

Cub Scout Pack 323

Heart of America Council (HOAC)

First Presbyterian Church

1625 N.W. O'Brien

Lee's Summit, Missouri 64081

August 2016

Dear Cub Scout Parent,

As we look forward to another exciting year of Scouting we thought it might be helpful to familiarize new parents, and review with existing parents, some of the basic principles of Cub Scouting. We have included information concerning the history, objectives, and structure for our Pack in the handbook, and believe you will find it informative. In addition, we have included a calendar of this year's activities for your convenience. A roster of Den Leaders and Committee positions is included; however several positions remain open at this time.

It is our goal to provide an atmosphere in which our sons can have fun and still learn the important skills of showing respect and responsibility for their position in the family, the Pack, our community and to others. Beyond guidance your son receives at home, church and school, there is perhaps no greater influence on his character and development than Scouting. Cub Scouts provides a sense of personal achievement, builds self confidence, teaches new skills and prepares our sons to meet challenges that they will face as they mature. We are confident that our boys will develop friendships and build camaraderie with their peers that could possibly last a lifetime.

For the Cub Scout program to succeed, it will take the help and involvement of all of the parents of Pack 323. Your input as Scout parents is vital and extremely valued. If you have any ideas that might improve or enhance the program, please let us know. Job positions and responsibilities, for your voluntary sign-ups, are on the following pages. If you cannot fulfill these responsibilities, for any reason, please contact the Cubmaster or the Pack Committee Chair. If you are able to offer additional assistance, please feel free to do so. The Pack Committee is confident that you will do your part to help your son enjoy the Scouting experience.

Thank you for all your help!

Sincerely

Greg Endecott

Cubmaster

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Jennifer Boaz

Pack Committee Chair

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Cub Scout Pack 323

BRIEF HISTORY

The First Presbyterian Church, Third and Jefferson, Lee's Summit, Missouri, originally chartered Cub Scout Pack 323 in October 1957. The Pack moved with the Church to its present location in 1971. Currently the Pack has approximately 65 Cub Scouts.

GENERAL INFORMATION

The Cub Scout program at First Presbyterian Church lasts five years, from first through fifth grades. Even though the program is offered for five years, a boy can join the program at any time. He will begin at his age or grade level. The first badge (rank) earned by any boy is Bobcat. The Bobcat badge is required to be completed regardless what age a boy enters Scouting.

Tiger Cub (First grade or age 7):

Tigers meet weekly with their adult partners present (parent, grandparent, etc.) Monthly they will also attend a Pack Meeting monthly. Initially the Tiger Den(s) will be led by the Cubmaster or another volunteer, but these meetings will be transitioned to the adult partners with guidance from the Cubmaster.

Wolf (Second grade or age 8):

The year is spent earning the Wolf Badge and electives.

Bear (Third grade or age 9):

The year is spent earning the Bear Badge and electives.

WEBELOS (Fourth and fifth grade, ages 10 and 11):

The fourth and fifth years are spent earning various Activity Badges, the WEBELOS Badge, and the Arrow of Light award. During February of the fifth year Cub Scouts will graduate (or "bridge over") to a Boy Scout Troop to continue their trail to Eagle Scout.

DEN MEETINGS

Scouts will meet weekly in their Dens. Dens meet at the Church from 7:00-8:00 p.m., but may schedule some activities at offsite locations as needed to complete various advancement requirements.

It is our goal for Dens to consist of between 6 and 12 boys. Den size is directly related to the willingness of adult partners to assist and/or lead a Den. Cubs may attend Den meetings by themselves, and parents are encouraged to attend (Scouting is a family activity). **For safety reasons parents are required to accompany their son into the Church and then come back in to pick up their son at the end of the meeting.**

PACK MEETINGS

The Pack meetings are generally the third Monday of the month. Pack meetings start promptly at 7:00 p.m. and usually run one hour. Pack meetings are a time for the Cub Scout to have fun, show his parents what he has accomplished at Den meetings, get some experience performing and presenting before a group, and for the Cub's parents to be present when he receives his awards.

Your Cub Scout should attend Pack Meetings and wear his uniform. Scouting is a family activity and we encourage both parents to attend. Siblings are welcome, but please don't let them be a distraction to others during the program.

NO SCHOOL – NO SCOUTS

Our Pack generally adheres to a "No School – No scouts" policy. In the event there is no school (e.g. holidays or inclement weather) then we will not meet, though on a den-by-den basis arrangements may be made to meet.

CUB SCOUTING AND FAMILIES

Cub Scouting provides opportunities for families to work and play together, to have fun together and to get to know each other a little bit better. When family members work with their Scout and take an active role in Cub Scouting, family relationships are strengthened. Family members contribute in many ways, such as building a Pinewood Derby car together or helping when called upon. As a boy works on achievements in his book, and as he attends his Den and Pack meetings, we (parents and leaders) help him attain the goals of Boy Scouting in character development, leadership, a sense of accomplishment and a stronger family bond.

