

# **PACK 564**

# **PARENT HANDBOOK**



**2015-2016**

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**Welcome to Pack 564! We're glad your family has chosen to join us.**

**Your son is about to embark on a fun adventure of learning, discovery and growth centered on the ideas of character, citizenship, personal fitness and spiritual growth.**

**He will participate in all kinds of activities, learn new skills and make new friends. He'll also enjoy a program rich in adventure, from camping to hiking to field trips and more.**

**He'll be recognized for his efforts and his achievements, encouraged to treat others with respect and dignity and learn the importance of good citizenship and service to our community.**

**And you'll have the opportunity to spend great times with your son, too, fulfilling the crucial role parents play in Cub Scouts.**

**We're an active, on-the-go pack with activities already under way and a lot for you to learn. So let's get started with your adventure.**

**One more thing: if you have questions, don't hesitate to ask. Just approach any of the registered volunteers in the tan BSA shirts or contact a pack leader through the website at [www.bsapack564.org](http://www.bsapack564.org).**

# Introduction to Cub Scouts

## Overview

Cub Scouting is a year-round, family-oriented part of the Boy Scouts of America program designed for boys in first through fifth grades or 7-10 years of age. As part of Pack 564, your scout will engage in fun, exciting and meaningful activities designed to help him grow as an individual and a citizen. He'll get to visit fire stations, go on hikes, learn how to setup a campsite, serve his community and more. You'll find that Cub Scouting is a positive, inclusive experience. We strive to make activities positive and meaningful to provide an atmosphere in which boys can feel secure and find support.

## History of Cub Scouting

The origins of Cub Scouts go back to nearly the founding of U.S. scouting in 1910. BSA officials discussed creating a program for younger boys as early as 1920, but it was not until 1930 that the program was formally launched, with 5,102 boys registered by the end of that year.

The program was similar to today's in many respects. Dens meet weekly at a member's home, where boys played games and enjoyed crafts and other activities. But there were differences, too. The age range for scouting was 10 to 12. Dens were led exclusively by den mothers, and ranks were different, as well. Where today we have Bobcat, Tiger, Wolf, Bear and Webelos, in 1930 the ranks were Bobcat, Wolf, Bear and Lion.

A strong influence from Rudyard Kipling's "Jungle Book" remains as part of the program. The terms "Law of the Pack," "Akela," "Wolf Cub," "grand howl," "den," and "pack" all come from the Jungle Book. At the same time, many of the symbols and emblems used by Cub Scouts are taken from our American Indian heritage.

The Cub Scout program your son will experience is brand new, having been introduced this spring. While it retains all the fun and adventure of earlier incarnations, the program has been revamped and simplified to make it even better than before.

## Purposes and methods

All activities are conducted with at least one of the 10 purposes of Cub Scouting in mind:

- |                       |                            |
|-----------------------|----------------------------|
| Character development | Spiritual growth           |
| Good citizenship      | Sportsmanship and fitness  |
| Family understanding  | Respectful relationships   |
| Personal achievement  | Friendly service           |
| Fun and adventure     | Preparation for Boy Scouts |

Cub Scouting uses specific methods to achieve these aims:

**The ideals:** The Scout Oath, the Scout Law, and the Cub Scout sign, handshake, motto, and salute all teach good citizenship and contribute to a boy's sense of belonging.

**The den:** Boys like to belong to a group. The den is the place where boys learn new skills and develop interests in new things. They have fun in den meetings, during indoor and outdoor activities, and on field trips. As part of a small group, usually six to eight boys, they are able to learn sportsmanship and good citizenship. They learn how to get along with others. They learn how to do their best, not just for themselves but also for the den.

**Advancement:** Recognition is important to boys. The advancement plan provides fun for the boys, gives them a sense of personal achievement as they earn badges, and strengthens family understanding. Cub Scout leaders and adult family members work with boys on advancement projects.

