

# Pack 90

## Parent Handbook

“Do Your Best”



Pack 90, Forest Hills, PA  
Forest Hills Presbyterian Church  
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BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA®

# Table of Contents

<b>Welcome to Cub Scouting!</b> .....	<b>3</b>
<b>Quick Start Guide</b> .....	<b>4</b>
Organization.....	5
<b>How the Pack Operates</b> .....	<b>7</b>
Registration.....	7
Meeting Times and Locations.....	7
Conduct at Meetings .....	8
Scouting Items That You Need to Purchase.....	8
Required Scout materials for Pack 90.....	8
Optional materials.....	9
Where to purchase Scouting items .....	9
Pack and Den Communications .....	9
Email .....	10
Pack Website – <a href="http://www.foresthillsPack90.us">www.foresthillsPack90.us</a> .....	10
Pack Tracks.....	10
Fundraising and Scout Accounts.....	10
<b>Cub Scout Ranks</b> .....	<b>11</b>
Advancement .....	12
<b>Your Role as a Parent</b> .....	<b>13</b>
Work with your son on projects .....	13
Help your Cub Scout along the advancement trail.....	13
Participate in monthly Pack meetings.....	14
Be an active participant in the Pack Committee .....	14
<b>Typical Pack Activities</b> .....	<b>15</b>
Overnight Events .....	15
Special Events .....	16
<b>Uniform Patch Placement</b> .....	<b>17</b>
Cub Scout Uniform Patch Placement.....	17
Adult Leader Uniform Patch Placement .....	18

## Credits / Document History

This document was originally authored by Phillip Bump, Cubmaster of Pack 3942 ([www.cubPack3942.org](http://www.cubPack3942.org)), NorthStar District, Greater St. Louis Area Council. It was then edited and adapted for Pack 83 ([www.njPack83.org](http://www.njPack83.org)) of Kenilworth, NJ, by their Pack Committee, who then graciously shared it with Pack 90.

Bill Courtright, Cubmaster 2013-2015, then edited and adapted it for use by Pack 90 of Forest Hills, PA ([www.foresthillsPack90.us](http://www.foresthillsPack90.us)) - Laurel Highlands Council.

Based on the Cub Scout New Adventure Program launched by BSA on June 1, 2015, Ed Galloway (current Cubmaster, 2015-present) then edited the version to address the new program.

Please send corrections to Pack 90's current Cubmaster ([cubmaster90@gmail.com](mailto:cubmaster90@gmail.com)).

Last updated: August 2016

# Welcome to Cub Scouting!

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Welcome to Cub Scouting and Pack 90!

Cub Scouting is a family program for boys in the 1<sup>st</sup> through 5<sup>th</sup> grades. The program emphasizes leadership development, character development, citizenship, personal fitness, outdoor skills, and advancement. We involve the boys in a variety of indoor (e.g., projects, crafts and speaking) and outdoor (e.g., camping, nature and service) skills and experiences that build confidence, teamwork and respect.

The Cub Scout motto is "Do Your Best" and the families of Pack 90 embrace this by working together to:

- Have a "staff" of fully trained parent leaders
- Plan and execute fun and enriching meetings and events throughout the year
- Provide service to our community
- Advance every boy into the next rank
- Prepare and place all of our Webelos into Boy Scouting
- And, last but certainly not least, ensure that the boys HAVE FUN!

Young boys grow up fast, and the families of Pack 90 believe that we are giving our boys a valuable gift by enabling them to participate in Cub Scouting. We believe that the time that we invest in these boys today will make a positive difference in the young men they become tomorrow.

Pack 90 has a very successful history, and we will soon be celebrating 40 years of continuous operation. We have received numerous awards for excellence over the years, and we are delighted that you have elected to be a part of this!

This handbook has been created to help your family get the most out of the Scouting experience. If you find that it is lacking in any way, please let me know. Also, please know that I am always willing to speak to anyone who may have a question or concern about our program, or suggestions for improvement. You can contact me directly at [cubmaster90@gmail.com](mailto:cubmaster90@gmail.com).

I look forward to the great things that we will accomplish this year as we work together to build a fun and rewarding program for our boys.

Your friend in Scouting,

Ed Galloway  
Cubmaster, Pack 90

## Quick Start Guide

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Getting started in Cub Scouts is actually very easy, but the task can seem daunting at first. This Quick Start Guide distills down the essentials of what you need to know to get off to a good start. Of course, as time permits, please do take a look through the remainder of the handbook to provide a much fuller understanding. And if nothing else please look at the **Pack 90 website** since it contains LOTS of helpful information: [www.foresthillsPack90.us](http://www.foresthillsPack90.us).

