

# P4CK

**HUDSON • MASS**

## Parent Handbook

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## **Welcome to Scouting!**

Welcome to Cub Scouts and Pack 4! Pack 4 is a group of about 55 boys and their families. The boys range from first grade to fifth grade. Pack 4 is chartered through the Riverside Gun Club in Hudson, Massachusetts. Boys and their families do not have to be members of Riverside to join the Pack. Cub Scouts are part of the Boy Scouts of America or BSA.

Hudson hosts two Cub Scout Packs (Pack 4 and 3) and two Boy Scout Troops (Troop 77 and 2-35).

## **Overview of Cub Scouts**

Since 1930, the Boy Scouts of America has helped younger boys through Cub Scouting. It is a year-round family program designed for boys who are in the first grade through fifth grade (or 7 through 10 years of age). Parents, leaders, and organizations work together to achieve the purposes of Cub Scouting. Currently, Cub Scouting is the largest of the BSA's three membership divisions. (The others are Boy Scouting and Venturing.)

The ten purposes of Cub Scouting are:

1. Character Development
2. Spiritual Growth
3. Good Citizenship
4. Sportsmanship and Fitness
5. Family Understanding
6. Respectful Relationships
7. Personal Achievement
8. Friendly Service
9. Fun and Adventure
10. Preparation for Boy Scouts

## **Membership**

Cub scouting members join a Cub Scout Pack and are assigned to a Den, usually a neighborhood group of six to eight boys. Tiger Cubs (first-graders), Wolf Cub Scouts (second graders), Bear Cub Scouts (third graders), and Webelos Scouts (fourth and fifth graders) meet weekly or bi-weekly.

Once a month, all of the Dens and family members gather for a Pack meeting under the direction of the Cubmaster and Pack Committee. The Committee includes parents of boys in the Pack and members of the chartered organization.

## **Cub Scout Program**

Cub Scouting is a family and home centered program that encourages ethical and decision-making skills. At each level, the program is tailored to the specific age group. Scouting uses a fun program to promote character development, citizenship training, and personal fitness for every member. You can help by encouraging perfect attendance, assisting with your child's advancement, attending meetings, and assisting with transportation.

**Tiger Cubs** (first grade - 7-year olds): These boys participate in the program with their adult partners. The program emphasizes shared leadership, learning about the community, and family understanding. As a Tiger Cub adult partner, you will also participate in all meetings and activities with your son.

**Cub Scouts** (second through fifth grade - 8, 9, 10 and 11 year olds): Activities emphasize character development, citizenship training, and personal fitness.

**Webelos** (fourth and fifth grade – 10 and 11 year olds): Webelos Scouts participate in more advanced activities that begin to prepare them to become Boy Scouts.

**Boy Scouting** (11 through 17 years of age) is designed to achieve the aims of Scouting through a vigorous outdoor program and peer group leadership with the counsel of an adult Scoutmaster. (Boys also may become Boy Scouts if they have earned the Arrow of Light Award or have completed the fifth grade.)

### **Volunteer Leadership**

Volunteer leaders, both men and women, are involved in the Cub Scout program at all levels from unit leaders to Pack Committee Chair, Committee members, Den leaders, and chartered organization representatives as well as district, council and national levels. Many are parents of Scouts; many entered scouting as youth members. Each chartered organization establishes a unit Committee, which operates its Scouting unit, selects leadership, and provides support for a quality program. Most unit Committees depend on parents for membership and assistance.

### **Chartering Organization**

A Cub Scout Pack belongs to an organization such as a church, school, community organization, or group of interested citizens that is chartered by the BSA to use the Scouting program. This chartered organization provides a suitable meeting place and can also provide adult leadership and supervision for the boys under its care. Each organization appoints one of its members as a chartered organization representative. The organization, through the Pack Committee, is responsible for providing leadership, the meeting place, and support materials for Pack activities.

### **Scouting Councils**

Each autonomous local Council is chartered by the BSA, which provides program and training aids along the guidelines established by the National Executive Board and the national charter from Congress.

### **Who Pays For It?**

Groups responsible for supporting Cub Scouting are the boys and their parents, the Pack, the chartered organization, and the community. The boy is encouraged to pay his own way by contributing dues each week. Pack 4 collects an annual fee in lieu of weekly dues.

