



Parent's Handbook
2015 - 2016

PACK 837

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Do Your Best!

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The Program

In 1930, the Boy Scouts of America created a new opportunity called Cub Scouts for boys younger than Boy Scout age. A year-round, home-centered program used by chartered organizations, Cub Scouting emphasizes involvement between boys and their parents, adult leaders, and friends. In the multidimensional plan of the Boy Scouts of America, Cub Scouting is where it all begins. Currently, it is the largest of the organization's three membership divisions.

Purposes

Cub Scouting has the following purposes:

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

What is Cub Scouting?

Boys in the first through fifth grades may join a Cub Scout pack and be assigned to a den, usually made up of boys in a neighborhood who form a natural playgroup. Den meetings are usually held once a week.

Once a month, all of the dens and family members gather for a pack meeting under the direction of the Cub Master.

Who Operates a Cub Scout Pack?

Like other phases of the Scouting program, Cub Scouting is made available to groups having similar interests and goals, which include professional organizations, and religious, educational, civic, fraternal, business, labor, and citizens' groups. These "sponsors" are called chartered organizations. Each organization appoints one of its members as a chartered organization representative. The organization, through the committee, is responsible for leadership, the meeting place, and related materials for pack activities. The chartered organization for Pack 837 is the Royal Haven Baptist Church, Farmers Branch.

Who Pays?

Groups responsible for supporting Cub Scouting are the boys and their parents, the pack, the chartered organizations, and the community. Packs obtain income by working on approved money-earning projects.

Pack 837 presently holds three fund-raising events each year: Popcorn, Camp Card Sales, and Tours of Lights at Farmers Branch Historical Park.

The annual **Popcorn Sale** is held in the fall of each year. **For Popcorn Sales:** Each boy is required to raise a minimum of \$84.00 worth of profit from their popcorn sales for the pack. 2015 goal of \$6,000 is based on each scout having an individual goal of roughly \$300. If a boy elects to sell and falls short of the \$84.00 minimum, the parent will be responsible for making up the difference. The 'profit from popcorn sales' is calculated based on the pack receiving the maximum commission of 28% of their sales. In other words, the pack gets \$0.28 on the dollar for popcorn sold by the boys in the pack. To figure out how much profit has been raised, multiply the total \$ amount sold by 0.28.

Camp Cards are sold in the Spring to fund Summer Camp. Participation in selling cards as an individual and as a group at Kroger Store sales is required to earn money towards Summer Cub Day Camp registration. Participation as an individual or as a member of the group at Kroger sales events is required for the pack to do not earn enough credit to self-fund the individual Cub Camp fee of \$80.

Pack 837 also has annual dues of \$90. Calculated by \$10 a month for the 9 months we meet during the school year, there are no dues for the 3 summer months. There is an annual buy out of dues of \$80 if the 1st pack meeting in October chooses that option. The "buy-out" option will save you \$10 in dues. Scouts that have not paid dues by the November Pack Meeting will be suspended from receiving awards or participating in Pack related activities until the dues are paid. Pack 837 is a benevolent organization and therefore no boy will be turned away due to an inability to pay. It is asked that the parent contact the Cub Master directly to discuss any difficulties with regards to this matter.

Money generated by the above efforts help pay for activities, awards, leadership training, advancement books, pinewood derby cars and a multitude of other operational expenses. All parents have an open invitation to audit any Committee Meeting, Round Table or other leadership meetings and may also join the Committee, assist in running the pack and have a vote on the Committee.

Camping Fees – Pack 837 will set a cost per person for camping. This fee will cover the food for the camp out. The leaders will provide a menu prior to the camp out. Parents are always welcome to pack their own snacks and are encouraged to bring water.

Advancement in Ranks

Bobcat

When a boy becomes a Cub Scout, his parent teaches him his Bobcat requirements: learning the Cub Scout Promise, Law, handshake, salute, sign, and motto.

Tiger Cubs (1st Grade)

The Tiger Cub den(s) are a part of the Pack. Tiger Cub dens meet during the month for a den meeting, an outing as a den, and they attend all pack meetings. There is Tiger Cub resource books and program guides available for the Tiger Cub Den Leaders and a Tiger Cub Handbook for each Tiger Cub. Tiger Cubs introduces boys and their adult partners to the excitement of Cub Scouting as they "Search, Discover, and Share" together.

