

Welcome to Scouting!

An Adventure Guide for Families of new Cub Scouts



BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA
WEST TENNESSEE AREA COUNCIL

***What you should know to help build your son's
Cub Scout adventure into a fun and valuable learning experience!***

- **What** – What is the Cub Scouts? How is Scouting organized? Page 2
- **When** – When and how often are the activities and events held? What activities are coming up soon? Page 3
- **How** – How will my son be involved in the program? What awards will be earned? Page 4
- **Costs** – What are the costs of Cub Scouts? Page 5
- **Uniform** – Where and how can I get my uniform and handbook? Page 5
- **Where** – Where will the activities and events be held? Who do I contact? Page 6

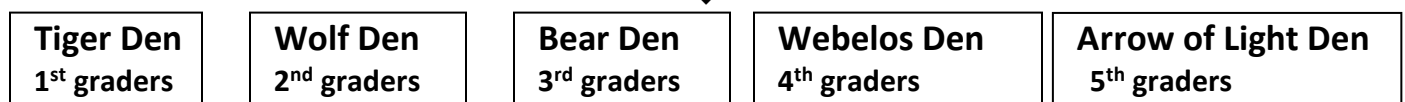
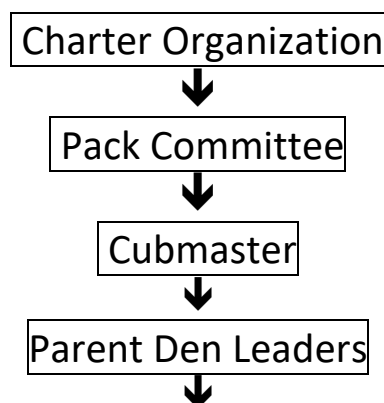
For more information on Cub Scouting, visit www.CubScouts.org

- The mission of the **Boy Scouts of America** 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 Law.
- **Cub Scouting supports your family.** Scouting helps parents to develop well-rounded boys with good character who will be better prepared for life as an adult American citizen.
- **The Cub Scout Motto is “Do Your Best”.** In a society where your son is often taught that winning is everything, Cub Scouting teaches him to “DO HIS BEST”, be helpful to others, and to try to live his life as expressed in the Scout Oath and Law.
- **Cub Scouting helps boys grow in self-esteem and good character as they learn new skills and conquer new challenges.** A Cub Scout den provides your son with a group of boys his own age in which he can earn recognition for his accomplishments. He will also gain a sense of personal achievement for the new skills he learns.
- **For many boys, Cub Scouting is their first opportunity to experience the fun of the outdoors.** Boys want to spend time outdoors doing things and to experience fun weekend camping outings.

How is Cub Scouting Organized?

- **Den** – Your son and friends in the same grade-level from his school form a “Den.” The boys can progress through Scouting together as a group. Dens are led by a team of adult volunteers – the Den Leader and Assistant Den Leader(s). Den leaders are usually parents of the boys.
- **Pack** – One or more Dens combine to form the “Pack.” A Pack meeting is usually held once each month. This gathering usually follows a suggested theme. It’s a time for boys to be recognized for their accomplishments, to perform skits and songs learned in den meetings, and to have fun with the entire family. Parent volunteer Cubmaster leads the pack meeting.
- **Pack Committee** – The pack committee consists of the parents of the Scouts. Every family is encouraged to participate in some manner. This committee plans events, organizes awards, provides training, and has a budget. The committee supports the Den Leaders and Cubmaster.
- **Charter Organization** – This is the sponsor of the Pack and often provides a meeting place for the Scouts. Through the Charter Organization, all Pack adult leaders are recruited and approved. The pack operates within the guidelines and polices of that organization and the BSA.

***BSA volunteers agree to a criminal background check and must complete Youth Protection available at www.My.Scouting.org*



Meetings and Outings

Scouting is a year-round program! We want both you and your son to be as involved as you can, but don't worry about missing a meeting or two. You will have an opportunity to catch up later. Here is the standard meeting schedule.

- **Den** – Your son's small group or "Den" will meet 2 or 3 times each month during the school year. 1 meeting might be a field trip. Meetings can take place at a parent's home, church, school, park, or other safe location. Leaders can use lesson plans to complete 7 core adventures to earn rank.
- **Pack** – All of the "Dens" will meet together as a larger "Pack" once each month. Pack meetings are fun and the entire family is invited.
- **Outings** – Your Den and Pack will work together to plan at least one type of outdoor activity each month.



