



PACK 124 PARENT GUIDE

BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA

CUB SCOUT PACK 124
TINTON FALLS, NEW JERSEY



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INTRODUCTION

Welcome to the Boy Scouts of America! By becoming a parent of a Tiger or Cub Scout, you are setting your son out on the grand adventure of Scouting. This is a tremendously important and rewarding endeavor that you will be able to share with him.

What is it all about? What will you be expected to do? What does it cost? We have prepared this booklet to answer these questions.

The following pages describe the organization of a Pack and the advancement pattern that each boy will follow. Reading this will help you understand how your boy can progress through the ranks with your help. It will help you understand how you can help and what the various adult volunteers are doing to help the Pack.

WHAT IS IT ALL ABOUT?

For over 100 years, Scouting programs have instilled in youth the values found in the Scout Oath and Scout Law. The Boy Scouts of America provides youth with programs and activities to:

- Try new things;
- Provide service to others;
- Build self-confidence; and
- Reinforce ethical standards.

While various activities and groups teach basic skills and promote teamwork, Scouting goes beyond that and encourages youth to achieve a deeper appreciation for service to others in the community.

It is the mission of the Boy Scouts of America to serve others by helping to instill values in young people, and in other ways to prepare them to make ethical choices over their lifetime in achieving their full potential.

The values we strive to instill are based on those found in the Cub Scout Promise and The Law of the Pack.

CUB SCOUT PROMISE

*I (say your 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.

Since 1930, these principles have been taught in an atmosphere of recreation and fun which allows young people to develop self confidence, leadership and moral character. More and more men, trained as Scouts, are taking their places in today's world as responsible adult leaders. Men, who earned badges as Scouts, sit on the Supreme Court and in the chambers of Congress.

Others hold important offices in our government, business and industry. Most of the members of congress were Scouts, as well as most of the astronauts who have walked on the moon.

The long list of famous scouts includes:

- Boy Scout President John F. Kennedy;
- Eagle Scout Neil A. Armstrong, First person to set foot on the Moon;
- Eagle Scout President Gerald Ford;
- Eagle Scout Steven Spielberg;
- Eagle Scout J. Willard Marriott, Jr. President of Marriott Corporation ;
- Eagle Scout William C. Devries, M.D.; Transplanted First Artificial Heart;
- Eagle Scout Sam M. Walton Chairman/CEO, Wal-Mart;
- Eagle Scout Barber B. Conable, Jr. President, World Bank; and
- Maybe your son!

In addition, to these national figures, we have several scouts who are firemen, first – aiders, and policemen here in Tinton Falls, many of whom grew up in Pack 124 and continued with Troop 124 and 49.

The Boy Scouts of America is the largest youth oriented organization in the United States. More than 4 million boys and leaders are currently registered in the Boy Scouts of America.

Cub Scouting is lead by volunteers, along with parental participation of their own child. Each Den is encouraged to work together to earn advancements through the Ranks and eventually to earn the Arrow of Light, the highest achievement a Cub Scout can earn.

Cub Scouting also provides for growth of moral strength and character, teaches citizenship, and enhances the development of physical, mental and emotional fitness. This is all done in the spirit of fun and adventure. Please take a few minutes to read through your son's Cub Scout Handbook.



ORGANIZATION

Pack 124, along with Troop 124 is a participating member of the Twin Lights District of the Monmouth Council, Boy Scouts of America. The Pack's organization consists of a Chartered Organization, a Pack Committee, the Pack, and the Pack's Parents.

Chartered Organization (Sponsor)

Every Pack belongs to an organization. The Chartered Organization for Pack and Troop 124 is the Luther Memorial Church in Tinton Falls, NJ. The Chartered Organization shares our objectives for the boys and insures that there is adequate, trained leadership. A Chartered Organization Representative acts a liaison between us and the Church.

Pack Committee

The Pack Committee Functions as an administration and support organization for the Pack. The Pack Committee takes care of the all program issues surrounding the Pack. For example: Pack funds, fund raising activities, membership drives and Pack coordination, activity permits and coordination, advancement records, procurement and maintenance of Pack equipment.