Packs also obtain income by working on approved money-earning projects. The community, including parents, supports Cub Scouting through Friends of Scouting

enrollment, bequests, and special contributions to the BSA local Council. This financial support provides leadership training, outdoor programs, Council service centers and other facilities, and professional service for units.

### **Advancement Plan**

Recognition is important to young boys. The Cub Scout advancement plan provides fun for the boys, gives them a sense of personal achievement as they earn badges, and strengthens family understanding as adult family members work with boys on advancement projects.

**Tiger Cub:** There are five Tiger Cub achievement areas. The Tiger Cub, working with his adult partner, completes 15 requirements within these areas to earn the Tiger Cub Badge. These requirements consist of an exciting series of indoor and outdoor activities just right for a boy in the first grade.

**Bobcat:** The Bobcat rank is for all boys who join Cub Scouting.

**Wolf:** To earn the Wolf badge, a boy must pass 12 achievements involving simple physical and mental skills.

**Bear:** There are 24 Bear achievements in four categories. The Cub Scout must complete 12 of these to earn the Bear badge. These requirements are somewhat more difficult and challenging than those for Wolf rank.

**Webelos:** 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. As he completes the requirements found in the Webelos Scout Book, he will 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.

### **Activities**

Cub Scouting means "doing." Everything in Cub Scouting is designed to have the boys doing things. Activities are used to achieve the aims of Scouting - citizenship training, character development, and personal fitness. Many of the activities happen right in the Den and Pack. The most important are the regular Den meetings and the monthly Pack meetings.

### **Cub Scout Academics and Sports**

The Cub Scout Academics and Sports program provides the opportunity for boys to learn new techniques, increase scholarship skills, develop sportsmanship, and have fun. Participation in the program allows boys to be recognized for physical fitness and talent-building activities.

### **Camping**

Cub Scout Pack members enjoy camping in local Council camps and other Council-approved campsites. Camping programs combine fun and excitement with doing

one's best, getting along with others, and developing an appreciation for ecology and the world of the outdoors.

### **Publications**

Volunteers are informed of national news and events through *Scouting* magazine (circulation 900,000). Boys may subscribe to *Boys' Life* magazine (circulation 1.3 million). Both are published by the Boy Scouts of America. Also available are a number of Cub Scout and leader publications, including the *Tiger Cub Handbook*, *Wolf Cub Scout Book*, *Bear Cub Scout Book*, *Webelos Scout Book*, *Cub Scout Leader Book*, *Cub Scout Program Helps*, and *Webelos Leader Guide*.

The Knox Trail Council also publishes "Knox Trail Today", a bi-monthly newsletter that is sent to all registered scouting families in the Pack. It has news from all the districts, not just the Tri-River District to which Pack 4 belongs.

### **Cub Scouting Ideals**

Apart from the fun and excitement of Cub Scout activities, the Cub Scout Promise, the Law of the Pack, the Tiger Cub motto, and the Cub Scout sign, handshake, motto, and salute all teach good citizenship and contribute to a boy's sense of belonging.

### **Cub Scout Promise**

*I, (name), promise to do my best to do my duty to God and my country, to help other people, and to obey the Law of the Pack.*

### **Cub Scout Motto**

*Do Your Best.*

### **Tiger Cub Motto**

*Search, Discover, Share.*

### **Law of the Pack**

*The Cub Scout follows Akela. The Cub Scout helps the Pack go. The Pack helps the Cub Scout grow. The Cub Scout gives goodwill.*

### **Colors**

The Cub Scout colors are blue and gold. They have special meaning, which will help boys see beyond the fun of Cub Scouting to its ultimate goals. The blue stands for truth and spirituality, steadfast loyalty, and the sky above. The gold stands for warm sunlight, good cheer, and happiness.

## **What To Expect From Pack 4**

Pack 4 has monthly Pack meetings and smaller, more frequent Den meetings. The Pack meets on the fourth Wednesday of each month from September to May. We meet at Riverside Gun Club on Wilkins Street. On special occasions, the Pack meetings may be held in a different location or on a different day of the month. Dens usually meet weekly or every other week. Each Den sets its own meeting times (after school, in the evening or on

the weekend) and locations. The Pack maintains a calendar of Den, Pack and Council activities at [www.hudsoncubscouts.org](http://www.hudsoncubscouts.org), which will help you to know what events are happening where and when.

