

Welcome
to the
Adventure of



Cub Scouting!

Cub Scout Pack 297

Peoria, Arizona

Please visit Pack 297's Yahoo Group for current calendars and information and also
our website

www.cubpack297.org

Your Son, Scouting, and You

As a parent, you want your son to grow up to be a person of worth; a self-reliant, dependable, and caring individual. Scouting has these same goals in mind for him. Since 1910 we've been weaving lifetime values into fun and educational activities designed to assist parents in strengthening character, developing good citizenship, and enhancing physical fitness in youth.

With all the negative influences in today's society, Scouting provides your son with a positive peer group and a program that is fun and adventurous and helps him to "be prepared" to shape his own future. The values he learns in scouting help your son make good decisions throughout his lifetime and give him confidence as he becomes an adult leader of tomorrow.

What is Cub Scouting?

Cub Scouting

Since 1930, the Boy Scouts of America has helped younger boys through Cub Scouting. It is a year-round family program designed for boys who are in the first grade through fifth grade (or 6, 7, 8, 9, and 10 years of age). Parents, leaders, *and* organizations work together to achieve the purposes of Cub Scouting. Currently, Cub Scouting is the largest of the BSA's three membership divisions. (The others are Boy Scouting and Venturing.)

The Cub Scout colors *are* blue and gold. Blue signifies the sky, truth, spirituality, and loyalty. Gold stands for warm sunlight, good cheer, and happiness. Together they symbolize what Cub Scouting is all about.



**Cub Scout Motto:
Do Your Best**

Cub Scouting Has the Following 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

THE ADVANCEMENT PLAN

The responsibility for a boy's advancement in Cub Scouting lies with the family and not with the pack. Some advancement requirements are done at den meetings, but many are completed at home either independently or with the family.



Bobcat

All boys, at whatever rank they enter scouting, earn the Bobcat Badge.

Bobcat Badge is earned by learning the Cub Scout Promise; Cub Scout Law of the Pack, Cub Scout Handshake, salute, and sign; Cub Scout Motto and the meaning of "Webelos". After receiving the Bobcat badge, the boy works on requirements based on his grade or age.



Tiger

The Tiger Cub program is for 1st Grade (or age 6) boys and their adult partners. There are 5 Tiger cub achievement areas. The Tiger Cub, working with his adult partner, completes 15 requirements within these areas to earn the Tiger Cub badge. Boys first earn the Tiger Cub Belt Totem by learning the Tiger Cub Motto; The Cub Scout Sign; and the Cub Scout Salute. Other requirements consist of an exciting series of indoor and outdoor activities just right for a boy in the 1st Grade. At this rank Den Leadership is shared among Tiger Families.



Wolf

The Wolf rank is for boys who have completed first grade (or are age 7). To earn the Wolf badge, the scout works on 12 achievements involving simple physical and mental skills.



Bear

A Cub Scout who has completed second grade (or is age 8), completes 12 of 24 achievements to earn the Bear Badge. These requirements are somewhat more difficult and challenging than those for the Wolf rank.



Gold/Silver Arrow Points

After earning his Wolf or Bear badge, a boy may work on "electives" in different interest areas until he is old enough to begin work on the next rank. For every 10 electives he completes he earns an "Arrow Point". A boy may earn as many Arrow Points as he wishes.

THE ADVANCEMENT PLAN CONTINUED



Webelos Scouts

This rank is for boys who have completed the third grade (or are 9 years old). This is the first step in a scout's transition from Cub Scouts to Boy Scouts. As he completes the requirements he will work on activity badges and become familiar with Boy Scout requirements. He will also visit Boy Scout troops and do more camping related activities.



The Arrow of Light Award

This is the highest award in Cub Scouting and the only Cub Scout badge that may be worn on the Boy Scout uniform. Boys earn this award after completing the Webelos badge, usually during their second year of Webelos.

On to Boy Scouting!

When a boy earns the Arrow of Light, reaches eleven years of age, or completes fifth grade he may graduate from Cub Scouting to Boy Scouting at an impressive graduation ceremony. We aim to graduate every Cub Scout into Boy Scouting.



Special Activities

Cub Scout Sports and Academics

The Cub Scout Sports and Academics program allows boys to be recognized for physical fitness, academic and talent-building activities.