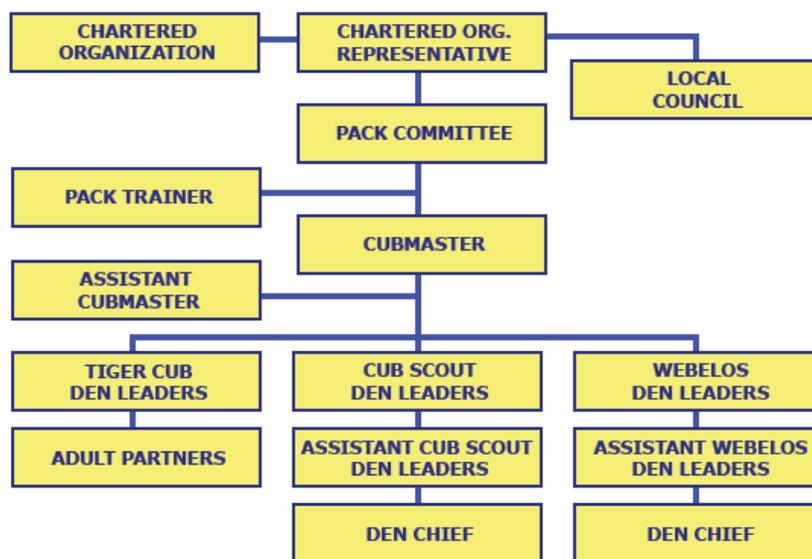
1. **Register** – If you are not yet a registered member of Pack 90, please join! To do this, you'll need to complete a registration form and pay dues. Pack 90 registers new Scouts each fall, typically the first Friday of September at a special event called Round-Up. Watch for specific date/time on the calendar section of our website. If you missed or can't make the Round-Up event, or have any questions, please send mail to our Cubmaster at [cubmaster90@gmail.com](mailto:cubmaster90@gmail.com).
2. **Know your Den** – Boys are grouped into "Dens" of boys the same age/grade in school. When you register, be sure to make a note of your Den rank (e.g. "Tiger"), your Den number (e.g. "5"), and your Den leaders' names and contact information. For the 2017-2018 year:
  - Tigers: Den 4
  - Wolves: Den 2
  - Bears: Den 1
  - Webelos: Den 3
  - Arrow of Light: Den 5
3. **Know when your Den and Pack meets** – This information is on the calendar section of our website. We try to follow a regular meeting pattern each month, but holidays and special events can disrupt that pattern, so be sure to check the calendar for exact dates. That said, Den meetings tend to be Thursday evenings, twice per month. Pack meetings are usually the last Friday of the month. Unless otherwise directed, all meetings are from 7-8 PM at the Forest Hills Presbyterian Church, located at 1840 Ardmore Blvd. If you have questions, please contact your Den leader.
4. **Acquire your Scout materials** – Make a trip to the Scout Shop at Flag Plaza (BSA headquarters for the Laurel Highlands Council). The specific details of what you need to purchase and where to get them are in the "Scouting Items That You Need to Purchase" section on page 8 of this handbook. Note that you are not required to purchase an ENTIRE uniform, so be sure to review this information before heading down to the store.
5. **Place badges on your son's uniform** – Check out the "Uniform Patch Placement" section on page 17.
6. **Have your son start working on his Bobcat rank requirements** – All Cub Scouts, regardless of age, will always begin by earning the Bobcat rank. After that, they will work on the rank that is commensurate with their grade in school. Bobcat requirements will be found in the handbook that you purchase at the Scout Shop.
7. **Get familiar with ScoutTrack** – ScoutTrack is an online tool the Pack uses to record and track completion of "Adventures" as your son works toward fulfilling the requirements for his respective rank. It requires a logon and password which we will provide. Please review and complete your contact information quickly since this is how others will get in touch with you, especially our email communication.
8. **Have FUN!** – By far, this is the most important thing on this list. If you have questions, please ask. If you or your son is not having fun, we need to know! Your Den leader is a great place to start, but any uniformed leader can help. Moreover, other parents have walked this trail ahead of you, so don't be afraid to get to know them by asking questions.

## About Pack 90

Cub Scout Pack 90 is located in Forest Hills, Pa., and is made up of 1<sup>st</sup> thru 5<sup>th</sup> grade boys. A group of approximately 8 to 12 Scouts of the same age who are working on earning the same rank make up a Den. All of the Dens together make up the Pack. Individual dens have a Den Leaders and Assistant Den Leaders. These leaders plan and execute the weekly den meetings. First graders are Tigers, 2<sup>nd</sup> graders are Wolves, 3<sup>rd</sup> graders are Bears, 4<sup>th</sup> graders are Webelos, and 5<sup>th</sup> graders are Arrow of Light.

Pack 90 is a member of the Lackawanna District ([www.lhc-bsa.org/Districts/Lackawanna](http://www.lhc-bsa.org/Districts/Lackawanna)), which is one of 16 districts of the Laurel Highlands Council ([www.lhc-bsa.org](http://www.lhc-bsa.org)). There are over 300 councils in the United States.

## Organization



Each Cub Scout Pack is sponsored by a chartering organization. Ours is the **Forest Hills Presbyterian Church** ([www.fhpcpa.org](http://www.fhpcpa.org)) and we very much appreciate their support. Chartering organizations sponsor the Pack to the Boy Scouts of America (BSA) and in return receive a “charter” from the BSA to operate the Pack. They also appoint a Chartered Organization Representative to the Pack Committee and assist in the selection of Pack leaders.

The Pack is run by the **Pack Committee**, which is headed by the **Committee Chairman**. In Pack 90, all adult leaders are committee members. The Committee meets every month to plan Pack meetings and other Pack activities. Parents are always welcome at these meetings.

The **Cubmaster** is in charge of the Pack meetings and reports to the Committee. In some Packs the Cubmaster is only the MC for the meetings; in others the Cubmaster plays a major organizational role. In either case, the boys see the Cubmaster as the authority figure. The **Assistant Cubmaster** assists the Cubmaster and works to facilitate leader and volunteer training, coordinates activities with other Packs and Troops, coordinates the Religious Awards Program, and helps plan Pack activities like dinners, derbies, service projects, and outings.

