

NEW PARENT HANDBOOK



BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA®
WESTERN LOS ANGELES COUNTY COUNCIL

MY PACK INFO

My Pack Number: _____ My District: _____

My Cubmaster is: _____

Contact #: _____ Email: _____

My Committee Chair is: _____

Contact #: _____ Email: _____

My Den Leader is: _____

Contact #: _____ Email: _____

Den Meetings Day/Time: _____ Location: _____

Pack Meetings Day/Time: _____ Location: _____

COUNCIL RESOURCES

Your pack is part of the Western Los Angeles County Council (#051) that serves Scouts and families in West LA, the San Fernando Valley, the Santa Clarita Valley, and the Antelope Valley.

- Council website: bsa-la.org
- Main council phone number: 818.785.8700
- District Staff Member: _____
- Council main office

Anna Ruggieri Service Center

16525 Sherman Way

Suite C8

Van Nuys, CA 91406

Scout Oath

On my honor I will do my best to do my duty to God and my country
and 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.





MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS

Join our unit online at:

You have found an incredible network of people connected by a goal to help all boys and girls learn. As part of this, the Boy Scouts of America (BSA) offers its members a variety of benefits.

OUTDOOR EDUCATION - access world-class camps. We offer year-round camp and outdoor education programming for our Scouts and their families.

CHARACTER DEVELOPMENT - whether it's through den meetings, attending a summer camp or trying new things at an event, our Scouts develop valuable character skills like leadership, helping others and responsibility.

COMMUNITY SERVICE - Scouts give back through service. It's just what we do. Each year, service projects are held so we can contribute to our local community.

LEADERSHIP AND TRAINING - Children and adults have access to high-quality, nationally researched training programs. We like to be prepared and learning and growing new skills and knowledge is a big part of that.

YOUTH PROTECTION TRAINING

We're dedicated to making all Scouting activities safe for youth and adults. All registered adults are required to take Youth Protection Training every year and are regularly background checked. This high-quality training covers our safety policies, prevention protocols and reporting standards.

As a Cub Scout parent, you are highly encouraged to complete this training to better understand the processes in place that maintain a safe program.

ACCESS THE TRAINING ONLINE

Visit my.scouting.org to create an account as a new user and complete the training. Follow the prompts for Youth Protection Training. In addition to Youth Protection Training, parents and adult leaders have access to a library of best practice trainings that you're welcome to take at anytime.



THE CUB SCOUT PROGRAM

The Cub Scout program is designed to grow with your child. Dens within a pack are divided by age and gender groups to deliver age-appropriate activities and badges. Some rank advancement requirements are completed at den meetings or at council events while others can be fulfilled at home with help from the family.

GET A HANDBOOK

To learn about rank requirements and the different activities for your child, pick up a handbook. Handbooks are available for each rank of the Cub Scout program.

Kindergarten	1st Grade	2nd Grade	3rd Grade	4th and 5th Grade
				

ADVANCEMENT

WORKING ON PATCHES AND BADGES

Earning patches and badges is a fun element of the Scouting program. It's a way to recognize a child for learning something new and mastering a skill. In Cub Scouts, there are a few patches and badges to know about:



Lion patch (for Kindergarten or ages 5 - 6): Lions work to complete five required adventures that explore topics like animals, nature and character development.

Bobcat badge (for 1st grade and up): The Bobcat badge is earned when a Cub Scout demonstrates the Cub Scout sign, salute and handshake. Cub Scouts are also asked to recite and describe the Cub Scout motto, the Scout Oath and the Scout Law.



Tigers, Wolves and Bears complete 6 required adventures and 1 elective adventure of their choosing to earn their rank. Webeelos complete 5 required adventures and 2 elective adventures of their choosing. Once their rank has been earned they can continue to earn additional electives until they finish their grade level or turn the correct age for the next rank.

CUB SCOUT SUPPLIES

There is nothing that gets a child excited about Scouting more than having a uniform and feeling like part of the pack. *Consider purchasing the uniform large to allow room for your Scout to grow.* Some packs have a uniform bank of experienced uniforms that can be shared. Check with your Cubmaster to see if this is available.

Uniforms, handbooks, and other supplies can be purchased at any Scout Shop.

