

Parent Orientation



BSA Mission Statement

The mission of the Boy Scouts of America is to prepare young people to make ethical and moral choices over their lifetimes by instilling in them the values of the Scout Oath and Law.

What Is Cub Scouting?

Cub Scouting is fun! No matter what grade you are in, first through fifth, it can be a blast. Do you like to learn by doing? This is just the place. You can learn to tie knots, set up a tent, or shoot a bow and arrow (archery). Have you ever cooked a meal on a campfire? Sent a secret code to a buddy? Built a birdhouse? Hiked? Earn rewards for doing these things in Cub Scouts.

Cub Scouts Belong to Packs and Dens

As a Cub Scout, you will be part of your own pack.

The pack is divided into smaller groups called dens. Each den has about six to eight boys. All of the Cub Scouts in your den are in the same grade and may even go to the same school.

The Cub Scout pack belongs to a church, a school, or some other group of people in your community or neighborhood. This group makes sure your pack has good adult leaders, a place to meet, and exciting things to do.

The group gets help from the Boy Scouts of America, which is part of Scouting around the world.

Cub Scouts Do Things and Go Places

Have you been to the local police station and talked to the policemen on duty? Or visited the fire station and sat in the driver's seat of the pumper truck? Or visited the local TV station and sat in the news anchor's chair?

These are some of the places you might go with your den or pack. You might also build a pinewood derby car and race it on the track, build a sailboat or catamaran and race it in the raingutter regatta, or build a spaceship and race it to the stars in the pack space derby.

Cub Scouts Earn Awards

Each time you complete an accomplishment or learn a new skill, you will be rewarded. Sometimes the reward is a loop for your belt, a pin, or a patch. Sometimes it is a smile on your parents' faces to see you grow and learn.

Purposes and Methods of Cub Scouting

The Cub Scouting program has 10 purposes related to the overall mission of the Boy Scouts of America – to build character, learn citizenship, and develop personal fitness:

1. Character Development
2. Spiritual Growth
3. Good Citizenship
4. Sportsmanship and Fitness
5. Family Understanding
6. Respectful Relationships
7. Personal Achievement
8. Friendly Service
9. Fun and Adventure
10. Preparation for Boy Scouts

Every Cub Scouting activity should help fulfill one of these purposes. When considering a new activity, ask which purpose or purposes it supports. Not everything in Cub Scouting has to be serious – far from it! Silly songs, energetic games, and yummy snacks all have their place in the program.

The Methods of Cub Scouting

To accomplish its purposes and achieve the overall goals of building character, learning citizenship, and developing personal fitness, Cub Scouting uses seven methods:

1. Living the Ideals

Cub Scouting's values are embedded in the Scout Oath, the Scout Law, the Cub Scout motto, and the Cub Scout sign, hand shake, and salute. These practices help establish and reinforce the program's values in boys and the leaders who guide them

2. Belonging to a Den

The den—a group of six to eight boys who are about the same age—is the place where Cub Scouting starts. In the den, Cub Scouts develop new skills and interests, they practice sportsmanship and good citizenship, and they learn to do their best, not just for themselves but for the den as well.

3. Using Advancement

Recognition is important to boys. 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 and their den leader work with boys on advancement projects.

4. Involving Family and Home

Whether a Cub Scout lives with two parents or one, a foster family, or other relatives, his family is an important part of Cub Scouting. Parents and adult family members provide leadership and support for Cub Scouting and help ensure that boys have a good experience in the program.

5. Participating in Activities

Cub Scouts participate in a huge array of activities, including games, projects, skits, stunts, songs, outdoor activities, trips and service projects. Besides being fun, these activities offer opportunities for growth, achievement, and family involvement.

6. Serving Home and Neighborhood

Cub Scouting focuses on the home and neighborhood. It helps boys strengthen connections to their local communities, which in turn support the boys' growth and development.

7. Wearing the Uniform

Cub Scout uniforms serve a dual purpose, demonstrating membership in the group (everyone is dressed alike) and individual achievement (boys wear the badges they've earned). Wearing the uniform to meetings and activities also encourages a neat appearance, a sense of belonging, and good behavior.

How Cub Scouting Works

When you see someone in a uniform, you know that person belongs to a specific group. A police officer wears a uniform, and so does a doctor or a firefighter. As a Cub Scout, you will wear a uniform too. If you are in first, second, or third grade, you will wear a blue shirt, blue pants, and a neckerchief in the correct color for your rank—orange for Tigers, yellow for Wolves, and blue for Bears. Webelos Scouts have some different options. Some Webelos Scouts will wear the blue shirt, and some will wear the tan shirt, the same one the Boy Scouts wear. All Webelos Scouts will wear the Webelos neckerchief, which is yellow, blue, and red plaid. The blue and yellow is to remind them they are still in a pack, and the red is to remind them they will be moving to Boy Scouts soon. There are other parts of the uniform: pants, belt, socks, and a hat. If you wear the blue shirt, you wear the blue pants and the hat for your den. If you wear the tan shirt, you wear olive pants but still wear the hat for your den (Webelos hat).



