

Introduction to Cub Scouting

A guidebook for parents/guardians



COLUMBIA MONTOUR COUNCIL, BSA

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BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA®

National recruiting website

BeAScout.org

WHAT IS CUB SCOUTING?

The Boy Scouts of America is one of the nation's largest and most prominent values-based youth development organizations, providing programs for young people that build character.

All Scouts learn these words, but more importantly, they understand what they mean. Cub Scouts come to understand the value of making these Scouting ideals part of their everyday lives.

Scout Oath

On my honor I will do my best
To do my duty to God and my country
and to obey the Scout Law;
To help other people at all times;
To keep myself physically strong,
mentally awake, and morally straight.

Scout Law

A Scout is:
Trustworthy, Loyal, Helpful,
Friendly, Courteous, Kind,
Obedient, Cheerful, Thrifty,
Brave, Clean, and Reverent.

Cub Scout Motto

Do your best!

Outdoor Code

As an American, I will do my best to:
Be clean in my outdoor manners.
Be careful with fire.
Be considerate in the outdoors.
Be conservation-minded.

MISSION OF BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA

The mission of the Boy Scouts of America is to prepare young people to make ethical and moral choices over their lifetimes by instilling in them the values of the Scout Oath and Law.

OUR VISION

Columbia Montour Council will be the leading youth serving organization in the communities we serve by demonstrating and teaching the core values, contained in the Scout Oath and Law, to every eligible youth and their families. Toward that end, Columbia Montour Council will support its Units to consistently grow their membership by providing the best possible training, programs, and outdoor adventures.

But most of all, youth members and their families, come to us for a great time and for adventures that will be cherished for a lifetime.

Columbia Montour Council serves youth in Columbia and Montour counties.



YOUR CHILD, SCOUTING, AND YOU

Most parents want their child to grow up to be a person of worth, a self-reliant, dependable, and caring individual. Scouting has these same goals in mind for boys and girls.

Scouting develops strong values in each boy and girl. Scouting honors the home, school, and religious organizations as the origins of our youths' values. Scouting's goal is to nurture and extend these values by emphasizing the Scout Oath and Law.



Scouting teaches a variety of academic skills, about career-awareness, leadership, first aid, swimming, outdoor skills, hiking, camping, and many other skills—life skills they will take with them into adulthood. With skills ranging from knot tying to computer-based research, Cub Scouting activities help children realize their own potential for learning and mastering of new skills. This builds both pride and the confidence to handle challenges that cross their paths as they grow and develop. Our ultimate goal is to mold boys and girls into young men and women who are competent to handle the tough questions.

While every skill Scouting teaches is important, the self-confidence, fun, and sense of accomplishment boys and girls get from skill-building activities are equally important. Each Scouting activity has the basic goal of building character. *Scouting is where legends are made.*

DID YOU KNOW?

...that people who were Scouts 5 or more years as children, are:

- **4%** more likely to graduate from high school
- **16%** more likely to graduate from college
- Likely to earn **\$19,000** more annual household income
- **9%** more likely to highly value family relationships
- **15%** more likely to have lifelong friendships
- **10%** more likely to attend religious services
- **9%** more likely to believe helping others should

...for every 100 children who join Scouting:

- **12** will have their first contact with a religious organization
- **5** will earn their religious emblem award
- **1** will enter the clergy
- **18** will develop hobbies that will last throughout their adult life
- **8** will enter a career that was learned through activity badges
- **1** will use Scout skills to save a life
- **1** will use Scout skills to save his or her own life
- **17** will become Scouting volunteers
- **4** will become Eagle Scouts

Scouting Alumni Include:

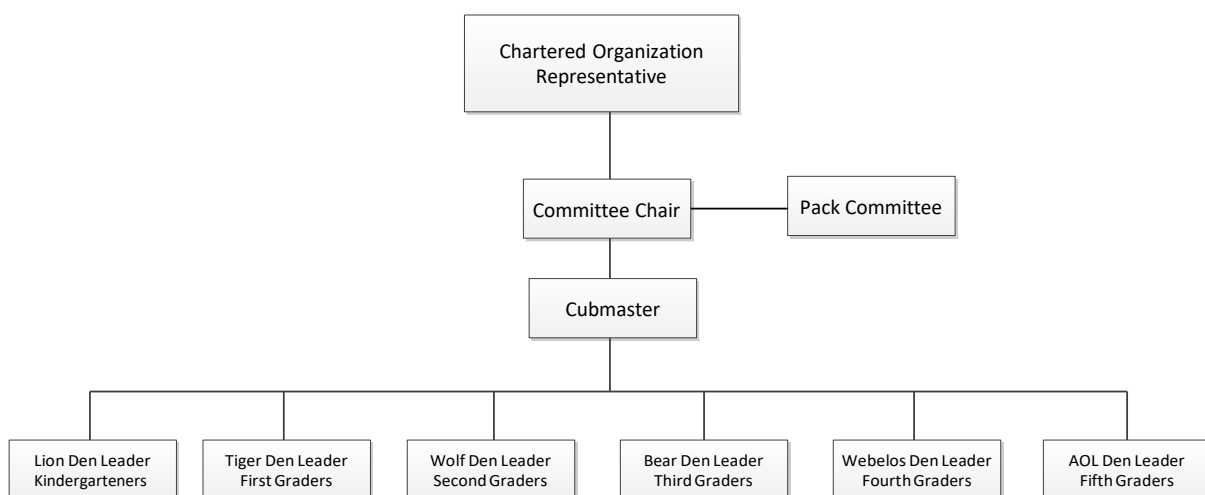
- **28%** of Air Force Academy graduates
- **36%** of West Point graduates
- **70%** of Annapolis graduates
- **72%** of Rhodes Scholars
- **85%** of FBI agents
- **89%** of Senior Class Presidents
- **58%** of all Astronauts
- **52%** of Congressional Members
- **8** United States Presidents



PACK ORGANIZATION & KEY TERMS

- ❖ Your child is a member of a **Den** – a group of boys or girls of the same age/grade
- ❖ The **Pack** can be all-boy, all-girl, or a Family Pack made up of one or more single-gender **Dens**
- ❖ The **Pack** meets once a month at the **Pack Meeting** (All families are expected to participate)
- ❖ **Pack Meetings** are a time for boys and girls to be recognized for their accomplishments during the month, to perform skits and songs they have learned in den meetings, and to have fun with the entire family
- ❖ The **Pack** is led by the **Cubmaster** and **Assistant Cubmaster(s)**
- ❖ The **Pack Committee**, which is led by the **Committee Chairperson**, are parents and other adults who serve as committee members and assist in planning, organizing, and executing the **Pack** program, as well as keeping records and managing **Pack** funds
- ❖ The **Committee** usually meets monthly to plan for upcoming activities and events
 - The **Pack** is sponsored by a **Chartered Organization**, (such as religious institutions, schools, parent- teacher organizations interested in youth, etc.)
 - **Chartered Organizations** approve leadership, help secure a meeting place, oversee the implementation of BSA and organization policies, etc.
 - Chartered organizations select a **Chartered Organization Representative** to serve as a liaison between your **Pack** and the organization

Cub Scout Pack Organizational Chart



PACK ACTIVITIES

Most Packs conduct a well-planned and organized annual program. You will receive a specific calendar of events for your Pack, which may include The Pinewood Derby, Raingutter Regatta, family campouts, and Blue and Gold Banquet. Most Packs participate in local field trips to sporting events, museums, and ecology centers.

Scouting teaches good citizenship. Your Scout will have many opportunities to perform service in the community, such as participating in parades and food drives.

CAMPING AND OUTDOOR PROGRAMS

Camping and outdoor activities fulfill a Cub Scout's dream of fun, excitement, and adventure. They provide a natural setting for quality time with family and friends. Camping satisfies young people's curiosity about the pioneering way of life in America. Columbia Montour Council sponsors camps with certified leadership and ideal settings for activities such as swimming, archery, BB guns, boating, nature, ecology, crafts, STEM, and games. Many opportunities are waiting for your child and your family.

WHAT DO CUB SCOUTS DO?

The Advancement Plan

The Cub Scout advancement plan is designed to be age relevant and grade specific. The responsibility for a child's advancement in Cub Scouting lies with the Den and family and not with the Pack. Most advancement requirements are done at Den meetings, but some are completed at home with the family.

RANK ADVANCEMENT – Lion, Tiger, Wolf, & Bear (Grades K – 3)

At each grade level, children work closely with their Den Leader and adult partner to accomplish Adventures in their handbook. Recognition is immediate – adventure loops are presented and worn on the Cub Scout belt to show their progress. After completing required and elective Adventures, the Cub Scout has earned the rank badge for that grade (Lion, Tiger, Wolf, or Bear). Children can also work on additional elective adventures and many other optional Cub Scout awards programs.

