

Parents Guide

Cub Scout Pack 99



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Boy Scouts of America, Pack 99
Plainfield, IL

This Parent Handbook has been adopted by the Pack Committee of Pack 99, for use by parents and adult leaders of Pack 99. This handbook is reviewed and updated on a yearly basis.

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Welcome To Cub Scouting!

Welcome to Pack 99. We want your son's Scouting experience to be a quality one, so we have created this handbook in order to help your family get the most out of your Scouting experience. Cub Scouting is a year-round family-oriented part of the Boy Scouts of America (BSA) program designed for boys who are in the first through fifth grade (or are between 7 and 10 years of age). Our goals for Pack 99 are:

- To have a full staff of trained leaders
- To plan and execute a great program for our families
- To provide service to our community and chartered organization
- To advance every boy into the next rank
- To graduate all of our 5th grade Webelos into Boy Scouting

And most importantly: TO HAVE TONS OF FUN!

Cub Scout Pack 99

Organization

Cub Scout Pack 99 is made up of boys from the Joliet and Plainfield areas, grades one through five. The organization of the Pack is standard. Boys meet in small groups (dens) of 5 to 10 boys. Each den has an adult leader (called a Den Leader), and consists of boys in the same grade. First graders are Tiger Cubs, second graders are Wolf Cubs, third graders are Bear Cubs, and fourth and fifth graders are Webelos. See Badges of Rank and Advancement for more information about these.

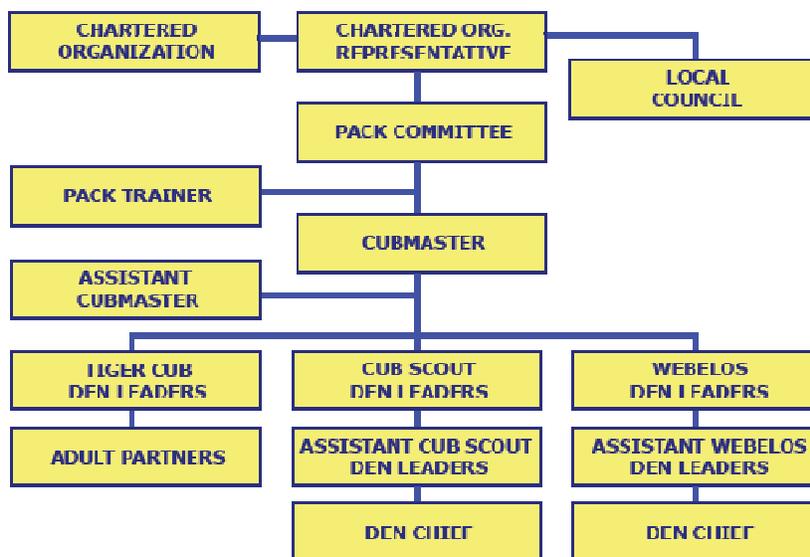
Each Cub Scout Pack is sponsored by a chartering organization. Our charter organization is River View Elementary School located in Plainfield, IL. We very much appreciate their support. Chartering organizations sponsor the Pack to the Boy Scouts of America (BSA) and in return receive a "charter" from the BSA to operate the Pack. Pack 99 is included in the Waapi Lenaswa District of the Rainbow Council of the Boy Scouts of America (BSA). There are over 300 councils in the United States.

Pack Structure

The Pack is run by the Pack Committee, which is headed by the Committee Chairman. In Pack 99, all adult leaders are committee members. The Committee meets every month to plan Pack meetings and other Pack activities. Parents are always welcome at these meetings.

The **Cubmaster** is an adult volunteer who serves as master of ceremonies at all Pack meetings and reports to the Committee. The Cubmaster plays a major organizational role in Pack 99. The boys see the Cubmaster as the authority figure. The Assistant Cubmaster(s) assist the Cubmaster and work to facilitate leader and volunteer training, coordinate Council and District activities.