The Advancement Trail

On the advancement trail, a Cub Scout progresses from rank to rank, learning new skills as he goes.

Cub Scouting Adventures

Cub Scouts complete adventures as they work toward achieving each rank. The adventures are different for each rank, allowing Cub Scouts to learn new age-appropriate skills and explore new topics each year.

Other Awards You Can Earn

Besides the advancement awards and the adventure loops and pins, Cub Scouts may earn other individual awards.

Awards for Your Den and Pack

Just as Cub Scouts can earn individual awards for themselves, they can also work together to earn awards for their whole den or their pack.



The Cub Scout Uniform

Wearing uniforms has been a method of the Scouting movement from the beginning. Decades of experience show uniforming to have many benefits, including these:

- **Equality.** The uniform represents a democratic ideal of equality. Boys from various cultures and different economic levels wear the same uniform and cooperate as equals.
- **Identification.** The uniform identifies a boy as a member of the Cub Scouts. Badges on the uniform tell other members that he belongs to their den, pack, and council. The uniform itself identifies a good citizen to the entire community.
- **Achievement.** The uniform displays badges and other awards so the accomplishments of each Cub Scout can be immediately recognized.
- **Commitment.** Wearing a uniform is a constant reminder to each Cub Scout of his commitment to the ideals and purposes of Cub Scouting: duty to God, loyalty to country, and helpfulness to others.

For these reasons, among others, all parents should emphasize to their Scouts the importance of wearing the correct and complete uniform on all suitable occasions.

Tiger, Wolf, and Bear Scouts



The Cub Scout uniform consists of the following parts:

- **Shirt**—The official uniform shirt is available with long or short sleeves and has button-flap pockets and "Boy Scouts of America" lettered in gold above the right pocket.
- **Trousers or shorts**—Official blue.
- **Belt**—Official navy-blue web belt with metal buckle and Tiger, Cub Scout, or Webelos Scout emblem.
- **Socks**—Official socks are available in three lengths: ankle, crew, and knee. Tiger Scout socks are navy blue with orange tops; Cub Scout socks are navy blue with gold (yellow) tops.
- **Cap**—Official navy-blue cap with orange front panel and tiger emblem for Tiger Scouts, yellow panel and wolf emblem for Wolf Scouts, blue panel and bear emblem for Bear Scouts. Webelos Scouts wear an olive cap with a plaid panel bearing the Webelos logo.
- **Neckerchief**—Triangular neckerchief is orange with navy-blue trim for Tiger Scouts, gold with navy-blue trim for Wolf Scouts, light blue with navy-blue trim for Bear Scouts, and plaid for Webelos Scouts. Official BSA neckerchiefs are the only neckerchiefs boys should wear. Packs should not make their own pack neckerchiefs for boys.
- **Neckerchief slide**—Official gold-tone metal slide with each rank's logo. Boys may wear handmade neckerchief slides.

Webelos Scouts



Webelos Scouts may choose to wear either the blue Webelos uniform based on the Cub Scout uniform or the tan/olive uniform similar to the one Boy Scouts wear. For the tan/olive uniform, boys wear the official Boy Scout olive trousers or shorts and official Boy Scout tan long- or short-sleeved shirt with blue shoulder loops. Official blue socks (with gold tops) are worn with the blue uniform, and official olive socks (with red tops) are worn with the tan/olive uniform. With either uniform, all Webelos Scouts wear the Webelos neckerchief (plaid with the Webelos emblem), Webelos neckerchief slide (handmade slides are also acceptable), Webelos cap, and Webelos belt buckle. Note that the Webelos belt buckle will fit either the blue or the olive belt, but the adventure loop recognitions fit only on the blue web belt.

Badges and Insignia

When a boy first joins Cub Scouting, his uniform will display only those badges that identify his status: the World Crest, which shows him to be a member of the worldwide Scouting movement; the national flag; his council strip; his pack number; and his den number. As he progresses, the Cub Scout will earn badges, pins, medals, and other insignia that tell of his accomplishments in Scouting. These items should be added to the uniform only after they have been earned.

For guidance on the proper placement of all badges and insignia, see the BSA's *Uniform and Insignia Guide* (No. 33066, available at your local council service center) or download the uniform inspection sheet from the [forms page](#).

Wearing the Uniform

In general, every Cub Scout should wear his uniform to all Cub Scouting activities, including den and pack meetings, unit outings, and any activities done with members of the den or pack. When playing sports, going to camp, or participating in other physical activities, a pack may opt to have the Cub Scouts wear an alternate uniform, such as an activity shirt. Pack leaders should provide advance notice of any occasion when the boys should wear anything other than the complete uniform.

