



Cub Scout Pack 1530 Parent Handout

What is Cub Scouting?

Since 1930, the Boy Scouts of America has helped younger boys through Cub Scouting. It is a year-round family program designed for boys who are in the first grade (and now Kindergarten) through fifth grade (or 6, 7, 8, 9, 10 and 11 years of age). Parents, leaders, and organizations work together to achieve the ten purposes of Cub Scouting which are:

- Influence character development
- Encourage spiritual growth
- Develop good citizenship habits and attitudes
- Encourage good sportsmanship and pride in growing strong in mind and body
- Improve understanding within the family
- Strengthen the ability to get along with other boys and respect people
- Foster a sense of personal achievement by developing new interests and skills
- Show how to be helpful and to do one's best
- Provide fun and exciting new things to do
- Prepare them to become Boy Scouts

As a worldwide brotherhood, Scouting is unique. It is based on the principles of loving and serving god and others, of human dignity and the rights of individuals, and of recognizing the obligation of each member to develop and use his potential. It is a movement dedicated to bringing out the best in people. Scouting is one of the few programs left in the world that doesn't emphasize winning as an end result, but rather the far more demanding task of doing one's best.

The Cub Scout Pack Organization

Pack 1530, founded in 1967, mainly serves boys who live in the Waples Mill Elementary School district, but boys attend many different schools (Waples Mill, Flint Hill, Hunters Woods, Nysmith, etc.). Cub Scouts join the pack and are assigned to a den, usually a neighborhood group of six to nine boys. Tiger Cubs (first-graders), Wolf Cub Scouts (second graders), Bear Cub Scouts (third graders), Webelos Scouts (fourth graders), and Arrow of Light Scouts (fifth graders) normally will meet 2-3 times per month. Lion Scouts, a new program for our Pack this year, serves boys in Kindergarten, meeting once a month and attending a few pack events each year.

Once a month, all of the dens and family members gather for a pack meeting under the direction of a Cubmaster and Pack Committee. The committee includes parents of boys in the pack and members of the chartered organization. The Pack meeting is the climax of the month's den meetings and activities. It gives the den something to look forward to and work toward. It gets parents and families involved with the boys, and is a chance to recognize boys, parents, and leaders.

Every Cub Scout Pack belongs to an organization with interests similar to the Boy Scouts of America. For Pack 1530, our chartering organization is Vale United Methodist Church. Though all are welcome to attend Vale United Methodist as their place of worship; it is not a requirement to become members of Pack 1530. Members of many faiths belong to the pack.

It's important to remember that Cub Scouting is a year-round family program. Much of the activity happens in the boy's own home, so the family is an important part of the organization. Cub Scouting is for families. Most activity in the program occurs during the school year. However, there is usually only 1-2 activities planned per

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month in June, July, and August. Summer camp is the highlight of this period. The Pack sends boys either to: one-week day camp, one-week overnight camp, or 3-day overnight camp.

Meetings

Pack 1530 Pack meetings are held monthly at Vale United Methodist Church, located at the corner of Fox Mill and Vale Roads in Oakton, Virginia. Meetings begin promptly at 7:30 PM and typically last approximately one hour. Occasionally special Pack meetings are scheduled at other locations, such as the campfire/overnights in the fall and spring and the Blue Gold Banquet in March.

The den organization allows boys to get to know one another better and provides opportunities for activities that would be difficult with a large group. The den also provides leadership opportunities for the boys. Den meetings are held periodically throughout the month as established by the den leader and parents.

Who pays for Scouting?

Groups responsible for supporting Cub Scouting are the boys and their parents, the pack, the chartered organization, and the community. Our Pack earns extra income by selling Scout Popcorn in the fall. This is our one fund raiser of the year and covers Pack costs over and above yearly dues. Additionally, the community, including parents, supports Cub Scouting through the United Way, Friends of Scouting enrollment, bequests, and special contributions to the BSA local council. This financial support provides leadership training, outdoor programs, council service centers and other facilities, and professional service for units.

Pack 1530 sets annual dues in the fall each year. It is usually around \$165/boy. The fee covers a number of things:

- BSA registration fee, Boys' Life magazine subscription, and insurance;
- Pack t-shirt for each boy (their Class B uniform)
- Boy's awards and badges;
- Cub Scout Book for each year
- Family's fee for Blue Gold Banquet;
- Funds for Den activities
- Pinewood Derby and Raingutter Regatta kits;
- Fall and spring Campouts
- Leader supplies and training

Please note that we want boys to participate. If these costs present a financial hardship for your family, please see either the Committee Chairman or Cubmaster. Pack 1530 has a "Scoutership" program to help in these situations.