RANK ADVANCEMENT – Webelos, AOL (Grades 4 – 5)

At these grade levels, the focus is on preparation for Scouts BSA, our program for older youth. Children work with their Den Leader and each other to learn skills such as leadership, camping, cooking, and first aid. As Adventures are completed, pins are awarded and worn on the uniform. In addition, there are many elective Adventures to choose from to enhance the Scout's education.



OTHER AWARDS PROGRAMS

Shooting Sports Program (Slingshot, Archery & BB Shooting)

The Shooting Sports Award recognizes achievements in archery and BB shooting. Boys and girls can participate in these shooting sports at Council approved facilities and at most Cub family camping events.

Religious Emblems

The religious emblems program offers the Scout an opportunity to study his or her faith in-depth. Many faiths offer the emblems, with the activities overseen by the Scout's religious leaders. The religious emblems are awarded by the religious organization, and the Boy Scouts of America recognizes the achievement of these awards.

Outdoor Activity Award

The Outdoor Activity Award can be earned by all Cub Scouts and may be earned each year. This award recognizes the Scout's participation in camping, outdoor recreation, and conservation projects.

STEM-NOVA Awards

The NOVA Awards program incorporates learning with cool activities and exposure to science, technology, engineering, and mathematics for Cub Scouts. The belief is that the requirements and activities for earning these awards stimulates interest in STEM-related fields and shows how science, technology, engineering, and mathematics apply to everyday living and the world around them.

The Nova Awards - There are multiple Nova awards for Cub Scouts, Webelos Scouts, Boy Scouts, and Venturers. Each award covers various aspects of STEM — science, technology, engineering, or mathematics.

The Supernova Awards - The Supernova awards have more rigorous requirements than the Nova awards. The requirements and activities were designed to motivate youth and recognize more in-depth, advanced achievement in STEM-related activities.

World Conservation Award

The Cub Scout World Conservation Award may be earned by any Wolf, Bear, or Webelos Scout. The World Conservation Award provides an opportunity for individual Cub Scouts to “think globally” and “act locally” to preserve and improve our environment. This program is designed to make youth members aware that all nations are closely related through natural resources and that we are interdependent with our world environment.

Conservation Good Turn Award

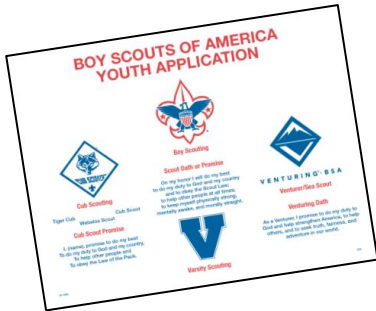
The Conservation Good Turn Award is an opportunity for Scout units to join with conservation or environmental organizations (federal, state, local, or private) to carry out a conservation Good Turn in their home communities. Working together in the local community, the unit and the agency plan the details and establish the date, time, and location for carrying out the project. It may be earned by all registered Tiger, Wolf, Bear, and Webelos Scouts.

The Emergency Preparedness Award

The Emergency Preparedness Award has different requirements for Tiger, Wolf, Bear, Webelos, Boy Scouts, Venturers, and adults tailored for the abilities of each. The whole goal is to make Scouts better able to handle emergency situations while enhancing their first aid skills.



SO WHAT'S NEXT? HOW DO I SIGN MY CHILD UP FOR SCOUTING?



Complete Registration

- An application will need to be completed for all boys and girls. Remember to include birth date, address, phone number, email, parent/guardian info, and parent's signature
- Registration fees will be collected with the application. These include the national BSA registration and insurance as well as local fees for your council and pack

Organize Dens

- Your Pack will create all-boy and all-girl dens by forming groups by school grade
- Dens should be at least 4 boys or 4 girls, usually no more than 10
- It helps to group boys by neighborhoods and/or friendships

Recruit Leaders and Volunteers

- Decide as a parent, would you rather help the pack by working directly with the children or by working behind the scenes as a member of the pack committee.
- An adult application needs to be completed for all new leaders.
- Youth protection training must be taken by all new leaders and is recommended for all parents. It can be taken on-line at www.my.scouting.org
- Within the organized dens, one parent needs to volunteer to be the den leader, and at least one parent needs to volunteer to be the assistant den leader. Within the Lion and Tiger den, all parents must participate as the adult partner for their child.
- The other parents will be asked to volunteer to help on the pack committee as an event chair, secretary, treasurer, advancement chair, etc., or to volunteer to support a specific event or pack function.