The Cub Scout Den Leaders and Webelos Den Leaders are the ones who do the majority of the work and who accordingly have the most fun. All adult leaders should attend Youth Protection and Cub Scout Leader Basic Training, a one-day training course organized by the council. Den



Leaders plan and organize den meetings, keep track of the boys' advancements, and attend leaders meetings (Committee meetings). Den Leaders should try to engage the parents in the den meetings to the greatest extent possible, both to make the Den Leader's job easier and to increase the boys' enjoyment. Cub Scouting is a family activity, and den meetings are a great place for family involvement. The Den Leader can go to the Cubmaster or the Den Leader Coach for advice and assistance.

Parents play an important role in the Pack. The leaders will do their best to provide a quality program, but all the leaders in Pack 99 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. You should take your share in organizing den meetings, working with the den leader of your son's den. In addition, you should help with at least one Pack activity a year (e.g. Pinewood Derby or a campout). A parent should attend the Pack meetings together with the Cub Scout. Every handbook for boys has a parent guide at the beginning. There are no secrets in Cub Scouts; parents are welcome in any organizational meetings of the Pack, district or council.

There are other positions outside of this organization which play important parts in the Scouting program. Each Cub Scout Pack has a Unit Commissioner, who meets with the Committee Chairman and the Cubmaster at periodic intervals to review the status of the Pack's programs. At the Council level, there are District Executives and District Directors who provide greatly needed support and direction to local units. Not to mention all the other volunteers on the District Training Staff, District Roundtable Staff, and a host of other Scouting Support organizations.

The Pack leadership makes an effort to communicate with parents in a variety of ways. Whenever there is new information to go out an email is sent to the Pack distribution list. Emails

may list upcoming events, recaps of den activities, and alerts about schedule changes. This information is also available at the Pack's web site, www.cubscoutPack99.us.

Questions or concerns about Pack operations or procedures should be presented to the Pack committee. Please contact the Committee Chair or a Committee Member if you have questions. Your den leader can help you with questions about advancement and awards, uniforms, and your role in your son's Scouting experience. If he or she doesn't know the answer, they know the proper resources to consult to help you.

Pack Leadership Positions

To run effectively, the Pack has the following registered Leaders. The following positions are filled by adult volunteers, and can be either male or female.

Den Leader: The Den Leader will conduct Den meetings and other Den activities with the assistance of the Assistant Den Leader and parents. It is the responsibility of the Den Leader to keep all Den families informed of Den and Pack activities.

Assistant Den Leader: The Assistant Den Leader will help to plan and conduct Den activities. Two adults must be present at all Scout meetings and events including Den and Pack meetings.

Committee Chair: The Committee Chair is responsible for conducting committee meetings, managing the Packs Re-Charter and other Pack business and overseeing the organization of Pack activities. The Committee Chair confers with the Cubmaster on policy issues and maintains Pack records. The Committee Chair also recruits volunteers for Leadership positions

Treasurer: The Treasurer maintains the Pack checking account, deposits monies, writes checks and report on finances of the Pack.

Secretary: The Secretary records minutes at Committee and Leader meetings. The Secretary also provides follow-up reports on meetings and events to be distributed to the Committee members and Den Leaders.

Advancement Chair: The Advancement Chair records the progress of the Cub Scouts, purchases and organizes advancement and achievement awards for distribution at Pack meetings and assists the Cubmaster at Pack meetings when awards are distributed. The Advancement Chair submits a list of awards for the current month for publication in the newsletter.

Cubmaster: The Cubmaster, along with other members of the Committee, helps plan the program year. The Cubmaster plans and officiates at Pack meetings and most of the program events (such as the Blue & Gold Banquet). The Cubmaster plans and conducts advancement ceremonies like the Arrow of Light ceremony and spring Crossover ceremony. It is the Cubmaster's responsibility to recruit parent volunteers.

Assistant Cubmaster: The Assistant Cubmaster works with the Cubmaster to plan and run Pack meetings and functions. When necessary, the Assistant Cubmaster stands in for the Cubmaster.

Den Chief: The Den Chief is a Boy Scout who has achieved the rank of First Class. The Den Chief is a trained Leader who assists a Den Leader during Den meetings. He assists the Cub Scouts with projects and activities. He will also encourage, guide and protect the members of the Den. He shows them, by his example, what it means to be a Boy Scout.

