

CUB SCOUT PARENT GUIDE



**Scouting
America**
Buckeye Council



WELCOME

Dear Parents,

Welcome to Scouting! Your child's Cub Scout den should be getting ready to meet and soon the fun and excitement of being a Scout will unfold. There will be many opportunities for adventure throughout the year!

Here is a quick start guide to ensure your family has a wonderful Cub Scout experience.

- Soon you will receive a copy of the Cub Scout pack's annual calendar so you can attend the fun Cub Scout activities in which your pack is participating in.
- Within 3 weeks of joining Scouting you should know when and where "den meetings" and "pack meetings" will be held. If you do not, please contact your child's leader.
- Also within 3 weeks of joining you should have your child's Cub Scout handbook. The first two things you should do once he or she has their handbook are review the Parents' Guide in the front and help your son or daughter earn their first adventure so they can be recognized at their first event of the entire Cub Scout pack.

Here are a couple other ideas for making sure your child's Cub Scout experience gets started on the right foot.

- Visit the website www.LEADScouting.org/join. This website has a lot of information about resources, camps, activities, and training that may be of interest to your family.
- Visit our Scout Center listed on the last page of this guidebook. At our Scout Center you can get advice, information, uniforms, handbooks, and other Scouting supplies.

Please also know that Scouting places great importance on creating the most secure environment possible for our youth members. To maintain such an environment, Scouting has procedural and leadership selection policies and provides parents and leaders with resources for all programs available at www.scouting.org. In addition, a pamphlet is provided at the front of your child's handbook for your family's use.

This is the beginning of a once-in-a-lifetime journey filled with exciting opportunities. Enjoy the adventure!

Sincerely,



Nathan Hopper
Scout Executive & CEO



MY SCOUT DIRECTORY

Complete this quick reference guide to save important information about your pack and leaders

Pack Number _____

Sponsoring Organization _____

Pack Meeting Location _____

Next Meeting Date & Time _____

Den Meeting Location _____

Den Meeting Date & Time _____

Cubmaster _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Den Leader _____

Phone _____

Email _____



CUB SCOUTS DO YOUR BEST. HAVE FUN DOING IT.

As a parent, you want your son or daughter to grow up to be a self-reliant, dependable and caring individual. Scouting has these same goals in mind for them. Since 1910, we have been weaving lifetime values into fun and educational activities designed to assist parents in strengthening character, good citizenship, and physical fitness for youth.

Scouting teaches positive youth development. However, we know that kids don't join Scouting to get their character built. They join because it's fun!

CUB SCOUTS IS A FAMILY CENTERED PROGRAM FOR YOUTH AND ADULTS

The best way to find out what you do best is to do it. Swing a bat. Pitch a tent. Build a Pinewood Derby Car. Cub Scouts are at that magical age where everything is new and fun. They live in a world of "firsts" – first homerun, first campfire, first checkered flag – where their game is their imagination.

The most valuable rewards are the friends they make for life and a parent's proud smile. These are invaluable experiences that can be had in Scouting.

YOUR CHILD IS A MEMBER OF A DEN

- A den is 5-8 kids, similar in age, who meet with adult leaders to play games, learn skills, complete adventures, perform skits and songs, and take field trips.
- Dens meet at the convenience of leaders and families, at least twice a month, perhaps weekly.
- A Den is led by a Den Leader (parent volunteer) and other parent helpers who share the fun.

YOUR CHILD AND THEIR DEN ARE MEMBERS OF A PACK

- Each Pack is made up of one or more Dens
- Once a month, all Cub Scout families attend a Pack meeting with games, skits, songs, ceremonies, and presentations of badges that boys and girls earned that month.
- The Pack Meeting is led by the Cubmaster with help from other parents.
- The Pack families will also have other activities, like Pack Family Camping, Pinewood Derbies, and Field Trips.