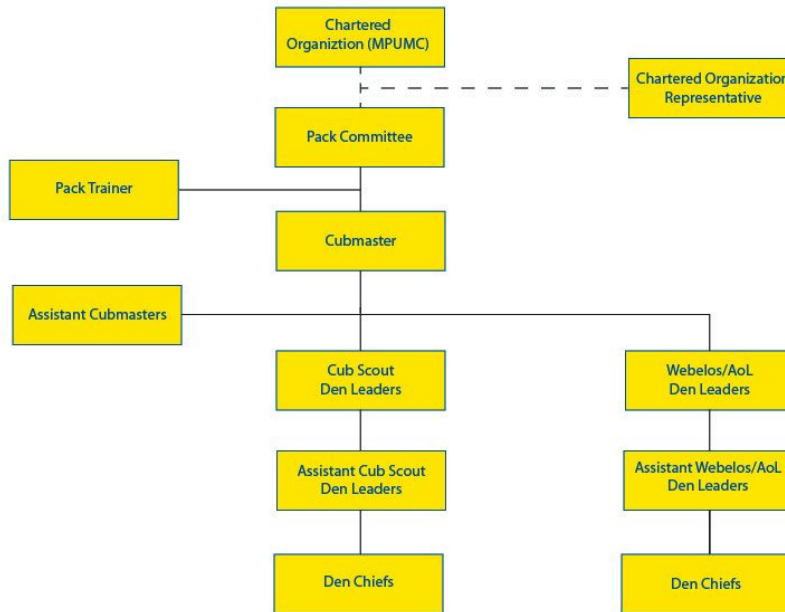
**Family involvement:** Family involvement is an essential part of Cub Scouting. When we speak of parents or families, we are not referring to any particular family structure. Some boys live with two parents, some live with one parent, some have foster parents, and some live with other relatives or guardians. Whomever a boy calls his family is his family in Cub Scouting.

**Activities:** In Cub Scouting, boys participate in a wide variety of den and pack activities, such as games, projects, skits, stunts, songs, outdoor activities, and trips. Also, the Cub Scout Academics and Sports program and Cub Scouting's Fun for the Family include activities that encourage personal achievement and family involvement.

**Home- and neighborhood-centered:** Cub Scouting meetings and activities happen in urban areas, in rural communities, in large cities, in small towns—wherever boys live.

**The uniform:** The Cub Scout uniform helps build pride, loyalty, and self-respect. Wearing the uniform to all den and pack meetings and activities also encourages a neat appearance, a sense of belonging, and good behavior.

# Organization



## Chartered organization

The chartered organization is the group that sponsors the pack. Pack 564's chartered organization is the United Methodist Men of Mountain Park Methodist Church.

## Pack

All the boys, parents and leaders in a Cub Scouting unit are part of a pack, in this case Pack 564. The pack is led by the pack committee, including the cubmaster, who runs the monthly pack meeting.

## Den

A den is a small group of boys, typically 6-8 in number, who are all working on the same rank.. Webelos dens are sometimes called patrols, along with a name chosen by the boys. Dens and patrols are where much of Cub Scouting occurs.

## Council/District

The Boy Scouts of America is divided into nearly 300 councils whose purpose is to promote scouting within a specific geographical area by providing membership, financial, program and unit service support for scouting units. Pack 564 is part of the Northeast Georgia Council. The Sweetwater District, of which Pack 564 is also a part, is subdivision of that council.

# Ranks, Advancement and Awards

## Ranks and advancement

All boys, regardless of what age or grade they join Cub Scouts, first must earn the Bobcat badge by completing basic requirements, including learning the scout salute, sign, handshake and motto.



### Tiger

The Tiger rank is for boys who are in first grade or are age 7. To earn the Tiger badge, a boy must complete six required adventures with his den or family and one elective adventure of his den or family's choosing.



### Wolf

The Wolf rank is for boys who have finished first grade (or who are 8 years old). To earn the Wolf badge, a boy must complete six required adventures and one elective adventure.



### Bear

The Bear rank is for boys who have finished second grade (or who are 9 years old). To earn the Bear badge, a boy must complete six required adventures and one elective adventure.



### Webelos

Webelos dens (sometimes called patrols) are for boys who have completed third grade (or reached age 10). Webelos Scouts get to work on the five required Webelos adventures and choose two of the 18 elective adventures that are shared by the Webelos and Arrow of Light ranks.



