

PARENT GUIDE

This Parent Guide provides you with answers to questions about Pack 134's program. In it, you will find information about uniforms, awards, dues meetings and special events, and the role parents play in Cub Scouting. If you have any questions not answered in this brief guide, please contact your son's Den Leader or one of the Pack Leaders.

CUB SCOUT ORGANIZATION

Cub Scout Pack 134 is made up of boys and their families from across Bolingbrook with the bulk of the Pack families from Jamie McGee and Pioneer Schools. Our program depends entirely on planning and participation of parents who make up the leadership of the Pack and help support the activities throughout the year.

Pack 134 consists of several small groups of about five to eight boys called Dens. Boys are grouped into Dens by grade level.

First Graders and their adult partners form the **Tiger Cub Dens**.

Second Graders and their adult partners form the **Wolf Cub Dens**.

Third Graders and their adult partners form the **Bear Cub Dens**.

Fourth and Fifth Graders belong to **Webelos Dens** and take part in more challenging experiences, such as overnight camping with parents, which helps them prepare to enter Boy Scouts at the end of fifth grade.

Boys may join Cub Scouts at any age. For example, they do not have to have been a Wolf to join a Bear Den.

Each Tiger, Wolf Bear, and Webelos Den has an adult Den Leader and an Assistant Den Leader or other adult helper who plans the Den's activities. These leaders are themselves parents of boys in the Cub Scouting program and **they depend on the support and assistance of all the other parents in their Dens**.

All Dens meet at least twice a month, and once at the monthly Pack meeting.

All the Dens together form Pack 134. We meet as a Pack once each month. The Pack is led by a committee of parents.

CUB SCOUT MEETINGS

We welcome and encourage you to participate in our Cub Scout meetings during the year. All meetings, outings, and events are open to any parent at any time.

Den Meetings – Dens meet at least twice per month. At least two adults are required to be present at each Den meeting, which should generally be the Den Leader and Assistant Den Leader. If your Den does not have a designated Assistant Den Leader, your Den Leader will need your help to serve as an assistant from time to time. The Den Leader chooses the date and time of the Den meeting.

Pack Meetings – Pack meetings are for all the boys of Pack 134 and their families. We encourage the whole family to attend the Pack meeting; **we expect at least one parent will attend each Pack meeting with his or her Cub Scout.** Unless announced differently, Pack meetings are held the third Tuesday of the month in the cafeteria at Pioneer Elementary School on Raven Drive from 7:00 – 8:30 pm. You will find we strive to start each Pack meeting at 7:00 pm sharp. Please plan to arrive a little early for each meeting.

Special Events – Almost every month, we try to have planned special events and outings. In the past, these included a fall hike, Cub Scout Olympics and Family Camping Sleepovers. You and your family are encouraged to participate in these events whenever your schedule permits. Some of these events require advance registration and an additional fee. Details will be announced at Pack meetings and listed on the Pack Calendar or you can contact your Den Leader or Cubmaster for further information.

Parent and Leader meetings (P.A.L.) – The leaders of Pack 134 meet once each month to discuss organizational matters, future events and exchange ideas. These are typically held on the first Sunday of the month. A full schedule can be found on the Pack calendar.

FINANCES and DUES

The Boy Scouts of America (BSA), to which Pack 134 belongs, is a non-profit organization. Pack 134 receives no funding from the BSA or the Rainbow Council of the BSA. Pack 134 must be self-supporting and free of debt. Although all of our leadership consists of volunteers, we must ensure we have funds to support the main activities of the Pack.

Annual Dues

- \$120.00 for the 2015 – 2016 Pack year distributed as follows:
- \$36.00 goes to National and Regional Scout organizations to cover Council costs and to purchase a Boy's Life subscription for each Scout.
- \$84.00 goes to Pack 134 for each Scout.

In addition to annual dues, there are several other costs. First each Scout needs a uniform. Second, each Den may set modest dues to help defray costs of arts and craft projects and other supplies. Third, a variety of optional outings require an additional fee, such as sleepovers and Summer Day Camp.

What the Pack Pays for:

- National and Regional registration.
- Charter fees and Insurance.
- Boys Life magazine.
- Awards and advancements
- Handbooks*
- Pinewood Derby and Rain gutter Regatta kits*
- Regular Pack activities
- Pack meeting special events (Park Rentals, Permits, Entertainment, etc.)
- Selected meals and refreshments at activities or camping trips.

* Dependent upon available funds.