Pinewood Derby - Parent and son work together to build a gravity-powered miniature race car from a special kit.

Blue and Gold Banquet - This is a birthday party for your Cub Scout Pack, held in February. Most often it is a seated dinner, but sometimes it is a covered-dish supper. A special program or entertainment is customary.

Day Camp - Day Camp is an exciting summertime activity that includes archery, BB guns, crafts, games, sports, songs, and skits. This 5 day program, conducted under certified leadership, is held on an approved site during daylight hours.

Resident Camp - Resident camping is a theme-oriented outdoor program of 2 or more nights.

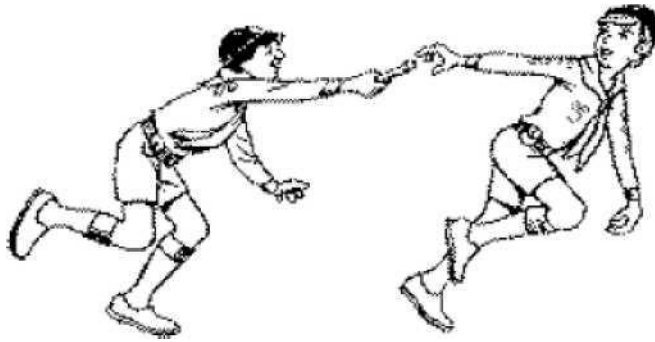
Family Camping - This is an outdoor camping experience, other than resident camping, that involves Cub Scouting, Boy Scouting, or Exploring program elements in overnight settings with two or more family members.

Recreational Family Camping - Scouting families camp as a family unit. It is a non structured camping experience conducted within a Scouting framework.

Program-managed Family

Camping - The local council or unit provides all the elements of the outdoor experience on one or more days with major program areas staffed. Many times this includes food service, housing, and a complete program schedule.

Boys Life Magazine - This magazine for boys and adults has interesting features on Scouting, sports, hobbies, magic, science, and U.S. history. There are also jokes, comics, and short stories.



How Can You Help?

Scouting operates through volunteer leadership. Volunteer unit leaders are an example of Scouting's principle of service to others. Naturally, parents are a primary source of leaders in the Scouting program. You volunteer not only to serve Scouting, but also to serve your son and his friends, and to have the chance to be a positive influence on the youth in your community.

What Do You Receive in Return?

Being a leader is fun, challenging, and rewarding. Leaders find that their experiences help them to become better parents. Following are some of the many dividends that will enrich your life as you dedicate your time, talent, and enthusiasm to Scouting:

- Fun and fellowship with other families.
- The privilege of helping to enrich and strengthen families.
- A chance to help boys learn good citizenship and to help shape them into men who have strength of character and are sensitive to the needs of others.
- The opportunity to help make a difference in the lives of boys as they grow strong in mind and body.
- A code to live by which will set a worthwhile example for both boys and adults.
- The satisfaction of being a member of a worldwide movement, and pride in being publicly identified as a part of this organization.

Cub Scouting Structure

Your Boy Is a Member of a Den

- A. A Den has 4 to 8 boys.
- B. The den meets once a week,
- C. The den is led by a den leader (a parent).
- D. The den leader is usually assisted by an assistant den leader, a den chief (an older Boy Scout), and a denner (a Cub Scout elected by den members).
- E. Den meetings have games, crafts, stunts, songs, ceremonies, and lots of fun.

The Den Is Part of a 'Pack'

- A. A Pack is made up of several Dens.
- B. The Pack meets once a month - all Cub Scout families attend.
- C. The monthly Pack Meeting is led by the Cubmaster.
- D. Pack Meetings have games, skits, stunts, songs, ceremonies, and presentations of badges that the boys earned that month.

The Pack Is Run by a Pack Committee

- A. The Pack Committee is made up of a group of qualified adults (pack leaders and parents) responsible for administering the program of the Pack.
- B. The Committee meets once a month.
- C. The Committee is led by a Committee Chairperson.
- D. The Committee plans pack meetings and activities around the monthly theme.
- E. The Committee selects leaders, performs record keeping, manages Pack finances, orders badges, maintains Pack equipment, helps train leaders, and recognizes leaders.

