

Welcome! We would like to thank everyone for taking the time to learn more about the Cub Scouting program we offer here at Pack XXX. I am _____ and it's my pleasure to share our program with your family and tell you about all the fun and exciting things the Cub Scouts have to offer throughout the year. We are all volunteers here and we are committed to making our Pack the best in the area and offering the most fulfilling experience our members will have through their young lives. The Cub Scout program has been in existence for over one hundred years and is the premier comprehensive youth program that prepares young boys for their future.

All the information we will be discussing tonight can also be found in our companion *Adventures in Cub Scouting* booklet and we will have plenty of time after the presentation to answer any questions you may have for any of our leaders and parents.

Again, thank you for coming. Let's begin!

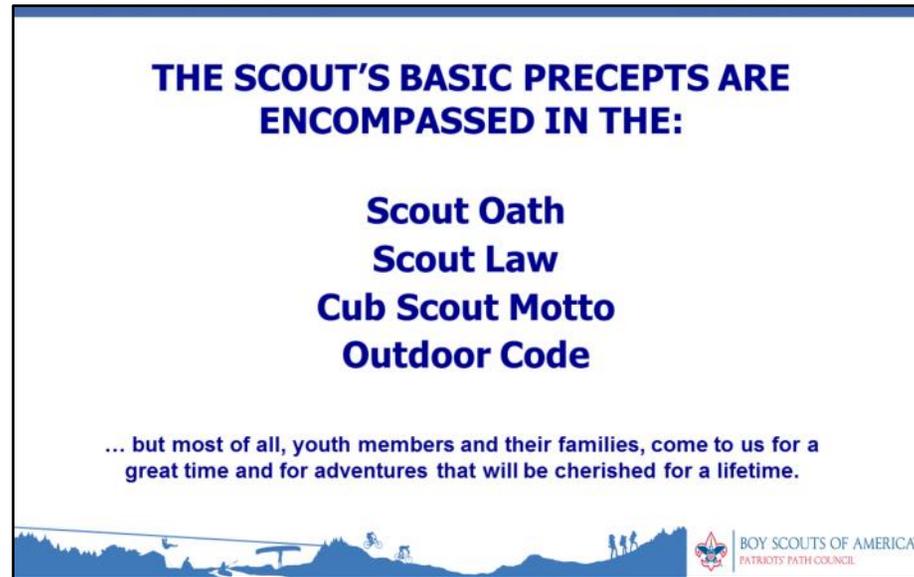
Tonight we will be discussing:



- Why join Cub Scouting?
- Pack Organization
- Activities & Program
- Advancement & Awards
- Volunteerism & Safety
- Costs & the Uniform



During our orientation we will be discussing why Scouting is beneficial to your child, we will describe our organization, the specifics of our program, Scout awards and recognitions the boys can receive for their efforts, how the BSA ensures a safe environment for all of our kids, and all the aspects of the uniform and the Pack fees that covers the entire year of scouting and all that it includes.



What is Cub Scouting? For over 100 years, the Cub Scout program has been a fun and educational experience concerned with values.

Besides providing a positive place where boys can enjoy safe, wholesome activities, Cub Scouting focuses on building character, improving physical fitness, teaching practical skills, and developing a spirit of community service.

Scouting develops strong values in each boy. Scouting honors the home, school, and religious organizations as the origins of our youths' values. Scouting's goal is to nurture and extend these values by emphasizing the Scout Oath and Law ... and the Cub Scout Motto – "Do your Best" – which demonstrates the positive atmosphere of Cub Scouting.

Scouting Alumni Include:

- 28%** of Air Force Academy graduates
- 36%** of West Point graduates
- 70%** of Annapolis graduates
- 72%** of Rhodes Scholars
- 85%** of FBI agents
- 89%** of Senior Class Presidents
- 58%** of all Astronauts
- 52%** of Congressional Members
- 8** United States Presidents

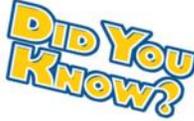
STRONG VALUES STRONG LEADERS CHARACTER COUNTS

DID YOU KNOW?

BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA PATRIOTS' PATH COUNCIL

Scouting teaches a variety of academic skills, career-awareness, leadership, first aid, outdoor skills, and many others — all are life skills the boys will take with them into adulthood. From skills ranging from knot tying to computer-based research, Cub Scouting activities help boys realize their own potential for learning. This builds both pride and the confidence to handle challenges that cross their paths as they grow and develop.

