



Pack 564

Cub Scout

Parent Handbook

Lilburn, Georgia

District: Sweetwater

Council: Northeast Georgia

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Pack 564 Mission

The purpose the Boy Scouts of America, incorporated on February 8, 1910, and chartered by Congress in 1916, is to provide an educational program for boys and young adults to build character, to train in the responsibilities of participating citizenship, and to develop personal fitness. Cub Scouting was created in 1930 to extend the scouting experience to younger boys. It is a year-round family orientated program for boys who are in elementary school. Our pack has been serving this community for more than 30 years.



Ten Purposes of Cub Scouting

1. To influence the development of character
2. To encourage spiritual growth
3. To help boys develop habits and attitudes of good citizenship
4. To encourage good sportsmanship and pride in growing in mind and body
5. To improve understanding within the family
6. To strengthen the ability of boys to get along with other boys and respect other people
7. To foster a sense of personal achievement in boys by helping them develop new interests and skills
8. To show boys how to be helpful and to do one's best
9. To provide fun and exciting new things for boys to do
10. To prepare boys to become boy scouts

Scouts experience and develop an understanding of the ten purposes through a variety of fun and meaningful activities. Such activities include den meetings, pack meetings, camping, service projects, pinewood derby, and our annual spring trip. We expect parents to take an active role in scouting. Volunteering with your child's den and pack will provide an opportunity

for amazing experiences and a closer relationship with your son. We hope you will take advantage of all these opportunities with your scout!

Cub Scout Promise

I, (name), promise to do my best,
to do my duty to God and my country,
to help other people , and to obey the law of the pack.

Law of the Pack

The Cub Scout follows Akela
The Cub Scout helps the pack go.
The pack helps the Cub Scout grow.
The Cub Scout gives good will.

Cub Scout Motto

Do your best!



What is expected of the Scout and his family?

A successful pack involves many ingredients – a responsive chartered organization, a challenging and rewarding program, dedicated and knowledgeable adult leaders, adequate resources, supportive program, but most importantly, interested and motivated Cub Scouts. You, as parents, have certain expectations of your son's pack that probably include the first four of these ingredients, as well as the opportunity for new experiences, growth of character and the rewards of a team environment. When a family joins the Cub Scouts, they are frequently not aware of the obligations and responsibilities they must accept which are vital to a successful scouting experience. Since parents and scouts may not be familiar with all of these responsibilities, or expectations, they are listed below for your information. While the Scouts are constantly reminded of these responsibilities during pack meetings and other activities, your assistance in assuring that these expectations are understood by your son would be appreciated.

- We ask that all parents and their scouts attend all pack meetings. **YOU MUST SUPERVISE YOUR CHILDREN AT ALL TIMES!**
- To keep current with what's happening in the pack, frequently check our website, www.bsapack564.org. You can also join our closed Facebook group, <https://www.facebook.com/groups/pack564>. We also send a monthly email newsletter to parents who choose to receive it.
- Be on time. It is not fair to those that planned your pack meetings, den meetings, and other events if you are late. In some cases your tardiness may be holding up an entire group
- Show respect to your fellow Scouters
- Wear the designated uniform at meetings and designated activities in a neat well groomed manner. See the Cub Scout Handbook for uniform requirements. Camouflage clothing and fatigues are not appropriate. If special clothing is appropriate for a special activity, then the leaders will let the scout know in advance
- Keep his handbook up-to-date and bring it to all meetings
- Return permission slips and registration fees for pack activities on time
- Treat Mountain Park United Methodist Church, Camp Creek Elementary School, individual's homes, and any other meeting facility with care and respect. Many of these facilities offer their space for free and we need to leave the areas as we found them. **DAMAGE BY OUR SCOUTS IS COMPLETELY UNACCEPTABLE! THIS MEANS NO CLIMBING IN TREES, PLAYING WITH MICROPHONES, PLAYING IN THE RESTROOMS, ETC.**
- Do not bring radios, electronic games, comic books, motorized cars or other items that are hazardous (Knives, firearms, firecrackers, etc) or that cause distractions which are non-scouting related to any pack meeting or activity. **ABSOLUTELY NO GAMEBOY TYPE TOYS AT ANY SCOUTING EVENTS!** Knives are permitted for Bears and Webelos who have

earned their Whittling Chip. They should be only brought to events as requested by den leaders. Tigers and Wolves should NEVER have a knife.