The **Den Leaders** are the ones who have the most direct involvement with the boys and therefore are the ones who have the most fun (☺). All adult leaders must receive Youth Protection Training and Cub Scout Leader Basic Training; they wear a special "Trained" patch on their left sleeve to indicate completion of this training (refer to figure on page 18). All Dens must maintain two-deep leadership at all times. If for some reason a Den is not be able to have two registered leaders present, the Den Leader will have to cancel the meeting or activity. Please do your part to help us provide a quality program signing up to be an Assistant Den Leader.

First and foremost every leader has your son's safety and well-being in mind for all activities. In doing so, leaders are expected to become familiar with the **Guide to Safe Scouting** (<http://www.scouting.org/scoutsorce/HealthandSafety/GSS.aspx>) and to follow it strictly. Den Leaders having questions related to the interpretation of any safety guidelines or questions related to a planned activity, which they believe, could pose an increased risk of harm to Scouts, must discuss planned Den activities with the Cubmaster prior to the activity.

Den Leaders plan and organize Den meetings, keep track of the boys' advancements, and attend leaders meetings (Committee meetings). Den Leaders should engage the parents in the Den meetings to the greatest extent possible, both to make the Den Leader's job easier and to increase the boys' enjoyment. Cub Scouting is a family activity, and Den meetings are a great place for family involvement. The Den Leader can go to the Cubmaster for advice and assistance.

Parents play an important role in the Pack. The leaders, who are parents just like you, will do their best to provide a quality program, but all the leaders in Pack 90 are volunteers and have many other obligations. We depend on ALL parents to help make and sustain the good program that we have. We ask every parent to help the Pack in some capacity. You should take your share in helping to organize Den meetings, or work with your son's Den Leader. In addition, you should help with at least one Pack activity a year (e.g. Pinewood Derby, Blue & Gold banquet, field day, a campout, etc.). A parent must attend the Den and Pack meetings together with the Cub Scout. Every handbook for boys has a parent guide at the beginning that you should review. There are no secrets in Cub Scouts and parents are welcome to attend any organizational meetings of the Den, Pack, District or Council.

There are other positions outside of this organization which play important parts in the Scouting program. Each Cub Scout Pack has a Unit Commissioner, who meets with the Committee Chairman and the Cubmaster at periodic intervals to review the status of the Pack's programs. At the Council level, there are District Executives and District Directors, who provide greatly needed support and direction to local units. Not to mention all the other volunteers on the District Training Staff, District Roundtable Staff, and a host of other Scouting support organizations.

The Pack leadership makes an effort to communicate with parents in a variety of ways. Whenever there is new information to go out, an email is sent to the Pack distribution list. Emails may list upcoming events, recaps of Den activities, and alerts about schedule changes. This information is also available on the Pack's website ([www.foresthillsPack90.us](http://www.foresthillsPack90.us)).

Questions or concerns about Pack operations or procedures should be presented to the Pack Committee. Please contact the Committee Chair or a Committee Member if you have questions. Your Den leader can help you with questions about advancement and awards, uniforms, and your role in your son's Scouting experience. If he or she doesn't know the answer, they know the proper resources to consult to help you.

## How the Pack Operates

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### **Registration**

Pack 90's Scouting year begins in September when we register new boys at all levels. Unlike some Packs, we do not have a spring registration cycle. If your boy is interested in joining Pack 90, plan on starting him in September.

We prefer to register new Scouts at an event we call Round-Up—a special meeting just for new families, where we explain the program, answer questions, and give the boys a chance to meet the leaders. Normally, this event is the first Thursday or Friday in September, but be sure to check the calendar on our website for exact information. It is OK and understandable if you can't make this event—just contact the Cubmaster ([cubmaster90@gmail.com](mailto:cubmaster90@gmail.com)) to make other arrangements.

Registration requires completion of a registration form and payment of dues.

Our current dues is \$65 for all boys in the Pack regardless of rank. This amount is reduced to \$45 if you have more than one boy registered in Pack 90.

There is no charge for parents who volunteer to become leaders—the Pack covers this registration cost.

Dues that we collect cover:

- National Registration Fees charged by the BSA
- Annual subscription to *Boys' Life* magazine
- Recognition awards, badges, pins
- Pine Wood Derby car
- Craft materials for Den projects

Note that dues do not cover the cost of camps or other special events, such as an overnigher.

### **Meeting Times and Locations**

Our Cub Scout Pack, like most others, meets as individual Dens, and also jointly as a Pack. Den and Pack meetings begin in September and run through April—we give families a break from meetings during the summer, but our Pack remains very active with one to two events each month of the summer, such as camp, Scouting for Engineers, a fishing derby, a trip to see the Pirates play, etc.

We normally meet as a Pack on the last Friday of every month, September-April (7-8 PM) at the Forest Hills Presbyterian Church. However, holidays and special events can change the date, time and location so be sure to check the Pack calendar.

Den meetings are held on Thursday evenings from 7-8 PM at the Forest Hills Presbyterian Church. All Den's meet twice a month: Tigers, Wolves and Bears meet on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Thursdays while the Webelos and Arrow of Light den meet on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursdays.