### Arrow of Light

The Arrow of Light rank is for boys who have completed the fourth grade. Earning this rank prepares a Webelos Scout to become a Boy Scout.

Scouts must complete four required adventures and three elective adventures to earn this rank.

## Other recognitions and awards

**Cub Scout Outdoor Activity Award:** Cub Scouts have an opportunity to earn the Cub Scout Outdoor Activity Award. Boys may earn the award in each of the program years as long as the requirements are completed each year. The first time the award is earned, the boy will receive the pocket flap award, which is to be worn on the right pocket flap of the uniform shirt.

**Cub Scouting's Outdoor Ethics Awards:** These award may be earned by Cub Scouts and Cub Scouting leaders. They acquaint boys with frontcountry guidelines for being gentle with Mother Nature.

**Cub Scout World Conservation Award:** Cub Scouts who have participated in a den or pack conservation project and have completed requirements based on their rank may earn the World Conservation Award. This award is earned only once while a boy is in Cub Scouting. Tigers cannot earn this award.

**National Den Award:** Cub Scouting happens in the den. The National Den Award creates an incentive for a year-round, fun, quality program in the den. The National Den Award may be earned only once in any 12-month period, as determined by the pack committee.

**Summertime Activity Award:** Boys who take part in one pack activity each in June, July and August are eligible for this recognition.

**Religious Emblem:** A scout may earn the religious emblem offered by his faith. See the BSA website for more details. <http://www.scouting.org/scoutsource/Awards/ReligiousAwards.aspx>.



# **Meetings and Activities**

## **Pack meetings**

The pack typically meets at 7 p.m. on second Tuesday of each month from September to May at the Family Life Center at Mountain Park United Methodist Church. We also hold one event each month during the summer (see "Summer activities, below). Pack meetings are where we celebrate the successes of our scouts and learn about upcoming activities. We often have special activities or guests during pack meetings, as well.

## **Den meetings**

Dens typically meet two or three times a month, with one meeting often being a field trip. When and where dens meet is up to den leaders and parents in the den. Activities at den meetings include active games, crafts, science experiments, outdoor skills and more.

## **Annual activities:**

### **Fall family camping**

Usually held in October, this is a highlight of the year, giving scouts and their families an opportunity to spend time together in the great outdoors.

### **Lad and Dad Cake Bake**

Scouts are encouraged to work with a parent to create a decorated cake in one of five themes: an open division for Tigers, and four themes for all other scouts: transportation, holidays, sports and scouting. Judging for this event is held at our November pack meeting.

### **Holiday Party**

The December pack meeting is dedicated to a celebration of holidays around the world. Each den serves up traditional holiday dishes from a country of their choice while we celebrate the season together.

### **Pinewood Derby**

This highlight of the scouting year as boys working with a parent to create a pinewood racecar and send it down the track. Whether you are new to Pinewood racing or an old pro, you can find tips and official rules at our Pinewood Derby website page, [www.bsapack564.org/pinewood](http://www.bsapack564.org/pinewood).

### **Spring Trip**

This trip is usually scheduled for the end of February so that Arrow of Light scouts who are about to age out of the program can go. Recent trips have included the Great Smoky Mountain Railroad in Bryson, North Carolina, the U.S. Space and Rocket Center in Huntsville, Alabama, and the U.S.S. Yorktown in Mount Pleasant, South Carolina.

### **Summer activities**

The pack typically schedules three events over the summer: the recycled raingutter regatta race in June, an event in July (often a picnic paired with another activity) and the Back to the Pack Pool Party in August for returning scouts.

### **Other activities**

Other activities that may occur during the year include marching in the Lilburn Christmas Parade, service opportunities arranged by the pack or individual dens, and other events. Please consult the calendar and event pages on our website for more details.

### **Pack 564 Hiking Club**

The Pack 564 hiking club meets monthly year-round to explore trails around metro Atlanta and north Georgia, to encourage scouts and their families to spend time outside and to promote physical fitness. It's open to all scouts and their families. After successfully completing one hike, scouts receive a custom Pack 564 Hiking Club patch and a passport to record their hikes. After completing 50 miles, members will receive a customized walking staff. Please consult the hiking program page on our website for more details.

