

# Overview of Cub Scouting

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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:

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|------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1. Character Development     | 6. Respectful Relationships    |
| 2. Spiritual Growth          | 7. Personal Achievement        |
| 3. Good Citizenship          | 8. Friendly Service            |
| 4. Sportsmanship and Fitness | 9. Fun and Adventure           |
| 5. Family Understanding      | 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 Cub Scout Promise, the Law of the Pack, the Cub Scout motto, and the Cub Scout sign, handshake, 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.

#### **8. Making Character Connections**

Throughout the program, leaders learn to identify and use character lessons in activities so boys can learn to know, commit, and practice the 12 core values of Cub Scouting. Character Connections are included in all the methods of Cub Scouting and are the program themes for monthly pack meetings.

# The Advancement Trail

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On the advancement trail, a Cub Scout progresses from rank to rank, learning new skills as he goes. Each of the ranks and awards in Cub Scouting has its own requirements. As you advance through the ranks, the requirements get more challenging, to match the new skills and abilities you learn as you get older.

## Bobcat

No matter what age or grade a boy joins Cub Scouting, he must earn his Bobcat badge before he can advance to the rank of Tiger Cub, Wolf, Bear, or Webelos.

A boy must complete the Bobcat requirements, which include:

- Learn and say the Cub Scout motto, the Cub Scout Promise, and the Law of the Pack and tell what they mean;
- Show the Cub Scout sign, salute, and handshake and tell what they mean; and
- Show that you understand and believe that it is important to be honest and trustworthy.



## Tiger Cub

To begin his path to the Tiger Cub rank, the Tiger Cub (age 7) must learn the Cub Scout promise, the Cub Scout sign, and the Cub Scout salute. When he has learned these, he gets his Tiger Cub emblem, which is a tiger paw with four strings for beads. He wears the emblem on his right pocket.

As a boy finishes each part of the five Tiger Cub achievements, he earns an orange bead (for den activities), a white bead (for family activities), or a black bead (for "Go See Its"). When the boy has earned five beads of each color, he can receive his Tiger Cub badge. The Tiger Cub badge is given to the boy's adult partner at a pack meeting. Then, during a grand ceremony, the adult gives the badge to the boy.



## Wolf

The Wolf rank is for boys who have finished first grade (or who are 8 years old). To earn the Wolf badge, a boy must pass 12 achievements. His parent or guardian approves each achievement by signing his book. When the boy has met all requirements, the Wolf badge is presented to his parent or guardian at the next pack meeting. During an impressive ceremony, the parent or guardian then presents the badge to the boy.

After he has earned the Wolf badge, a Wolf Cub Scout can work on the 23 Wolf electives until he finishes second grade (or turns 9 years old). He can choose from more than 100 elective projects that may show him new hobbies and teach him skills that will be useful during his Boy Scout years. When he completes 10 elective projects, he earns a Gold Arrow Point to wear under the Wolf badge. For each 10 elective projects after that, he earns a Silver Arrow Point.



## Bear

The Bear rank is for boys who have finished second grade (or are 9 years old). There are 24 Bear achievements in four groups. A boy must complete 12 of the achievements to be a Bear Cub Scout. These requirements are harder and more challenging than those for the Wolf badge. When a boy has earned his Bear badge, he may work on electives to earn Arrow Points to wear under his Bear badge.



## Webelos

Webelos dens are for boys who have completed third grade (or reached age 10). The Webelos den program is different from the Cub Scout den program. Everything in the Webelos Scout program is more challenging than what younger boys in the pack do. Webelos Scouts get to work on the 20 Webelos activity badges:



<b>Physical Skills</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Aquanaut</li><li>▪ Athlete</li><li>▪ Fitness</li><li>▪ Sportsman</li></ul>	<b>Community</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Citizen</li><li>▪ Communicator</li><li>▪ Family Member</li><li>▪ Readyman</li></ul>	<b>Outdoor Activity</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Forester</li><li>▪ Geologist</li><li>▪ Naturalist</li><li>▪ Outdoorsman</li></ul>
<b>Mental Skills</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Artist</li><li>▪ Scholar</li><li>▪ Showman</li><li>▪ Traveler</li></ul>	<b>Technology</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Craftsman</li><li>▪ Engineer</li><li>▪ Handyman</li><li>▪ Scientist</li></ul>	