In addition to Den and Pack gatherings, we hold special activities throughout the year to give the boys opportunities for fun, fellowship and advancement.

Check the online calendar at [www.foresthillsPack90.us](http://www.foresthillsPack90.us) for the current schedule.

## Conduct at Meetings

**Dress** – The boys should wear Class A uniforms to Den and Pack meetings, unless otherwise directed. Class A uniforms are the official Scout shirt, neckerchief and belt. All badges should be properly affixed, and shirts should always be tucked in so the belt can be seen. The boys work hard to earn their awards, so please enable them to wear their patches with pride by attaching them promptly and correctly. Refer to page 17 for an illustration of where patches are to be placed.

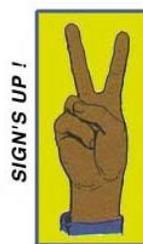
Some events, such as camping or other outdoor activities, will require dress that is a bit more casual. For these events, boys should wear a Class B uniform, which is simply a Pack 90 t-shirt or sweatshirt, and appropriate pants and shoes. Class B uniform shirts are available only from Pack 90, and are sold at most Pack meetings. Another Class B option is to wear any Scouting t-shirt.

On rare occasions, the boys will wear what we call Class C uniforms, which is really just comfortable clothing that preferably (not required) has some sort of reference to scouting. Often, families will grab a t-shirt or sweatshirt from the bargain table at the Scout Shop for this purpose.

**Behavior** – The boys should be respectful and attentive to who is speaking. This goes for everyone else who is in the room as well. As needed, the leaders will display the Cub Scout sign to remind the Scouts (and everyone else in the room, parents included) that the noise is getting too loud. When the sign goes up, the boys should acknowledge by displaying the sign, stop speaking, and give attention to the leader.

## Scouting Items That You Need to Purchase

With an eye on cost, Pack 90 does not require you to purchase an entire Class A uniform. Though some boys do, you'll find that many do not, so don't worry if you stick to only what is required.



## Required Scout materials for Pack 90

All of the items below, except for the Class B shirt, are available at the Scout Shop. The Class B shirt is sold only by Pack 90, usually at its monthly Pack meetings.

- **Scout shirt (Class A)** – Most boys get a short sleeve shirt and wear something under it in winter. Most people buy the shirt a bit big so their son can use it for several years. Also, note that Tigers, Wolves and Bears wear a blue Cub Scout shirt, while Webelos and Arrow of Light have the option to wear that, or a tan Boy Scout shirt. If your boy needs a new shirt as a Webelos or Arrow of Light, we suggest that you purchase the tan shirt.
- **Scout shirt (Class B)** – a t-shirt or sweatshirt that is sold by Pack 90, worn for group events when the formal uniform is inappropriate (e.g., camping, fishing, etc.).
- **Patches** – You'll need Council, Pack Numerals (9, 0), Den Number (as assigned) and the World Crest. The staff at the Scout Shop can help you with this.
- **Neckerchief** (appropriate to rank)
- **Neckerchief slide** (appropriate to rank). Note: the boys traditionally make a neckerchief slide at the beginning of their Tiger year, so the real requirement is that you have a slide, whether it is one you made or one you bought.
- **Belt** – Mandatory for Tigers, Wolves and Bears since work towards advancement (completing each Adventure) will be shown on the belt with belt loops; optional for Webelos/AOL, although recommended.
- **Scout handbook** (appropriate to rank).

## Optional materials

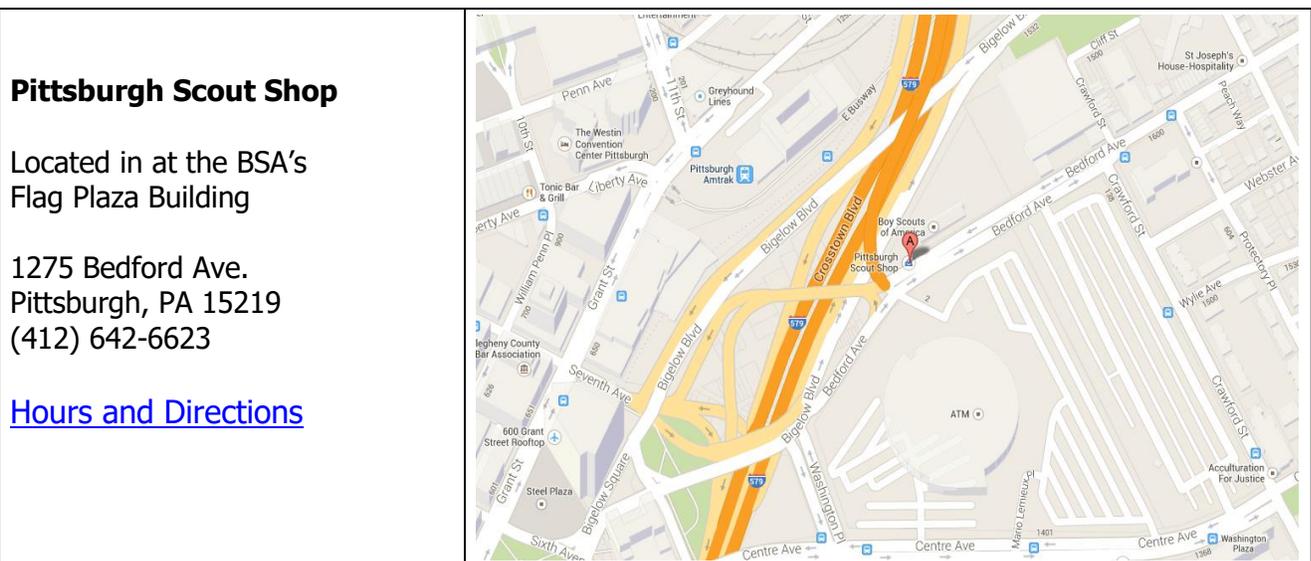
- [Badge Magic](#) – This is an inexpensive alternative to sewing patches onto your son’s uniform. It essentially turns any patch into a sticker that, once applied to his uniform, is difficult to remove. Many Scout parents go this route.
- Scout Pants – Note that these have zippers in the legs to convert them to shorts.
- Hat – appropriate to rank.