Den Costs

Each den has the flexibility to make their own plan of activities to attain achievements necessary for rank advancement, so each has their own budget. Typically extra costs will be collected on an as-needed basis.

Uniform

The pack pays for virtually everything that goes onto the "Class A" uniform, but the basic uniform itself is paid for by the family. In total, the cost runs \$60-\$80 for the basic uniform components, but items like the belt and shirt last several years. These are typical costs:

- Shirt: \$25-30
- Pants \$30-50
- Belt: \$5 - \$10
- Cap: \$15

We have a small inventory of used items that have been donated by families for use by other scouts. The Pack provides a rank-appropriate neckerchief and Class "B" uniform (a more casual, but Pack 1530 "logoed", t-shirt).

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How to Register

To register a new boy into the Cub Scouts, he and his parent/guardian completes the *Application to Join a Pack*.

New boys: fill out the online application:

1. Go to www.beascout.org
2. Click on the left blue box labeled 'Cubscouts'
3. In the 'Find Cub Scouting in your Area'; enter 22124.
4. On the right side multiple local Units should be listed, starting with "Pack 1530 Vale United Methodist Church".
5. Click on the blue font 'Show Unit' in the Pack 1530 box
6. When you click on 'Show Unit' a Pop-up Screen will appear.
7. Select 'Apply Now' to fill out the online Registration form
8. As you fill out the online registration form please try to fill out all fields.
9. Registration is complete when a Confirmation Page appears.
10. Embedded on the Confirmation paragraph is a link to create a 'Myscouting online account' Please create an Myscouting account to establish online userid and password.
11. Lastly, turn in your dues check made out to "Pack 1530" to the pack treasurer or your Den Leader

Returning boys: provide your Den Leader with a check for the dues amount made out to "Pack 1530".

Expectations for Family Involvement

Cub Scouting gives families an opportunity to spend quality time together. ***This is not a "drop-off" program. Parents will need to be involved, helping with activities and rank advancement.*** Some examples of family involvement include:

- Working with their Cub Scout on achievements and electives;
- Attending Pack meetings with their Cub Scout;
- Presenting advancement awards to their son at Pack meetings;
- Helping at an occasional den meeting on a specific project or activity;
- Helping with Pack administration or special events;
- Providing refreshments and transportation;
- Assisting with Den outings;
- Helping teach a Webelos activity badge;
- Attending adult partner-boy campouts with their Cub Scout.

Just as parents have obligations to the Pack, the Pack has the following responsibilities to the parents:

- Provide a well-planned, year-round program of activities in the Den and Pack that meets the aims of Cub Scouting and the needs of the boys;
- Provide trained, qualified, and enthusiastic leaders for all Den and Pack meetings and activities;
- Provide training for parents and keeping them informed;
- Provide activities that help strengthen the family and give them opportunities to work and play together;
- Help families participate in Cub Scouting according to each family's ability to do so.

The Advancement Program

Recognition is important to young boys. The Cub Scout 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. Cub Scout advancement is not a competition among boys. The Cub Scout advancement program is also designed to encourage the natural interests of a boy in a natural way. The ranks in Cub Scouting each with its own requirements, are progressively more challenging, matching the increased skills and abilities of a boy as he grows older.

Generally speaking, a boy should advance one rank per year. The Den Leader will help guide the boys and their families to reach their goals. The Cub Scout's advancement progress depends on his own motivation for learning new skills; on the encouragement and help he gets from his family, and on his need for recognition. However, parents should be encouraged not to rush their boys through the required achievements for each rank. Normally, it should take a boy about six months to complete the requirements for the Wolf and Bear ranks. Rank advancements

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will be recognized at the June campout. He may not begin working on the requirements for the next rank until he reaches the age or grade requirements.

Bobcat. The Bobcat rank is for all boys who join Cub Scouting. In achieving Bobcat boys learn the basic tenants of Cub Scouting such as the Cub Scout Motto, Promise, Law of the Pack, Salute, etc.

Tiger Cub. The Tiger Cub program is for first grade (or age 7) boys and their adult partners. There are five Tiger Cub achievement areas. The Tiger Cub, working with his adult partner, completes 15 requirements within these areas to earn the Tiger Cub Badge. These requirements consist of an exciting series of indoor and outdoor activities just right for a boy in the first grade. Tiger parents are expected to attend all meetings with their son.

Wolf. The Wolf program is for boys who have completed first grade (or are age 8). To earn the Wolf badge, a boy must pass 12 achievements involving simple physical and mental skills.

Bear. The Bear rank is for boys who have completed second grade (or are age 9). There are 24 Bear achievements in four categories. The Cub Scout must complete 12 of these to earn the Bear badge. These requirements are somewhat more difficult and challenging than those for Wolf rank.

