

Parent Handbook
Cub Scout Pack 773

Chartered to:

Potomac United Methodist Church
Potomac, MD 20854

Affiliated with:

Potomac District
National Capital Area Council
Boy Scouts of America



Welcome to Cub Scout Pack 773! Here are some guidelines that will help you get off to a good start for the coming year. Please keep this packet as a handy reference regarding Pack policy and uniform information.

To begin with, your son is a member of Pack 773, which is in the Potomac District, belonging to the National Capital Area Council, which encompasses counties in Maryland, Virginia and the District of Columbia. The Pack is made up of Dens, which are groups of boys usually in the same grade. Each Den has a specific Den number. Collectively, we are Cub Scouts and are members of the national organization, the Boy Scouts of America (BSA).

All Packs have a Chartered Organization that acts as a sponsor. Ours is the Potomac United Methodist Church (PUMC), 10300 Falls Road, Potomac, MD 20854.

The Pack is run by the registered BSA Adult Leaders of the Pack who make up the Pack Committee, which usually includes a Committee Chair, Secretary, Treasurer, Event coordinators, Awards coordinators, Den leaders, Assistant Den Leaders, and others. All parents of scouts in Pack 773 are welcomed and encouraged to become Committee Members. The meeting is open to all parents of Scouts in Pack 773.

Den meetings are held *weekly, bi-weekly or monthly* as determined by den leaders.

Our Pack meetings are held on or about the second Friday or second Saturday in September through April at the Potomac United Methodist Church from 7:00pm to 8:00 p.m. Please check our website for updates.

Den Meetings

Please remember that your son's Den Leader is a *volunteer* putting forth his or her time and effort to help your boy earn badges, participate in the fun, and gain positive values that the Cub Scout program offers.

- Please have your son to den meetings on time. Your den leaders have lots of activities planned and it is important to have the whole group together to begin the evening's fun and projects.
- Please pick up your son from den meetings on time. Your den leader has places to go and kids that they have to put to bed, too. Better yet, ask your den leaders if they could use an extra pair of hands that night and stay. Not only will your help be appreciated, but you also can see what your son is working on.
- *Tiger Cubs must have an Adult Partner with them at all meetings, trips and events.*

- Please pay your den dues promptly. Your den leader or other parents may need to collect money to purchase various items for craft projects, supplies, snacks, etc. Also, please make sure your son has his handbook, and anything else he needs for the meeting before leaving the house.
- Be an active parent. *Everybody* has some special abilities and know-how that can be of great help in the Scouting program. Please make sure you have completed the volunteer section located on the bottom of the scout Renewal Form to help the Pack. It's fun to get involved!

Pack Meetings

In addition to weekly or bi-weekly den meetings, where the boys work toward earning rank badges and awards, we get together at monthly Pack meetings to present these awards. It is an **important** part of the program, as it allows the boys to receive their recognition in front of the group as a whole and inspires the younger scouts to strive toward achieving future ranks.

At Pack meetings, the Cub Master will do their best to make sure that each Den has a chance to display that special craft they made, song they learned, skit they've rehearsed, or interesting place they visited. In addition, there might be a drawing, an advancement ceremony, or other themed event.

Please observe the followings guidelines in regard to Pack meetings.

- Please accompany your son to his Pack meeting. Pack meetings are *family* events for brothers, sisters, grandparents, but most of all, **YOU!** We need you at Pack meetings to help keep order (things *can* get a bit rowdy), and because many awards are presented first to a parent, who then presents it to the Scout. Cub Scouts is a family program.
- Please arrive to Pack meetings on time. Plan on arriving at least 10 minutes early to confer with your son's Den leader about upcoming events, chat with friends, etc. If your son is helping out as a member of a flag ceremony, or assisting with other Pack meeting activities, it is imperative to have him there on time. Thank you.
- If your son has a uniform, the Pack meeting is *definitely* the place to wear it.
- Most of all, we hope to make Pack meetings entertaining, enriching, and FUN!!!

Pack 773 and B.S.A. Dues

At the beginning of the Scout year, you can pay online or Den leader [M1] will collect Pack dues, which pay for various Pack-wide functions and activities.

Pack 773 Dues: Please check website for current pricing This fee includes a handbook, neckerchief, cub scout awards, the operation of some pack programs and activities, den

supplies, Boy's Life subscription, Pinewood Derby car & race event and registration with Boy Scouts of America. Only registered scouts can participate in den and pack activities^[M2]

Cub Scouting and You

When your son earns his Bobcat badge he learns the Law of the Pack. One of these laws states "The Cub Scout Helps the Pack Go." Throughout the year there are banquets, Scout shows, parades, derbies, camping trips, and many other activities and functions. Ambitious as they are, a Cub Scout still needs *your* help in implementing the program and thereby giving *us* the chance to keep our promise in the part of the Law that states "The Pack Helps the Cub Scout Grow."