## Where to purchase Scouting items

Scouting uniforms and other materials are available locally through the Council-operated “Scout Shop” and online through the BSA Catalog ([www.scoutstuff.org](http://www.scoutstuff.org)). Buying locally though helps support the local Scouting program. **Note:** the staff at the Scout Shop are very helpful, but because Packs often have different requirements as to what must be purchased, don’t be surprised if they give you guidance different from what is in this guide—often they will try to sell you pants, something that our Pack does not require.

Hint: check the clearance table—on rare occasions they’ve had great deals such as sweatshirts for as little as \$1.

Note: families of older boys will often pass down/donate Scouting items, including books and uniforms. If you are interested, please see your Den leader to find out if there are any used items available.



## Pack and Den Communications

Cub Scouting involves planning, scheduling, execution and management of dozens of Den and Pack meetings, field trips, special events like Pinewood Derby and the like. To enable all these activities to happen requires a great deal of communication between Pack and Den leaders and the parents of the Pack.

## Email

Email is our preferred method of communication for most things. If you do not have timely access to email please let your Den leader know so that alternate means of communication can be provided. Note that it is not a problem for you to provide multiple email addresses to allow all parents/guardians to be aware of what is going on.

For special events where precise attendee RSVP is required, or late notice messages like an event cancellation due to weather, an email will be sent out, but in the absence of an acknowledgement the Den leaders may attempt to contact you and confirm by phone.

## Pack Website – [www.foresthillsPack90.us](http://www.foresthillsPack90.us)

Our website is a good source for information on Pack 90. Features include:

- **Home** – Latest news and events and periodic stories of interest from outside our Pack.
- **Gallery** – Online gallery of photos; all parents are urged to contribute. Here you can view photos of those special Scouting moments.
- **ScoutTrack** – A link to our online advancement tracking system. Each parent/guardian will receive an account so that you can input requirements/electives that your boy completes, and also check on his progress toward rank advancement. Be sure to check with your Den leader for details.
- **Leadership** – A list of Pack leaders, including email and phone contact information.
- **Parent Resources** – Information resources for parents, including the Parent Handbook.
- **Calendar** – Complete schedule of Pack events and activities. For the technically savvy, our calendar is implemented as a Google calendar and you can subscribe to it as you would any other Google calendar.
- **Recent Events** – A quick summary of what the Pack has been up to lately.
- **Pack Tracks**– Download current or past issues of our Pack newsletter.

## Pack Tracks

Throughout the year, typically once per month, the Cubmaster will publish a newsletter called “Pack Tracks” that highlights past accomplishments and activities, introduces upcoming items on the calendar, and conveys other timely information. Pack Tracks is distributed via email and is also available on our website. Additionally, the website contains an archive of previous issues of Pack Tracks.

## *Fundraising and Scout Accounts*

Pack 90 has only one fundraiser per year, which is selling popcorn in the fall. This activity funds both the Pack and the boys. We typically have no other fundraising activities during the year.

Money that each boy earns is placed into a Scout Account that you can then use to pay for camp or other activities. Money is not paid out in cash, but instead is banked as a credit. If a Scout leaves the program, any remaining balance in the account is forfeited to the Pack, unless he is moving to a different Pack whereby his funds will be transferred. When a Scout crosses over to a Boy Scout troop, any remaining credit in his account is transferred to his account with that troop.

# Cub Scout Ranks

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All new Scouts must first earn the Bobcat badge. After earning the Bobcat badge, Scouts work towards the rank of Tiger, Wolf, Bear, Webelos, and Arrow of Light. Each of these ranks has its own unique handbook from which the boys work on their advancement.

## Bobcat



The Bobcat badge is the first badge that is earned by all Scouts. This badge is required for all boys because it involves learning the Scout Oath, the Scout Law, and the Scout Outdoor Code as well as the Cub Scout motto, slogan, handshake and the Cub Scout sign. Completion of this badge gives the Scout the right to wear the Bobcat patch on his uniform and the right to proceed to his next rank (which will vary based upon age.)

## Tigers (1st Graders)



In the Tiger program, an Adult Partner (a parent, grandparent, or other guardian) always accompanies each boy. The Tiger and Adult Partner form a team. The Tiger earns belt loops towards his Tiger badge. Completion of this badge earns the right for the Scout to wear the Tiger patch on his uniform. At the end of the Scout year (on May 31), Tigers graduate into a Wolf den.