Van Nuys Shop & Service Center

16525 Sherman Way
Suite C8
Van Nuys, CA 91406
(818) 781-1296

Santa Clarita Shop & Service Center

24338 Walnut Street
Newhall, CA 91321
(661) 284-6330

PACK DUES AND FEES

This year's BSA fees are:

This year's Pack dues are:

The dues can be paid via:

The dues cover the following:



Right Sleeve



Left Sleeve

RECOMMENDED UNIFORM ITEMS

Specific uniform items may vary depending on your child's current rank within the program. Your den leader can provide a list of items you will need and our Scout Shop staff can help you pick the right stuff.

- Shirt
- Pants or bottom
- Belt
- Hat
- Neckerchief and slide
- Council patch
- Pack number and den number patches
- World crest patch





FUNDRAISING

Fundraising teaches responsibility and helps many families pay for Scouting activities throughout the year. Every pack has a budget derived from dues and fundraising. Opportunities to raise funds include the fall Popcorn sale and spring Camp Card sale, as well as other unit-level fundraisers.

BENEFITS OF FUNDRAISING

Participating in these fundraising efforts allows Cub Scouts to set goals and earn prizes, improve their public speaking and communications skills, and lessen the cost of Scouting activities. In fact, many families completely fund their summer camp experience through fundraisers.

FRIENDS OF SCOUTING (FOS)

Scouting is like other nonprofit organizations. We depend on generous donations of both time and money to fulfill our mission. Each year, key Scouting activities and programs are funded by these donations - this includes scholarships for camp, covering membership fees for those in need, special programs and more.





GOING TO CAMP

Participating in Scouting means heading outdoors and connecting with nature, and there's no better way to do that than going to camp. Scouts within the Western Los Angeles County Council are fortunate to have several premier camp destinations to choose from.

Camp Emerald Bay: located on Catalina Island, offering a Cub Scout/Webelos Summer Adventure Resident Camp. Enjoy waterfront activities, archery, crafts, outdoor games, BB gun shooting and more! Camp Emerald Bay also hosts Cub Family Weekend in the Spring & Fall.

Camp Whitsett: situated in the majestic Sequoias is an adventure camp for Webelos (4th & 5th graders) that offers classic activities like BB guns, archery, swimming, campfire, and camp-wide games. Camp Whitsett also hosts Cub Family Weekend in August each year.

Camp Josepho: nestled in the Santa Monica mountains, Josepho offers adventure camp for Webelos (4th & 5th graders) where campers have the opportunity to build robots, shoot BB guns, film movies, 3D print objects, and expand their horizons. Cub Parent Weekend also takes place here in the Spring and Fall.

Day Camps: perfect for young Cub Scouts who are not yet ready for the overnight camp adventure. Scouts can enjoy time outdoors in our day camps doing crafts and playing games and spend the night at home. These take place across the council during the summer months.

Learn more about these Cub Scout camps at www.bsa-la.org/cub-camping. And also check out our Scouts BSA high-adventure camps, which become available to your Scout as he/she gets older.



KEY SCOUTING TERMS TO KNOW

Scouting has lots of terminology and it sometimes can be confusing for new parents. Listed below are some key terms that you should know to help you better understand how Cub Scouting works.

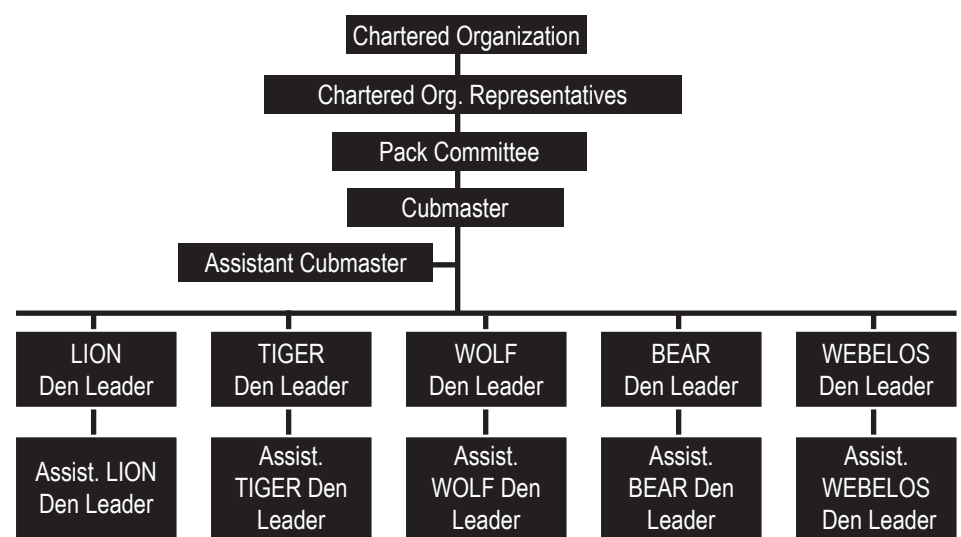
Chartered Organization: These organizations include schools, PTOs/PTAs, service clubs, churches and other groups who want to host packs. Chartered organizations approve leaders, provide a meeting space, and operate within the guidelines and policies of the chartered organization and Boy Scouts of America. Parents do not need to be members of the chartered organization to be in the pack.

