



Cub Scout Pack 958

NEW CUB SCOUT PARENT ORIENTATION GUIDE

Welcome to the fun and adventure of Cub Scouting! Here are some important sites and contacts you need to know.

Sam Houston Area Council – BSA Council #576
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 Mailing Address: P.O. Box 924528, Houston, TX 77292
Sam Houston Area Council www.shac.org
San Jacinto District www.san-jacinto.shac.org

Troy McCracken, Cubmaster: mccrat@yahoo.com
Pack 958 Website www.pack958.org
ScoutTrack www.scouttrack.com
BSA www.scouting.org
Boys' Life Magazine www.boyslife.org
Scout Shop Online www.scoutstuff.org

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

SCOUT LAW

A Scout is Trustworthy, Loyal, Helpful, Friendly,
 Courteous, Kind, Obedient, Cheerful, Thrifty, Brave, Clean,
 and Reverent

CUB SCOUT MOTTO

"Do Your Best!"

WELCOME!!

Welcome to Cub Scouting. You and your scout are beginning on a trail of fun and adventure that will challenge them and allow you to share experiences that you probably would not otherwise have. They may even become an Eagle Scout!

HOW CUB SCOUTING WORKS

Cub Scouting is designed to provide opportunities for families to work and play together, to have fun together and to get to know each other a little better. Parents are an integral part of Cub Scouting!

THE DEN

As a Cub Scout, your scout is a part of a group of boys or girls their own age called a den. In their den, your scout will build confidence and self-esteem and earn recognition. They will also gain a sense of personal achievement from the new skills they learn. Dens are usually between six and eight scouts with one or two parents who are the Den Leaders. Most dens meet once a week at a location and time agreed to by your den leaders. Den meetings have games, crafts, songs, ceremonies and lot of FUN!

THE PACK

The pack is led by a Cubmaster and is made up of several dens. Your child's den joins the other dens in the pack for this large group meeting once per month (usually the second or third Monday of the month at North Pointe Elementary). These meetings are a time for scouts to be recognized for their accomplishments, and to have fun with the entire family. The pack will also hold several special activities each year.

THE PACK COMMITTEE

The Pack Committee runs the pack. The committee is made up of other parents who want to help out the pack. The committee meets once a month to discuss and plan pack activities, fundraising, leader training and advancement.

WHY CUB SCOUTING?

Cub Scouting's strength is that it is a well-rounded program, positively affecting every area of a scout's life. Cub Scouting encourages scouts to achieve a deeper appreciation of others, including peers, parents and other adults. Early in their Scouting experience, scouts learn the value of serving others. Cub Scouting provides scouts with a sense that they are important as individuals. They learn that their Scouting family cares about what happens to them. Cub Scouting promotes activities that lead to personal responsibility and high self-esteem. As a result, when hard decisions have to be made, a scout can look in the mirror and be proud.

HOW DO I JOIN? To join, just contact us at mccrat@yahoo.com or ardisclinton@gmail.com for an application, and check out the New Family Info tab on our pack website (www.pack958.org) for more details and information about upcoming events. You will need to turn in a membership application, medical form, and annual dues (\$85).

WHAT'S EXPECTED OF ME? Cub Scouting is a program that parents and scouts do together. Parents who volunteer spend an average of two to four hours per week involved in Cub Scouting activities. This includes meetings with the scouts and planning time. Your child's pack is run entirely by volunteer leaders; parents just like you. Volunteering helps strengthen the bond between parent and child. Training is provided.

HOW CAN I HELP MY CHILD?

- **Become involved by volunteering within scouts**
- **Live by the Scout Oath and Law**
- **Work with them on their achievements**
- **Help them sell popcorn and coupon books to help them raise money**
- **Value them as an individual**

BEING IN SCOUTS TEACHES

- **Confidence through recognition by adults**
- **Belonging by building relationships with other scouts**
- **Quality family time to strengthen the bond between parent and child**
- **Social skills through interacting with other people**
- **Moral and ethical choices by instilling essential values**
- **Leadership skills through leading other scouts**
- **Citizenship to become responsible community member**

ADVANCEMENT

The responsibility for a child's earning of awards in Cub Scouting lies with the family, not with the pack. Some requirements are done at den meetings, but many are done **with you!** You can sign off on the requirements when you and your child feel that they have done their best. As a result, the awards they earn raises self-esteem and confidence. Each scout will complete 7 adventures and earn belt loops to earn their rank during the school year. These are a combination of achievements completed as a den, pack and at home.