Webelos. This program is for boys who have completed third grade (or are age 10). A boy may begin working on the Webelos badge as soon as he joins a Webelos den. This is the first step in his transition from Cub Scouts to a Boy Scout troop. As he completes the requirements found in the Webelos Scout Book, he will work on activity badges, attend meetings led by adults, and become familiar with the Boy Scout requirements—all leading to the Arrow of Light Award. The Webelos program continues into March of 5th grade (an 18-month program).

Volunteering

The Cub Scouts is a volunteer organization and the Pack is run entirely by volunteers. *Each boy's parents or guardian are asked to contribute to the Pack in some way.* Here are some ways you can help run our pack:

- By becoming a Den Leader or Assistant Den Leader
- By serving on the Pack Committee
 - Treasurer
 - Awards
 - Membership
 - Quartermaster
 - Photography, Video
 - Web Site
 - Training
 - Outings
 - Communications
- By helping to plan and organize the many exciting pack events throughout the year:
 - Fall, April, June Family Campouts
 - Popcorn Sales
 - Scouting for Food
 - Bake-Off
 - Pinewood Derby
 - Annual Ski Trip
 - Blue & Gold Banquet
 - Trail Clean-Ups
 - Raingutter Regatta
 - Mother-Son Dance
 - Annual Potomac Nationals and Washington Nationals Outings
 - Summer Camps (Day Camp, Cub World, Webelos World, Goshen)

In addition to the above Pack-level positions, Den Leaders will solicit support from parents of boys in their dens for teaching individual activities, refreshments, transportation, and other areas. Parents can view these opportunities as their contributions to the Scouting movement.

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Scouting Uniforms

The Boy Scouts of America (and Cub Scouts) have always been a uniformed body. As we wear the uniform, we are openly identifying ourselves with those values where everyone can see us. We stand together, not alone, in encouraging others to live by those same principles. Boys and adults alike should take pride in belonging to such a movement and wear the uniform as it is intended.

The Cub Scout and adult leader uniforms are suitable for and should be worn at all Scouting meetings and activities. Uniforms may be purchased at the Northern Virginia NCAC Scout Shop or online at <http://www.scoutstuff.org>
Ravenswood Shopping Center off Braddock Rd.
5234 Port Royal Rd., Springfield, VA 703-321-4836

When an activity involves boys getting especially dirty, boys may wear a “Class B” uniform, a Pack 1530 t-shirt, available from the Pack. T-shirts will be given to all new boys joining the Pack. Adults are also encouraged to wear the Pack t-Shirt, which may be purchased for \$10 each.

What Makes Up the Uniform?

Tiger Cubs

- Cub Scout shirt, short or long sleeve
- Cub Scout shorts or long pants (blue shorts or jeans are acceptable)
- Cub Scout belt w/ Cub buckle
- Tiger hat (orange)
- Tiger (orange) neckerchief (pack provided)
- Cub Scout belt w/Tiger buckle
- Cub Scout neckerchief slide
- National Capital Area Council patch (pack provided)
- Pack 1530 numeral patch (pack provided)
- 35 year veteran unit bar (pack provided)
- Den number patch (pack provided)
- World Scout Crest Emblem (pack provided)

Wolf Cubs

The Tiger uniform is revised to incorporate:

- Wolf Cub hat
- Wolf Cub neckerchief (pack provided)
- Cub Scout belt w/Cub Scout buckle
- Cub Scout neckerchief slide

Bear Cubs

The Wolf uniform is revised to incorporate:

- Bear Cub hat
- Bear Cub neckerchief (pack provided)

Webelos/AoL

The Bear uniform is revised to incorporate:

- Cub Scout belt w/Webelos buckle
- Webelos hat
- Webelos plaid neckerchief (pack provided)
- Webelos neckerchief slide
- *Special Note: Webelos may wear the tan Boy Scout shirt if they like*

Please note that boys should NOT wear sweatpants or basketball shorts with their uniform. Dark blue or black shorts or pants (including jeans) are appropriate for all boys, while Webelos scouts may wish to wear tan shorts or pants with their tan shirts.

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Schedule

Published separately on the Pack Website: <http://pack1530.com>

For More Information

For information about Cub Scouting in general, the uniform guide and advancement requirements see <http://scouting.org/CubScouts.aspx>

Pack information can be found at the Pack Web site <http://pack1530.com>.

For information about our regional organization, the National Capital Area Council, se <http://www.ncacbsa.org>

For information on our local Powhatan District, see <http://www.ncacbsa.org/group/Powhatan>