Note: *The first few meetings can often seem unorganized or "crazy" until both the volunteers and boys get into a routine. Encourage your son and enjoy the time learning together.*

Upcoming Activities and Camping

- **Good Turn** – This is a service project to benefit the community. One good turn that many dens & packs participate in is "Scouting for Food," a canned-food drive to benefit local food pantries. Scouting for Food is conducted in February.
- **Pack Camping** – Each fall and spring many districts have a camp-out so existing members and new families can get to know each other. There are fun activities for the boys and campfires in the evening. Additional information will be provided by your Pack leader. **See enclosed "Bobcat Day" /Cuboree event flyer.**
- **Cub Scout Fall Family Camp** – This is a one-night campout at Camp Mack Morris for Cub Scouts and their families in October. Some of the activities include: Archery, BB guns, games, hayrides, night hike, hike and crafts. **See enclosed flyer.**
- **Pinewood Derby** – Parent and son work together to build a gravity-powered miniature race car from a special kit. Most packs conduct derby races annually in early spring.
- **Blue and Gold Banquet** – This is a birthday party for your Cub Scout Pack, usually held in **February** to correspond with the Anniversary of Scouting. Most often, it is a seated dinner, but sometimes it is a potluck supper. A special program or entertainment is customary.
- **Summer Day Camp** – This exciting and affordable 5-day program, conducted under certified leadership, is held in a central location during day or twilight hours. This activity may include archery & BB ranges, science projects, special crafts, games, sports, songs and skits.
- **And much more:** Generals Baseball Camp-outs, Spring Family Camp, Webelos Adventure Camp, and maybe a Polar Bear Swim, a Fishing Derby, a Rocket Derby, etc.



Awards and Advancement

Cub Scouts provides a place for boys to learn the importance of setting a goal and working to achieve that goal. Throughout the year, each Scout will be working on his "Rank Badge". Requirements for this rank can be found in their grade specific handbook and at CubScouts.org.



In addition to his rank, there are other awards such as **Adventure belt loops**, **Outdoor Activity**, **Outdoor Ethics**, **World Conservation**, **Pack Summertime**, **STEM/Nova** (*Science, Technology, Engineering, Math*), **Cyber Chip** online safety, and your faith's **Duty to God Award** (praypub.org). These are fun and educational awards boys can earn for participating in activities with their scout group and family.

Earn Your First Rank - Bobcat!

The first badge every Cub Scout gets to earn, regardless of which age den he joins, is the **Bobcat Badge**. These are the requirements:

1. Learn and say the Scout Oath, with help if needed.

Scout Oath

*On my honor I will do my best
To do my duty to God and my country
and to obey the Scout Law;
To help other people at all times;
To keep myself physically strong,
mentally awake, and morally straight.*



2. Learn and say the Scout Law, with help if needed.

Scout Law

A Scout is trustworthy, loyal, helpful, friendly, courteous, kind, obedient, cheerful, thrifty, brave, clean, and reverent.

3. Show the Cub Scout sign. Tell what it means.
4. Show the Cub Scout handshake. Tell what it means.
5. Say the Cub Scout motto. Tell what it means.

A motto is a guiding principle. **"Do Your Best."**



6. Show the Cub Scout salute. Tell what it means.
8. With your parent or guardian, complete the exercises in the pamphlet *"How to Protect Your Children From Child Abuse: A Parent's Guide"*. * This guide is found in the front of the Scout's handbook.

Other grade-level rank advancement can be found in your handbook and online at www.cubscouts.org

What Does Cub Scouting Cost?

Scouting is a very affordable activity for your family, especially when you consider the cost of a year-round Scouting program compared to a 2-3 month sport activity. Scouting is a good investment in your son's future.

- **Registration Fee** – The annual fee is \$24.00 per year. (**\$2 per month is collected at the time your son joins Scouting based on the Pack's renewal date.**) A \$1 fee for secondary accident and sickness insurance coverage is also collected. Make checks to: *Boy Scouts of America.*
- **Boys' Life** - This monthly magazine for boys and their families features stories on Scouting adventure, sports, hobbies, magic, science, and US history. It also contains jokes, comics and short stories. The annual cost is only \$12.00. (**\$1 per month is collected at the time your son joins Scouting based on the Pack's renewal date.**)
- **Handbook** – Every Scout needs a handbook. The handbook is specific to their grade-level and Den. Handbooks cost between \$12.99 and \$18.99.
- **Uniform** – Every pack has a different standard for uniforms. Please consult with your leader for more information. A complete blue uniform with shirt, belt and patches will cost approximately \$55.00. A grade-level neckerchief is \$9.00. See enclosed flyer.
- **Other Costs** – There are minimal fees for participation in activities at the pack, district or council level. You only pay these fees if you choose to participate. Some packs have yearly dues to assist with these costs.
- **Adult Leader Registration Fee** – This fee covers liability insurance and support information as a leader. Some Packs or chartered organizations have the resources to help pay these fees for the volunteers. The annual fee to register as a leader is \$25.00.