Pack 4 is part of the Tri-River District of the Knox Trail Council (KTC). The Knox Trail Council covers much of the Metrowest area of Massachusetts and is headquartered at 290 Union Ave. in Framingham. The Council provides support to adult leaders (such as training) and maintains several facilities available for Scouting. These sites include E. Paul Robsham, Jr. Scout Reservation (Resolute) in Bolton, the Nobscot Scout Reservation on the Framingham/Sudbury line, and Hemingway in New Hampshire. In June, the Council usually runs a family camping program at Resolute. In July and August, the Council runs low-cost summer camp (day camp, adventure trip camp and resident camping for Webelos).

Along with Pack meetings, the Pack has special events such as hikes, camp-ins, camping, visits to sporting events, Pinewood Derby, Space Derby, and a Fishing Derby. Pack 4 also participates in service projects such as the Scouting for Food Drive. The Pack marches in the Hudson Memorial Day and Veterans Day parades each year. The Pack Committee chooses events and publishes the information by e-mail and our web site.

Pack 4 requires all member families to participate in fundraisers. In past years, Pack 4 has been able to support its programs with a single candy sale fundraiser selling Hebert candy bars in the fall. This supports the purchase of all of the awards the Scouts earn, and supplements Pack activities. Other special events are scheduled during the Scouting year that are optional and sometimes at an additional cost.

It is the hope of everyone that a Cub Scout advances to Boy Scouts and “crosses over” at the annual Arrow of Light ceremony at the end of the Webelos program (fifth grade). While a Cub Scout is a Webelos, he learns what it means to be a Boy Scout. He will visit the two Troops in town and spend some time camping with the Troops. Once he selects which Troop to join, he will “cross over” to Boy Scouts at the annual Blue and Gold Ceremony. At the end of the ceremony, he is no longer expected to come to Pack meetings.

## **What Pack 4 Expects From Parents**

### Participation:

While your son is a *Tiger Cub*, we expect you to serve as his adult partner and participate in all meetings and activities. This is a BSA requirement, not a Pack one.

While he is a *Cub Scout*, help him and approve his Cub Scout achievement.

While he is a Cub Scout or Webelos Scout, attend monthly Pack meetings and take part in other activities; and *assist the Den and Pack leaders as needed*.

Each parent is expected to keep up on Pack and Den activities by talking to the leaders and checking the calendar at [www.hudsoncubscouts.org](http://www.hudsoncubscouts.org) regularly. Much effort is put into creating opportunities for the Scouts, and you are expected to support those activities.

### Volunteering:

Parent volunteers run the entire Pack. This means that **every** parent is expected to volunteer to run (chair), assist, be on the Pack Committee, lead or help the Pack in some way. The Pack and your child only succeed in a fun, vibrant Pack only if we have parents that commit to this requirement and participate in planning.

The Cubs deserve trained leaders. All leaders are expected to complete the online Fast Start training and Youth Protection training before starting and complete All Leader Basic Training (ALBT) as soon as possible. Parents are asked to complete online Fast Start training and Youth Protection training even if you are not a leader.

### Leaders:

Leading Cub Scouts requires a commitment to the Pack but does not mean you have to “reinvent the wheel”. There are extensive resources available to you - within the Pack, at the Scout store (Program Helps, books, manuals, How-To guides, etc.), at the Council office (training, resources), on the web (more “How To”, recaps of roundtables, white papers), at District roundtables (personal contacts, training) and other meetings. If you’re always running out of ideas for meetings, please see the Committee Chairperson or the Cubmaster or another Den Leaders.