Pack Newsletter Editor: The Pack Newsletter Editor works with the Cubmaster and Pack Committee to prepare a Pack Newsletter on at least a quarterly basis. The editor is responsible for arranging articles and reports in a format that is easy to share with every member of the Pack.

Pack Meetings

Pack meetings are held for all the boys of Pack 99 and their families. Pack meetings are held monthly from September to May. These meetings are an assembly of the Dens at which we recognize achievements, play games, sing songs, do skits and have FUN! Dens will take turns conducting the opening and closing flag ceremonies. Pack meetings are typically held the last Friday night of the scheduled months at Riverview Elementary School in Plainfield. We begin each meeting at 6:30 pm.

During each Pack meeting there will be time for each Den to share with the entire Pack what they have been doing at their Den meetings. We encourage the boys to bring projects they've been working on to the Pack meeting to show what they have done.

Pack 99 expects every Scout to be accompanied to Pack meetings by at least one parent. Of course, the entire family is invited and we encourage everyone to attend. During the Pack meetings, awards that they have earned since the last Pack meeting are presented to the Scout's. If you are unable to attend the Pack meetings, any awards that your Scout was scheduled to receive can be presented at the next Den meeting, or can be held until the next Pack meeting.

Pack and Den Communication

Cub Scouting involves planning, scheduling, execution and management of dozens of den and Pack meetings, field trips, special events like Pinewood Derby and the like. To enable all these activities to happen requires a great deal of communication between Pack and den leaders and the parents of the Pack. For most communications email is our preferred means of communication. (If you do not have timely access to email please let your den leader know so that alternate means of communication can be provided.) For special events where precise attendee RSVP is required, or late notice messages like an event cancellation due to weather, email will be sent out, but in the absence of an acknowledgement the den leaders will attempt to contact you and confirm by phone. All of our events will always be available at the Pack website.

Uniforms: General Information

The Boy Scouts of America has always worn uniforms. While there are many reasons for this, one reason stands out above all the rest. We wear our uniforms to identify ourselves openly with the principles to which we are committed: character development, citizenship training, and

physical and mental fitness. The uniform is not intended to hide our individuality. It assists us in giving each other strength and support. The uniform represents a bond that unifies us in spite of our differences.

There are certain rules about how and where the uniform should be worn. There is a correct place on the uniform for each badge and insignia. The official uniforms are intended primarily for use in connection with scouting activities. Uniforms should be worn to all Den and Pack events. The uniform may also be worn while participating in Pack fund-raising projects if approved by Rainbow Council.

In Pack 99, each Cub Scout is responsible for providing his own uniform (see Appendix A for more details). New Cub Scouts must buy their own rank neckerchief and slide. Each year in May, as the Scout advances to the next rank, the Pack will provide the Scout with their new rank neckerchief and slide. The Pack also provides all the badges and pins that the boys earn and any other special uniform patches earned by the Pack that can be displayed on the uniform shirt or on the red vest.

Pack Finances

Pack 99 is funded primarily by the proceeds from the annual Popcorn Fund-raiser held each fall. All Scouts of Pack 99 are expected to participate in the sale of popcorn. An annual registration fee of \$44 per Scout is assessed to cover annual re-charter fees and a Boy's Life subscription.

It is the goal of Pack 99 to never ask a Scout to pay for any awards that he might earn. So you can see the importance of our yearly popcorn sale.

Pack 99 also has a very strict policy of NEVER turning a boy away because of a lack of ability to pay. If you or someone you know are in this situation, please contact the Cubmaster or Committee Chair to arrange for financial assistance. These matters are kept in the strictest of confidence.

Your Role as a Parent

Cub Scouting encourages closeness to family. The program will give you opportunities to take part in activities with your son that you normally might not do. It provides a positive way for parent and son to grow closer together, and encourages you to spend quality time together. In this way, Cub Scouting is a program for the entire family, and your involvement is vital to the program's success.

Work with your son on projects

Boys often begin projects at den meetings and finish them at home with the help of a parent. Such projects become the catalyst for parents and boys - frequently joined by siblings and friends - to interact with each other in a relaxed way.