Pack Committee: Led by a Committee Chair, the committee is made up of adults approved by the chartering organization to coordinate pack programming. Usually these adults are parents of Cub Scouts. They help manage pack finances, perform record keeping, maintain equipment, order badges and other tasks.

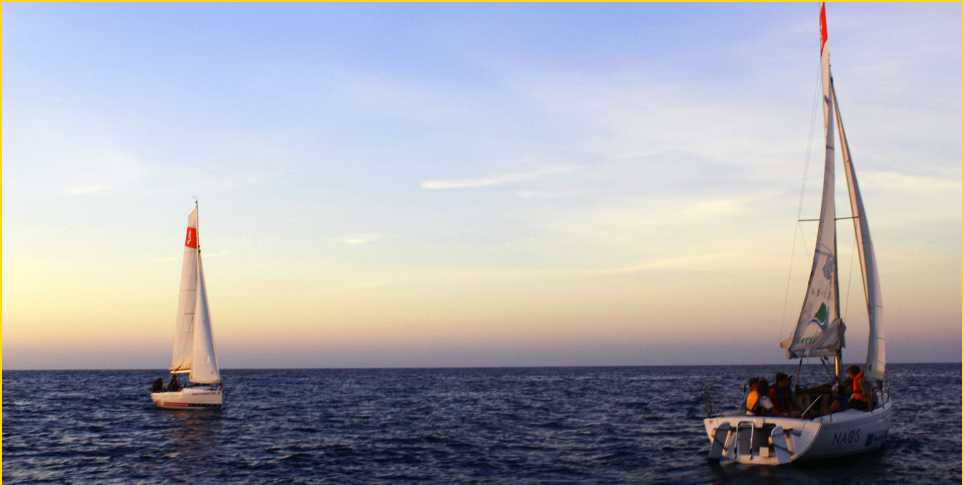
Den: A den typically consists of 6-8 children of the same age and gender. They meet once a week with each meeting led by a Den Leader (usually a parent). Den meetings consist of games, crafts, songs, ceremonies, and lots of fun!

Pack: A pack consists of several dens. All dens attend a pack meeting with their families once a month. These pack meetings are led by a Cubmaster. Similar to den meetings they consist of games, skits, songs, ceremonies; this is also an opportunity for your child to be recognized for badges they earn.

LEADERSHIP ORGANIZATION CHART



STAY CONNECTED



COUNCIL NEWSLETTER

For the most recent copy, visit bsa-la.org/newsletter. All registered leaders automatically receive a copy in their email every month.

WLACC SOCIAL MEDIA SITES



A great way to stay up-to-date on what's happening in the council is to connect with our main Facebook page [@BSAWestLA](https://www.facebook.com/BSAWestLA) or follow us on Twitter and Instagram.

DISTRICT FACEBOOK PAGES

Our council is divided into districts based on geography. Depending on your pack location, you are part of a district. For example, Woodland Hills is part of the Reyes Adobe District and North Hollywood is part of the Campo de Cahuenga District. Special events often occur by district, like camporees and service projects. A great way to stay up-to-date is by connecting with your district Facebook page. These pages are also a good way to share news and highlights about your specific pack.



Visit bsa-la.org/map-of-districts/ to find out which district you are located in.



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