## Wolves (2nd Graders)



In the Wolf program, completion of requirements in the Wolf handbook leads to earning the Wolf badge and belt loops. Electives can be worked on during the entire year, and can be awarded Wolf elective belt loops as they are earned. The Wolf handbook includes many activities that are family oriented. Your son will need your assistance to earn this rank. Completion of this badge earns the right for the Scout to wear the Wolf patch on his uniform. At the end of the Scout year (on May 31), Wolves graduate into a Bear den.

## Bears (3rd Graders)



In the Bear program, completion of requirements in the Bear handbook leads to earning the Bear badge and belt loops. Electives can be worked on during the entire year, and can be awarded Bear elective belt loops as they are earned. The Bear handbook includes many activities that are family oriented. Your son will need your assistance to earn this rank. Completion of this badge earns the right for the Scout to wear the Bear patch on his uniform. At the end of the Scout year (on May 31), Bears graduate into a Webelos den.

## Webelos (4th Graders)



The Webelos program is designed to start transitioning the boys from Cub Scouts to Boy Scouts. The Webelos program prepares the boys to enter the Boy Scout program. In the Webelos program, boys earn activity pins in areas such as Aquanaut, Engineer, Game design, Moviemaking, and Sportsman that count towards the Webelos rank. Webelos is an acronym for: "We'll Be Loyal Scouts."

In the Webelos program, the boys work on their Webelos badge. The focus of the Webelos den is to work together as a team, much like a Boy Scout Patrol. This includes Webelos den camping. At the end of the Scout year (on May 31), Webelos graduate into the Arrow of Light den.

### **Arrow of Light (5th Graders)**



In the Arrow of Light program, the boys work on earning the Arrow of Light award. This program is designed to transition the boys from Cub Scouts to Boy Scouts and be ready to cross over at the Blue & Gold ceremony.

### **Advancement**

As stated above, all new Scouts complete the Bobcat rank in their first month. All boys complete major rank advancement prior to the Blue & Gold banquet, a special Pack meeting that we typically hold in late winter or early spring.

The Scouting year ends on May 31. This is important to remember because it means that a boy can begin to wear the insignia (e.g., neckerchief, etc.) of his new rank on June 1. Equally important, June 1 is also the date at which he can begin to work on his new rank (work done prior to that date will not count towards his new rank).

Note: It is a Pack 90 tradition that when a boy receives a major rank patch, the badge will be pinned on his uniform *upside down* until he has done a good deed of his own initiative (that is, he didn't do it because someone asked him to!). Once he has performed a good deed, as approved by his parents/guardians, the badge should be permanently mounted right side up.

### **Cub Scout Oath, Law and Motto**

#### **Scout Oath**

On my honor I will do my best, to do my duty, to God and my country; 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.

#### **Cub Scout Motto:**

Do your best.

## Your Role as a Parent

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Cub Scouting encourages closeness to family. The program will give you opportunities to take part in activities with your son that you normally might not do. It provides a positive way for parent and son to grow closer together, and encourages you to spend quality time together. In this way, Cub Scouting is a program for the entire family, and your involvement is vital to the program's success.

### ***Work with your son on projects***

Boys often begin projects at Den meetings but need to finish them at home with the help of a parent. Such projects become the catalyst for parents and boys - frequently joined by siblings and friends - to interact with each other in a relaxed way.

Because the purpose of a project is to teach a boy new skills, a project should challenge a boy to do tasks that he hasn't already mastered. It's not uncommon, therefore, for a boy to need help from his family to complete some of his projects. In Cub Scouting, boys are not expected to do things entirely on their own. So long as a boy does his best to do as much as he's capable of, it's perfectly acceptable for a parent or sibling to help him.

Your Den Leader will try to let you know what the Den will be doing each week in advance. If you are unable to attend a Den meeting, consider doing the same activity with your son on some other night so that he will not feel as though he is dropping behind the other Scouts in his Den.

### ***Help your Cub Scout along the advancement trail***

The advancement plan is designed for parents to create a learning environment in their home. With the Cub Scout handbooks (Tiger, Wolf, Bear, Webelos, Arrow of Light) as a resource, parents and boys work together to complete the achievements required for each badge. The advancement plan provides fun for the boys, gives them a sense of personal achievement as they earn badges, and strengthens family understanding as adult family members work with boys on advancement projects.

While Cub Scouts learn skills and begin projects in their Den meetings, the parent remains at the center of the advancement program. As each task is done or each skill is demonstrated, the parent signs the Cub Scout's handbook to record its completion or records it in **ScoutTrack**. It is also important for the Scout to take his handbook to every Den meeting to allow the Den leader to see the parent's sign-off on the achievements. When the boy has completed all of the requirements to earn an award, the completion is acknowledged before the entire pack of Scouts at the next Pack meeting.

### ***ScoutTrack***

The Pack subscribes to an online tool called ScoutTrack which helps facilitate and record every boy's achievements. It can also be used to contact your Den leader, Pack leaders, or everyone in the Pack. We will provide you with a logon and initial password that we then ask you to change after the first time you log in. Please review and complete your contact information quickly since this is how others will get in touch with you, especially our email communication.

With this tool, you can view all of the required "Adventures" to complete as your son works towards his rank advancement. The "Adventures" match up to what is in your respective rank handbook. In conjunction with your respective Den leader, parents will use ScoutTrack to record the completion

and date of each "Adventure." This is a great tool to see quickly and easily what your son has completed and what he still needs to do.