Cub Scouts learn to take responsibility for their appearance, their conduct, and their achievements. They learn new skills and have new experience. They learn teamwork and how to help each other. All of these extend into the family and help it grow stronger. Community spirit and leadership also develop from Cub Scouting family efforts.

When you register your son in Cub Scouts, you are also agreeing to the "Parent Agreement" on the inside of the registration form, which states in part:

- I will assist him in observing the policies of Boys Scouts of America and of his pack's chartered organization.
- While he is a Tiger Cub, serve as his adult partner and participate in all meetings and activities and approve his advancement.
- While he is a Cub Scout, help him grow as a Cub Scout and approve his Cub Scout advancement.
- While he is a Tiger Cub, Cub Scout, or Webelos Scout, attend monthly pack meetings and take part in other activities; assist pack leaders as needed.

FAMILY RESPONSIBILITIES – 100% Family Participation

Cub Scouting gives families an opportunity to spend quality time together. It is the leader's role to provide interest, skill, and time in developing a quality program. The family provides help and support for the Den and Pack. Pack 323 prides itself in encouraging 100% Family Participation. It's our goal that at least one parent of each Cub participate, not only in their son's Scouting activities, but also in at least one of the many programs and events that make up the Scouting calendar each year. Families can help in many different ways. Contact your son's Den Leader, Cubmaster or the Pack Committee Chair for ways in which you can participate. Family responsibilities include:

- Work with your Cub Scout on achievements and electives
- Attend monthly Pack meetings with your Cub Scout
- Help at Den and Pack meetings when asked
- Occasionally provide refreshments for Den and/or Pack meetings
- Provide transportation when needed
- Provide the Scout uniform
- Pay appropriate dues when scheduled
- Parents are required to come inside to drop off and pick up their boy, and get the latest news from leaders

RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE SCOUT

- Attend weekly Den meetings
- Be punctual to all meetings and events
- Work towards advancement
- Always behave in a manner appropriate for a Cub Scout

RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE PACK

- Provide all Pack level awards and badges
- Provide a well planned year round program of activities
- Provide enthusiastic, trained leaders (parent volunteers)
- Provide leadership material for Den leaders
- Provide opportunities for rank advancement and achievements
- Provide training for parents and keep them informed
- Provide activities which help strengthen the family and give them opportunities to work and play together
- Provide FUN for all boys

UNIFORM REQUIREMENTS

We are a uniformed organization. Uniforms are to be worn at all Scout meetings and events to reinforce the spirit of belonging to a special group and to proudly display individual achievements. Each Cub Scout has his own uniform which consists of the following:

- Official Cub Scout shirt (Class A), with current patches and insignia sewn in the correct locations. Refer to the Cub Scout handbook for directions.
- Cub Scout web belt. (Belt loops can only be worn on the Cub Scout belt).
- Neckerchief (Pack provides) and slide (optional). Tigers wear orange, Wolves wear gold (yellow), Bears wear blue, and WEBELOS wear plaid.
- Cub Scout pants or shorts are optional. Long blue jeans or shorts with a finished hem are acceptable.
- Cub Scout Cap is optional
- Brag vests are optional. Only patches and insignia earned at Scout events. Vests should only be worn at Pack meetings.

Acceptable summertime uniforms (Class B) consist of either an official uniform shirt, Pack 323 shirt, or other official BSA shirt.

ACHIEVEMENTS AND AWARDS

Awards must be turned in to the Den Leader at least 2 weeks before the Pack Meeting. Den Leaders then notify the Award Chairman of all awards a boy has earned. The Award Chairman purchases awards at the Scout Shop, records all awards for BSA, the Pack, and the Cubmaster.

RELIGIOUS AWARDS

Religious Awards. A fundamental belief in Scouting is the Scout's Duty to God. The Pack encourages each Scout and his family to work toward his respective religious award. Our sponsor acknowledges Scout Sunday, generally the first Sunday in February, each year with the Pack's attendance and participation in the Worship Service. Any religious awards earned can be presented during the service.

PACK 323 POSITIONS (All Volunteers)

Cubmaster / Asst. Cubmaster

- Recruit and work directly with Den Leaders and Committees to provide the Cub Scout program at First Presbyterian Church
- Supervise all levels of Pack leadership
- Preside over monthly Pack meeting
- Attend District Roundtable meetings
- Help establish and maintain good relationships with area Boy Scout Troops.

Pack Committee Chair

- Works closely with the Cubmaster, Den Leaders, and Committee members to develop and support year-round Pack programs
- Responsible for administration of the Pack, including recruitment and organization of Pack Committees.
- Responsible for all necessary "paperwork" including new membership enrollment, adult leadership enrollment, Boys Life subscriptions, and charter renewal.