# Uniforms

The uniform is an important part of scouting. It helps promote a sense of belonging and encourages neatness and pride of appearance. Scouts are expected to be in the designated uniform for all scouting activities. Shirts should always be tucked in, and the scout should be neatly groomed. Your son will receive a pack t-shirt as part of his uniform upon payment of any necessary dues.

## Types of uniforms

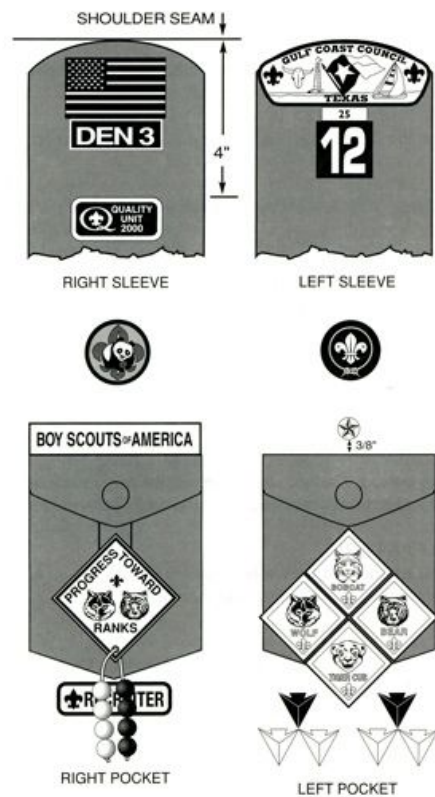
### Class A

Tigers, Wolves and Bears wear the official blue scout shirt, neckerchief for their rank with slide, belt and socks. Webelos scouts may wear the tan shirt, tartan neckerchief and slide, green belt and socks. We encourage scouts to wear their pack t-shirt underneath the uniform.

### Class B

This simply refers to the pack t-shirt. This uniform is often worn for more strenuous, messy or more casual events.

## Patch and award placement



# Expectations for Parents and Scouts

## Parents

- To keep the pack running smoothly, parental involvement is crucial. If you are able to volunteer for a leadership position in your den or the pack, please consider doing so.
- Parents should take an active role in managing the den.
- If your son is a Tiger scout, at least one parent must accompany your scout to all meetings, outings and other events. After the Tiger year, your attendance at most events is not strictly required, but we encourage you to continue to be an active partner in your son's scouting journey.
- Be on time. It's not fair for other families and scouts to have to delay or interrupt activities for late arrivals.
- Encourage pride of appearance in your son. Make sure he has the correct uniform for the activity and is neat and well-groomed.
- Please be sure to supervise your children at all times.
- Show respect to the facilities of Mountain Park United Methodist Church and other venues where we meet. Don't allow them to climb trees, play with equipment or do anything that might cause damage.
- Help your son keep his handbook up to date. Sign off on his achievements and make sure to bring your handbook to all den meetings.
- Monitor your son's progress through scouting and frequently review his handbook to look for electives and other achievements he may have completed on his own, at school, in church or during extracurricular activities.

## Scouts

- Respect other scouts and scout leaders by arriving for meetings and activities on time, ready to listen, learn and have fun.
- Be in the correct uniform, with your shirt tucked in. Be neat and well-groomed.
- When a leader raises the Cub Scout sign, quiet down, raise your hand in the Cub Scout sign and direct your attention to the leader.
- Don't climb trees or mess with equipment or other things that don't belong to you.
- Always clean up after yourself. When outside, follow "Leave No Trace" guidelines. A scout leaves a place better than he found it.
- Do not bring dangerous items (knives, fireworks, lighters etc) to any scouting event. Knives are allowed only at designated events and only for Bear, Webelos and Arrow of Light scouts who have been trained in knife safety and have earned their Whittlin' Chip.
- "Heelies" are not allowed at any scouting event.
- Scouts may not use cell phones, handheld games or other electronic devices during scouting activities.
- Scouts should use the Buddy System at all pack and den events.

# Dues and Costs

## Dues

Popcorn sales cover much of the expense of scouting for a family, but not all. Dues are meant to ensure that all families who benefit from scouting help make the pack go.