- Do not wander off from the group, whether at a den meeting, activities, or campout. Use the Buddy System at pack meetings or activities and conduct oneself as a best example of the fine scouts in Pack 564, so he can be proud, his parents can be proud and the adult leaders can be proud of him and his conduct
- NO HEELIES at any scouting event
- Parents should encourage and support their son as he embarks on his scouting adventure, for it will truly help him to grow as a person, - physically, mentally and spiritually

Chartered Organization

Pack 564 is sponsored by the United Methodist Men of Mountain Park Methodist Church located at 1405 Rockbridge Road, Stone Mountain, GA 30087. In addition to supporting the pack with qualified adult leadership and meeting space, the church provides storage for equipment, and the United Methodist Men periodically donate funds to help us provide a safe, quality youth development program. We are allowed every opportunity to run a successful program and make use of church resources. The Chartered Organization Representative, our liaison with the sponsoring group, works closely with the church, pack, and men's group to ensure good communication. Working together allows us to provide a quality program for our families. Our current Chartered Organization Representative is Bruce Dixon.

District/Council Area:

Cub Scout Pack 564 is part of the Sweetwater District. This district falls within the Northeast Georgia Council. The district and the council hold many fun events, camping opportunities, training, and meetings. Please check out their websites often (links found at our website) to see what they offer! Roundtables are held the second Thursday of each month (except June & July) for the purpose of giving adult leaders the skills and ideas to deliver an exciting program to our youth membership. Meetings are held at 7:30 pm the First Baptist Church of Snellville, 2400 Main St, Snellville, Georgia. These roundtables also serve to renew each Scouter's enthusiasm and dedication. Roundtables are supplemental training for all Pack leaders. All Adult Leaders who hold any position within their units are invited to attend. Learn about resources, meet other leaders, swap ideas, and get the latest information on district and council events.

The district also operates the Scout Store. It is stocked with all the necessary items for scouts and Scouters, including uniforms. They even have someone who can sew on patches for you! It is located at:

Lawrenceville Scout Store, 203 Swanson Drive, Lawrenceville, GA 30043

Phone: 770.962.2105 Fax: 770.962.8004

Hours: M-Th 9 AM-6 PM, Fri 9 AM-5 PM, Sat 10 AM-2PM

Pack Structure:

Several men and women are needed to run a successful Cub Scout Pack. Our pack leadership includes a Committee Chairperson, Membership Chairperson, Communications Coordinator, Webmaster, Committee Members, Pack Trainer, Spring Trip Coordinator, Popcorn Chairperson, Treasurer, Advancement Chair, Chaplain, Chartered Organization Representative, Cubmaster, Assistant Cubmasters and Den Leaders. The current Cubmaster is Lance Wallace and the current Committee Chairperson is Bart Alcorn. If you are interested in serving in any of these positions, please contact any committee member. For the most up-to-date list of pack leaders, please consult our website at www.bsapack564.org/about-pack-564/leadership/.

Dens:

The Cub Scout Pack is divided into smaller groups, called Dens. This allows the boys to work together on their advancements. The Dens are as follows:

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 Cubs must each have an adult partner at all Cub Scout meetings and events.**





Tiger Cubs are boys in the first grade or 6 years old. They join with an adult partner. All of the adult partners share in the leadership of the Tiger Cub den with the guidance and support of the Tiger Cub den leader. The Tiger Cub program is a simple and fun introduction to the excitement of Cub Scouting as the boys and their adult partners fulfill the Tiger Cub motto of "Search, Discover, Share."



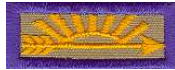
Boys who have completed first grade or are 7 years old work toward the Wolf rank. To earn their Wolf badge, boys must complete twelve achievements involving simple physical and mental skills. The boys meet as a den under the leadership of a Den Leader. While they no longer are required to have adult partners with them all the time, parents are still encouraged to attend den meetings with their boy and assist with the Den.