Share Contact Information

- It is important that the new den leaders have contact information for all families
- Also, each family should complete the back page of this booklet listing all the important information you will need (your unit may provide this to you separately)
- Your unit may also provide a list on contact information as well as a unit calendar of events for the coming year



BECOME A SCOUTING LEADER OR VOLUNTEER

YOUR ROLE!

You may be wondering about what your role is in Cub Scouting. Well, your first role in Scouting is simply to continue what you are doing: be a parent! Help your child succeed. Be supportive. Follow through. You're here because you see value in the Scouting program. There will always be times when your son or daughter doesn't want to go to the weekly meeting or seems to be losing interest in advancement and doing his or her best in Scouting. That's when he or she needs a parent's encouragement. Scouting works best when the whole family is involved.

Beyond that, you need to know that Scouting is a worldwide movement that operates primarily through volunteer leadership. In fact, without volunteers like yourself, there would simply be no Scouting- anywhere! Naturally, parents are a primary source of leaders in the Scouting program. Parents can support their child's pack in multiple ways – from running a den, organizing an event, or simply bringing the snack. To become a Scouting volunteer is one of the finest decisions you'll ever make.

Volunteer unit leaders are themselves an example of Scouting's principle service to others. They volunteer not only to serve Scouting, but also to serve their children and their friends, and to have the chance to be a positive influence on the youth of the community. You can help the Pack and Scouts work on earning the Home Town Scouting Pride patch. Even if you only have a few minutes a month to help us out, we can use you. In your Pack, the Cubmaster, assistant Cubmaster(s), committee chairperson, pack committee members, and chartered organization representative all work with the Pack's parents to provide a good environment and program for the Scouts under their care.



YOU ARE NOT ALONE

- **Staff Support** - Our council is staffed by a group of Scouting professionals that are available to assist when needed and get you in touch with other necessary resources. In addition, each community is served by a full-time district executive and a group of dedicated volunteers.
- **Commissioners** – Each Pack is assigned a Unit Commissioner, a knowledgeable Scout volunteer. The Unit Commissioner is available to answer questions and provide resources to the Pack leadership.
- **Roundtables** - Each local District holds a monthly leader in-service meeting for all adult Scout volunteers. This gives leaders an opportunity to meet with their peers and district staff to share ideas and seek solutions to problems they may encounter.
- **Pack Leadership** - Most Packs have been in existence for many years and have existing leadership which will provide direct assistance and support to your den program. Many Packs have a library of resource books to aid leaders in putting on quality den and pack programs.
- **Online** – Scouting has been around for over 100 years and there is an abundance of information on any topic somewhere on the Internet, such as the LinkedIn Boy Scouts of America Adult Volunteers group, which has over 15,000 members.



TRAINING AVAILABLE

Lord Baden Powell, founder of Scouting, said “Every Scout deserves a trained leader.”



For every position in Scouting there are guidelines and tools available to show the way to success. Registered positions with the BSA and our local council require specific training which is designed to give you what you need to be successful in whichever role you choose. These training will give you a full understanding of the Cub Scout program and will provide you with many aids and resources to help you in Pack operations. Information on our in-person courses can be found at <https://columbiamontourbsa.org/unit-membership-resources/training>. Online courses can be found at <http://www.my.scouting.org> where you can complete the training on your own schedule, at your own pace.

TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

Our Scouting leaders are WELL TRAINED!

To be a trained Cub Scout leader you need: Youth Protection Training and Leader Position-Specific Training. You need to take the leader position training for your specific position. Cubmaster/Assistant Cubmaster, Den Leader/Assistant Den Leader, Committee Chair/Committee Member training is available in-person several times a year and on-line at www.My.Scouting.org.

Additional training is available for specific situations, such as Basic Adult Leader Outdoor Orientation, Hazardous Weather, and Safety Afloat.

And there is much more training available to help you be a better leader.



THE FINANCIAL INVESTMENT IN YOUR CHILD

So what does Cub Scouting cost?

