



# PACK 977

## PARENT ORIENTATION GUIDE

[www.pack977.com](http://www.pack977.com)

*Welcome to the Adventure of Cub Scouting!*

**Where Character Counts and the Adventure Begins**

My son's den leader is \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

My son's den meets \_\_\_\_\_ at \_\_\_\_\_  
(day) (time)

Location \_\_\_\_\_

Cubmaster \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Our Pack meetings \_\_\_\_\_ at \_\_\_\_\_  
(day) (time)

Location \_\_\_\_\_

# 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 through Cub Scouting, you will find that Scouting has these same goals in mind for him. Since 1916, 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*.

Since 1930, Cub Scouts (as a part of the Boys Scouts of America) has been providing material and training for leaders and parents to maximize their effectiveness while minimizing the strain of time and resources on already busy adults.

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 while reinforcing the values you are teaching him. 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 compete with himself to constantly improve 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 once a week except for first grade Tiger Cubs who may meet less frequently.
- 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 usually assisted by an assistant den leader, a den chief (an older Boy Scout), and a denner (Cub Scout elected by den members on a rotating basis so each Cub Scout gets a chance to lead).
- Den meetings have games, crafts, songs, ceremonies, and lots of fun. All of this programming is provided by the Cub Scouts' national support organization so leaders need only *implement* what has already been designed and produced.

## **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 who is assisted by Assistant Cubmasters, the Pack Committee, and Den Leaders.
- 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, sub-committee chairs as well as parent committee members. Most of these leaders are parents of boys in the Pack.
- The Committee meets once a month.
- The Committee is led by a chair.
- The Committee plans den and pack meetings around the monthly theme that is provided for by the Cub Scouts' national support organization with material and training designed and produced for easy implementation.
- The Committee selects leaders, performs record keeping, manages pack finances, orders badges, maintains pack equipment, helps train leaders, and recognizes leaders.

## **Our 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.
- Our Charter Organization is First United Methodist Church of Bryan. You do not have to be a member of this church in order to be a member of Pack 977.

# 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. **This is the most important aspect of a parent's involvement in Cub Scouting. Without this involvement at home, the Cub Scout will not reap the benefits of the Cub Scout program.**

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," as well as The Bobcat Requirement. 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 pantry collection, or tree planting!
- **Pinewood Derby, Raingutter Regatta, Space Derby** - Parent and son work together to build a gravity-powered miniature race car from a special kit.
- **Blue and Gold Banquet** - This is a birthday party for our Cub Scout pack and is usually held in February. Most often it is a potluck dinner. A special program or entertainment is customary.
- **Cub Scout Day Camp** - Day Camp is an exciting summertime activity that includes archery, BB guns, crafts, games, sports, songs, and skits. This weeklong program is held at local parks and facilities in our 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.
- **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 \$10.00 per year for members but First United Methodist Church pays for the subscription for every registered Cub Scout!



# 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 at the Rally so you can share your knowledge, experience, and skills with the boys in your son's den and the pack.
- ❑ Consider applying to be 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. Bad weather in the Spring can slow down a motivated boy who is ready to advance at the end of the year!
- ❑ Find out what kind of activities our Pack is doing in the next few months, and put them on your calendar so you can participate. A calendar is included in this packet and is also available on our web site at [www.pack977.com](http://www.pack977.com).
- ❑ 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. If your boy recruits another boy, he gets special recognition at a Pack Meeting AND a patch he can wear on his uniform!
- ❑ Measure your son for a Cub Scout Uniform to wear his awards on. Be sure to consider a size large enough to last several years as your son grows. When your boy earns his Bobcat Badge, Pack 977 will award him his Badge and Uniform, which will be purchased by First United Methodist Church!



# 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 your son and his friends, but also Scouting 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 some of 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 a part 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.

## **How Much Does it Cost to Be A Leader/Volunteer?**

Nothing. Pack 977 pays your leadership registration and purchases a uniform shirt for you. Materials for training are provided, as well as professional training by our Pack Trainer and other specialists. Your costs for things like supplies, gas, or other incidentals are typically reimbursed as soon as you turn in the receipt, and oftentimes if you have a list of things you need they can be purchased for you in advance or you can receive the funds before purchasing them.

It is Pack 977's policy that no leader should pay to volunteer.

# **PARENT VOLUNTEER POSITIONS IN THE PACK**

Most leadership positions in the pack are currently filled. As our Pack grows, more leaders will be necessary, and our first pool of talent will come from our parents. Currently, most positions are looking for Assistants, and your volunteering to help an already busy parent as an Assistant will make the workload easier for everyone!

## **Committee Chair – Robby Bounds**

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.

Pack 977 Committee Members are:

Isabel Cantu – Secretary  
Jim Smith - Treasurer  
Omar Cantu – Membership Chair  
Janet Briner – Advancement Chair  
Kristofer Cowles – Pack Trainer

Randy Walthall – Assistant Cubmaster  
Howard Sonnier – Assistant Cubmaster  
Xavier Palma – Committee Member  
Linda Watson – Popcorn Fundraiser  
Bill Birdwell – Charter Organization Representative

## **Cubmaster – Todd Watson**

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 – Keo Erhardt**

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. This position is sometimes rotated monthly depending on the Tiger Cub Adult Partners' commitments.

## **Wolf Cub Scout Den Leader – Kristofer Cowles**

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

## **Bear Cub Scout Den Leader – Gregg Barfield**

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

## **Webelos Den Leader – Patrick Braly**

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. *Scouting Magazine* is provided at no cost to all registered adult leaders by Pack 977.
- ***Pack Library*** Our pack has a pack library that contains the leader books you need and Fast Start training videotapes and guides designed to help you do your job. Our Pack Trainer will help you learn, master, and do everything you need to implement the Cub Scout program.
- ***Pack Parley*** Monthly optional training meetings for all Pack 977 adult Cub Scout volunteers, leaders and parents 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.
- Pack 977 has a web site that you can get all of your information from 24/7/365:

**[www.pack977.com](http://www.pack977.com)**

# **TRAINING FOR THE NEW CUB SCOUT VOLUNTEER**

## **PACK PARLEY - MONTHLY PACK 977 TRAINING:**

Exclusive to Pack 977 (We don't know any other Packs that do this!), this supplemental training offered each month for all Cub Scout leaders and Parents provides additional den and pack meeting ideas as well as one-on-one ideas for Cub Scout achievements. New Cub Scout leaders will find a wealth of information and activities to use with the Cub Scouts in the pack and den, and parents will get great ideas to help their boy along the Cub Scout Trail. This is a fun-learning evening!

## **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. Your pack committee has a copy of their own that you may borrow, or you can do this training online at [www.pack977.com](http://www.pack977.com).

## **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.

**See the calendar for the training dates that Pack 977 has chosen for this year.**