### National dues

The Boy Scouts of America membership costs \$24 a year.

### Pack dues

If your scout meets the popcorn sales goal set by the pack, you will have no pack dues for that year. If you choose not to sell, or only partially reach the minimum goal, you'll be responsible for all or a portion of your pack dues.

### Den dues

Some dens have modest dues to pay for materials and other things. Check with your den leader to see if this is something your den does.

## Other costs

### Equipping your scout

To get started, you will need to buy your new scout a uniform, including the official shirt, neckerchief, slide, belt and socks (the official BSA pants are not required by Pack 564). The hat is optional. You'll need to get patches for the pack number and for your son's den number and sew them on or pay someone to do it for you. You will also need to purchase your son a handbook for his rank. You'll need to get a new one each year. These items can be purchased at the Scout Shop, 203 Swanson Drive, Lawrenceville, GA 30043. The telephone number is 770-962-2105.

### Outings and special activities

Some activities may incur additional fees, such as the cost of tickets.

### Overnight trips

Overnight camping trips may incur additional costs, such as campsite fees, hotels, tickets, etc. Some of these costs can be offset with "Cub Bucks," funds your son generates by surpassing fundraising goals.

### Boys Life Magazine

You can subscribe to this magazine at a discounted rate when your son joins scouting. See the membership chair for details.

## Fundraising

The primary way the pack raises funds for our programs is through the annual fall popcorn sale. This crucial fundraising effort helps pay for all the activities you and your son will do this year and the awards and recognitions he will earn. Your son also can generate additional funds from selling popcorn that can be used to offset the cost of some activities, such as fall family camping or the spring trip. You'll hear a lot about this fundraiser as soon as the first pack meeting in September, and you'll join the selling frenzy soon after. You can sell online, door-to-door and at select retail locations set up by the pack. Your scout will receive all the information, materials and support he needs to achieve the pack goal and his individual goal. The pack, the council and our popcorn provider, Trail's End, provide plenty of cool incentives to motivate your scout to reach his goals. For more information, check out the pack's popcorn page at [www.bsapack564.org/popcorn](http://www.bsapack564.org/popcorn).

## Communication

Pack 564 maintains a website, a private Facebook group and a public Facebook page to keep parents and the public informed about our activities. We also send out two different monthly newsletters: one includes the most crucial posts from the website, the other is sent from our pack management software and includes updates on your son's progress. You also will receive a login to this management software so that you can check your son's progress at any time.

In addition, we provide a "to do list" at each pack meeting that includes the activities, sign-ups and other responsibilities you need to focus on in the coming month. If you lose your copy or miss a meeting, these are posted to the website and Facebook group.

We use the Facebook group to provide information about upcoming events and den leaders and parents will often post photos, videos and updates about pack and den activities.

You'll need to request membership in the Facebook group, "Pack 564 Parents" (see below for the link). After requesting membership, please send an email to [news@bsapack564.org](mailto:news@bsapack564.org) with your name, your son's name and den number. This helps identify applicants and ensures only family of Pack 564 scouts gain access to the group.

Website: [www.bsapack564.org](http://www.bsapack564.org).

Newsletter signup: [www.bsapack564.org/newsletter](http://www.bsapack564.org/newsletter)

Private Facebook group: [www.facebook.com/groups/pack564](http://www.facebook.com/groups/pack564)

Public Facebook page: [www.facebook.com/CubScoutPack564Lilburn](http://www.facebook.com/CubScoutPack564Lilburn)

## Calendar

You can add the pack calendar to Google calendar, Outlook and other services. Check Google for instructions. You can subscribe to the pack calendar here:

<http://www.bsapack564.org/calendar/subscribe/>

## Youth Protection

Providing a safe environment for your son is Pack 564's most important responsibility. The pack strictly abides by the extensive Boy Scouts of America youth protection program designed to help scouts, parents and leaders prevent abuse, bullying and other issues. All parents are encouraged to take the BSA's online Youth Protection Training course to familiarize themselves with BSA policies on this important topic. Reviewing the youth protection section in the front of your son's handbook with him each year is part of his requirements for rank advancement.