BSA and Local Dues

All registered youth pay annual registration and insurance fees, which go directly to the BSA national office. Each Pack has its own annual budget, based on anticipated trips, activities, campout reservations, awards and advancements, summer program fees, etc. packs fund their annual budgets in many ways. Often dues are charged to each Scout family to help fund the budget.

Additionally, many Packs participate in the council-sponsored popcorn sale, which can partially offset or even eliminate Pack dues for Scout families and also help children raise enough money for their summertime camp experience. Your committee chairperson, Cubmaster, and treasurer provide for secure, mutual oversight of all pack funds. Your Pack leadership will explain in detail how their budget, dues, and fundraisers are handled.

Cub Scout Handbook

Your child will need the handbook for his or her rank.

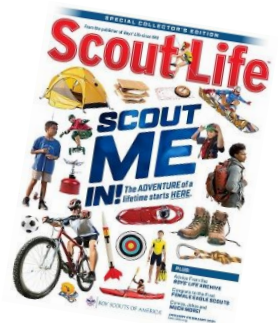
Cub Scout Uniform

The Scout uniform has served for over 100 years as an expression of friendliness to all Scouts, regardless of who they are, where they're from, or what their backgrounds may be. The uniform represents Scouting's spirit of equality and democracy. Many Packs maintain a "gently used" uniform program to allow for handed down hats, shirts, neckerchiefs, etc. Uniforms can be purchased at the Council Service Center in Bloomsburg.

SCOUT LIFE monthly magazine

This multifaceted magazine is written for children of elementary school age. The mission of *Scout Life* is to "entertain and educate America's youth and to open their eyes to the joyous world of reading." Since 1911, *Scout Life* magazine has published more than 1,000 issues, and it has attracted more than 4 million readers!

Today *Scout Life* stands alone as the premier magazine for youth concerned with good reading and good character. Although it's optional, we highly encourage subscriptions. Know, however, that Scouts who subscribe to *Scout Life* stay in Scouting longer than nonsubscribers—on average, two and a half times longer than nonsubscribers.



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Columbia Montour Council's WEBSITE contains general information about all aspects of Scouting in our council, as well as forms, online registration for events, and pages devoted to our individual districts:

www.columbiamontourbsa.org

Columbia Montour Council is on FACEBOOK. Follow this link:

<https://www.facebook.com/ColumbiaMontourBSA>

Columbia Montour Council is on INSTAGRAM. Follow this link:

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BSA's national recruiting website is:

www.beAscout.org

The Cub Scout Packs in your area are members of a larger Scouting Family that is called the Columbia Montour Council. The Columbia Montour Council is a nonprofit corporation whose responsibility is to provide the programs of the Boy Scouts of America (including Cub Scouting) to all the communities in its geographical area. It is the council's responsibility to give Cub Scout packs the tools and resources it needs to provide a quality character-building program for your child.

The Columbia Montour Council, BSA supports over 600 youth members and over 400 volunteers in Columbia and Montour counties of Pennsylvania. We help provide outstanding opportunities for today's youth from all backgrounds and communities in our service area, guided by Scouting's core values as expressed in the Scout Oath and Law. Our motivated, energetic, and experienced volunteers and staff are dedicated to delivering Scouting's programs and services, utilizing all our resources and the latest technologies. Most importantly, youth members and their families come to us for great times and adventures to be cherished for a lifetime.

The Columbia Montour Council provides localized support, training, and programming, such as the Home Town Scouting Pride program. In addition to local volunteer support, a local Scouting professional is provided by the Columbia Montour Council to give leadership and guidance to the Scouting volunteers in your community. District volunteers, aided by professional staffers and administrative personnel based at the council's service center in Bloomsburg, provide unit oversight and support, volunteer training, and special annual and seasonal events for the packs, troops, crews and posts comprising the council.



MY DEN & PACK INFORMATION
(Units may wish to substitute their own page here)



I am in the Columbia Montour Council.

Cub Scout pack number: _____

Cubmaster's name: _____ Phone: _____

Email: _____

Chartered Organization: _____

Den type: (Circle one) Lion Tiger Wolf Bear Webelos

Den Leader's name: _____ Phone: _____

Email: _____

Date/Time of first Den meeting: _____

Date/Time of first Pack meeting: _____

This years' planned fundraisers: _____

This years' planned community service: _____

Other:

I can reach the Council Service Center by calling 570-784-2700.
www.columbiamontourbsa.org www.BeAScout.org