Webelos Scouts work on requirements during their weekly den meetings. Once a boy learns a skill, he practices it at den meetings and at home on his own. His family helps him at home. Webelos Scouts bring the projects they do at home to the den meetings to show others, and to have the Webelos den leader approve their projects. When a boy has done the requirements for an activity badge, the Webelos den leader or activity badge counselor, rather than a parent, approves most of the activity badges. It takes three activity badges, including Fitness and Citizen, to earn the Webelos badge. Besides earning activity badges, Webelos Scouts can earn the compass points emblem. This emblem is awarded after a Webelos Scout has earned seven activity badges. For each four activity badges a Webelos Scout earns after that, he receives a compass point—east, west, north, and south.



## Arrow of Light

The highest rank in Cub Scouting is the Arrow of Light Award. Earning this rank prepares a Webelos Scout to become a Boy Scout. Webelos Scouts who have earned the Arrow of Light Award have also completed all requirements for the Boy Scout badge.



This award is the only Cub Scout badge that can be worn on the Boy Scout uniform when a boy graduates into a troop. Adult leaders who earned the Arrow of Light Award when they were young may also show their achievement by wearing a special square knot on their adult uniform.

## **Achievements**

Each year a cub scout will have a variety of achievements to mark specific to rank. In addition to these rank specific milestones the boys may participate in the Cub Scouts Academics and Sports belt loops and pins program. Often, other activities the boys participate in (i.e. baseball, soccer, swimming lessons, etc.) can be used to meet the requirements to help earn the belt loops. The Cub Scout belt loop and pin program encourages a boy to do his best while learning skills and promoting good sportsmanship.

There are currently 28 sports activity areas: Archery, BB Gun Shooting, Badminton, Baseball, Basketball, Bicycling, Bowling, Fishing, Flag Football, Physical Fitness, Golf, Gymnastics, Hiking, Hockey, Horseback Riding, Ice Skating, Kickball, Marbles, Roller Skating, Skateboarding, Snow Ski and Board Sports, Soccer, Softball, Swimming, Table Tennis, Tennis, Ultimate, Volleyball

And, 25 academics activity areas: Art, Astronomy, Chess, Citizenship, Collecting, Communicating, Computers, Disabilities Awareness, Family Travel, Geography, Geology, Good Manners, Heritages, Language & Culture, Map & Compass, Mathematics, Music, Nutrition, Pet Care, Photography, Reading and Writing, Science, Video Games, Weather, Wildlife Conservation

Your Den Leader can provide more detailed information regarding this program.

Hello!

Welcome to Cub Scouts and Pack 79! We are so excited to have you and we are so excited for this year!

The committee has been diligently working to provide a calendar designed to maximize the Cub Scout mission and experience this year. We have a variety of fun events planned for the Pack, from campouts and fishing to Pinewood Derby car racing...it's gonna be great!

As in the past, we will hold our Den Meetings on the first and third Tuesdays of the month. Our Pack meeting and award recognition will again be on the fourth Tuesday.

The Pack calendar will once again be posted on the scoutlander.com Pack 79 website and you should continue to look for scoutlander email reminders regarding upcoming events and meetings or Cubmaster communications. This year, however, we are trying a new way to communicate events and pack happenings in addition to scoutlander.com. You can now find us on Facebook! Check us out at Pack 79 Hopkins Elementary and like us to get updates added to your news feed. We hope that between these two resources people will feel thoroughly informed regarding Pack news and events.

As always, the Pack 79 Cubmaster and Den Leaders along with other Committee members are happy to do their parts in making the year run smoothly but a truly successful year is dependent on help from others. We are always looking for more assistance from parents and families on both the Den and Pack levels. Please contact your Den Leader or Cubmaster if you would be willing to help our wonderful organization in any way.

The Leaders of Pack 79 would once again like to welcome you to the Pack (or welcome you back) and we hope you enjoy the year of learning, growth, and adventure we have planned for the boys. Please don't hesitate to contact any of us with any questions you might have.

Yours in Scouting,

The Committee of Pack 79

## **Pack Information**

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Facebook	Pack 79 Hopkins Elementary
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Meeting Location	St. Andrew Episcopal Church 7989 Little Mountain Rd.
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