

# Cub Scout Pack 36 Frequently Asked Questions

Thanks for your interest in Cub Scout Pack 36. The purpose of this booklet is to answer questions you may have about our unit. We invite you to ask the leaders about anything not covered here.

## 1. I wanted my son to get into Boy Scouts. Is this Boy Scouts?

This is Cub Scouts. It is a part of Boy Scouts specifically geared to boys in elementary school. Cub Scouting was formed in 1930 due to an overwhelming demand for younger boys to be a part of Scouting.

## 2. What is a pack? What is a den?

A **pack** is a group of Cub Scouts, leaders and parents who belong to the same Cub Scout unit (we are Pack 36 of the Glacier Ridge District of the Greater Cleveland Council). Pack members generally come from elementary schools in the local community. Each pack is made up of Tiger, Wolf, Bear and Webelos dens.

**Dens** are groups of 6-8 boys of the same age or grade & one or two registered leaders. First graders are '**Tigers**,' second graders are '**Wolves**,' third graders are '**Bears**,' fourth and fifth graders are '**Webelos I & II**.' Den activities are planned and lead by the Den leaders. Each den will be assigned a den number (Den 1, Den 2, etc). The Pack (and often the dens) meets at Forest Hill Presbyterian Church – they are our “chartering organization”. This means that Pack 36 is one of Forest Hill Church’s community service programs and they provide space and support for us and our meetings. Please note that membership to Pack 36 is open to anyone regardless of religious affiliation.

## 3. How often do the Cub Scouts meet?

Dens will generally meet every week, often at Forest Hill Church or at the home of a den leader. Once a month all of the Dens meet together in a “**Pack meeting**” where the boys show off their projects and receive advancements, recognition and awards. Meetings and activities are generally based on a monthly theme and often have related games, skits, songs and guest speakers. The agenda is set by the parent committee and is run by the Cubmaster. Pack meetings are generally the first Tuesday of each month but check the Pack calendar first! We meet at Forest Hill Church at the corner of Monticello Blvd and Lee Road in Cleveland Heights.

During the summer there are often a few special activities but no Den or Pack meetings. Please refer to the latest Pack 36 calendar for more details.

Due to their age, Tigers (first graders) may meet a bit less often than the other Dens but always attend the monthly Pack meetings.

## 4. What about holidays? Do you still have Cub Scout meetings?

If the CH-UH schools are closed for the day due to holiday or weather, we may not meet. If there are not two adults available (two registered leaders, or a registered leader and a parent) we will cancel that meeting.

## 5. How early can I drop my boy off before the meeting? What if I'm busy and can't pick him up when the meeting ends?

Please make sure you understand this: CUB SCOUTS IS NOT A BABY SITTING SERVICE! This is not someplace where you should drop your child off for an hour or so while you run some errands. Scouting is a family program. You will be expected to sign up as a "den assistant" on a rotating basis with other parents. Some activities may require a large number of parents. Pack meetings are for the whole family.

**IMPORTANT:** We are forbidden by Boy Scouts of America policy to ever have a situation where one Scout is alone with one adult. If you cannot stay for a particular meeting, **NEVER** drop your son off outside the meeting place and leave without checking to see if at least two adults are present. This is for your child's, as well as for the adult leader's protection.

We cannot hold a meeting if two adults are not present. Therefore you must wait until the den leader says it is OK to leave. If a second adult is not available, the meeting will be canceled. By the same token, if the den leader says you don't need to stay for the meeting, make every effort to be prompt in picking your son up after the meeting. We realize that things will happen sometimes that may delay you, but don't show up late week after week to pick up your son. **Scout leaders' schedules are just as hectic as yours.**

## 6. When does he get to go camping?

"Family camping" (with parents) is allowed for boys first through third grades at Boy Scout approved or "Council run" camps or Pack events (but not as Dens). Webelos may go camping as Dens, but each boy must be accompanied by a parent or guardian. If it is impossible for a parent or guardian to accompany the Webelos scout, guardianship may be transferred to another adult. This adult, by Boy Scouts of America policy, may not be the den or pack leader responsible for the camping trip. Second year Webelos are allowed to go camping with a Boy Scout troop but are required to have a parent/guardian present.

## 7. How much does all this fun cost?

Our total annual fee is only \$35: The National Scouting office is sent \$10.00 to register your boy in Cub Scouts, \$1.00 for accident and liability insurance, and \$12.00 for a year of *Boys' Life* magazine (half the regular subscription price). The remaining pack dues are \$12.00.