Wolf (2nd Grade)

If a Cub Scout has completed the first grade, he may begin working on his Wolf achievements. Upon completion of the achievements, he is awarded the Wolf badge. When a boy completes ten projects he receives a Gold Arrow Point. For each additional ten credits he receives a Silver Arrow Point.

Bear (3rd Grade)

When a Cub Scout has completed the second grade he begins working on his Bear achievements. There are twenty-four achievements in six different groups and 1 Elective Adventure. After achieving the Bear badge, a boy may concentrate on 11 Bear elective areas until he becomes a Webelo Scout. Gold and Silver Arrow Points are also awarded for these projects (I do not see Wolf arrow points in the Bear book).

Webelos (4th & 5th Grades)

After completing the third grade, a Cub Scout graduates with ceremony into a Webelo den. This is a special den for boys in the fourth or fifth grade. The Webelo Scout program is more challenging to the older boy - in fact, he's now called a Webelo Scout and wears a different uniform signifying his new status. Meetings are usually held in the early evening or on Saturday. His leader is a man or woman assisted by other den parents. As a fifth grader, he may earn Cub Scout's highest award - the Arrow of Light Award. After receiving this award, he is eligible to become a Boy Scout, or he may join a troop at age 11 (or when he completes the fifth grade).

Activities

At den meetings, there are games, crafts, sports, songs, skits, etc. Perhaps it is a project or a stunt for the next pack meeting. During the week, with his parents' help, he finishes the project or perfects the stunt. If it happens to be something required for his Wolf or Bear advancement, his parent signs his Cub Scout book. In this way, Cub Scouts helps to strengthen family ties.

Pack meetings, attended by boys and their families, give parents a chance to see their sons in action. The second half has a formal opening, followed by den skits, songs, games, or stunts related to a monthly theme, and the awarding of badges earned by the boys since the last pack meeting.

Publications

Volunteers are informed of national news and events through scouting magazine. Boys may subscribe to Boys' Life magazine (circulation 1.3 million). The Boy Scouts of America publish both. Our pack includes Boys' Life as part of each youth's registration. There are also a number of Cub Scout and leader publications, including the Wolf Cub Scout Book, Bear Cub Scout Book, Webelos Scout Book, Cub Scout Leader Book, and Cub Scout and Webelo Scout Program Helps.

Basic Concepts

Apart from the fun and excitement of Cub Scout activities, there are a number of ideals expressed in the day-to-day life of the young boy and his leaders.

The Scout Oath:

*On my honor I will do m 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.*

The Cub Scout colors are blue and gold. Blue signifies the sky, truth, spirituality, and loyalty. Gold stands for warm sunlight, good cheer, and happiness. Together they symbolize what Cub Scouting is all about.

Organization

Cub Scout Pack 837 is made up of boys mostly from Janie Stark Elementary School. The boys meet in small groups (dens) of 5 to 9 boys. Each den has a trained adult leader and assistant.

Pack 837, together with 100 other packs, troops and ventures are in the North Star District. The North District is one of 28 districts of the Circle 10 Council. Circle 10 Council is one of the largest councils in Boy Scouts of America.

Meeting Frequency

Den meetings

Most dens meet weekly, (except when there is a pack meeting). At least two trained adults are required. In Pack 837, each den has a designated den leader.

Pack meetings

Pack meetings are normally held on the third Friday of the month for all the boys in Pack 837. We expect a parent or the whole family to attend the pack meeting. Pack meetings are held at the Royal Haven Baptist Church in Farmers Branch at 6:30 PM.

There are many special events, family campouts, potlucks, good turns, pinewood derby as well as council events like camporees, etc.

Leader meetings

Sometimes also called committee meeting, Leaders of Pack 837 discuss organizational matters, future events and exchange ideas. All parents are welcome. The meetings are held monthly unless additional meetings are required.

Roundtables

Cub Scout Roundtable is held each month. This is the ideal place to learn new ideas and catch up on any announcements for leaders of the whole district. Leaders are encouraged to attend roundtables. Parents are welcome and encouraged.

Roles within the pack

Akela: Akela is the leader of the pack. Every adult is considered an Akela.

Cub Master: (John Tarlton) Responsible for the Pack & Program.

Assistant Cub Master: (Morgan Amos) Assists Cub Master with the program.

Committee Chairman: (Kris Buckner) Person in charge of the Pack committee.

Pack Committee: Responsible for manning projects and voting on Pack business decisions. In Pack 837, if you are an adult leader you are a committee member.