- Lion Cubs (Kindergarten) – Lions is an exciting introduction to the scouting program. This program is intended to open up the world to inquisitive minds along with the caring guidance of adults.
- Bobcat Badge - The first rank earned by Cub Scouts in 1st-5th grade when they join Cub Scouts.
- Tiger Cubs (1st grade) - Tigers *do stuff* - lots of stuff - and all with their adult partners. The foundations of the Boy Scout Trail are laid here and every rank advancement through the scouting program builds on the basic activities done as Tigers.
- Wolf Cubs (2nd grade) - Wolves work on achievements to earn the Wolf Badge. Each adventure is designed to teach simple skills and initiate family discussions on values, citizenship, health, etc. Your Wolf den will have opportunities to participate in den and pack meetings, playing games and performing skits. Wolf scouts will have fun and increase their confidence and responsibilities.
- Bear Cubs (3rd grade) – Bears work on achievements to earn the Bear Badge. Each adventure is designed to teach and further reinforce their scouting skills and principles. Your Bear den will have opportunities to participate in den and pack meetings, playing games and performing skits. Bear scouts will have fun and further increase their self-reliance and responsibilities.
- Webelos Scouts (4th and 5th grade) - As a Webelos Scout, a child works to achieve the Webelos Badge and the Arrow of Light. They stay Webelos Scouts for two years. Webelos are the leaders of the pack and learn to take on more responsibilities through teamwork and leadership, while having fun completing adventures and developing their outdoor skills.
- Arrow of Light - The highest rank and honor in Cub Scouting. After earning the Arrow of Light, Cub Scouts are ready to transition to Boy Scouts.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

There are several highlight activities that your child will be able to take part in each year in Cub Scouting.

- **PINEWOOD DERBY** - The Pinewood Derby has been a Cub Scout tradition for nearly 60 years. Your child starts with a small block of wood and some imagination. They end with a car that they race against the other scouts in their den and pack.
- **SCOUTING FOR FOOD** - Our Scout "good turn." Every Cub pack and Scout troop in Sam Houston Area Council will collect canned good to benefit the food pantries all around our council, including the ICM food pantry in Clear Lake.
- **BLUE & GOLD BANQUET** - To celebrate the anniversary of Scouting, every Cub Scout pack holds a Blue and Gold Banquet. You will have great fun, great food, and entertainment with every family in your pack.
- **CAMPING OPPORTUNITIES FOR CUB SCOUTS AND THEIR FAMILIES** - Scouting is Outing. Cub Scouting's camping and outdoor activities fulfill Lions, Tigers, Wolves, Bears and Webelos Scouts dreams of fun, excitement and adventure. They provide a natural setting for quality time with family and friends. There are many camping opportunities for Cub Scouts and their families. They vary from day camps to overnights to weeklong programs. Our pack will go on 3 family weekend campouts during the school year, usually at one of the local state parks. Activities include day hikes, geocaching, ranger programs, fishing, scout cooking in Dutch ovens, and a pack

campfire program with skits, stories, and s'mores! Parents and family members are encouraged to attend to increase the enjoyment and shared experience.

- **CUB SCOUT FAMILY CAMP (family weekends at Bovay or Strake)** – Some years our pack will gather for a fun-filled weekend for Cub Scouts and the whole family at beautiful Camp Bovay or Camp Strake, both north of Houston. Supervised sessions are included for BB Guns, archery, swimming, canoeing, crafts, games and just plain family fun. A campfire program is followed by a restful night in a tent, and all meals are provided for the weekend. If parents cannot attend, any adult over age 18 with written permission of parent or guardian may come.
- **WEBELOS WOODS CAMP** – This camp is designed specifically for Webelos in October and is hosted by the local Boy Scout troops. Scouts will develop and demonstrate their outdoor skills in fire building, knot tying, first aid and teamwork competitions with other packs in the district. Webelos will have the opportunity to camp with unit leadership, much like they will upon becoming Boy Scouts! Registration for this camp is done by the Webelos den leaders.
- **CUB SCOUT TWILIGHT CAMP** - Twilight Camp is an accredited, fun-filled, five-day summer day camp program for Tiger Cubs, Wolves, Bears and Webelos Scout under certified leadership at an approved site. To participate in the Cub Scout Twilight Camp, a scout must be entering the first grade in the fall of that year, but must not have completed 5th grade. This week-long day camp offers activities such as crafts, sports, games, archery and BB gun marksmanship, and gives our scouts the opportunity to get a head start on achievements for the next year's rank activities.

Annual Dues

\$85/year 1st scout per family

\$60/year each additional scout per family

Your dues pay for your annual scouting membership with the Boy Scouts of America (BSA), insurance while attending scouting events, your annual subscription to Boys Life magazine (which is perfectly targeted to scouts 1st to 5th Grade), and helps to defray some of the costs of operating the pack.

