



# Welcome Letter

## Pack 9 Bear Den



### INTRODUCTION

Welcome to Cub Scouts, Pack 9. We are excited that you have chosen to be a member of our Pack! To help the new (and returning) Cub Scout families understand the organization of Cub Scouts and Pack 9 this "Welcome Letter" was put together.

Cub Scouting is a Family Program, **it requires parents to volunteer** - this way both the parents and the boys benefit from the program which is as it should be in any family program. In the Cub Scout world, Parents and Adult Leaders are known as "Akela".

We are registered with the Simon Kenton Council of the Boy Scouts of America. The local Council Service Center and BSA Store are located at the address below:



**Simon Kenton Council, Boy Scouts of America**  
Serving the Youth of Central and Southern Ohio & Northern Kentucky  
991 East Main Street, Chillicothe, OH 45601  
Office: 740-772-6887



### SPONSOR

Pack 9 is sponsored by the Trinity Church, 24 South Mulberry Street, Chillicothe, OH 45601, (740) 773-6640.

### VISION STATEMENT

Cub Scouts strives to promote core values such as Citizenship, Compassion, Cooperation, Courage, Faith, Health and Fitness, Honesty, Perseverance, Positive Attitude, Resourcefulness, Respect, and Responsibility.

Cub Scout Pack 9 uses fun activities to help our children learn these values.

**CUB MASTER:** Christy Jordan (740.703.3397)

**BEAR DEN LEADER:** Fred Wheat (740.701.1173)

### COMMENT

Parents know that our children grow up much too quickly. Let us enjoy our sons while we have the opportunity, and let us help them to grow, as they go through the various ranks of Cub Scouting: Tiger (1<sup>st</sup> Grade), Wolf (2<sup>nd</sup> Grade), Bear (3<sup>rd</sup> Grade), Webelos I (4<sup>th</sup> Grade), Webelos II (5<sup>th</sup> Grade), and Boy Scouts (11-18 years old).

It takes a partnership of **Parents and Den Leaders** to help our boys attain these ranks!

## **DEN MEETINGS**

Each Den can establish its own system and schedule for conducting den meetings. Although not required parents should plan on attending at least one den meeting a month - as it is a good opportunity for Cub Scouts and parents to socialize.

Each Den is expected to take turns during Pack Meetings in the Opening Ceremonies, Skits, Songs, and Closing Ceremonies. These will be practiced during the Den Meetings.

Den Meetings typically focus on a published monthly theme. The meetings may also consist of going to a park, museum or community building. Have fun - you'll love it and so will the kids!

## **PACK 9 BEAR DEN MEETINGS**

Our Bear Den Meetings will begin with the Pledge of Allegiance, Cub Scout Promise, & Law of the Pack. We will then complete an activity or two which will usually focus on the Bear Requirements. The activities are intended to be fun and interesting as well. There will also be an outside game (weather permitting) or another type of physical activity in which the boys can participate. At the end of the meeting, I'd like to have the parents and scouts gather for any reminders, instructions, or other important information before the scouts leave. When that is finished, I would also like to have a short Closing Ceremony which will include a "Den Leader's Minute" which will leave the scouts something to think about for the next week. I feel that bringing closure to every Den Meeting is very important. Thank you for your help with this!

## **DUES**

Monthly dues range from \$1-\$2 a month. Dues are generally paid weekly or monthly but may be paid for the full year. Dues are collected by the Den Leader (or appointed parent) and turned in to the Cub Master.

## **PACK MEETINGS**

Pack Meetings are held on the last Thursday of the month from September thru May starting at 6:00pm. The meetings generally last about an hour or so. Unless otherwise stated, the Pack Meetings will be held in the Friendship Hall at the Trinity Church. The Pack may also meet socially during the summer once or twice.

Pack Meetings are the primary way in which Cub Scouts receive praise and awards in front of their peers. We try to encourage Cub Scouts with lots of praise and awards! Pack Meetings are an opportunity for the boys to show-off what they've learned or made during the past month's Den Meetings. A display table will be available at each pack meeting so that the boys can display the crafts or projects they have worked on that month. The display tables allow families and other dens to see what has been made and what to look forward to.

Pack Meetings may include: Greeting, Opening Activity, Opening Thought, Flag Ceremony (e.g.: Pledge of Allegiance, Cub Scout Promise, and Law of the Pack), Introductions, Songs, Den Skits, Advancement Recognition, WEBLOS Demonstration, Games, Announcements, Closing Ceremony (e.g.: retiring of the flag and words of praise), and Refreshments & Cleanup.

Our major Pack activities include: Pinewood Derby (January); Blue & Gold Banquet (February); Family Camp (June); Dates are subject to change.

## **CUBMASTER DUTIES**

The Cub Master and Assistant Cub Master(s) duties include: leading and or conducting the monthly Pack Meetings, guide & support Den Leaders, work with the Pack Committee to plan an annual Pack program, and to coordinate the Cub Scout program in the Pack.