The Committee meets monthly. The meetings are open and attendance is encouraged by all parents and other interested adults.

Pack 124 Den Meetings

Pack 124 allows the Leader (s) of all individual Dens to set their own time, place of meeting, and frequency. Most Dens meet at least two times a month, some do meet more frequently.

While attendance in the Den Meetings is critical to your son's success in scouting, attendance in other activities at the Den, Pack, and Council level may not be mandatory, but provide a solid and fun filled program for your son.

Adult Leadership

Two registered adult leaders, or one adult leader and a Scout parent, both of who must be at least 21 years of age, are required for all Den and Pack 124 meetings, trips or outings.

Den Chief

In some Dens there are Den Chiefs to assist the Leaders. The Den Chief is a Boy Scout that has volunteered his time to come and help the Leader as well as provide Leadership Skills from a Scout level to the Cub Scout Den.

Pack Parents

The role of parents within Pack 124 is to be supportive of the Pack's efforts and to provide the atmosphere Scouts need to learn and excel. Parents should try to:

1. Read their Scout's handbook and understand the purpose and methods of Scouting.
2. Actively follow their Scout's progress (or lack thereof) and offer encouragement and a push when needed.
3. Show support to both the individual Scout and the Pack by attending all Pack events, together with your son.
4. Volunteer to assist with all Pack fund-raisers and other such activities. All such assistance lowers the cost of the program we offer to the Scouts and, therefore, lowers each family's cash outlay for their Scout(s).
5. Parents of the Pack are REQUIRED to participate / help plan at least one event.
6. Be aware of the Pack program and annual calendar.
7. Visit the Pack website on a regular basis for updated information:
www.tintonfalls.com and look under the Scouting or Community section.

ADVANCEMENT

There are many definitions of advancement, but the Scouting definition might well be, simply, "the art of meeting a challenge." That is exactly what the Cub Scout advancement program asks the boys to do. The Cub Scout advancement program provides a ladder of skills that a Scout climbs, typically with his Den. As he acquires these skills he moves up through a series of ranks, for which he is awarded badges, Bobcat, Tiger Scout, Wolf Scout, Bear Scout, Webelos Scout and eventually earning the Arrow of Light. We don't look at advancement as a goal, but as a natural outcome of a planned, quality Pack and Den program.

In each level of Cub Scouting there is much needed parental involvement. Just as a boy continues his academic education at home, he will continue his Cub Scouting at home as well. There are Requirements that need to be done at home that cannot be done at Cub Scout meetings:

- Any Religious Requirements;
- Family Participation Requirements;
- Emergency Escape Plans; and
- Several others that you will likely encounter.

When your Cub Scout completes those requirements, he should go to his den leader and let the leader know that the requirements have been completed. You'd be amazed as to how many of the requirements a scout accomplishes in his everyday life.

THE BOBCAT TRAIL

When a boy is between the ages of six and eleven years old or has (at least) completed kindergarten, he can become a Cub Scout. But, regardless of a qualifying boy's age, he must complete the Bobcat Trail as the first step in his Cub Scouting adventure.

Scout learns the Cub Scout Promise, the Law of the Pack, and the Cub Scout Motto. These are the three most important things a boy must learn because they will help him through all of the trails of Scouting. During an impressive ceremony, the Bobcat badge is presented to the adult partner at a pack meeting, who in turn presents the badge to the boy.

THE TIGER CUB TRAIL

The Tiger Cub badge is for boys who have completed all 15 parts of the five achievements, that is, five family activities, five den activities, and five Go See It outings.

While your boy is working on advancement, you can help. Besides signing his handbook as Akela once he has done his best, let your den leader know of any completed parts of achievements at your next den meeting. The den leader will keep a record of your boy's individual progress on the Tiger Cub Den Advancement Chart. In addition, your boy, with your help, will keep track of his own advancement on the Tiger Trail chart. This encourages him and helps him see his progress toward the Tiger Cub rank.

