



Pack 91 Parents Guide

September 2011

Welcome to Pack 91! We want your son to have an excellent Cub Scouting adventure here at Pack 91, so to help your understanding of the Pack and the Cub Scout program, we have created this guide to help explain things. Cub Scouting is a year round family oriented part of the Boy Scouts of America. Cub Scouts starts in September of first grade and finished in February of fifth grade.

Our primary goal at Pack 91, is to produce a FUN filled program each year, that has the Scout coming back for more. But we also want to teach our Scouts to be model youths as they grow. Therefore, Scouting is "Fun with a Purpose"! The Cub Scouts follows 10 principle purposes.

1. Character Development
2. Spiritual Growth
3. Good Citizenship
4. Sportsmanship and Fitness
5. Family Understanding
6. Respectful Relationships
7. Personal Achievement
8. Friendly Service
9. Fun and Adventure
10. Preparation for Boy Scouts

Pack Organization

Boy youth members join a Cub Scout pack and are assigned to a den, usually a group of six to eight boys. **Tiger Cubs** (first-graders), **Wolf Cub Scouts** (second-graders), **Bear Cub Scouts** (third-graders), and **Webelos Scouts** (fourth- and fifth-graders) meet mostly every other week. Den meetings are lead by a **Den Leader** and an Assistant. Tiger Cubs MUST have their parents attend all functions under general BSA rules. This is also an opportunity for YOU the parents to learn the Cub Scout program too. Then generally, once a month, all of the dens and family members gather for a **Pack Party** under the direction of the **Cubmaster, Asst Cubmaster** and Den Leaders.

The Pack yearly program is created under advisement from the Pack Committee in early August. The Committee is a formulation of **Parent Volunteers**. At Pack 91, our **Pack Committee** positions include:

Committee Chair – Conducts the Committee Meetings, Manages Rechartering, Oversees general wellbeing of the Pack

Den Leaders – Leaders of the Den Meetings, also they have the most direct contact with the Scouts

Treasurer – Manages the Finances in the Pack, both expenses and cash revenues

Advancement Coordinator – Manages purchases and records for the awards earned by the Scouts

Camp Coordinator – Coordinates all camping activities including food requirements-purchases

Cub Master – Master of Ceremony for the Pack Parties , Serves as support for Den Leaders and Council Executives

Assistant Cubmaster – Assistant to the Pack

If parents have any questions or concerns in the Pack, they should approach the Pack Committee. The Pack has a monthly committee meeting to review all past, present, and future business and it's usually the 2nd Monday of the month at 6:30pm

Other Local Scout Leadership Positions:

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 Chair and Cubmaster at periodic intervals to review the status of the Packs Programs. And at the Council level, there are **District Executives** and **District Directors** who provide guidance and support to the local units. Plus there are many volunteers behind the scenes who support training, camps, and round tables, medical and more.

Parents, you too play an important role in the Pack. The leaders will do their best to provide a quality program, but all leaders are just like you, with other home and community obligations. We depend on parents to help in some capacity. We do not charge a fee for not volunteering. However, you should share in helping out in the Den Meetings and at the Camps when possible. 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

Activities of the Pack 91: What we do!

Pack Parties:

Pack parties are an assembly of all dens of Pack 91 and their families. They are generally held monthly from September to May. During this time 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 3rd Monday of the month at Holmen High School. We begin each meeting at 6:30 pm.

Pack 91 expects every Scout to be accompanied to Pack Party by at least one parent, though it's not required for Scouts in second grade. Of course, the entire family is invited and we encourage everyone to attend. During the Pack parties, 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.

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. We camp two times a year plus there are other optional camps at the council level. Our primary campground is called **Camp Decorah**, on Council Bay Road. 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. Leadership rests with the adult member(s). Medical Forms must be generated for the Scout Year mostly for emergency contact purposes, plus they help identify food and medical allergies. Family participants will be yielded from time to time to help in activities. All Tigers must have an accompanying parent.

Other Examples of Special Pack 91 Calendar Events:

Pack 91 Winter Bowling Day with Pizza

In the winter months, we like to get out of the house and do a bowling party. This event is heavily discounted by the Pack. All families are welcome to join for 2 hours of bowling and pizza from a local bowling lane. There is no competition and good sportsmanship always come first.