Chartered Organization: Each Cub Scout pack is sponsored by some organization. Our charter organization is the Royal Haven Baptist Church in Farmers Branch.

Chartered Organization Representative: (Brent Webb) Liaison between Royal Haven Baptist Church in Farmers Branch and Pack 837

Commissioner: (Clay Russell) Not a member of the pack, but assigned by the council. A "friend of the Cub Master"

Den Leader: A trained adult in charge of a den.

Den Chief: An older Boy Scout who helps to lead a den.

Denner: One of the cub scouts elected by his den to help the den leader and den chief.

You: Current or future leader or committee member.

Uniforms

Cub scouts buy their own uniform, including council patches and pack numeral. The pack might have some badges (check with the Cub Master). Tiger, Wolf and Bear cubs use the blue Cub Scout uniform. Webelos can choose whether to wear blue Cub Scout uniform or tan Boy Scout uniform shirt. In Pack 837, boys and leaders are expected to dress in Class A uniform. Class A uniforms for Pack 837 consist of the following: long or short sleeve shirt, web belt and buckle, class related (Tiger, Wolf, Bear, Webelos) neckerchief and slide, council patch, Unit Numbers (#837), World Scouting (purple) patch and Den number patch. We don't require official BSA shorts or pants or socks.

Handbooks

Parents provide their sons with the appropriate rank book: Tiger, Bear, Wolf, or Webelos books for the advancing boys at the end of each school year, or as they begin a new Scouting year if not previously given. We recommend that parents read the books for their child's age groups cover to cover.

If your boy has a friend who is interested in Cub Scouts, bring him to any pack or den meeting. Don't wait for the next year's membership night. We are always looking for new scouts!

Parents

We leaders will do our best to provide a quality program. But all the leaders in Pack 837 are volunteers and have many other obligations; we depend on parents to help provide the good program we have. **We ask every parent to help the pack in some capacity. Opportunities to serve include on planning committees for various pack events and assisting your den leaders in ensuring den meetings are successful.** The most important (and most fun) job is den leader. However, there are many other areas where your help in running the pack is appreciated. You should take your share in organizing den meetings, working with the den leader of your son's den. A parent should attend the pack meeting together with the Cub Scout. The journey of scouting includes the child and their parent. You might notice that every handbook for boys has a parent guide at the beginning. We also have a child protection video, which you can watch together with your boy. There are no

secrets in Cub Scouts; parents are always welcome in any organizational meetings of the pack, district or council.

Den Leaders

This job is best described simply as leader of the den. You should make sure that regular den meetings are organized, and be present at the den meeting most of the time. However, you should not do everything yourself. In Pack 837, we think all the parents should assist with den meetings.

We need your leadership help when organizing pack meetings. Sometimes we need flexible people in charge of activities, or, to keep the den together. At each pack meeting, dens participate in flag ceremonies, exhibits, skits, songs, and cheers.

Please keep a record on what award the different Cub Scouts have earned. Turn in awards requests to the Awards / Advancement Chair several days before the pack meeting.

Training is a critical part of leadership in any capacity in scouting. A new leader take online fast start training for your role in the pack and the new leader must attend Youth Protection and Cub Scout Leader Basic Training, a one-day training course organized by the council.

Don't hesitate to ask for help. The Cub Master is very willing to lend an ear or a hand. Ask your fellow den leaders how they handle things and tell others about what works well in your den.

In Pack 837, this makes you a member of the pack committee. You try to participate in all leader meetings and roundtables.

Try to recruit an assistant den leader (or share the job with a co-den leader).

Pack Executive Committee:

Group Email is: pack837fb@gmail.com

Cub Master

John Tarlton

Assistant Cub Master

Morgan Amos

Committee Chairman

Kris Buckner

Treasurer

Andre Green

Den Leaders

Kris Buckner

Robert Goodno

Quinn McCauley

Morgan Amos

Scott Wilson

Antoine DeHon

Web Page: <http://pack837farmersbranch.ScoutLander.com>

Facebook Page: CubScouts Pack 837 - Farmers Branch, TX

Parent guide for den meetings

Remember that Pack 837 has no paid leaders. All leadership duties are shared among the parents, even working parents. We are in this together.

Your son's den leader does his/her best to provide a good program. We believe that den leaders deserve help setting up the meetings. Otherwise, organizing meetings week after week can become hard. We all should take

turns in providing the activities of the meeting. Pack 837 does not rotate den leader positions within the year, but it encourages taking turns organizing the den activities.