Remember, the Pack is all of us working together...leaders, parents, and Scouts.

Unlike other programs in which your son may enroll, Cub Scouting involves the whole family, no matter what size or parental make-up exists in the home. In Tigers, you are your son's Adult Partner. In Wolves and Bears, you are Akela, the wise leader of the tribe of Webelos, and the final judge of your son's efforts. At the Webelos rank, you are the Activity Badge counselors that can help influence a boy's career direction.

Throughout the year you will be asked to assist on different committees and at different events. Please volunteer freely, and give of yourself when called upon to help. You will find it a rewarding experience, and one that you and your son will remember as having done together. Thank you.

Uniforms, Patches and Accessories

Scouts in uniform are more conscious of their role in Cub Scouting, and feel a sense of pride and belonging. A uniform provides a proper place for the display of badges and a way for him to show that he has been rewarded for his achievements. In addition, Scouts in uniform create a strong, positive, *visible* image in the community. This helps strengthen the important ties between public and Scouting organizations.

Where to Buy

Uniforms, patches and accessories are available at the **National Capital Area Scout Shop**,

9190 Rockville Pike, Bethesda, MD 20814. Phone: (301) 564-1091. They will be happy to assist you.

Shirts & Shorts or Pants

The main article of the uniform is the shirt. It displays Scout rank and identifies him as part of a certain Den, Pack and Council. When purchasing a uniform, remember that your son is growing. If he is a newly signed up Wolf Cub, get an extra size larger, so he can wear it for his Bear year as well. Pack 773 traditionally has Webelos II wear the beige scout shirt, which is also used in Boy Scouts. If your Webelos I has outgrown the blue shirt, it's acceptable to wear the beige shirt prior to achieving the Webelos II rank.

Patches

In addition to purchasing a uniform, there will be many patches that need to be sewn on your son's shirt. The Scout store also sells Badge Magic, which you can use to attach badges without sewing. Please pay close attention to *where* on the uniform certain badges need to be placed. (Please refer to uniform insignia placement in your handbook). It is important, that when your son receives a badge, you affix it to his shirt as soon as possible. He earned it, and he deserves to have it displayed.

Scouting and the Cub Scout Program

Scouting has been around a long time. The Boy Scouts of America was founded in 1910, and became federally chartered with the United States in 1916. Cub Scouts came into being in 1930. Millions of boys have worn the uniform, cooked over an open fire at a campsite, earned their Bobcat, raced their Pinewood Derby cars, worked on service projects, and made new friends under the umbrella of Scouting. Flowing underneath all this fun and excitement is a character-building program that encourages making good ethical choices, family strengthening, physical fitness, and citizenship skills in the lives of our boys.

Scouting utilizes an advancement system that requires a boy to 'do his best' to fulfill the requirements outlined in his handbook so that he may earn his rank badge. After receiving his badge, these Scouts can go on to earn other awards by completing a series of electives. Pack 773 follows a Scout year of September to May. At the end of the school term, the boys cross

over to the next rank.

At the Tiger, Wolf, and Bear ranks, Cub Scouting centers on monthly themes that have lots of appeal to boys at this age. During den meetings, the boys will be playing games, building craft projects, learning songs, etc. relating to this theme. In doing so, these boys will be improving on different skills as they learn to get along with others, become more resourceful, and participate in new activities and venues.

At the Webelos level, the boys are introduced to several diverse Activity Badges and, within the framework of the Webelos den, they work on completing these badges. There are Webelos I's (4th graders) and Webelos II's (5th graders). At the first level, after earning their Webelos badge, Webelos I's continue to earn additional activity badges and gain new knowledge and skills in these areas. The Webelos II's, though maybe still earning Activity Badges, also begin focusing on completing other requirements for their Arrow of Light award and will be conducting activities with various Boy Scout Troops.

Pack 773 will have a family camping trip, Pinewood Derby races, a Blue and Gold dinner, and much more that's just for us in the Pack 773. In addition, there are District events, which unite us with hundreds of Scouts, and Council events that can have thousands of Scouts in attendance.

Thank you for taking the time to go over this handbook with your Cub Scout! With your help, this will be an exciting, rewarding experience for you, your son, your family, and your Pack. We're glad you've joined our Pack! If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to ask.