Treasurer

- Responsible for all receipts and disbursements of Pack money
- Provide financial information to the Pack Committee on a monthly basis
- Help the Pack Committee establish an annual budget
- Maintain records of "Camp Accounts"

Advancement Chair

- Record advancement of each Scout as provided by Den Leaders
- Purchase awards and have them available at Pack meetings
- Record adult leader awards and present them at appropriate times

Den Leaders, WEBELOS Leaders, and Assistants

- Provide stimulating and fun Den meetings
- Complete all BSA required training
- Set an example for the Scouts by behavior, attitude, and proper uniform
- Attend monthly Pack Committee meetings
- Lead Den in support of monthly Pack meetings
- Official BSA Uniform is required
- Maintain the concept of “Two Deep Leadership”

Pack Committee

- Parents are encouraged to attend monthly Pack Committee meetings
- Determine meeting and event calendar
- Review budget/financial information

SUB-COMMITTEES

- Fund Raising Committee – Organize/coordinate annual fund raising activities (e.g. popcorn sales)
- Family Campout Committee – Organize/coordinate the fall & spring family campouts
- Christmas Pack Meeting / Party – Organize/coordinate the annual party
- Pinewood Derby Committee – Organize/coordinate the “Car Clinic” and race day activities. Establish rules and determine which awards will be given.
- Blue & Gold Banquet Committee – Organize/coordinate February’s banquet. The Cubmaster will handle the program and awards.
- Service Project Committee – Organize/coordinate community service projects (e.g. Scouting for Food, Longview Lake Clean Up Day). Provide information to the Pack Committee about various projects that are available.
- Day Camp Committee – Organize/coordinate Day Camp participation. Recruit other adults as needed.

FUND RAISERS

Annually, in September, the Pack participates in the National Popcorn Sales Drive to assist with raising funds for Scouting and deferring costs for boys and their families. Funds retained by the Pack are used to pay general operating expenses, which helps reduce annual dues for every Scout. Any family that receives financial assistance from the pack is expected to participate in the fundraiser.

The Pack considers summer camping to be an important part of the Cub Scout experience. In order to encourage camp attendance fifty percent of the funds received by the Pack from money raised by a Scout is set aside in a “camp account” for his own benefit. Camp account funds will be used to help defray fees for BSA sanctioned camps.

Camp account balances may be carried over from year to year. If a Scout decides to transfer to another Pack (or Troop) his camp account will be forwarded to the new unit, and designated it be used solely for his benefit. If a boy decides to quit Scouting then his camp account will be forfeited to the Pack and will be used for general operating expenses.

Under special circumstances, with permission from the Cubmaster, camp account funds may be used for other Pack fees (e.g. annual dues). This practice will be discouraged.

Cub Scout Pack 323

WHAT YOUR SON NEEDS TO GET STARTED IN CUB SCOUTS

Register your son and pay dues

DUES 2016 - 2017

Pack 323 carries an annual renewal date of September 1st. Scouts joining after September will have their dues prorated. The annual dues are as follows:

Boy Scouts of America Dues (National) & Boy's Life Magazine Subscription	\$36.00
Pack 323 Dues (Activities, Family campout fees, and other den projects)	<u>\$79.00</u>
Total Annual Dues	\$115.00

Dues should be paid no later than October 3 of 2016. The dues may be paid in one single payment or in two payments.

No scout will be denied the opportunity to participate based on financial need. Please contact the Pack Committee Chair, Cubmaster, or any Den Leader. All requests for financial assistance are held in the strictest confidence.

Purchase a book (1st grade Tiger book, 2nd grade Wolf book, 3rd grade Bear book, 4th and 5th grade WEBELOS book). Books may be purchased at the Scout Shop at I-435 & Holmes Road for approximately \$13 or \$19 (spiral bound).

Purchase a uniform shirt. Uniforms and patches may be purchased at the Scout Shop. Required patches include: HOAC patch, unit numbers ("3", "2", "3"), a "World Crest" patch and a belt. Hats, pants, socks, etc... are optional in our Pack. The uniform shirt, belt and patches are a one-time cost approximating \$45.

The Pack will provide each Scout with a neckerchief scarf for his rank. Neckerchiefs can be tied in a square knot, or kept in place with a neckerchief slide which is optional. Neckerchief slides for each rank are available at the Scout Shop for \$6 (be careful - they're easily lost).

SUMMER CAMP

Payment will be required before registration occurs. Anticipate these payments in late December / Early January. All BSA camps provide age appropriate activities and are staffed by trained personnel.

Day Camp – Tigers and Wolves – Four or Five days – about \$60.00

Bear Camp – Bears – Two days, one night – about \$65 with parent \$130

WEBELOS Camp – Three days, two nights – about \$130 with parent \$260 (Adults must also register)

-Note for second year WEBELOS: Boy Scout Summer Camp RSVP is expected in October – 10 days – about \$325

FALL AND SPRING FAMILY CAMPOUT

This is often the first camping experience for younger boys. If a boy wants to stay overnight then a parent must stay with him. The program usually includes a camp fire and other activities with breakfast provided by Pack. Most camping equipment, if not owned, can be borrowed from the Pack.