Our ultimate goal is to mold boys into young men who are competent to handle the tough questions. While every skill Scouting teaches is important, the self-confidence, fun, and sense of accomplishment boys get from skill-building activities are equally important. Each Scouting activity has the basic goal of building character. Scouting is where legends are made. As you can see from the slide, scouting alumni achieve great things and our goal would be to help your boy begin his trail to positive future accomplishment.



...that men who were Scouts 5 or more years as boys, are:

- 4%** more likely to graduate from high school
- 16%** more likely to graduate from college
- Earn **\$19,000** higher annual household incomes
- 9%** more likely to highly value family relationships
- 15%** more likely to have lifelong friendships
- 10%** more likely to attend religious services
- 9%** more likely to believe helping others should come before one's own self-interest



Boys join Cub Scouting because they want to have fun. For boys, however, fun means a lot more than just having a good time. "Fun" is a boy's code word for the satisfaction he gets from meeting challenges, having friends, feeling good about himself, and feeling he is important to other people. While the boys are having fun and doing things they like to do, they also learn new things, discover and master new skills, gain self-confidence, and develop strong friendships.

All of these things will serve the boys well in later life. Long-term university research is clear – making an investment in Scouting now will have a direct positive impact on your son for the rest of his life. No other youth-based sporting or enrichment program can demonstrate such a startling positive impact on boys.



NOTE: You may wish to customize the below text to reflect how your unit is organized.

Here is the model organizational chart for Cub Scout packs. Every pack operates a little differently, but it is important to note that packs are all run by adult volunteers. Just a few years ago our adult leaders were sitting in the chairs you are occupying now. We sometimes operate as a whole pack and at other times the boys are broken down into dens, which are groups of boys who are roughly the same age. Our program is highly structured – and as parents of young boys, you know how critical this can be. We want the boys to have fun, but the structure ensures that their enthusiasm is directed to some specific goal or purpose.



NOTE: You may wish to edit this slide to better align with your unit's program.

Our pack has a vibrant annual activities program. Here again, every pack is a little different, but let me touch on just a few that we participate in each year.

The Blue and Gold banquet is probably the most exciting event of the whole year because it is a birthday party for Cub Scouting in which all our families can take part. The banquet is usually held in February, the Anniversary month of the Boy Scouts of America.

The pinewood derby is a traditional racing event for Cub Scouts. Each Scout, with the help of a parent or adult, builds and customizes their own car from a kit. The races are very exciting and boys love this event. The Pinewood Derby has been around since 1953 and promotes close family relationships, craftsmanship, and positive sportsmanship and fair play.

There are many field trips and activities that take place in Scouting. Some of these activities include outdoor and indoor experiences such as: hiking, zoos, bowling, science centers, museums, picnics, over nights at special locations, and so much more! Our program gives Scouts and their families the opportunity to experience things they may not have access to in school or at home.

Finally, service projects allow our boys to make a difference in helping other people through the development of healthy relationships, promoting cooperation and team building, and feeling connected to their communities. Projects might include collection of food for a local church or food pantry, a school beautification project, cleaning up local parks and streams, visiting a

local retirement center to sing Christmas Carols to the residents, and the list goes on and on. Regardless of the project, service to others gives the boys a sense of accomplishment, working together, and helping their community – it also just feels good to do something for someone else.



NOTE: You may wish to customize the below text to reflect how your addresses outdoor program.

One of the most important aspect of our Cub Scouting program are the many adventures that await outdoors. Our pack and dens can go camping on our own – whether in tents, cabins, or lean-tos. We can attend district and council Cub Family Camping events where a whole program has already been developed for us. Your boys can also attend one of our council camps during the summer either as a day camper or overnight in one of our resident camps. These programs are truly spectacular and we can't say enough about how much our boys love them. Many of the summer camps even arrange for bussing to get the boys to the program!

Don't have any camping gear? Don't worry about that yet. As we get closer to our first outing, we'll distribute a list of suggested gear and go over some of the best short- and long-term

purchases you can make. We can even try to arrange “loaner” gear within our pack and local Boy Scout troop so that you can try the gear out for yourself first. Don’t let the lack of equipment or experience stand in your way – there is going to be nothing as exciting and memorable to your son as an outdoor camping adventure.