Pinewood Derby with Pizza Party

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 March, and the district usually has a district-wide Pinewood Derby in April.

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. 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.

May Crossover Picnic

This event is the finally of the scouting year. Before all the boys are released from school, we hold a final picnic to celebrate all the hard work done throughout the Scouts year. All final achievements are given out, a potluck picnic is enjoyed, and then lastly the other ranks are given a crossover ceremony for their next rank. Scouts may start working on the next rank after this date. Then finally, fun and games until the final closing.

Memorial Day Parade

All Scout Units have a business or church sponsor, called a **Charter Organization**. Pack 91's charter organization is the **Holmen American Legion, Post 284** and we have been in partnership since 1954. As a display of patriotism and respect to our Charter Organization and our community, we dress in full Cub Scout uniform and march in the annual Holmen Memorial Day Parade.

Council Related Pack Activities: Costs Change Year to Year – Pack 91 likes to offer discounts!

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.

Family Night with the Loggers

A newer event but has been a huge success with the families. Scouts come in Class A uniform. They help with the Logger Field Flag and then get to enjoy the game. After the game, we bring our camping gear on to the outfield and pitch our tents. Scouts are able to watch a movie presentation while the parents usually chill and then everyone heads to bed. The next morning, the SemiPro Loggers come out to join the scouts and for about two hours, spend some time with baseball drills. Then everyone heads home. Pack 91 has had a great participation at this event in the past. But this is definitely a family fun event that even Mom can enjoy.

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.

The Pack 91 Cub Scout Program

As the Law of the Pack states, "... The Cub Scout helps the Pack go. The Pack helps the Cub Scout grow. ..."

Tiger Cub Program (1st Grade)

The adventure for your scout 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. The boys will explore the concepts of family, community, health & safety, communication, and of course...the great outdoors. They will also learn some of the basics of being a scout like the Cub Scout Salute, the Scout Pledge, and the Law of the Pack. 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. 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.
- Meeting schedules are created to fit the parents and the leader's most convenient times
- Has one outing a month called a "Go See It".
- Attends the monthly pack parties

Each pack has a Tiger Cub Den Leader: This person plans and executes a 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
- Meeting schedules are created to fit the parents and the leader's most convenient times
- 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
- Meeting schedules are created to fit the parents and the leader's most convenient times
- 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

The Guide to a Successful Scouting Experience

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 of scouts 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

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. 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. 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. Be willing to help out with transportation for den meetings, field trips, etc. Help him to provide den snacks when it is his turn. **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. 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. 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. Be willing to assist with costumes, skits, crafts, songs, outings, refreshments, etc. 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.

Miscellaneous Pack Information

Scouting is a Safe Place

It's very hard to imagine leaving your children in the hands of another adult that you may not know. For their protection, all registered leaders of Pack 91 and assistants, must fill out an Adult BSA application AND become trained in Youth Protection using the Online BSA Training Program. The Adult Application undergoes a federal background check. We want our Scouts to have the best quality trained leaders for their safety and your trust. No exception! Any abuse issues must be brought to the Pack's Committee attention for immediate action with the strictest confidentiality.

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, general mail 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 and other scouting resources will always be available at the **Pack91 website: Holmenpack91.org**.

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.

In Pack 91, each Cub Scout is responsible for providing his own uniform. 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. The Pack also provides all the badges and pins that the Scouts earn and any other special uniform patches.

Required pieces for the Cub Scout Uniform: Blue Shirt, Neckerchief, Slide, and Blue Cub Scout Belt, (And a Positive Attitude)

Pack Finances

Pack 91 is funded primarily by the proceeds from the annual Popcorn Fund-raiser held each fall. All Scouts are expected to participate in the sale of popcorn. The Pack also collects an annual charter fee of \$20.00. It is the goal of Pack 91 to never ask a scout to pay for any awards that he might earn. Pack 91 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, or **Campership**. These matters are kept in the strictest of confidence.

Pack 91 Contact Information

Your Cubmaster is: _____ Telephone: _____

Your Den Leader is: _____ Telephone: _____

Pack 91 Website: Holmenpack91.org

.....Welcome to the Pack!!!