The advancement requirements are written in such a way as to give you room to customize activities for your boy and your den. There are no performance requirements for Tiger Cubs. Boys should never be "tested" or placed in a position where they will not be successful. Simply participating in the activities and doing his best constitutes completion.

The den activities and 'Go See It' outings are intended to be completed with the den. If a Tiger Cub is unable to participate in an activity because of illness or a conflict, however, you may work with him to complete these requirements. For your boy to receive the full benefit of the program, it is important for you, his adult partner, to make every effort to attend meetings regularly. At the end of the school year, he will graduate into a Wolf Cub Scout den.

THE WOLF TRAIL

Details regarding the completion of the achievements and **associated electives** can be found in the BSA Wolf Cub Scout Book.

When a boy's parent has approved the tracks the boy has filled in for all twelve achievements in his Wolf handbook, he may become a Wolf Cub Scout. The **Progress towards Ranks** badge is available as an incentive during the Wolf program to encourage a Cub on his achievement work. How quickly a boy progresses is up to him and you. He should do his best to complete each track, that's part of the promise he made to become a Bobcat and it is the Cub Scout

Motto - DO YOUR BEST. Don't approve a track if you both know he can do a better job. Go on to something else, and then come back to the problem track. The important thing is to keep him interested

WELCOME TO THE BEAR TRAIL

Any boy may earn Bear achievements and electives if he is in the third grade, or is nine years old. To earn the Bear badge, a boy must complete 12 of the 24 specified achievements listed below. He can select the ones he wants to do from four different groups: God, Country, Family, and Self. The **Progress towards Ranks** badge is available as an incentive during the Bear program to encourage a Cub on his achievement work. Details regarding the completion of the achievements and **associated electives** can be found in the BSA Bear Cub Scout Book (No. 33107, 1998.)

When a boy finishes an achievement, he will need to have an adult member of his family sign and date his book. He will then take the book to the next den meeting and his den leader will record it on the Cub Scout (Den) Advancement Chart and initial his book. When he has done 12 Bear achievements, he becomes a Bear Cub Scout. A boy may count any extra achievement requirements he earns as arrow point credits.

ARROW POINTS

Arrow Points can be earned during the Wolf and Bear Trail, by completing extra achievements while doing the requirements for the specific level or by doing the electives in the back of the book. Arrow Points cannot be awarded to a scout until they have completed all of their requirements for their level of scouting.

ACADEMIC AND SPORT BELT LOOPS AND PINS

These are all electives that can be earned through the years that a scout is in Cub Scouts. You can go to the internet scouting websites or Den leaders for Loop and Pin requirements. Scouts who participate in the first year of sports can usually earn the belt loop; however, they need to complete the requirements to earn the pin.

WEBELOS TRAIL

The Webelos badge is the fourth rank in Cub Scouting. A Cub can start on it as soon as he joins a Webelos den, and providing he has completed third grade (or is 10 years old.) He can earn the Webelos badge after he has been in the den 3 months. The requirements are below.

One of the differences between Webelos and younger Cub Scouts is that the **Webelos Den Leader** signs off the completed activities of a Webelos Scout.

The Arrow of Light Award is the highest rank in Cub Scouting. A Webelos Scout should set his sights on it early. It's tougher to earn than the Webelos badge, but he can do it! The Cub Scout will have to earn the **Webelos badge** and at least eight **activity badges**, including **Citizen**, **Readyman**, and **Fitness**. The total must include one from each of the five activity groups.

By the time he has earned the Arrow of Light Award, he will have learned many things about a lot of subjects - and a lot about Boy Scouting. He will be ready to join a Boy Scout troop!

Before he gets started on the Arrow of Light Award, he should read through the requirements with a parent, guardian, or den leader. Each time a requirement is satisfied, he should have his **Webelos Den Leader** sign it off in his Webelos Scout Book.