Because the purpose of a project is to teach a boy new skills, a project will challenge a boy to do tasks that he hasn't already mastered. It's not uncommon, therefore, for a boy to need help from his family to complete some of his projects. In Cub Scouting, boys are not expected to do

things entirely on their own. So long as a boy does his best to do as much as he's capable of, it's perfectly acceptable for a parent or sibling to help him.

Help your Cub Scout along the advancement trail

The advancement plan is designed for parents to use to create a learning environment in their home. With the Cub Scout handbooks as a resource, parents and boys work together to complete the achievements required for each badge. The advancement plan provides fun for the boys, gives them a sense of personal achievement as they earn badges, and strengthens family understanding as adult family members work with boys on advancement projects.

While Cub Scouts learn skills and begin projects in their den meetings, the parent remains at the center of the advancement program. As each task is done or each skill is demonstrated, the parent signs the Cub Scout's handbook to record its completion. Our Pack uses an on-line tool, ScoutTrack (<http://www.scouttrack.com>), to help the parents communicate with the Pack leadership about requirements and electives completion. It is also important for the Scout to take his handbook to den meetings to allow the Den Leader to see the parent's sign-off on the achievements. And when the boy has completed all of the requirements to earn an award, the completion is acknowledged before the entire Pack at the next Pack meeting.

Participate in monthly Pack meetings

The den meetings are for Cub Scouts and their Adult Leader. The Pack meeting is for the entire family of every Cub Scout. At Pack meetings, parents see their sons in action with their friends, meet other parents, and join with neighbors in caring and sharing. These opportunities are scarce, and Pack meetings highlight how Cub Scouting teaches boys cooperation and collaboration.

The Pack meeting is also a monthly showcase for all that the boys have worked on in their den meetings. Craft projects are on display, skills are demonstrated, and skits are performed to show the boys' command of the monthly theme. While boys at this age seem to be struggling toward independence, having the approval of their parents and other adults whom they admire remains important to them - so your presence at these meetings is critical to underscore the importance of the lessons your son has learned.

Be an active participant in the Pack

Boy Scouts is a scout-led program; Cub Scouts is a parent-led program. As the parent of a Cub Scout, you have a responsibility to be an active member of the Cub Scout Pack. We ask that each parent volunteer to help with at least one event during the scouting year. Attending the monthly Pack Committee Meeting is also an excellent way to help guide the entire Pack and impact your son's scouting experience.

Other things you can do to help your Cub Scout

1. Be sure your boy attends every Den Meeting possible. Remind him to be on his best behavior while he is there. He is a guest at the Den Meeting site.
2. Remember to sign his handbook for the requirements and electives he completes under your guidance, and remind him to bring his handbook to every Den Meeting.

3. Remind him to wear his uniform to Den Meetings and Pack Meetings. Have his uniform clean and have all appropriate patches sewn on in their correct places so he looks great at all scout functions.
4. Be willing to help out with transportation for den meetings, field trips, etc. Help him to provide den snacks when it is his turn.
5. HELP HIM TO ACHIEVE! Read his handbook, familiarize yourself with his rank requirements; many of them are done with the family or at home. Read the parents' supplement at the front of his book. Ask questions of your Pack leaders if you are unclear about anything.
6. Make sure that your Cub Scout is doing his very best. Don't sign off on achievements unless he has really earned each part of it. Don't count things he did as a Wolf cub towards his Bear badge. He needs to do each item during that rank year.
7. Attend Pack Meetings with your son. The entire family is invited to attend every Pack Meeting. Be alert to his behavior during the meeting; the Den Leader is not solely responsible for him or his actions during the Pack meeting. This also holds true with camping experiences. Have fun, and correct and praise as needed.
8. Be willing to assist with costumes, skits, crafts, songs, outings, refreshments, etc.
9. Always remember that Cub Scouting is Family Oriented. It is designed to help parents with their boys. The Den and Pack cannot help your boy grow without your help.