Cub Masters are also expected to attend monthly Committee Meetings, district roundtable meetings, BSA Adult Leader training classes, and assuring we adhere to BSA rules and regulations.

## **DEN LEADER DUTIES**

Den Leaders duties include: planning and carry out Den Meetings with the goal of accomplishing the theme of the month; Prepare its stunts & exhibits for the Pack Meeting and lead the Den in its participation at Pack Meetings; and help the Cub Master in presenting awards during Pack meetings. Den Leaders are also expected to attend Pack Committee meetings, or to appoint a Den representative.

## **FUNDRAISING**

The pack participates in the annual District Popcorn sales event which takes place in September – October. All scouts are expected to participate. The pack receives extra benefits once certain sales thresholds are met. These benefits include free training and cloth advancement badges. Scouts may also receive profits to be used for Day Camp or other Cub Scout related activities. Complete details regarding the popcorn sale will be discussed at the September Pack Meeting.

## **PACK COMMITTEE & OTHER COMMITTEES**

The function of the Pack Committee is largely administrative. Meetings of the Pack Committee are held once a month, or more often, to discuss Pack business. Pack Committee meetings are held to discuss upcoming Pack activities, and to determine how Committee members can best help facilitate the Pack activity. Pack Committee members may be elected or appointed to one year term. Any parent can come and participate in any Pack Committee meeting. At this point, there are no term limits, however it is believed the Pack will benefit by rotating new parents through the Pack Committee. Optimistically, all parents would become members of the Pack Committee, Program Committee, Administration Committee, or Recruiting Committee.

## **TRAINING**

The District holds monthly Round Table training meetings where monthly themes and upcoming activities are discussed. Cub Masters and Den Leaders are expected to attend these sessions. Parents are encouraged to attend as well. Pack Leaders are also expected to take other required training courses.



## **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ABOUT THE CUB SCOUT PROGRAM**

### **TIGER SCOUTS (1<sup>st</sup> Grade)**

Tiger Scouts and Parent(s) are a team and join together. Tigers Scouts require at least one adult 18 years of age or older accompany the tiger scout to every scout function. This includes all; Den, Pack, and go see it events. Tiger scouts meet for a Den meeting at least once a month and also go on a “Go See It” (field trip) trip every month. Tiger scout adult partners take turns leading den meetings, help and ideas are provided by the Den leader and Pack trainer.

### **WOLF & BEAR SCOUTS (2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade)**

Wolf and Bear scouts complete twelve Achievements to earn their rank badge (patch). All the requirements are outlined in the hand books. These requirements are meant to be completed at home with parent /guardian assistance. Achievements may be worked on at Den Meetings at the discretion of the Den Leader. Either a parent or the Den Leader can approve and sign off the work. After the rank badge has been earned and awarded the scout / parent focus changes to arrow points. Arrow points are earned by completing electives. When ten electives or unused achievements are completed, a boy is awarded a *Gold Arrow Point*. When another ten projects are completed a Silver Arrow Point is awarded. For every ten electives/achievements thereafter another *Silver Arrow Point* is awarded. Note: There are slight differences for the use of un-used achievements for *Arrow Points* by Bears (see the handbook for details).

### **WEBELOS (4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> Grade)**

This program is for boys who have completed third grade (or are age 10). A boy may begin working on the Webelos badge as soon as he joins a Webelos den. This is the first step in his transition from the Webelos den to the Boy Scout troop. Webelos complete the requirements found in the *Webelos Handbook*, work on activity badges, attend meetings led by adults, and become familiar with the Boy Scout requirements—all leading to the Arrow of Light Award. A key difference is that the Webelos Leader is responsible for approving and signing off achievements (not the cub scouts Parent /Guardian).

### **WOLF AND BEAR (SPECIAL NOTE REGARDING MEETINGS)**

Wolf and Bear BSA documents state specifically that Wolf and Bear parents are not required to attend Den Meetings. However, being a Den Leader can be a very time consuming activity which may require the help of parents. Some Den Leaders elect to have a parent host be responsible for running the Den Meetings. This allows the Den Leader to catch up on paperwork or have parent meetings. Den Leaders or Den Trainers are expected to help plan or at least give advice for the Den Meeting plan and provide needed books, literature and supplies. The parent host approach requires the Den Leader and Den Parents to work out a schedule for Den Meetings. If parents do not feel comfortable running a Den Meeting or have scheduling conflicts they should discuss this with the Den Leader or Cub Master so that an alternate means of supporting the Pack and or Den can be found. Everyone has talents and strengths and it often just takes some figuring to channel these resources. Remember to keep it fun and make cub scouts an enjoyable and memorable experience.

**LET’S HAVE A GREAT CUB SCOUTING YEAR!**