To be perfectly honest, there is no way Pack 36 can buy all of the craft materials, pinewood derby cars, awards and recognitions during the year for just \$12.00 a boy. The actual cost is close to \$50. To supplement the Pack's expenses, we sell Trail's End popcorn in the fall. **CURRENTLY THIS IS THE ONLY FUND RAISING EVENT IN WHICH WE PARTICIPATE.** There may be additional costs throughout the year for special camping or activities. Other expenses include the basic Cub Scout uniform which should be selected to fit for a few years. That basic cost will run around \$40.00 depending on size.

As the boys advance through the ranks of cub scouting, the pack will supply an appropriate neckerchief and handbook. The handbook is theirs to keep, however we like to have the neckerchiefs returned when they advance so we can recycle them to the next group of boys.

### **8. How can my out-of-pocket expenses be reduced?**

Our yearly fund raiser is the selling of popcorn. The sales period lasts about one month and in addition to earning prizes, the boys can also earn a commission called **PACK BUCKS** which they can use to pay for registration, special events, uniforms or other related expenses. Details are discussed at the start of the popcorn sale.

### **9. Do we have to get a Cub Scout uniform?**

"Uniform" means just that – everybody dressed alike – leaders and Cubs. Proper uniforming is spelled out in Boy Scouts of America guidelines as one of the means of achieving the goals of Scouting. This means that officially we cannot advocate anything less than full uniform. However, at a minimum we expect all Cub Scouts and leaders to be uniformed from the waist up and wear neat, clean, solid colored pants or shorts. If there is a need, we may have a limited supply of "experienced" uniforms available. Speak to someone in the pack leadership – everything is kept confidential.

All Cub Scouts are eligible to earn the Sports and Academic belt loop awards. You may wish to purchase a Cub Scout Belt, which these belt-loop awards are designed to fit.

Note that unless it is an unusual circumstance, we will not present an advancement award to a boy who is not in uniform.

### **10. Where can I get Cub Scout uniform?**

Uniforms may be purchased at the Scout Shop, located inside the Greater Cleveland Council Scout Office, at 2241 Woodland Ave. Their phone number is **216-274-0814**. Please call them for directions and hours. Tell them our pack number (**36**) and that we are in the **Greater Cleveland Council** and they will advise you on uniform options. The blue uniform shirt is for Tigers, Wolves, and Bears and Webelos I. The tan uniform shirt is an option for Webelos II in preparation for Boy Scouts. Our advice is to buy larger than you need and get a short sleeve shirt – a long sleeve undershirt will convert this to an all-season uniform.

Tell the staff if you need to maximize your budget – we ask them this all the time! We will supply the handbook, Pack numerals with veteran bar, den number patch and the proper neckerchief at our first pack meeting in the fall. (You will need to buy: shirt, council patch, neckerchief slide, world scout crest emblem).

**Sewing hints:** Use a stapler to "pin" the patches into the proper location while stitching -just remember to remove them! Don't worry about perfect stitching as you may have to move patches to a larger shirt in a few years. Glues sound good, but they often don't work well. Some dry-cleaner and uniform shops can do the sewing. Always double check the insignia layout and placement before sewing; the scout shop or pack leadership can provide a placement guide. The Internet is also a good resource.

### **11. Where do you get Cub Scout leaders?**

The leadership of this Cub Scout Pack is made up of volunteers (like YOU!) who want to be involved in their son's growth and formative years. We are not paid to do this. We think highly of our boys and their friends and we want to provide the best possible opportunity for them to become upstanding citizens of their community. Each Den should have at least one registered and trained leader as well as a parent assistant. Without den leadership, we cannot form new dens.

### **12. How can I help? (ALWAYS A WELCOME QUESTION!)**

Volunteer! We are always in need of good leaders and encourage you to invest a portion of you time during this stage of these boy's lives. Scouting is a FAMILY activity and everyone's help is needed to make the work easier and more successful!

### **13. Be a den leader? What would I do? Where would I start?**

Help books, leader manuals, and training sessions are available to help you step into the role of den leader as quickly as possible. Just ask! **WITH YOUR HELP IN LEADERSHIP, THIS PACK WILL CONTINUE TO THRIVE AND GROW! One or two people can't do it all!**

### **14. I have more questions! Who should I talk to?**

Please contact your den leader or one of the following Pack leaders and they will be able to give you more information about the Cub Scouting program at Pack 36:

David Knight 216-799-2252

Chris Harris 216-789-3697

Martin Johannessen 216-371-2971