THE ADVANCEMENT PLAN

A Cub Scout Den provides your child with a group of others their own age in which he or she can earn awards and recognition. In their Den, your child will gain a sense of personal achievement for the new skills learned. Each Cub Scout learns to respect their home, country, God, and other people. Most advancement adventures can be done at Den meetings and Pack activities, but all can also be done at home with the family.



RANK ADVANCEMENT

The Adventures a Cub Scout works on are found in the Cub Scout Handbook for their age or grade, and they will work toward the rank for that age or grade. Kindergarteners use the Lion Handbook and work towards the Lion Rank, 1st Graders use the Tiger Handbook and work towards the Tiger Rank, 2nd Graders use the Wolf Handbook and work towards the Wolf Rank, 3rd Graders use the Bear Handbook and work towards the Bear Rank, 4th Graders use the Webelos Handbook and work towards the Webelos Rank, 5th Graders use the Arrow of Light handbook and work towards the Arrow of Light Rank.

The Adventures for each rank in each handbook are aged based and progressive, so that each year the Scout has more and more exciting and challenging adventures. Every level of Cub Scouting has plenty of hiking, camping, games, exploring, campfires, swimming, and boating...over 15 adventures that can be done at each level, year-round!

Each Rank is earned by completing 8 adventures from the handbook and your Scout earns an Adventure Loop for each adventure completed.

In late winter or spring of a Scout's 5th grade year, they graduate from Cub Scouting into the adventures of Scouts BSA at a crossover ceremony with a Troop. Generally, your son or daughter will be prepared to join a Troop in February or March of their Fifth-Grade year in time to plan for their first Scout summer camp experience.

The Cub Scout program grows with your child. Each year, youth have a new experience following a unique curriculum. They will learn new lessons designed for their age and have fun with other kids in their grade.

DID YOU KNOW?

**"SCOUTS ARE TWICE AS LIKELY TO EARN A COLLEGE DEGREE
COMPARED TO THOSE WHO WERE NEVER SCOUTS"**

Source: Harris Interactive Study, 2005



THE SIGNS & SYMBOLS

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.

Scout Law

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

The Cub Scout Sign

The Cub Scout sign is made with the right arm held high and straight up above the shoulder, with the index and middle fingers forming a V. The other fingers are held with the thumb. The two extended fingers stand for the parts of the Scout Oath to help others obey. They also stand for the two alert ears of a wolf. This is the sign for Cub Scouts all over the world.



The Cub Scout Handshake

The Cub Scout handshake is done by putting the index and middle fingers of the right hand against the other person's wrist when shaking hands. Cub Scouts and Cub Scout leaders use this handshake everywhere in the United States. The handshake signifies that those who use it help others and obey the Scout Oath and Law.



The Cub Scout Salute

The Cub Scout salute is made by joining the index and middle fingers of the right hand, holding the other fingers with the thumb and touching the extended finger to the cap visor or forehead. The hand is held the same as for the Cub Scout sign, except the two fingers are together. The Cub Scout salute is used to salute the flag when in uniform and to show respect to the den and Cub Scout Pack leaders. It can be used when greeting other Scouts.



SPECIAL EVENTS & PROGRAMS

Cub Scout Family Adventure Camps

Cub Scout Family Adventure Camp is an overnight camping experience designed to give both new and existing Cub Scouts an exciting adventure at the start and end of the new school year! While at the event, Scouts will get a taste of what Cub Scouting offers through camping, shooting sports, games, rocket launching, crafts, campfires and spending quality time with their family!

Participants will camp Friday night and participate in activities all day on Saturday. Lunch is provided on Saturday. All participants will also receive an event patch and a welcome kit upon arrival.

Day Camp

Cub Scouts will have an adventure building on the skills and friendships experienced each day. Day Camp includes crafts, games, nature, sports, songs, and skits. Camp usually lasts 1 week.

Cub Scout Summer Camp

Cub Scout Summer Camp is a 3-day overnight campout in June and July for Cub Scouts of all ages and their parents! Cub Scout Summer Camp programs are held at Seven Ranges Scout Reservation in Kensington, Ohio.

