

Cub Scout Parent Handbook 2015-2016



Pack 692
Lino Lakes, Minnesota
Many Waters District
Northern Star Council
Boy Scouts of America

Purpose of Cub Scouting

The primary goal of scouting is to have fun with a purpose. We introduce and reinforce the 12 points of the Scout Law, while having the most fun possible. Cub Scouting should be fun enough that the boys want to come and meaningful enough that parents make it a priority. At the end of a great Cub Scouting career, we encourage all boys to cross over into Boy Scouts, at which point the boys should be seeing some value in the “purpose” side of the equation.

How Do We Sign Up?

The Recruitment Chair, Cubmaster, Committee Chair or your Den Leader would no doubt love to talk to a prospective new Scout and their family. There is an application to fill out and a registration fee to pay that varies depending on the month (see the Dues section).

We Signed Up, Now What?

You should be hearing from one of the leaders soon with information about upcoming events. If you signed up in the fall, that first activity will likely be a den meeting or a pack meeting. If you signed up in the spring, you will likely be hearing about an overnight camp or one of our other summer activities. If you don't hear from someone, please reach out to anyone on the committee and we'll make sure you are in the loop.

You can also start working on some of the Bobcat requirements right away, by having your scout study these:

Cub Scout Motto: Do Your Best!

Cub Scout Law:

A scout is: trustworthy, loyal, helpful, friendly, courteous, kind, obedient, cheerful, thrifty, brave, clean, and reverent

Cub Scout Oath:

On my honor I will do my best
To do my duty to God and my country
And to obey the Scout Law;
To help other people at all times;
To keep myself physically strong,
mentally awake, and morally straight.

What's an Akela?

Akela means “trusted leader”. In Scouting, that can be a Den Leader, a Cub Master, an adult partner, camp staff or other volunteer.

What Do We Need To Get Started?

There is NO need for you to purchase your son's rank book, slide or neckerchief. That will be presented to your scout by the Pack.

The uniform is an essential part of scouting as it signifies membership in the group and it makes a handy place to display rank advancement patches.

Lion Cubs (Kindergarten) should get a Lion Cub t-shirt. The navy uniform shirt is optional. Many families chose to go with the t-shirt and have the boys "earn" the navy uniform shirt at the end of their first scouting year.

Tigers, Wolves, Bears (Grades 1-3) should get the navy uniform shirt. Web I's and Web II's (Grades 4-5) can get either the navy or tan uniform shirt. Many prefer the tan shirt, as that's what the Boy Scouts wear.

For all uniform shirts, if you go to any of the local scout shops and you know your Pack number (692) and Den number, the staff at the scout shop will know what else you need and they can show you where all the patches go.

What Forms Should I Complete?

Talent Survey: It helps us get to know you a little better and allows us to identify ways to improve the program based on the skills/talents/interests of our families.

Photo Release: This form will allow us to take and share photographs of the scouts doing scout activities. These photos typically provide a positive reinforcement to the scouts and they help new or interested families get to know our pack.

The Talent Survey and Photo Release forms are available on the web. Please fill them out as soon as is practical and turn them into the Committee Chair.

Health Forms are required for any council-run day camp or any pack-led overnight camp. They are good for a year. Some people have been known to fill out their form and make a copy before turning it in to make subsequent forms easier to fill out. Unlike many organized sports, scouting does not require a physical exam; the forms are focused on health history and are used to ensure the wellbeing of your scout.

Why Isn't Pack 692 Called a Troop?

Scouts in grades K-5 are called Cub Scouts or Webelos Scouts and they are collectively known as a Pack, so we are **Pack** 692. When the boys are older, they will be encouraged to join a Boy Scout **Troop**. Packs and Troops are indeed governed by the same Boy Scouts of America (BSA) organization, but the names are different because Cub Scouts and Boys Scouts are two different programs administered by BSA.

<http://pack692.weebly.com/>

Den Meetings

A Den is a group of same-aged Cub or Webelos Scouts. They often go by rank, but are sometimes referred to by number. The boys in a given den will meet to work together on advancement requirements or electives that the den leader chooses. In the lower ranks, you should expect 1-2 den activities per month during the school year and by the time you enter Webelos, meetings should be just about every week as the number and difficulty of requirements increases. The timing and location of the den meeting is up to the den leader to arrange.

Pack Meetings

Once a month during the school year, the entire Pack will get together. We'll celebrate advancements, discuss previous and upcoming pack events. Some of these can be long for the boys and we "do our best" to keep the meetings snappy and work in some fun. The Pack meetings are typically the 3rd Friday of the month and typically at Gethsemane United Methodist Church, 7330 Lake Drive, Lino Lakes. Look for the online calendar for all the dates, as some do change.