As the Law of the Pack states,

**“... The Cub Scout helps the Pack go.
The Pack helps the Cub Scout grow. ...”**

Cub Scout Program

Tiger Cub Program (1st Grade)

This adventure with him begins with Tiger Cubs - a program of exciting indoor and outdoor activities just right for a boy who is in First Grade and/or is 7 years old. You are there with him as his support and guide, but you don't do things for him. He will learn by doing things himself. And as he learns and grows your relationship with him will grow, too.

- Each boy/adult team is a member of a Tiger Cub den that:
- Has three to eight boy/adult teams.
- Meets at least twice a month in a den meeting.
- Has one outing a month called a “Go See It”.
- Attends the monthly Pack meetings

Each Pack has a Tiger Cub Den Leader:

- This person plans and executes a year-round program of activities for the Tiger Cub den.

- Each month, the Tiger Cub Den Leader works with a different boy/adult partner team to plan the two monthly den meetings, the Go See It, and the den's part in the Pack meeting. This is called "shared leadership".

Wolf and Bear Program (2nd and 3rd Grades)

This is a big adventure for a boy, one the Boy Scouts of America hopes all boys will complete. To earn the Wolf rank a Cub Scout must complete 58 tasks out of a possible 74 tasks that are offered in the Wolf Cub Handbook.

Your boy is a member of a (Wolf, Bear) den that:

- Has four to eight boys
- Meets once a week, regularly scheduled at the leader's convenience
- Is led by a trained scout leader (usually a parent)
- Has at least one assistant den leader and often a den chief (a Boy Scout appointed to the position by his troop) and often a "Denner" (a Cub Scout elected to the position by den members) to assist the den leader.
- Have games, crafts, stunts, songs and ceremonies at meetings and periodic field trips.

Webelos Program (4th and 5th Grades)

The Webelos badge is the fifth rank in Cub Scouting (coming after Tiger Cub, Bobcat, Wolf, and Bear.) You can start on it as soon as you join a Webelos den, and have earned the Bobcat badge. To earn the Webelos badge you must be active in your den for at least 3 months and complete the requirements. You'll be proud to earn the Webelos rank and receive your badge at a Pack meeting.

Your boy is a member of a Webelos (We'll BE LOyal Scouts) den that:

- Have four to eight boys
- Meets once a week, regularly scheduled at the leader's convenience
- Is led by a trained scout leader (usually a parent)
- Has at least one assistant den leader and often a den chief (a Boy Scout appointed to the position by his troop) and often a "Denner" (a Cub Scout elected to the position by den members) to assist the den leader.
- Works to earn the Fitness, Citizen, and at least one other activity badge

Camping

One of the benefits of Scouting is exposing our sons to the Great Outdoors; to put and keep the 'outing' in 'Scouting'. One excellent way to achieve this is Camping. Besides being fun, family camping is an opportunity for quality time together and an enriched family life. This program is a recreational opportunity - it's not on a tight time schedule. Family leadership rests with the adult member(s). This leadership might be yielded from time to time as the family chooses to take part in activities, such as swimming, where specific camp policies must be followed for safety and proper operation.

Pack 99 Campout

Each year Pack 99 hosts its' own family campout.

Cub Scout Day Camp

Cub Scout Day camp is part of the camping program of the BSA. Cub Scout Day Camp will be one of the most memorable experiences for you and your son to share. At Day Camp, Cub Scouts have the opportunity to learn new skills, enhance old ones and work towards rank requirements. But most of all, to have LOTS of FUN!! In keeping with the purpose of Scouting, the camp program has been designed to promote character development, citizenship training, and both mental and physical development. Cub Scouts of any rank may attend Day Camp.

Cub Scout Resident Camp

Cub Scout Resident Camp is a four day, three night experience in Cub Scouting for you and your son. It will teach your Scout about the values of Scouting in an action-Packed, fun-filled environment.

Our camp is conveniently located in Morris, IL. Less than an hour's drive from our area. Resident camp is a great experience even if your son is already planning to attend Day Camp because it offers a unique opportunity to spend time with your son in an outdoor setting. No other Scouting activity offers such an intense opportunity to see Scouting's values on display as modeled by the superb staff made of mainly of area Boy Scouts.

Overnight Experience for Webelos Scouts

To earn Cub Scouting's highest honor, the Arrow of Light, a boy must participate in a Webelos overnight campout or a day hike.