Fund Your Scouting Costs – Sell Popcorn!

Most of your Scouting costs can be financed by participating in the annual popcorn sale. Complete information will be provided at your Pack's popcorn kickoff.

Scouting

Where Can I Get My Uniform?

The West Tennessee Area Council "Scout Shop" is located at 1995 Hollywood Drive in Jackson, TN. We have uniforms, advancements, handbooks, gifts, pinewood derby kits, leader guides and supplies. If we don't have it in stock, we'll order it!

Regular Hours: Monday – Friday 8:30 am – 4:45 pm

Extended Fall Hours: Open till 6:00 p.m. (Monday only)

Dates: Aug 21, Aug 28, Sept 11, Sept 18, Sept 25

Fall Saturday Hours: Open 10:00 am - 2:00 pm

Dates: Aug 19, Aug 26, Sept 9, Sept 16, Sept 23, Sept. 30, Oct 7, Nov 4, Dec 2

MasterCard, Discover & Visa welcome! ♦ Call in your order and we can ship to you!

1-800-452-5629 (phone orders only)



BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA

WEST TENNESSEE AREA COUNCIL

What is the Council?

The **West Tennessee Area Council** is the local Scouting organization governed by a local volunteer executive board. We are chartered to the National Council of the Boy Scouts of America to promote and support Scouting in 20 counties in West Tennessee. Your Council has **5 Districts** served by a volunteer committee and a full-time professional staff:

District Name County Areas Served

Bedford Forrest **(Benton, Carroll, Henry, Weakley)**

District Executive – 731.707.3828 or John.Mayros@scouting.org

Big Hatchie **(Fayette, Haywood, Lauderdale, Tipton)**

District Executive – 731.668.3787 or John.Norwood@scouting.org

Central **(Decatur, Henderson, Madison, S. Crockett, S. Gibson)**

District Executive - 731.668.3787 or Derrick.Stingley@scouting.org

Davy Crockett **(Dyer, Lake, Obion, N. Gibson, N. Crockett)**

District Executive - 901.355.3659 or Jim.Drake@scouting.org

Shiloh **(Chester, Hardin, Hardeman, McNairy)**

Field Director – 731.668.3787 or John.Norwood@scouting.org



If you have any questions about Scouting or our programs, please visit or contact us.

West Tennessee Area Council, BSA

1995 Hollywood Drive, Jackson, TN 38305 • 731-668-3787 • Fax 731-668-3788

www.wtacbsa.org

My Contacts, Meeting Time, and Location:

MY DEN

My Den _____ Den Leader _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Meeting Day _____ Meeting Time _____

Meeting Location _____

MY PACK

Pack # _____ Cubmaster _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Meeting Day _____ Meeting Time _____

Meeting Location _____

MY ONLINE SCOUTING FAMILY

wtacbsa.org CubScouts.org Scouting.org Facebook.com/wtac.bsa

Scoutbook.com (web app subscription to help track your Scout)

The Role of the Cub Scout Parent

Every parent plays a very important role with your Scout. You will enjoy working with your Scout on his achievements, attending a camp outing together, and simply having fun with your family! **Scouting would not be possible without the parents or guardians involvement.**

You will be asked to serve as a parent helper with the Cub Scout Pack where your son is a member. All Scout leaders are volunteers. Whatever time you are able to invest in Scouting – the result is phenomenal! Boys will not only have fun because of your help; they will also grow physically, mentally and develop good relationships with other people.

Parent Involvement is the Secret to Success!

Take a moment to look over these roles. Please mark 3 choices were you would like to help!

- Den Leader or Assistant Den Leader (two deep leadership is always required)** Works directly with the boys in their son's grade-level den meetings and activities.
- Outdoor Committee** – Family camping event, summer day camp, and the outdoors.
- Special Events Committee** – Blue and Gold Banquet, Pinewood Derby Race, Rocket Derby, and "Scouting for Food" Service Project.
- Finance Committee** – Popcorn Sale, Scout Card Sale, and Pack Operating Budget.
- Membership Committee** –Year-round recruitment events and Annual Pack Charter Renewal.
- Support Committee** – Coordinates Pack Meeting Speakers, special events and assist other committees as needed.
- Advancement Committee** – Maintain records and coordinate awards using Scoutbook.org
- Training** – Tracks and encourages leader and parent training. Maintains 100% Youth Protection compliance at all times.
- Additional Talents:** _____

Adult Name _____

E-mail _____

Daytime Phone _____ Cell _____

Scout's Name _____ Grade _____

*** If a situation ever arises where you can no longer help, please contact your Den Leader or Cubmaster.

PLEASE RETURN TODAY WITH YOUR SON'S APPLICATION!