Pinewood Derby

The Pinewood Derby is an annual parent-child project where you can design and build a race car from a block of wood. Cub Scouts learn the valuable lesson of sportsmanship by racing their cars on a gravity track against their fellow Scouts. The Buckeye Council offers free Pinewood Derby Workshops in January where you can bring your car to get it cut!

Blue and Gold Banquet

The Blue and Gold banquet is a celebration of the birthday of Scouting in February with a Party! This is a big Pack event, usually full of food, skits and awards. Many times, Scouts receive their rank advancements at this event.



THE UNIFORM & FAMILY ADVENTURE CAMP

The Uniform

As a universal symbol of scouting, the Official Scouting Uniform is known for lasting through countless adventures and bringing Scouts together with a common thread. Prepare for the adventures ahead by purchasing a Cub Scout Uniform!



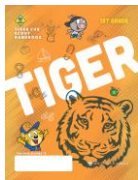
What to Get

After you begin your Cub Scout journey, you will want to purchase your Cub Scout his or her uniform. Main pieces to get from the beginning are:

- **A shirt** – the main uniform piece
- **A neckerchief & slide** – this shows which den they are in and looks sharp!
- **A hat** – this is specific to their den and completes the uniform look
- **Their handbook** – this has all of the adventures in it!
- **A Cub Scout belt** – this is where their adventure badges go once they earn them!

Purchase A Launch Pack & Get Most of the Uniform!

Equip your new Cub Scout with an **Official Launch Pack**! These packs will give your new Scout the basics to launch their Scouting Adventure! Launch packs are available for purchase at every Join Scout Night or you can order them online and have them shipped directly to you. Launch Packs include everything but the shirt and belt to start your Cub Scout on their adventures!



Rank Appropriate
Handbook



Rank Appropriate
Neckerchief



Rank Appropriate
Slide



Rank Appropriate
Hat



**STEM
Adventure Kit**



**\$5 coupon
to LEADScouting.org
Store**

**Coupon to
finish the
uniform in
the Scout
Shop!**

- AND - Free Admission to Family Adventure Camp for 1 Scout + 1 Adult!
(a \$25 savings!)

\$75 for local pickup or \$85 shipped

This is a **\$50 savings** off the original cost of the same goods sold at the Scout Shop* & separate Family Adventure Camp registration. *Scout Shop items are: hat, neckerchief, slide, handbook



HOW CAN I HELP?

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

WHAT DO YOU GET 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, talents, and enthusiasm to Scouting.

- Fun, Fellowship with other families, AND sharing your pride in the Scouts' accomplishments.
- The privilege of helping to enrich and strengthen families.
- A chance to help boys and girls learn good citizenship and to help shape them into young men and young women who have strength of character and are sensitive to the needs of others.

Den Leader(s)

Leads the Den and Den and monthly Pack meetings and activities. Participates in monthly Pack leaders' meeting.

Cubmaster (and Assistants)

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

Pack Committee

Pack committee members (some positions listed below) perform administrative functions of the Pack.

PACK COMMITTEE POSITIONS (All scouting is local; your pack may have different or additional roles)

Committee Chair

Overall coordination of Pack plan and volunteers. Presides at all Pack leaders' meetings. Helps recruit adult volunteers.

Secretary/Treasurer

Keeps record of Pack funds (collections and expenses) and reports to the committee.

Parent Helpers

"One shot" program jobs of short duration coordinating pack participation in sales events, Pinewood Derby, day camp, etc.

Membership/Marketing

Coordinates recruitment events and opportunities. Helps promote events on social media.

Advancement

Maintains advancement records for the Scouts. Orders and obtains all badges and insignia.



TRAINING

EVERY SCOUT DESERVES A TRAINED LEADER

Leading your child's Cub Scout Den or Pack is a great journey where you two will share many lifelong memories. The first step in that journey is to complete training. The main purpose of training is to provide you with the tools you need to put on a quality program for the kids and to help you have a fun time leading them.