When a boy has completed the second grade or is 8 years old, he begins working towards his Bear rank. There are 24 Bear achievements in four categories (God, Country, Family, and Self). The Cub Scout must complete twelve of these to earn the Bear badge. These requirements are somewhat more difficult and challenging than those for the Wolf rank.



Webelos Scouts are boys in the fourth grade (9 years old) and fifth grade (10 years old). The Webelos program focuses on more challenging and independent activities and begins the transition to Boy Scouts. Webelos work on 20 activity pins in five groups (Physical Skills, Mental Skills, Community, Technology, and Outdoors). Much of the work on these activity pins take place in the den, rather than at home.



By the time the boy begins the fifth grade, he should be ready to work on his Arrow of Light. This is the highest award in Cub Scouting and the only one that can be worn on the Boy Scout uniform. This award can also be worn on the Adult Scout Uniform. By the middle of fifth grade (sometime between December and February), the Webelos Scout will be ready to cross over into Boy Scouts and join a Boy Scout Troop.



Pack/Den meetings

Pack meetings are normally held on the second Tuesday of each month from 7 to 8 p.m. at Mountain Park United Methodist Church in the Family Life Center. Scouts are asked to bring at least one adult to this meeting as this is where they receive awards and information regarding upcoming events. Younger siblings are welcome to attend. Parents are expected to supervise their children at all times! (Tiger Cubs must have an adult partner at all Cub Scout meetings and events.) If you miss a pack meeting, please be sure to check the newsletter on the website for what you missed. Den meetings are determined by each individual den. Most dens meet in a person's home, some rotating among each scout's home. Dens should be meeting at least two times a month. All pack events will be listed on our website.

Uniforms

Scouts are expected be in uniform at all Cub Scout meetings and events. Our pack expects all boys to be in uniform. The required uniform for Pack 564 is: Cub Scout shirt, neckerchief and slide, belt and socks. (Boy Scout pants are not required.) It is suggested that boys wear their class A uniform (formal shirt) over their class B uniform (red pack t-shirt) at all scout functions. This way they can remove their formal shirt to do more physical activities, but still have their formal uniforms for flag ceremonies, etc. Just as you would not send your son to football with out his uniform, do not send your son to a scouting event out of uniform. Each scout should also have a handbook for their rank. It should be well marked with the Scout's name and brought to every den meeting. It is a basic text of resource and outlines the requirements and serves as a place to record each scout's advancement.

BOY SCOUT/VARSITY SCOUT UNIFORM INSPECTION SHEET
OFFICIAL PLACEMENT OF INSIGNIA

SHOULDER EPAULETS AND LOOPS

RIGHT SLEEVE LEFT SLEEVE

Conduct uniform inspection with common sense; the basic rule is neatness.

Merit Badge Sash. If worn, merit badges are attached to front (and back, if needed) of sash. Venture/Varsity letter is attached at bottom front corner. Temporary insignia may be worn on back.

Shoulder Epaulets. Red shoulder loops identify Boy Scouting (all members of a troop). Blaze (orange) loops identify Varsity Scouting.

Left Sleeve. Council patches, unit numeral, and badge of office are worn as shown snug up, and touching each other. Badge of office is centered below and touches unit numeral. The veteran unit bar (25, 50, 55, 60, 65, 70, 75, or 80 years) is positioned above and touching troop numeral and in turn touching council patch. Den chief cord is worn over the left shoulder and under epaulet.

Left Pocket. Service stars above the pocket. If a medal or embroidered knot for youth members is worn, service stars are raised. Embroidered square knots are worn centered above the pocket in rows of three. Not more than five medals may be worn, pinned centered immediately above the pocket (extending over knots if both are worn). The wearing sequence for knots or medals is at the wearer's discretion and lead color is to the wearer's right. Badges of rank are worn centered on the pocket above the Arrow of Light Award. Flap buttoned. The World Crest is worn centered horizontally over the left pocket and vertically between the left shoulder seam and the top of the pocket.