At least two adults, one of whom is 21 years old, and both of whom have received youth protection training, must be present at all scouting events, even if there is only one scout at the event. Scout leaders are never allowed to have one-on-one or private contact with youth, whether in person, on the telephone, via email or social media. Parents should educate scouts in these policies and encourage them to always use the buddy system when at scouting events. On overnight trips, children may not sleep in the tents or rooms of adults other than their own parents, which means that a parent **MUST** accompany all scouts on all overnight trips.

# Scout Oath, Law, Salute, Sign and Handshake

## Scout Oath (or Promise)

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.”



## Cub Scout Salute

Perform the scout salute by extending the first two fingers on your right arm and bringing them to your temple with your upper arm at a 90 degree angle to the floor. This salute is typically seen during flag ceremonies.



## Cub Scout Sign

The Cub Scout sign is made by extending your right arm straight up above your head and holding up your first two fingers in a “V” shape. This sign symbolizes the ears of a wolf, ready to listen. Leaders will often use this sign to quiet down rambunctious boys. When boys see a leader making this sign, they should immediately settle down, be quiet, and make the sign themselves until the leader drops the sign and resumes the activity.



## Cub Scout Handshake

Extend your right hand. Put the first two fingers or your hand along the inside of your wrist. This signifies that you are brothers in Cub Scouting and obey the scout oath and law.



## **Pack Leadership Roster**

Committee Chair – [Bart Alcorn](#)

Cubmaster – [Matt McKenny](#)

Charter Organization Representative – Bradley Anderson

Assistant Cubmasters – Chris McCall and Dave Perry

Advancement Chair – Julie Alcorn

Communications Chair – [Michael Pearson](#)

Membership Chair – [Mathew Kaswinkel](#)

Popcorn Chair – [Lance Wallace](#)

Spring Trip Chair – [Christine Pearson](#)

Treasurer – Nathan Stephens

## Glossary

**Akela** – A leader. This most often refers to parents in Cub Scouting, but can also mean a scout leader or others. The name comes from Rudyard Kipling's "A Jungle Story." Akela was the name of the wolf leader.

**Blue and Gold** – The annual celebration of the birthday of Boy Scouts, Feb. 8, 1910. The pack typically holds a banquet for Blue and Gold in February or March.

**Chartered Organization** – The organization that sponsors a Cub Scout pack, Boy Scout troop or Venturing crew.

**Class A** – The uniform featuring the official blue or tan shirt, neckerchief, slide, belt and shorts, with pants or shorts of the boy's choice.

**Class B** – The pack t-shirt with shorts or pants of the boy's choice.

**Council** – One of nearly 300 regional organizations that promote scouting in a specific geographic area.

**Cubmaster** – One of the most visible faces of the pack, the Cubmaster leads pack meetings, approves awards and performs many other functions

**Cub Scout handshake** – The special handshake used by Cub Scouts around the country to signify brotherhood and adherence to the Scout Oath and Law.

**Cub Scout Salute** – The scout raises the first two fingers of his right hand to his temple. This is typically used during flag ceremonies.

**Cub Scout Sign** – The upraised right arm with the first two signals extended signals the wolf's readiness to listen to Akela. It's also used during ceremonies.

**Den** – A group of boys similar in age where most Cub Scout activities occur.

**Den Chief** – A Boy Scout specially trained to assist Cub Scout den leaders.

**Den Leader** – A trained, registered adult volunteer responsible for carrying out the Cub Scout program for the boys assigned to his den.

**Denner** – A Cub Scout chosen or elected to serve as a temporary assistant leader in his den.

**District** – A subdivision of the council

**Pack Committee** – Volunteers who oversee the administrative and financial activities of the pack.

**Patrol** – When boys in a den step up to Webelos, they sometimes choose to be called a patrol, similar to how Boy Scouts organize

**Pinewood Derby** – This annual wooden car race is put on by packs all over the country.

**Ranks** – A convenient way of signifying advancement through the Cub Scout program.

**Roundtable** – The monthly gathering of scouting leaders from around the council to learn new ways to deliver the scouting program

**Scouter** – Any unpaid, registered adult volunteer.

## Notes