The Pack Is Owned by a Chartered Organization

- A. Chartered organizations include schools, parent-school associations, religious organizations, service clubs, and other groups interested in youth.
- B. The Chartered organization provides a suitable meeting place and facilities for pack meetings.
- C. The Chartered organization representative serves as a liaison between the Pack and the organization.



The Pack Is Part of a "District"

- A. The District is made up of several packs and troops.
- B. The purpose of the District is to organize and support successful units.
- C. Packs will sometimes be involved in district wide events.

The District is Part of a "Council"

- A. The Council implements the Scouting program within a specific geographic area.
- B. The Council provides service, leadership, management, and overall direction to districts and individual units.
- C. Packs will sometimes be involved in council wide activities and events.

The Council Lies Within a 'Region'

- A. The BSA is divided into four regions, each with a Cub Scout Committee.
- B. These Committees provide information and help to Councils in conducting the Cub Scout Program.

All of this is encompassed by the National Boy Scouts of America

So Where Do We Fit In?

Den

1. Your son will be placed into a den as convenient to your home and schedule as possible.
2. It is possible, especially if your son is a Tiger Cub that your den will need a leader. In Tiger Cubs this leader may be more of a coordinator, since each Tiger Family is expected to help run meetings on a rotating basis.
3. Each scout is expected to actively participate in Den and Pack activities. If he is unable to attend a meeting, parents are expected to notify his Den Leader in a timely manner. The Scout and his parents are responsible for making up any work missed.
4. Each scout is expected to be respectful of others and their property at all times.
5. Each scout will show appropriate respect and courtesy, and follow directions.
6. Most dens charge Den Dues (weekly, monthly, quarterly or annually as determined by the Den) to cover Den activity expenses.



Pack

1. My Den is part of Pack 297.
2. Pack 297 meets one evening per month from 6:30 - 8:00 PM at the Sun City Elk's Lodge. Dates are noted on the Pack Calendar. If you have not received a Pack Calendar, please see your Den Leader, or visit the Yahoo Group.
3. Scouts and Parents are expected to attend Pack Nights.
4. Parents are expected to supervise their children at Pack Night. If a Scout is not cooperating with his Den Leader or other adult, parents are expected to intervene.
5. Scouts, Parents and siblings are expected to show respect to others during Pack Night.
6. Each month several dens will be assigned to perform various activities including set-up, clean up, skits, songs, games, refreshments, etc. Dens are assigned on a rotating basis.



In addition to being the Cub Scout "sign" this gesture means "quiet". When you see it, do it!

Pack 297 in a Nutshell

(important things you should know)

1. Scouts are expected to attend Den Meetings. Parents are responsible for getting them to and from meetings promptly.
2. Every family is expected to volunteer in some capacity during the scout year. This can be as simple as manning a table or as complicated as being the Cubmaster. Everyone here is a volunteer and we need lots of help!
3. Scouts and parents are expected to attend Pack Nights. A great deal of important information is shared there. This is also where your sons will receive their awards and participate in Rank Advancement ceremonies.
4. At least one person from each Den is expected to attend monthly Planning Meetings. Usually this is the Leader, but parents are strongly encouraged to attend also. This is the best place to keep up to date on Pack events and to participate in the planning process.
5. Attendance at Pack outings and activities is not mandatory. However, fees associated with activities are not always refundable.
6. Communication within the Pack is VITAL. If you give us an email address it is important that you check that address at least weekly, preferably every day or so. Do not give us an email address if you do not check it regularly (better yet - give us the email and then get in the habit of checking it). The size of this Pack makes email our most efficient way of communicating, so if we have your email we will definitely be using it. If you DON'T have email, make sure we have accurate phone numbers/cell phone numbers and make sure you let your Den Leader know you will need to be contacted by phone.
7. If your son losing interest in the scouting program please do not leave his Leader hanging as to whether or not he will remain active. The Pack pays each scout's re-registration fees each year and it is wasteful for us to pay for a boy who has dropped but has not informed his leader.
8. If you have questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to ask. Talk to your leader. If that does not work, talk to the Cubmaster or the Committee Chair. If all else fails, come and voice your problems at a Planning Meeting.