Safeguarding Youth Training

In order to be a leader of any sort, it is required that you complete "Safeguarding Youth" Training before you turn in your adult application. Scouting places the greatest importance on creating the most secure environment possible for our youth members. Safeguarding Youth Training covers Scouting's safeguarding youth policies, kinds of abuse, how to respond to disclosure of abuse, and proper reporting procedures.

Position Specific Training

"Job Specific" Training is designed to present in-depth information for a new leader in a specific leadership position, such as Den Leader, Cubmaster, etc. This course is presented several times a year in your district as well as available online. Be sure to ask your Unit Trainer or check the Council Website for an upcoming in-person training date.

To Take Safeguarding Youth and Position Specific Training:

1. Go to www.my.scouting.org and create an account profile. This account will be useful to access other online tools and resources.
2. Click on "My Training." This will open up a catalog of online trainings to complete.
3. Upon completion, print two copies of your certificate(s). Keep one copy for yourself and give one to your unit to attach to your application.

DID YOU KNOW?

**"88% OF VOLUNTEERS SAY THEIR TIME INVESTED WITH
SCOUTING HELPS THEM TO BE BETTER PARENTS"**

Source: Volunteer Outcomes Study, 2003



FUNDING SCOUTING

The Popcorn Sale

One benefit to Cub Scouting is our goal to keep Scouting affordable for you while offering the highest quality programs and events. Each fall the Buckeye Council conducts a popcorn sale to benefit the Scouting program of our Packs, Troops, Crews, and the Council. Popcorn helps pay for camp experiences, registration dues, handbooks, and more.



Scouting is for everyone, and selling popcorn allows your family to participate in Scouting with minimal additional costs. By participating, your son or daughter can earn their way to camp or other fun activities the Pack plans to participate in.

- 70% of the money raised directly supports your Pack, the Buckeye Council, and Scout programs!
- Your child will gain confidence and the value of earning their own way, while having the opportunity to win prizes and be invited to special events.
- Fully fund your entire program with one fundraiser

The Popcorn Sale takes place each fall! Ask your leader how you can start selling today or go to LEADScouting.org/popcorn to download order forms and other seller resources!

Investment in Character Campaign

It takes more than \$2.8 million per year to ensure the programs, properties, and people are in place to make Scouting the premier choice for youth and families in and around North Central Ohio. Our largest expenses are for programs and activities that directly benefit the youth we serve in our Council service area.

As a nonprofit organization, the Buckeye Council relies upon the generosity of charitable donations from families like yours to help support its ongoing operations. Each gift, regardless of size, provides invaluable funding for programs that benefit Scouts from across our community. Each year a personal appeal is made to parents and leaders at a pack meeting. When you hear "Investment in Character" please consider contributing to the growth of Scouting in the Buckeye Council.



Hoover Service Center & Scout Shop

2301 13th Street NW
Canton, OH 44708

P: (330) 580-4272

Mansfield Service Center

40 W 4th St, Ste 117
Mansfield, OH 44902

P: (419) 522-8300

Marion Service Center & Scout Shop

1310 Mt. Vernon Avenue
Marion, OH 43302

P: (740) 389-4615 ext. 106

Canton Scout Shop

2301 13th Street NW
Canton, OH 44708
P: (330) 455-3100

Scout Shop Hours of Operation

Monday	10:00am – 5:00pm
Tuesday	10:00am – 5:00pm
Wednesday	10:00am – 5:00pm
Thursday	10:00am – 6:00pm
Friday	10:00am – 5:00pm
Saturday	10:00am – 2:00pm
Sunday	Closed

Marion Scout Shop

1310 Mt. Vernon Avenue
Marion, OH 43302
P: (740) 389-4615

Scout Shop Hours of Operation

Go to buckeyecouncil.org/scout-shops to see the current hours

Camp Information

Seven Ranges Scout Reservation

7070 Meter Road NE
Kensington, OH 44427

Camp Rodman

11400 State Street NE
Alliance OH 44601