Right Sleeve. U.S. flag. Only the most recently earned Quality Unit Award may be worn below patrol emblem or below National Honor Patrol star. Musician badge, if in band or drum corps, is worn 1/2 inch below patrol emblem. Up to six merit badges may be worn on the long-sleeve shirt in two columns of three starting 3 inches above the bottom edge of the cuff.

Right Pocket. Jamboree insignia (only one) worn above BSA or interpreter strip. Order of the Arrow lodge insignia worn on pocket flap. Temporary insignia worn centered on the pocket. Flap buttoned. The Varsity or Venture strip is worn above the BSA strip or above the interpreter strip. Nameplate, if worn, is centered above the BSA strip, interpreter strip, and Venture or Varsity strip.

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Awards

Awards are given to scouts monthly at each pack meeting. Due to the size of our pack, a few awards will be given at the pack meeting by the Cubmaster. Other awards are given to your den leader for distribution at the next den meeting. The deadline for turning in awards is normally the week before a pack meeting. Please check with your den leader for clarification on these dates and your den's procedures. Contact the Advancement Chairperson immediately if you have any problems with your scout's awards. Parents should check their scout's handbook every 4-6 weeks to look for achievements they have completed at home, school, church, or extracurricular activities. If you would like to check for belt loop requirements, there is a link to the book on our website.

Academics and Sports Program:

The Cub Scout Academics and Sports Program enriches the basic Cub Scout program. The program allows Cub Scouts to learn new techniques, increase scholarship, and develop sportsmanship while having fun. The emphasis of the program is to introduce a boy to a sport or academic subject, to allow him to participate in it, and to encourage him to do his best. Boys who complete an activity in the program earn a Belt Loop that is worn on the Cub Scout Belt. Pack 564 is an enthusiastic supporter of the Cub Scout Academics and Sports Program. We provide several activities each year to help boys earn Belt Loops.

Dues/Costs:

Dues can be very confusing, especially to our new scouting families. We collect several different dues for specific expenses:

Council Dues: This money pays for your membership in the Boy Scouts of America. They support your Pack with campgrounds, staff, stores, leader training, various scout programs, etc.

Pack Dues: This pays for your membership in Pack 564. It does not nearly cover the expenses the Pack has for each scout. For example: awards at each Pack Meeting, Back to the Pack ice cream & pavilion rental, administrative expenses, storage unit, end of year ice cream party, pinewood derby cars (given out in December), holiday party, leader training materials, pinewood derby, camping trips... Fundraisers, such as popcorn sales and scout blast cards, are used to make-up the difference.

Youth Protection

It is important to know that the CUB SCOUT HANDBOOK contains a tear out section entitled “How to Protect Your Children from Child Abuse and Drug Abuse” This section contains excellent advice on how to prevent disastrous occurrences and is designed for you the parent. Every scout needs to go over this with their parent every year!

The BSA requires a minimum of 2 adults (one of whom is at least 21 years old) for any function, even if there is only one scout at the function. If the required number of adults is not present, parents should not leave their scouts until the adults are present or the activity is cancelled. It is expected that each child will have at least one adult assist with a minimum of one den meeting per month (Tiger Cubs must have an adult partner at all Cub Scout meetings and events.) We expect that most den meetings will have at least ½ of the parents stay at each den meeting. PLEASE assist your den leader in this way. If you have a special needs child or just a child with behavior issues, please attend all meetings with your child or arrange for extra help for your den leaders. It is not fair to expect these volunteers to handle 8-11 children without some extra help. There are numerous opportunities for volunteering. As stated throughout this manual, Scouting is not a spectator sport or babysitting service. WE EXPECT ALL PARENTS TO BE INVOLVED IN SOME MANNER. Within the den, a parent can serve as fundraiser coordinator, awards person, den leader or assistant, den duty coordinator, etc. Most den leaders will expect families to host and plan den meetings on a rotating basis. There are numerous ways to help with the pack.