The campouts provide an opportunity to visit with local Boy Scout troops, and experience the Boy Scout program first-hand. Of course, camping and the outdoor experience are a large part of Boy Scouting. Camporees are offered to Webelos I and II. The weekend Camporee organized by the local District or Council as an introduction to scouting at the Boy Scout level. For Camporee, the Webelos must have an adult partner (generally mom or dad) with them at camp and stay in their own tent.

In addition, many Boy Scout troops offer opportunities to join them for the day at the annual Klondike Derby, and experience winter camping/ survival competitions (like "no match" fire starting, snow cave building, and sled racing).

Cub Scout Family Camping

As if the summer camping programs were not enough, families are encouraged to attend Family Camp together as well at Rainbow Council. It's a time for the whole family to get outdoors together, to have a good time and to discover new facets about everyone. Family Camp is purely optional but it is highly encouraged. It's a great time together as a family and as a collection of families that makes up a Cub Scout Pack.

Special Pack Events

Pinewood Derby

The Pinewood Derby is an event that almost every boy loves (and “bigger boys” remember from their own youth). They have the chance to build their very own race car (within specific limitations) with the help of an adult. Our Pack generally holds its Pinewood Derby in January, and the district usually has a district-wide Pinewood Derby in February/March.

Blue and Gold Banquet

During February, Scouting has its anniversary month. Most of the Packs across the country hold a Blue and Gold Banquet as a highlight of the year's program. It brings families and neighbors together for a meal and a time of fun and inspiration. The banquet is usually held in place of the February Pack meeting, and it's an event the boys look forward to with excitement.

Crossover to Boy Scouts

February has become our Pack's customary time to “Cross Over” our second year Webelos scouts into a Boy Scout troop of their choice. Members of the specified Boy Scout troop(s) are present to receive the Scout as he crosses over a wooden bridge, symbolizing the departure from the Pack and recognizing the boys' increasing maturity and accomplishments. Many people find this to be a very moving ceremony.

Appendix A

Where Can I Purchase Scouting Materials?

Scouting materials are available locally at Chalkboard stores, through the Council-operated “Scout Shops” and online through the BSA Catalog (<http://www.scoutstuff.org>).

What to Buy

- Scout Shirt
- Scout Hat (rank specific)
- Neckerchief and Neckerchief Slide (rank specific)
- Belt and Belt Buckle
- Patches: Rainbow Council, Pack Numerals (9,9), Den Number (as assigned) and World Crest
- Red Vest (for event specific patches)
- Scout Handbook (rank specific)

Appendix B

Definitions

Cub Scout	A registered youth member of the Boy Scouts of America between the ages of six and eleven who is in the First, Second, Third, Fourth or Fifth grades.
Boy Scout	A registered youth member of the Boy Scouts of America between the ages of eleven (or ten and having completed the Arrow of Light) and eighteen.
Scouter	A registered adult member of the Boy Scouts of America; one who pays to be in Boy Scouts.
Pack	The designation of a chartered unit in Cub Scouting.
Troop	The designation of a chartered unit in Boy Scouting.
Den	A grouping of Cub Scouts at the same level or rank (usually by grade in school).
Adult Leader	A Scouter who holds a position of authority and responsibility within a Pack; e.g. Committee Chairman; Chartered Organization Representative; Den Leader; Committee Member; Cub Master; Tiger Cub Leader; Webelos Leader; or Assistants to Cub Master, Den Leader, Tiger Cub Leader, or Webelos Leader.
Akela	Cub Scout themes and terms are largely derived from characters in Rudyard Kipling's "The Jungle Book". Akela is the lead wolf in the Pack that adopts Mowgli. So there is a Den Akela (the Den Leader) and a Home Akela (you, the parent or guardian!)
Requirement	A required achievement for a Scout's rank.
Elective	An optional achievement for a Scout's rank.
Council	A geographic boundary of a local scouting area negotiated and approved by the National Boy Scout Council. Our council is the Rainbow Council.
District	A subset of a local council with specific geographic boundaries. Our district is the Waapi Lenaswa District.