### ***Participate in monthly Pack meetings***

While Den meetings are centered on Cub Scouts and their adult leaders, since it is the time for the Scouts to work towards advancement, the entire family is welcome to attend Pack meetings. At Pack meetings, families see their sons in action with their friends and meet other families. These opportunities highlight how Cub Scouting teaches boys cooperation and collaboration.

The Pack meeting is also a monthly showcase for all that the boys have worked on in their Den meetings. Craft projects are on display, skills are demonstrated, and skits are performed to show the boys' command of the monthly theme. While boys at this age seem to be struggling toward independence, having the approval of their parents and other adults whom they admire remains important to them - so your presence at these meetings is critical to underscore the importance of the lessons your son has learned.

### ***Be an active participant in the Pack Committee***

While Boy Scouts is a Scout-led program, Cub Scouts is a parent-led program. As the parent of a Cub Scout, you have a responsibility to be an active member of the Cub Scout Pack. Attending the monthly Pack Committee Meeting is an excellent way to help guide the entire Pack and positively improve your son's Scouting experience.

### **Things You Can Do to Help Your Cub Scout**

1. Be sure your boy attends every Den meeting possible. Remind him to be on his best behavior while he is there. He is a guest at the Den meeting site.
2. Remember to sign his handbook for the requirements and electives he completes under your guidance, and remind him to bring his handbook to every Den meeting.
3. Remind him to wear his uniform on Den and Pack meeting days, or at least have it laid out and ready to go so he can change into it quickly. Have his uniform clean and have all appropriate patches sewn on in their correct places so he looks great at all Scout functions.
4. Help him to provide Den snacks when it is his turn.
5. HELP HIM TO ACHIEVE! Read his handbook, familiarize yourself with his rank requirements; many of them are done with the family or at home. Read the parents' supplement at the front of his book. Ask questions of your Den leaders if you are unclear about anything.
6. Make sure that your Cub Scout is doing his very best. Don't sign off on achievements unless he has really earned each part of it. Don't count things he did as a Wolf towards his Bear rank. He needs to do each item during that rank year.
7. Attend Pack meetings with your son. The entire family is invited to attend every Pack meeting. Be alert to his behavior during the meeting; the Den leader is not solely responsible for him or his actions during the Pack meeting. This also holds true with camping experiences or other activities. Have fun, and correct and praise as needed.
8. Be willing to assist with costumes, skits, crafts, songs, outings, refreshments, etc.
9. Always remember that Cub Scouting is *family oriented*. It is designed to help parents with their boys. The Den and Pack cannot help your boy grow without your help.

## Typical Pack Activities

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Pack 90 offers a wealth of Scouting activities that your son can participate in every month of the year, even in the summer months when our regular Den and Pack meetings are suspended. To give you an idea of our level of activity, here is a list of optional events and activities that we have held in the recent past. Note that events may change year to year, as new opportunities or interests present themselves.

### ***Overnight Events***

One of the benefits of Scouting is exposing our boys to the Great Outdoors and to keep the 'outing' in 'Scouting'. One excellent way to achieve this is camping. Besides being fun, family camping is an opportunity for quality time together and an enriched family life. This program is a recreational opportunity - it's not on a tight time schedule. Family leadership rests with the adult member(s). This leadership might be yielded from time to time as the family chooses to take part in activities, such as swimming, where specific camp policies must be followed for safety and proper operation.

- **Overnight Campouts** – Twice per year, normally in May and September, the Pack holds an overnigher, typically at Camp Guyasuta, the BSA camp nestled between Sharpsburg and Aspinwall near the Highland Park Bridge. We have also camped in the grassy area next to the lodge building at the Forest Hills Pool. This is an easy way to introduce your son to camping if he (or you!) has never done it before.
- **Summer Camp** – For most boys this is the highlight of the Scouting calendar. We typically attend summer camp at Heritage Scout Reservation ([www.heritagereservation.org](http://www.heritagereservation.org)) in late July/early August of each year. The Wolves and Bears camp together for a few days followed by the Webelos and Arrow of Light. This is a classic Scout camp with all of the activities that you would expect. When the Webelos camp, they try to spend some time with the Boy Scouts to observe what they'll be doing when they become Boy Scouts. We camp in platform tents provided by the camp (or you can bring your own tent) and eat in a large common dining hall. The staff keeps us busy and the time flies by. The program length has changed from time to time; for 2017 each group camped for the same amount of time (4 days/3 nights) over the course of one week.
- **Winter Camp** – Also at Heritage Scout Reservation, Winter Camp is similar to Summer Camp, except that we go for two nights in January or February and sleep in heated cabins. Scouts from Pack 90 all attend the same camp session. This weekend is spent bundled up outdoors where the boys get to sled ride, cross-country ski, play broomball, participate in Klondike games, and trek around in snow shoes. And there's plenty of hot chocolate!
- **Movie & Game Night** – A special evening after a Pack meeting in winter when play games, watch a movie and eat pizza.
- **Zoo or Museum Overnigher** – Spend a night at the Pittsburgh Zoo & PPG Aquarium, learn about some special animals and see some behind-the-scenes activities, or at the Carnegie Museum of Natural History. This event is normally in the fall depending upon availability.