What the parents pay for:

- Scout uniform (shirt, belt, neckerchief and slide)
- 1st year Scout Handbook
- Extra Pack trips or activities
- Extra Camping Costs (Example: The Pack typically pays for campground registration and some supplies. Parents may be asked to contribute to the cost of meals on a per person basis.)
- Optional extra events
- A few times throughout the year, Scouts will be asked to help celebrate an occasion by bringing a “dish to pass”.

SCHOLARSHIPS and ASSISTANCE

Pack 134 and the Boy Scouts of America have a limited fund to help Scouts who may need assistance paying their annual dues or covering the cost of selected events. The Boy Scouts of America and Pack 134 do not want cost to prevent interested boys from joining or being active Scouts! These funds are need-based and applied on a first come first served basis. Any Scout’s family that needs a scholarship or assistance is encouraged to approach their Den Leader or the Cubmaster directly to discuss their need and submit a confidential application. Any information about need will be kept strictly confidential. Scholarships covering dues may be partial or full

depending on the Pack's budget and the family's circumstances. All scholarships are applied at the discretion of the Cubmaster with the approval of the Pack Committee.

Scholarships and Assistance funds come from the Pack's budget and represent money from everyone in the Pack. Therefore, in order to receive Scholarship or Assistance funds the pack expects Scouts and their families to be active and contributing members of the Pack, submit an application and meet certain requirements.

Requirements to receive scholarship or assistance funds:

- Attend a minimum of 50% of den meetings, Pack meetings and other Pack events.
- Participate in Pack fundraising activities.
- Lead at least one of the Pack events your Den is responsible for.

Any recipient who receives scholarship or assistance funds but does not meet these requirements may not be eligible for such funds in the future.

UNIFORMS

The Boy Scouts of America has always been a uniformed body. There are many reasons for this. One reason that stands out above all the rest. We wear our uniform because it is a means of identifying ourselves openly with the principles to which we are committed – character development, citizenship training, and physical and mental fitness.

The fact that youth and adult members of Scouting wear a uniform doesn't mean we are all alike. We come from different ethnic and racial backgrounds. We have our own religious beliefs and political views. We are each individuals with our own family traditions and loyalties. So, the uniform is not intended to hide our individuality. But it is a way we give each other strength and support. It is a bond that ties us together in spite of our differences. It is a way of making visible our commitment to spiritual belief, loyalty to country, and to helping other people.

The Scouting movement is built on positive values. As we wear the uniform, we are openly identifying ourselves with those values where everyone can see us. We stand together, not alone, in encouraging others to live by those same principals. Boys and adults alike should take pride in belonging to such a movement and wear the uniform as it is intended.

Uniforms and other Scouting supplies can be purchased at:

The Chalkboard, with locations in Aurora, Downers Grove, Crest Hill and Batavia

www.ScoutStuff.org

And @ Scout Stores, locations include LaGrange, Morris, West Chicago, and St. Charles

For **Tiger Cubs**, the uniform consists of a blue Cub Scout shirt and matching orange hat and neckerchief with slide along with selected patches (see below). Since advancement awards are designed to be worn on their belt an official Tiger Cub belt is also recommended. The blue Cub Scout shirt can be worn from first grade through fifth grade. We recommend parents of boy's just starting purchase a shirt that will allow plenty of room for growth. We also recommend that you purchase a short sleeved shirt. During the winter months, Scouts can wear a turtle-neck or sweatshirt under their uniform for extra warmth.

Wolf and Bear Cubs wear the blue Cub Scout uniform shirt. Their uniform consists of the uniform shirt, selected patches (see below), and a neckerchief for their age-level (yellow for Wolves, blue for Bears), a neckerchief slide, official blue belt and rank appropriate hat.

The **Webelos** uniform consists of the uniform shirt, selected patches (see below), the Webelos neckerchief and slide, uniform belt and Webelos hat. Webelos Scouts may wear either the Cub Scout blue uniform or the khaki-and-tan Boy Scout uniform shirt. The Webelos uniform is the same for both fourth and fifth graders.

Patches – When purchasing a uniform, Cub Scouts and Webelos also need to obtain several patches:

- World Crest Emblem
- Rainbow Council Strip
- Den Number (ask your Den Leader for your Den number)
- Pack numerals “1” “3” “4”

Patches are designed to be sewn onto the uniform. Guides for patch placement can be found here. <http://www.scouting.org/filestore/pdf/34282.pdf> or inside the Wolf and Bear handbooks. Note, only one temporary patch is permitted on the uniform at a time (and then only on the right pocket). Many Scouts will purchase a red “brag vest” to display all of their temporary patches although this is not required.

Handbooks – With the exception of the Scout's first year, Pack 134 provides each Scout with a handbook. We recommend the parents familiarize themselves with their son's book.

