBScOUTS.ORG - Information for scouts and adults