Uniform and Handbook

After turning in your completed applications, your scout will also need the following items:

1. Cub Scout Handbook for your scout's rank (Kindergarten Lion, 1st grade Tiger, 2nd grade Wolf, 3rd grade Bear, or 4th/5th grade Webelos). Obtain from Scout Shop, cost ~\$17
2. Cub Scout Uniform. Obtain from Scout Shop, cost ~\$50
 - Class A scout shirt (blue for Tiger / Wolf / Bear, tan for Webelos) or Lion Shirt
 - Council patch (Sam Houston Area Council), pack number patches (958), den insignia, and world scouting patch
 - Belt
 - Neckerchief and slide will be provided by the pack at September pack meeting (so don't buy these)
 - Cap and official pants are optional
3. Class B Pack T-shirt (obtain from pack committee chair, cost = \$10)

The handbook and uniform can be obtained at the Clear Lake Scout Shop located in the United Way building at 1300 Bay Area Blvd, Suite 107. The staff there will help make sure you have what you need. Sewing services are also provided for patches if needed.

Our Pack's official uniform for Class A includes: Official BSA Uniform shirt, corresponding to level in scouting, with all appropriate insignia attached, tucked into pants or shorts that have belt-loops, scouting belt with attached belt loops earned by the scout, rank appropriate neckerchief with slide, tucked under the collar.

Scout Shop – inside the United Way building on Bay Area Boulevard

Clear Lake Area Scout Shop
(Inside the United Way building)
1300 Bay Area Blvd., Suite #107
Inside the United Way Bldg A
Houston, TX 77058
(281) 282-6067

Hours
Mon.-Wed.: 10 AM - 6 PM
Thurs.: 10 AM - 7 PM
Fri.: 10 AM - 5 PM
Sat.: 10 AM - 3 PM
Closed Sunday

Cub Scout Fundraising

The costs of the scouting year are only partially funded through scout dues. We participate in two main fundraisers each year that directly benefit our pack, and one BSA fundraising event that supports the organization at large. The total District cost to support each Scout is approximately \$150/year, and fundraising helps to cover these costs.

1. Popcorn

Pack sales of popcorn outside of local businesses in the early fall.

2. Scout Fair Coupon Books

Scout Fair occurs in spring, and prior to the event, booklets containing coupons for local businesses will be sold outside local Kroger stores as a secondary fundraiser for our pack.

3. Friends of Scouting

Individual and Corporate contributions to Scouting are appreciated, supports scouting at the council level.

4. Other Fundraising Opportunities

Ideas for fundraising are always welcome.

Fundraising reduces your costs

Participation in fundraising efforts by the pack helps to reduce your costs for scouting directly. Treasurer's reports are available to all scout parents. Here are some examples of the costs that our fundraising has helped to cover in the past:

- Facility usage fees (\$50-100 per meeting/event)
- Awards (\$50/scout/year)
- Equipment (new projector/screen for the pack \$500)
- Equipment Storage (\$100/month)
- Sponsorship and scholarships for scouts in need of assistance (\$150)

Leadership Training for Adult Volunteers

What Makes a Trained Leader? A direct contact Scout leader is considered fully trained and entitled to wear the Trained leader emblem when he or she has completed the following training courses and the specific training for the position.

- **Fast Start Training.** Fast Start training is the first step for all new leaders and should be taken immediately after they register and before they meet with any youth members. New leaders choose the Fast Start they need to take depending on their role. All Fast Start courses can be completed through the www.my.scouting.org training website. (If you are new to Scouting, you will be asked to create an account.)
- **Youth Protection Training.** Youth Protection training is required for all leaders who have direct contact with youth. It is recommended for all adults with children in scouting programs. At all times, youth safety is the number one priority. At the same time, adults need to know the rules for keeping themselves safe, too. Comprehensive Youth Protection training teaches all the do's and don'ts of working with youth. The training is offered online through the www.my.scouting.org training website, or it may be taken as part of a district or council training course.
- **Position Specific Training.** Leader position specific training is based on the leader's position. These courses are taught by informed trainers who know how to engage groups and make learning fun. These courses are offered by the district or council as group training, or may be done as small groups or by personal coaching. Cub Scout Leader Specific training has been developed for the following positions:
 - Cubmasters and assistants
 - Pack Committee
 - Tiger Cub den leaders
 - Wolf and Bear den leaders and assistants
 - Webelos den leaders and assistants
 - Pack Trainer

There are many people who are willing to help your child enjoy the Cub Scout experience. Their den leaders, Cubmaster, other pack leaders, district and council-level Scouters. Plus many people not in Scouting, friends, family members, teachers, firefighters, police officers, etc. All of these people play a role in helping your child enjoy Scouting and learn a great deal about character, citizenship and fitness. **Nobody is more important to your child's Scouting experience than YOU!**

Your child is registered in the San Jacinto District of Sam Houston Area Council of Boy Scouts of America

Your child is part of Pack 958, in Den _____. (Lion / Tiger / Wolf / Bear / Webelos)

Den Leader is _____ Phone _____

Email _____

San Jacinto District, SHAC
Gary Hinnners.
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