Dues

Different Packs handle dues and registration fees differently. Pack 692 will only collect registration and Boys' Life Magazine fees once per Scout for their entire Cub Scouting career. The amount collected is pro-rated based on the month you join and that money is transferred directly to Northern Star Council, which in turn forwards it to BSA. When it comes time to renew for the next year of scouting, all active scouts are renewed using pack funds.

Please note that den leaders may establish dues to pay for den-specific costs such as craft supplies or snacks. Dens are not allowed to spend Pack funds for these items.

Parent / Family Involvement

Scouting is a family affair! Whenever possible, parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles and siblings* are welcome and encouraged to be active in Cub Scouts. For Lions and Tigers, it is expected that the adult partner will participate in den and pack activities. As the boys mature, den leaders can establish their own expectations for parental involvement as long as BSA guidelines for adult to scout ratios are still met. For Pack events, if an adult partner is not available to attend with a scout, special permission will be required to attend without a partner or a substitute partner will need to be present.

*- Some Council-run events such as Residence Camp and Polar Cubs require that all youth in attendance be registered scouts.

Youth Protection

The safety of the boys is a paramount concern. All leaders are required to take Youth Protection training. We ask that you keep in mind that there should always be at least two adults present for all pack or den activities and please speak up if something seems wrong.

Volunteering

Scouting would not happen without volunteers. Some volunteer positions are for the entire year (i.e. den leader) and other opportunities are specific to an activity (i.e. pinewood derby coordinator). If there's something that lines up with your profession, hobby or interests, please let someone on the committee know!

Pack Committee

The group of volunteers that govern the Pack is collectively called the pack Committee. It is made up of a Chair, the Cubmaster, the Den Leaders and other volunteers. If you want to help the Pack go, please consider being part of the committee. The committee meets once a month to plan activities and manages the budget, etc. The committee meetings are open to all parents and are typically the first or 2nd Monday of the month and held at Carbone's on Lexington just south of Lake Drive.

Pack Website

The pack website has a wealth of information, perhaps the most important of which is the calendar. <http://pack692.weebly.com/>

Pack Email List

There is a Google group email alias listed on the web site. Please make sure the group has the correct email address for you!

Chartered Organization

All Scouting units are required to have an organizational sponsor. Pack 692 is chartered to Gethsemane United Methodist Church on Lake Drive in Lino Lakes.

Many Waters District

Pack 692 is part of the Many Waters District, which is made up of 76 units reaching from White Bear Lake in the south to Pine City in the north. Many Waters happens to be district #9 in the Northern Star Council, so sometimes you will see our Pack number listed as 9692 instead of just 692.

Northern Star Council

Many Waters District is part of the Northern Star Council, which covers a wide section of Minnesota including the Twin Cities and parts of western Wisconsin.

Fundraising

Pack expenses are funded through fundraising. In the fall, the committee organizes a popcorn and wreath sale. Roughly 25% of the sales will go to the Pack and typically 10% will go to the scout's "camp account". A percentage of the popcorn sales will also go to Northern Star council as it is a council-initiated fundraiser. The money raised is used for registration and Boys' Life fees, activity

costs (pinewood derby, blue and gold ceremony) and advancement supplies (rank books, slides, neckerchiefs, patches, etc.)

A scout can use money in his scout account to pay for his registration to any of the council- or pack-run activities.

The Pack also participates in the Family Friends of Scouting, which is an opportunity for families to offer additional support to the Northern Star Council. This money is used to keep the overall scouting program in our area strong and is used for improving council camping facilities, leader training and general administration. A Friends of Scouting presentation will be given to all scouting families sometime throughout the scouting year.

Committee Contacts

Committee Chair	Dan Celotta	daniel.celotta@gmail.com	612-360-1204
Cubmaster	Jon Marsh	jon.marsh74@gmail.com	651-272-9204
Treasurer	Katrina Chapman	kqchapman@gmail.com	763-443-8390
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Fundraising Chair	Dave Welna	david@tdsd.com	651-341-4303
Recruiting Chair	Bill Fischer	billfischer74@gmail.com	651-707-7997
Camping Chair	Chris Norton	cjnorty@msn.com	612-751-9473
Secretary	<Open>	<Open>	<Open>
Assistant Cubmaster	<Open>	<Open>	<Open>
Lion Cub Leader (Den 6)	Missy Vigesaa-Marsh	missy_v31@hotmail.com	651-272-9203
Tiger Cub Leader (Den 1)	Dan Celotta	daniel.celotta@gmail.com	612-360-1204
Wolf Den Leader (Den 5)	Nathan Clarke	clarkenathand@gmail.com	605-222-9791
Bear Den Leader (Den 4)	Dave Welna	david@tdsd.com	651-341-4303
Webelos I Den Leader (Den 2)	Alison O'Donnell	amcorbyn@gmail.com	612-963-5210
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