CUB SCOUTS ARE NOT ALLOWED TO SLEEP OVERNIGHT (IN A TENT OR OTHERWISE) WITH ANY ADULT THAT IS NOT THEIR PARENT. Additionally, some of our day trips may require a parent. In both cases, a scout will not be able to attend the event with a person that is not their parent. We realize that this may exclude some scouts from our overnight events, but it is for their safety and required by BSA.



Religious Emblems

Scouts may earn a religious emblem for their faith through their local church and the Boy Scouts of America. Each faith has a different emblem; for example Catholic scouts may earn Light of Christ and protestant scouts may earn the God and Me emblem. Scouts work with their families and local minister on activities to deepen their understanding of their faith. The emblem is applied for from your church. Emblems are awarded on Scout Sunday, and recipients are recognized at the Blue and Gold Banquet.

Pinewood Derby:

The Pinewood Derby is one of the most popular and memorable events in Cub Scouting. Pack 564 usually holds its Pinewood Derby in January. The boys receive their kits at the December pack meeting and work with their parent to create a car to race. Boys are expected to do as much of the work as possible by themselves with adult guidance. Tiger Cubs may only be able to help sand and paint their car, while Webelos should be able to do almost all of the work themselves. Boys compete by rank in race and show categories. The races are electronically scored by computer and Scouts race in random heats to provide competition and excitement. This event is incredibly fun and gets exponentially better every year.



Blue & Gold Banquet:

The Blue & Gold Banquet is Cub Scouting's birthday party. Held each year in February, the Blue & Gold Banquet is a chance for Pack 464 to come together for an evening of food, family, and fun.



Summer Program:

While there are no Den Meetings or Pack Meetings during the months of June, July, and August; Pack 564 does not shut down. Pack 564 runs an exciting summertime program. Special activities and gatherings are planned, and boys are encouraged to remain active. Past activities have included Day Camp, Twilight Camp, Picnics, Campfires, and Hikes. Boys who participate in at least one activity in each of the summer months earn the Summertime Award.



Fundraising:

While Pack 564 charges an annual registration fee, that fee primarily covers the cost of registering your boy with the Boy Scouts of America, unit insurance, an annual subscription to *Boys' Life*, and leader training. To help pay for camping trips, pack and den supplies, Pinewood Derby kits, and other pack activities, Pack 564 conducts one major annual fundraising event in the fall, and another in the Spring. The fall fundraiser is a Trail's End Gourmet Popcorn selling drive. Prizes are awarded to boys based on how much they sell, and additional prizes go to top sellers and top-selling dens. The spring fundraiser is the Scout Blast Card selling drive. Scouts are also eligible for prizes for selling Scout Blast cards. Finally, Pack 564 is a supporter of the Friends of Scouting campaign. This annual campaign provides funds for the North East Georgia Council. None of your registration fee goes to the North East Georgia Council. Council funds come from two primary sources: popcorn sales by Cub Scout Packs and Boy Scout Troops in the North East Georgia Council and Friends of Scouting. Pack 564 includes a Friends of Scouting drive at the annual Blue & Gold Banquet.

It is essential that each scout participate in the fundraisers of the pack. Your dues do not even cover the cost of awards for your scout! Your support of these fundraisers will keep the dues low.

Last Things

Get to know your pack and den leaders. Your Scout Leaders will probably be involved with your son longer than any teacher or baseball or soccer coach he will ever have. These men and women serve as role models for your son for several years. Camp-outs, outings, and other pack activities give parents the opportunities to watch and experience their son grow and mature. Parents and their scouts are expected to help with their den's duty assignments at the pack meetings and the special events. Please check the website or speak with your den leader about your den's assigned duties.

There is a direct relationship between parents' support of their son in the Scouting program and their son's success in Scouting. Your support and attendance sends a message to every Scout – that you are interested in and care about his activities and accomplishments.

Please feel free to contact any Committee Member if you have any questions or concerns about the program, or have suggestions for improvement. We welcome anyone who would like to get more involved with the pack. Check our website regularly for schedule and event updates. We hope that this handbook has been helpful and that it will be useful throughout your son's and your involvement in Pack 564.