ARROW OF LIGHT AWARD REQUIREMENTS

1. Be active in your Webelos den for at least 6 months since completing the fourth grade (or for at least six months since becoming 10 years old), and earn the **Webelos badge**.
2. Repeat from memory and explain in your own words the **Scout Oath** or **Promise** and the **12 points of the Scout Law**. Tell how you have practiced them in your everyday life.
3. Give and explain the **Scout motto, slogan, sign, salute, and handclasp**.
4. Understand the significance of the **Scout badge**. Know its parts and tell what each stands for.
5. Tell how a **Boy Scout uniform** is different from a Webelos Scout uniform.
6. Tie the joining knot (square knot)
7. Earn five more activity badges in addition to the three you already earned for the Webelos badge. The total of eight activity badges must include:
 - a. Fitness (already earned for the Webelos badge),
 - b. Citizen
 - c. Readyman
 - d. At least one from the Outdoor Group
 - e. At least one from the Mental Skills Group
 - f. At least one from the Technology Group
 - g. Two more of your choice
8. With your Webelos den, visit at least one Boy Scout troop meeting, and one Boy Scout-oriented outdoor activity.
9. Participate in a Webelos overnight campout or day hike.

After the scout has completed all five of the above requirements and after a talk with the Webelos den leader, arrange to visit, with your parent or guardian, a meeting of the Boy Scout troop you think you might like to join. Have a conference with the Scoutmaster. This is one of the most important requirements. You will talk with the Scoutmaster and turn in an application to become a Boy Scout. (Note to parents: Paperwork to join a troop may not actually be processed until boys receive the Arrow of Light Award and are ready to become a member of the troop, but this final step encourages him to continue in Scouting and enjoy the program's benefits)

ADMINISTRATIVE

Rechartering and Fees

The process of rechartering is the annual collection of registration fees for the Scouts and Leaders. The Pack also makes a formal visit to the chartering organization to renew their commitment for the coming year. The process of rechartering the Pack must be completed by the end of December of each calendar year.

Dues and Annual Fees

How much does Cub Scouts cost? Ideally, as little as possible, but there are some fees that have to be covered to present each Scout with a world class opportunity.

The annual fee for each Scout is: \$70 Annual Dues + Outings / Special Events fees.

The Annual Dues Fee is used for the following:

- \$17.00 to Monmouth Council
- \$4.00 To Monmouth Council for Insurance
- \$12.00 for *Boys Life* magazine
- \$30.00 / Pack Activities
- \$10.00 Back to the Den for program expenses
- \$7.00 Pack T-Shirt

New or transferring Scouts pay an additional onetime fee of \$10.00

Fees for Outings / Activities

Individual activities may have fees associated with outings and activities. If so, the scouts and parents will be notified in advance of these fees. Fees are due by the dates on the fliers for Each Individual Outing and all monies always go to the Treasurer, one of the pack milk-boxes, or Den Leader.

Our deadlines need to be strictly enforced as late requests cause additional activity by planning personnel which may conflict and take away from work or personal time. If there is a circumstance effecting the scout's participation in the activity, please contact your Den Leader or Activity Chairman before the event rather than after the deadline.

Camping

The pack typically conducts three camping trips per year. While not a rule, we generally have the following trips:

- Fall Camping – tends to be hosted at a local camping ground in Monmouth, Middlesex, or Ocean County to help parents ease into camping. However, we

have camped at locations such as High Point State Park (it was cold!) and at much closer locations such as Cheesequake and Turkey Swamp.

- Cross-Over Camping – Recognizes the transition of our Webelos II boys moving to Boy Scouts. These are typically held at Quail Hill Scout Reservation in Manalapan, NJ which has great facilities to host our cross-over.
- Spring Camping – Often tends to be far away to satisfy our sense of adventure and may be combined with other activities at or near the camp-site.

Dens are free to camp on their own as they wish and the Council often holds camping events of their own such as Webelos Woods (which gives those that don't want to camp one more opportunity to satisfy the Arrow of Light requirements).

Other Events

The Pack also hosts one overnighter typically at a museum, zoo, or similar location. In the past, we have spent the night at:

- Battleship USS New Jersey;
- Philadelphia Zoo;
- Academy of Natural Sciences;
- Philadelphia Seaport; and
- Liberty Science Center.