One of the fun aspects of Cub Scouting is that as your boy has new experiences and gains new skills we can recognize him with various awards. The national Boy Scouts of America have just revamped most of our awards programs to make them more engaging for today's youth. All boys, regardless of their age when they join, will earn the Bobcat badge. Thereafter, they work on the rank badges associated with their specific grade-level. All of the requirements for each rank are found in the Cub Scout handbook that you'll need to purchase. Den Leaders will work with you to coordinate the program your boy will pursue. Some of the activities will be completed as a den, while others will be completed by you and your boy on your own. The goal is to have every boy earn the Arrow of Light when they are in fifth grade. This is the highest award offered in Cub Scouting and is the only award a boy can wear on his Boy Scout uniform once he crosses over. Our whole program is geared to getting every boy ready to earn the Arrow of Light and successfully crossing him over to Boy Scouts.



NOTE: If you unit particularly emphasizes these or other awards programs, feel free to edit this slide and notes page to meet your needs.

In addition to the rank badges, the BSA also offers a large number of other awards that allow boys and their families to explore in-depth specific areas of the Scouting program. From religious awards, to outdoor adventures, to emergency preparedness, to our new STEM – Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics awards – there is likely to be a fun program that appeals to the interests of both you and your boy. On this slide, we show you just a few, but more details can be found in your *Adventures in Cub Scouting* guidebook and your Den Leader will be introducing you to some of them at the den-level.

SO WHAT'S NEXT? HOW DO I SIGN MY SON UP FOR SCOUTING?

Complete Registration

Share Contact Information

Organize Dens

Recruit Leaders and Volunteers



NOTE: You may wish to address how your unit is financially supported.

So what's next? First, you will need to fill out an application so that the BSA can register your son with the Cub Scouts. All of your personal information is kept strictly confidential. We will also collect our Pack dues at this time. This money is used for BSA insurance and other Pack expenses (WILL DIFFER FROM UNIT TO UNIT). Once the application is processed your son will receive his BSA membership ID number and at that point he will be covered under the BSA insurance program for all pack and council activities.

With a completed application, we will obtain all of your contact information and you will be added to our email lists to make sure any events and activities are relayed to you as quickly as possible, such as Pack and Den meetings, outings, and anything else the Pack has planned for the year.

As mentioned before, boys are grouped into age or grade specific dens. Most dens can accommodate from up to 8-10 boys. If we have more than that in the age group, we can choose to split the den and form additional dens. This is where parents like you can help, since extra den leadership and volunteers are required in these situations. Regardless, we will never turn a boy away that wants to join our pack.

VOLUNTEER LEADERSHIP

There are many ways to volunteer ...

TRAINING IS AVAILABLE

YOU ARE NOT ALONE

- Professional Support Staff
- Roundtables
- Pack Leadership
- Online Training

EVERY YOUTH DESERVES TRAINED ADULT LEADERS

Trained

BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA
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Our program is entirely run by volunteers just like you. If you look around the room at the adults in our pack, it is important to know that we are all volunteers. We are all here to help make our pack strong, fun, and safe not just for our own kids but for all the boys in our pack. Our active parents are what makes us so successful and ensures the boys have the most memorable and valuable time they can possibly have at this age.

Volunteering is vital to our pack. It can be anything from bringing a snack to an outing, up to being our Cubmaster or a Den Leader. We are all here to help make sure our boys are having the most fun and getting the most out of the Cub Scouting program. And we aren't alone – training is available everywhere. Online sessions and in-person, hands-on training is offered all year round. The council staff is always there to answer any questions we have and “Roundtables” are held every month to assist in planning meetings and events. The Roundtables are also a great chance to meet with other district pack leaders and brainstorm ideas that have worked in the past. There is no need to reinvent the wheel.

Each den in our pack needs to have, at the very least, a Den Leader and an Assistant Den Leader. There are many other positions large and small in the pack that are important to keep us active and guarantee a fun, memorable experience for our kids. So PLEASE, let us know how you can help.

NOW A WORD ON YOUTH PROTECTION



YOUTH PROTECTION

The Boy Scouts of America has had a very strong program in place for many years to protect our youth from abuse of all kinds. We require ALL of our leaders to be trained in Youth Protection, and to refresh that training at regular intervals.



We want to assure you that the Scouting program is as safe as it is fun, at all ages. The Boy Scouts of America go to great lengths to ensure that your sons' experiences are protected through ongoing training, rules, and practices which have been established specifically for our Scouts' safety.