## **Special Events**

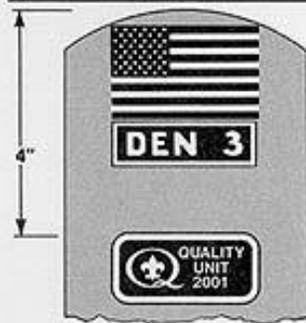
- **Bowling** – The Pack goes bowling each year on a Saturday afternoon in early November.
- **Snow Tubing** – Weather permitting, we try to work in an evening of snow tubing each year at Boyce Park.
- **Pinewood Derby Workshop** – If you don't have tools, or just need to know how to put a car together, this event is for you which is typically held on the first Saturday in January. Experienced adults bring in hand and power tools, along with other helpful devices to help you and your boy get started on that winning car. Lots of ideas are shared, so stop by even if you have your own tools at home.
- **Pinewood Derby** –The Pinewood Derby is an event that almost every boy loves (and "bigger boys" remember from their own youth). They have the chance to build their very own race car (within specific limitations) with the help of an adult. Our Pack generally has its Pinewood Derby at the January Pack meeting, and the District usually has a District-wide Pinewood Derby in February/March. Check the website for official Pack 90 rules.
- **Blue & Gold Banquet** –Most of the Packs across the country hold a Blue & Gold Banquet, an award ceremony that is a highlight of the year's program. It brings families and friends together for a time of fun, inspiration and recognition. The banquet is usually held in late winter or early spring, and it's an event the boys look forward to with excitement as it is where they are awarded their rank advancement badges. The Blue & Gold Banquet is also our Pack's customary time for our Scouts in the Arrow of Light den to "cross over" into Boy Scout Troop 90 ([www.bsa-troop90.org](http://www.bsa-troop90.org)). Members of Troop 90 are present to receive the Scouts as they cross over a wooden bridge, symbolizing their departure from the Pack and recognizing the boys' increasing maturity and accomplishments. Many people find this to be a very moving ceremony.
- **Field Day** – Our final Pack meeting of the year is in April, and we all have a serious case of cabin fever by then. So, our formal Pack meeting is very short, and we quickly adjourn to the parking lot and courts outside to play games and cook/eat hot dogs.
- **Scouting for Engineers** – This one-day event is presented at Carnegie Mellon University at their main campus in Oakland, normally in June. The program is free and is taught by CMU faculty. STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) subjects are covered in small groups, and the boys receive a patch at the end of the day.
- **Fishing Derby** – Held at Keystone Lake in June of each year, the boys spend the day fishing. Trophies are presented for whoever catches the most fish and the largest fish. We typically cook hot dogs for lunch. Camping is available at the State Park so some families elect to spend the weekend there.
- **Laurel Caverns** – This is a day trip for Webelos/AOL, usually done in October.

# Uniform Patch Placement

## Cub Scout Uniform Patch Placement

### CUB SCOUT AND WEBELOS SCOUT INSIGNIA

SHOULDER SEAM



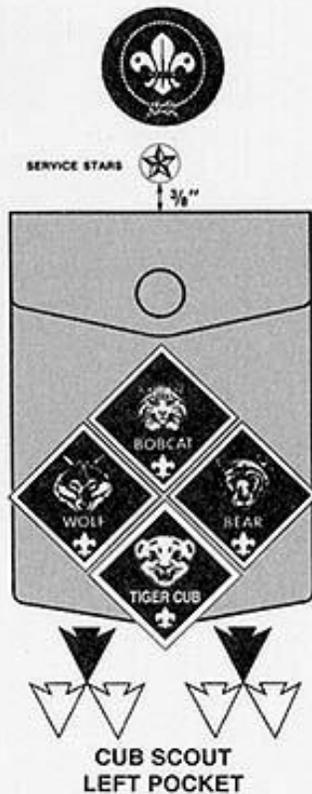
CUB SCOUT  
OR WEBELOS SCOUT  
RIGHT SLEEVE



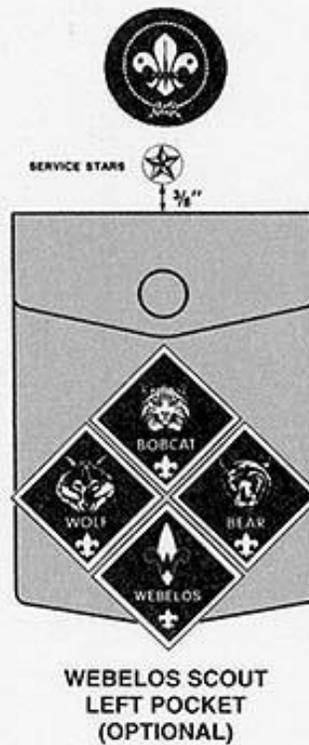
WEBELOS SCOUT  
RIGHT SLEEVE



LEFT SLEEVE



CUB SCOUT  
LEFT POCKET



WEBELOS SCOUT  
LEFT POCKET  
(OPTIONAL)



WEBELOS SCOUT  
LEFT POCKET

*Adult Leader Uniform Patch Placement*

# CUB SCOUT LEADER INSIGNIA

**BLUE SHOULDER EPAULETS  
FOR CUB SCOUT LEADERS  
AND **WEBELOS** WEARING  
TAN SHIRT**