Fundraising – Popcorn Sales

The Pack has ONE Fund Raising Event. It is our annual Popcorn Sales. The Popcorn sale normally starts at the beginning of September and runs for approximately 8 weeks. By participating in this Fundraiser, we are able to keep “out of pocket” additional expenses down for each individual family.

Friends of Scouting

Each year, the Council operates its Friends of Scouting (F.O.S.) campaign to raise money for the Council operations. The Council is responsible for maintaining the Council Camps, the Council Scout-O-Rama, the Council Camporees, as well as other Council activities, Local BSA administration and local advertising. Contributions are voluntary, but the Pack has a good record of support for this activity. As years go by, F.O.S. is becoming a critical source of BSA funding. Our Pack participates in this event every year through our Cake Bake contest at the Blue and Gold Dinner. All profits are mailed directly to council specifically for Friends of Scouting.

Hardship

In the event that a parent or scout wishes to participate in scouting or any event and is experiencing fiscal challenges, it is our wish to allow that scout to participate and have an informal Hardship program that enables kids to register for scouting and attend events at a reduced cost. While the program has not yet been formalized, additional discussions with the Cub Master and Pack Leadership are possible.

UNIFORM

The Scout uniform helps to achieve the objectives of Scouting. The uniform by itself cannot make a good Scout or a good Pack, but its use has been proven to improve both the Scout and the Pack because it is a visible symbol of Scouting and unity. Each scout is required to have and wear, within a reasonable amount of time after joining the Pack, the following uniform items:

Field or “**Class A**” Uniform:

Blue (Tiger, Wolf, Bear) or Tan (Webelos only) scout shirt with appropriate insignia and patches (Monmouth Council strip, blue shoulder loops, and Den numbers.) Webelos may continue to wear Blue scout shirt.

- Pack or Level Scout Hat
- Neckerchief
- Scout web belt and buckle
- Blue Jeans

Activity or “**Class B**” Uniform:

- Pack t-shirt or sweatshirt
- Scout pants or shorts/Blue Jeans.
- Pack or Level Scout Hat

Uniforms shall be worn as appropriate. Proper uniform should be worn at ALL Den Meetings and Outings, unless otherwise designated. Uniforms are not required on Camping Trips, with the exception of the annual Crossover Camping Trip when the Scouts Crossing Over should have their uniforms on for the Ceremony.

Uniforms and insignia are worn a certain way. The Pack Leaders and staff at the Scout Shops will be able to answer any questions you might have on where to put each badge. Inside the cover of the Handbook there are guides for badge placement.

For each rank or scout year, a Scout Handbook is required as it contains all of the required and elective tasks the scouts need to complete in order to earn his badge.

SCOUT SHOPS

The Monmouth Council Scout Shop and The Hobby Shop where you can purchase scout uniforms and supplies:

Monmouth Council of Boy Scouts

<http://www.monmouthbsa.org>

705 Ginesi Drive

Morganville, NJ 07751

+1.732.536.2347



General Shop Hours: Monday, Tuesday, Thursday & Friday 9:00am – 6:00pm
Wednesday 9:00am – 8:00pm Saturday 9:00am – 2:00pm.

The Hobby Shop
1077c Highway 34
Aberdeen, NJ 07747
732.583.0505

Shop Hours: Monday, Tuesday and Saturday 10:00am – 6:00pm Wednesday, Thursday & Friday 10:00am – 8:00 pm Saturday 11:00am – 5:00pm

As always, you are encourage to call or check on-line before driving to either store as there may be seasonal hours that have the store open later or earlier than usual.

AND FINALLY

You are joining a great organization that includes tens of thousands of adult leaders, interested parents, and the BSA professional staff. Scouting is much more than enjoying the outdoors. The Pack teaches leadership skills and community skills. Scouting also shows the boys how they can keep themselves strong and healthy and make the most of school.

Above and beyond anything else said in this package, the boys and us "big kids" are in Scouts to have fun!

For more information, contact:

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*The Success of Our Pack Greatly Depends on the Leaders,
Committee, Parents, and Scouts of Pack 124 Working Together.*