Wearing the Uniform – Cub Scouts should wear their uniform at all Den meetings, Pack meetings and outings. We also expect that the boys will wear their Cub Scout shirts tucked into their pants.

SCOUT CLOSET

Pack 134 maintains a “closet” of previously used uniforms. Anyone who needs help obtaining a uniform or uniform accessory is welcome to browse the “closet” to meet their needs. Please see the Cubmaster or your Den Leader for access to the closet. If your son has outgrown his uniform or extra uniform accessories please consider donating them to the Scout Closet for other boys to use!

PARENT RESPONSIBILITIES

The adult leaders of Pack 134 do their best to provide a quality program. **It must be kept in mind, though, that they are volunteers and have many other obligations outside of Cub Scouting.** For your son to get the most of our Cub Scouting program, he will also need to depend on you, both to help him, and to help the Cub Scout program of which he a part. *We expect every parent to help the Pack in some capacity.* The most important job is Den Leader, but there are many other areas where your help in running the Pack is needed and appreciated.

The following guidelines are designed to help you and your son get the most out of Cub Scouting:

- **Be on time.** Please arrive at all meetings and events on time. Also, unless arrangements have been made with your Den Leader, please be prompt to pick-up your son from Den meetings.
- **Read your Handbook.** Support your son’s involvement in Cub Scouting by becoming familiar with his advancement requirements. If you read through his handbook, you will be better prepared to support his efforts to “do his best”.
- **Report and absence ahead of time.** Den Leaders spend a lot of time preparing for Den and Pack activities that include your son. If your son will be unable to attend a Pack of Den meeting, please let your Den Leader know as soon as possible.
- **Reinforce good conduct during meetings.** Parents share with Cub Scout leaders responsibility for ensuring proper conduct by their boys. Please stress that good behavior is part of being a Cub Scout, and set a good example by being respectful of others during Pack meetings.
- **Support good turns.** The Pack and Dens will provide opportunities for boys to give service to the community. We ask that you support these opportunities for your boys to learn the art of giving.

- **Be in uniform.** Please make sure that your boy is in uniform for all Cub Scout meetings and events. Support his accomplishments by seeing that his advancement patches promptly become part of his uniform.
- **Participate.** Your son will get more out of Cub Scouting if you get involved. You are expected to volunteer in some way during the year. You should also take your share in organizing Den meetings and working with the Den Leader of your son's Den. Cub Scouting is only successful when parents participate actively.

YOUTH PROTECTION POLICIES

Pack 134 is committed to seeing that all Scouts have a safe and fun experience in our program. In order to protect the well-being of all our Scouts, Pack 134 adheres to several important policies. These policies include:

- **No one-on-one contact.** No individual adult is ever to be alone with an individual Scout other than the adult's own son.
- **No secret meetings.** All Scout meetings and outings are always open to all parents.
- **Two-deep leadership.** All Den and Pack meetings and outings must have at least two adults present.
- **Leader screening.** All leaders are subject to an extensive review process, including reference checks, interviews, and criminal records review.
- **Leader training.** All of our leaders have completed Cub Scout Basic Leader Training, which includes training on youth protection guidelines. In addition, all leaders are required every other year to complete a special Youth Protection Training course offered by the Boy Scouts of America.
- **Reporting of suspected abuse.** All Scout leaders are obligated to report any suspicions of child or sexual abuse to the Rainbow Council.
- **Parental accompaniment of Tiger Cubs.** Tiger Cubs must always have a parent or adult partner present at all activities.
- **Youth Awareness.** At each level of the Scouts' advancement, from Bobcat through Webelos, parents are expected to discuss youth protection and safety issues with their sons as outlined in their handbook.

PACK 134 SCHEDULING NOTES

- Pack meetings begin at 7:00 pm and last approximately 1 ½ hours. All Pack meetings are held in the cafeteria of Pioneer Elementary School unless otherwise noted.
- Pack meetings are for the entire family! Cub Scouts are expected to attend with at least one parent. Everyone in your family is welcome and encouraged to participate.
- Cub Scouts are expected to wear their uniforms to all meetings and events. Uniform shirts should be tucked into pants.
- All Parent and Leader (P.A.L.) meetings will be held on the first Sunday of the month, unless otherwise announced. These meetings typically begin at 7:00 pm and are held at Bolingbrook Fire Station #4.
- Monthly summer events are scheduled for June, July and August each year. Details will be announced at Pack meetings and posted to the Pack 134 calendar.
- For more information about Pack 134 events, please contact your Den Leader, the Cubmaster, or Assistant Cubmaster.