Here are some tips for wearing the uniform:

- **DO** keep the uniform clean, pressed and in good repair. The official uniform is a sturdy, machine-washable garment that will last for years with proper care.
- **DO** be sure to wear the complete uniform. A Cub Scout wearing a uniform with parts missing is *not* in uniform.
- **DO NOT** wear non-BSA badges, awards, or insignia on the Cub Scout uniform or make any alterations to the uniform or insignia.
- **DO NOT** mix uniform parts with non-uniform clothing, such as wearing a uniform cap with other clothing or wearing the uniform shirt with blue jeans. The uniform should be treated as a unit—worn in its entirety, or not at all.

Any time you are uncertain about uniform regulations, ask the den leader for guidance.

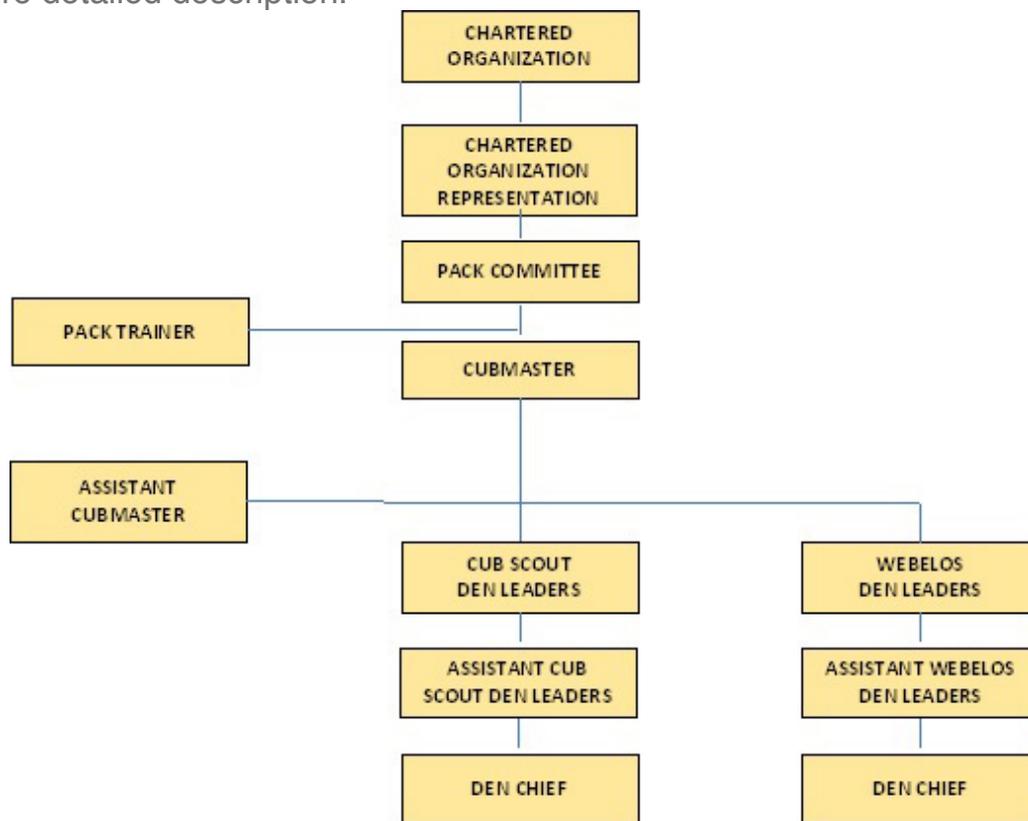
Obtaining a Uniform

The official Cub Scout uniform is available at hundreds of locations across the nation - including your local council, nationally operated Scout Shops, and other licensed retailers - or can be ordered directly from the national Supply Division. Visit www.scoutstuff.org for a list of distributors in your area. Before buying a new uniform, be sure to check with the pack leaders about other options. Some packs have money-earning projects to raise funds to uniform their Cub Scouts, or to provide common emblems such as pack and den numerals. Others may have uniform exchange programs for boys to obtain "experienced" uniforms.

The Steve Matthews Scout Shop is located at 12500 N. IH 35, Austin, Texas 78753. The telephone number is 512-617-8630.

The Cub Scout Pack

Below is an organization chart for a Cub Scout pack. Click any item for a more detailed description.



Who is Pack _____?

Pack _____ is a Cub Scout group based in Austin, Texas and is part of the Thunderbird District in the Capital Area Council. The Pack consists of boys, in the 1st grade thru the 5th grade. Our Charter Organization is:

Pack _____ Leaders

Committee Chair _____

Cubmaster _____

Secretary _____

Activities Chair _____

Treasurer _____

My Den Leader _____

Helpful Websites

<http://www.scouting.org> (General)

<https://my.scouting.org> (Training)

www.bsacac.org (Capital Area Council)

www.t-birddistrict.org (Thunderbird District)

<http://www.scoutstuff.org> (Scout Store)

_____ (Pack Website)