Den meetings

Structuring the meeting this way should help you-

1. Gathering period

The boys don't arrive all at the exact same time. We have to provide an activity for the boys who come early since we can't start the main program before a majority arrives.

2. Opening ceremony

The opening and closing ceremonies make the meeting more formal. The boys know when the meeting starts and stops. Your den might do the den yell; you might do a flag ceremony, or, say the Cub Scout promise. Don't forget: the boys do not serve the ceremony, but the ceremony is for the boys.

3. Work on achievements

Use the boy's handbook. Make this fun. But don't fill the whole meeting with processing the book.

4. Games, other fun things to do

Do some activity the children like.

5. Closing ceremony

The meeting "formally" ends. Many dens add a snack time after the closing ceremony-

Take an outing from time to time. Don't forget: activities involving travel need a tour permit.

You or the den leader might plan a time when the children are busy and the parents can do some talking.

Don't hesitate to ask your den leader or the Cub Master for help on what to do. Your den leader might have some scouting literature and good ideas. In particular, consult the "Cub Scout & Webelos Scout Program Helps" booklet, your den leader has a copy.

The youth protection rules require us to provide "two-deep" leadership. The second person doesn't need to be a registered leader but can be a parent or relative of a boy at least 18 years old. But even more important, two adults make organizing any meeting much easier. Exception to requirement for two-deep leadership: while driving it is allowed to have a single adult in the car, if there are at least two children. (Of course there are no restrictions on driving alone with your own child).

PARENT RESPONSIBILITIES: Parents of Cub Scouts are responsible for ensuring their son has the required uniform to wear for scout activities. Parents are also responsible for ensuring the uniform is maintained in good condition and for sewing on new patches as they are awarded. The required uniform consists of:

1. A scout shirt with all the required patches sewn on (shirt must be tucked in).
2. A neckerchief with slide.
3. A belt.
4. A hat (optional)
5. Dark colored jeans or pants, good condition, hemmed shorts or scout pants or scout shorts
6. Socks and close-toed shoes (no sandals).

Parents are further responsible for ensuring their son attends den meetings, pack meetings, and other scout activities.

FINANCIAL PLAN/RESPONSIBILITY: The cost of Scouting is broken down into two categories; unit responsibility and parent responsibility. The Boy Scouts of America is a nonprofit organization; therefore, Pack 837, by charter, is also a nonprofit organization. The Pack functions on a self-supporting budget and expects no financial support from the Charter Organization. The Pack is responsible for providing awards, advancements, manuals, location, and leader training to the pack. The parent is responsible for providing a uniform, registration dues, activity fees, and den related fees for their respective Scout.

FINANCIAL AID:

1. In the event a boy cannot pay his dues, the boy or his parents should make the problem known to the Den Leader or Cub Master. The Committee Chairperson, the responsible Den Leader, and the Treasurer will address the circumstances. If all are in agreement, and the boy's parent(s) is actively involved in a committee position or leadership position, dues will be temporarily waived for the boy.
2. The identity of the boy and family will be kept confidential to all other parties.
3. The boy will be required to participate in fundraisers to help offset the dues that are being waived.
4. Specific time frames will be determined as to when the boy will be able to begin paying dues again.
5. **If at least one parent is not actively involved in Pack 837, as stated in #1 above, and no effort is made by the scout to participate in fundraisers, then all financial aid will cease.** However, if the dues have been waived, the Pack will not pay for any summer camps for the boy.

COMMUNITY FUNDRAISERS: In order to raise money the Pack will conduct fundraisers. The Core Committee is responsible for finances. To that end, the Core Committee is placing the following guidelines, to govern fundraisers and the use of money generated by the fund-raiser, into effect.

Anyone involved with Cub Scout Pack 837 wishing to hold a fund-raiser for the benefit of the Pack or for a Den within the Pack, must first submit a request to the Committee Chairperson. The request must be in writing detailing when and where the fund-raiser will be held, and how the funds will be raised. The request must also explain what the funds will be used for. The Committee Chairperson will submit the request to the Core Committee for approval. A 2/3 vote of the Core Committee is required to approve a fund-raiser. The Circle 10 Council approved popcorn fund-raiser the use of this request form.

See the Pack 837 Website for Calendar of Events and Announcements.