A pack's very structure is meant to provide all participants with a clear understanding of their roles. Every adult leader agrees to a background check. All leaders receive training on appropriate interaction and behavior between youth and adults; how to better recognize signs of abuse and what to do; and all adult leaders **MUST** renew this Youth Protection training every 2 years. Rules like the "buddy-system" and "two-deep leadership" are designed to minimize the chances of improper situations arising; and bullying of any kind is not only prohibited, but it is actively discouraged.

BSA's primary goal is to create a safeguarded environment that gives our boys the best opportunity possible to learn, grow, mature, and have fun through everything the Scouting program has to offer. We actively encourage all of our parents to also take the on-line Youth Protection training so that we are all on the same page as to what the rules and expectations are. We take your son's safety very, **VERY** seriously.

THE FINANCIAL INVESTMENT IN YOUR SON

BSA ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP
All registered youth pay annual registration and insurance fees, which go directly to the BSA national office.



CUB SCOUT HANDBOOK
Your son will need the handbook for his rank.



PACK DUES
Each troop has its own annual budget, based on its needs and anticipated program.

BOYS' LIFE MAGAZINE (optional)
This multifaceted magazine is written for boys your son's age.



Although our pack is run by volunteers, there are still costs to run our program. These costs result in a membership fee to join our pack. This fee consists of 2 parts: the first is the registration and insurance fees we pay on your son's behalf to the national Boy Scouts of America. These are mandated by the BSA and are designed to ensure your son's safety and that he is supported by trained leaders.

The second part of the membership fee are the costs to support the awards we will give out and the many activities the pack provides to your son during the year: It consists of: (These vary greatly from unit to unit -- please mention several examples that apply to your unit...)

The *Boys Life* magazine is a publication by the Boy Scouts of America that has won multiple *Parents' Choice Approved Awards*. It includes articles about Scouts throughout the country and their adventures, their service, their advancement, their fun. Although an optional piece, this magazine offers reading opportunities about your son's new adventure and only costs \$1 a month.

Again, if your family needs to discuss some financial assistance, please see me privately after the presentation.

The Cub Scout uniform is made of the following:



- Cap
- Shirt
- Neckerchief & Slide
- Belt
- Pack T-shirt
- Scout Pants or Shorts
(Optional)
- Scout Socks
(Optional)

BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA
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The Cub Scout uniform is recognized all over the world. It sends a message – that the person wearing it lives by a code of conduct and service to others. As your son grows within the program, his uniform will grow in meaning and pride for him. All pieces of the uniform are available at one of our council’s Scout Shops and detailed information can be found in your guidebook.

OPTIONAL: Our unit also maintains a supply of gently used uniforms. We can’t guarantee that every piece and in the correct size is available, but what we do have you are most welcome to.

PATRIOTS' PATH COUNCIL, BSA
Council Service Center
1 Saddle Road
Cedar Knolls, NJ 07927
Phone: 973-765-9322
Fax: 973-267-3406

Patriots' Path's WEBSITE contains general information about all aspects of Scouting in our Council, as well as forms, online registration for events, and pages devoted to our individual Districts: www.ppbsa.org

Patriots' Path is on FACEBOOK. Follow this link:
<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Patriots-Path-Council-BSA/118439656462>

Patriots' Path TWEETS. Follow this link:
<http://twitter.com/patriotspath>

BSA's national website is:
www.Scouting.org



We are lucky that our unit is part of the Patriots' Path Council – one of the best councils in the entire northeast. On this slide we see the contact information for our council offices. It is also the location of one of our fantastic Scout Shops – with our other Shop located in Mountainside. The main web site, www.ppbsa.org, is your go-to site for answers on upcoming events, forms, registration, and more. It often links out to the national BSA site (which is also at the bottom here), so you can find answers to most of your questions. The council also puts out timely updates on social media, so we encourage your use of all of these portals.



Let me distribute to you your son's registration form, our annual calendar for the coming year, and the contact information you'll need to reach out to us (DISTRIBUTE) ... and with that let me cordially welcome you to Pack XXX. I assure you that joining Cub Scouting is going to be the best decision you'll make for your son. I recognize that this presentation is just a brief overview of the more detailed information you'll be able to find in the *Adventures in Cub Scouting* guidebook. We hope that in the weeks and months to come we can answer your questions as they arise. Let me give you a few minutes to fill out the registration form and I'll walk around and assist you or answer questions as you do so ... Who needs a pen?? 😊

NOTE: Please be sure to customize the pack number on the slide. 😊