### Uniforms:

You will need to provide a uniform for your Cub Scout. A uniform provides identification, source of pride, honors tradition and shows rank. A proper uniform includes the following:

#### a) Tiger Cubs

- Blue BSA Shirt with required patches (required)
- Blue dress slacks/ dark blue dungarees (required) \*\*
- Tiger neckerchief – orange (required)
- Tiger Cub neckerchief slide (required)
- Tiger hat (orange) (optional)
- Blue Cub Scout belt (optional but needed if displaying the Belt Totem or Belt Loops)

#### b) Wolf Cubs

- Blue BSA Shirt with required patches (required)\*
- Blue dress slacks/ dark blue dungarees (required) \*\*
- Wolf neckerchief - yellow (required)
- Cub Scout neckerchief slide (required)
- Wolf hat (blue & yellow) (optional)
- Blue Cub Scout belt (optional but needed if displaying Belt Loops)

#### c) Bear Cubs

- Blue BSA Shirt with required patches (required)\*
- Blue dress slacks/ dark blue dungarees (required) \*\*
- Wolf neckerchief - light blue (required)
- Cub Scout neckerchief slide (required)
- Wolf hat (blue & light blue) (optional)

- Blue Cub Scout belt (optional but needed if displaying Belt Loops)

d) Webelos Cubs

There are two options for Webelos Scouts, either the blue shirt or the tan shirt. All Webelos should obtain a tan shirt before crossing over into Boy Scouts.

Blue Shirt (option 1)

- Blue BSA Shirt with required patches \*
- Blue dress slacks/ dark blue dungarees (required) \*\*
- Webelos neckerchief - plaid (required)
- Cub Scout neckerchief slide (required)
- Webelos hat (Khaki & plaid) (optional)
- Blue Cub Scout belt (optional but needed if displaying belt loops)

Tan Shirt (option 2)

- Tan BSA Shirt with required patches \*
- Blue dress slacks/ dark blue dungarees (required) \*\*
- Webelos neckerchief - plaid (required)
- Cub Scout neckerchief slide (required)
- Webelos hat (Khaki & plaid) (optional)
- Blue Cub Scout belt (optional but needed if displaying belt loops)

\*Required Patches:

Left sleeve: Knox Trail Council patch, Pack number “4”

Right sleeve: Den number below flag

Above left pocket: World crest patch or World Conservation badge (if earned)

The Scouting Store can give you more details and help you choose the right patches. All other patches are earned by the Cub and distributed at each Pack meeting.

A guide to uniform patch placement can be found on our web site in both the Parent Resources and Leader Resource sections.

\*\*Pants: Blue dress slacks / dark blue dungarees (long hemmed) **OR** official trousers - no sweat pants, shorts (except during the summer months), gym shorts, or cut-offs. We’re looking for neat and clean and consistent.

Uniforms are often handed down from brother to brother or from family to family. Uniforms are available by catalog (1-800-323-0732), on the web at the online catalog (see the Council web site at [www.ktc-bsa.org](http://www.ktc-bsa.org), under Council Resources), or at the Scouting Store, 23 Turnpike Rd., Southborough (Rt. 9, Westbound, in the Brickyard Plaza past Dominos Pizza). Their phone number is (508) 299-2396. Hours of operation: M-F 9:30-6PM, Th to 8PM, Sat 9:30-3PM, Closed Sunday.

Cub Scout Book:

Each Cub Scout needs a book for their appropriate year. Books are to be purchased by the parents. Webelos books are good for two years. The Cubs should bring these books to every Den meeting. The books are not needed for the larger Pack meetings.

Registration/ registration Fees:

Pack 4 requires an annual fee (rates set annually, but the range is \$45 - \$60 depending on options), payable in September for the current Scouting year. Cubs that join the Pack before September will have their fees for the current year pro-rated, and will need to pay the following year's fees. Pack 4 collects an annual fee instead of having the Cubs pay weekly dues.

Financial Hardship:

Any family that is unable to pay annual dues, purchase a uniform, or attend a trip because of financial hardship should speak to the Den leader, Cubmaster, or a member of the Pack Committee.

Re-registration:

Re-registration needs to be completed each year. Registration includes Cub and parent information, basic medical information that outlines any medical condition that may require emergency care and auto registration and insurance information (for completing tour permits for field trips).

Parent attendance:

Parents are expected to attend Pack meetings with their Cub Scout. It is up to the Den Leader whether you need to be present at Den meetings (except Tiger Cubs - Tiger Adult Partners are expected to attend and participate in Tiger Cub Den meetings). A minimum of two leaders or one leader and one adult parent MUST be at every Den meeting so you may be asked to stay by the Den Leader if there are not enough adults at the meeting.

Pack Committee meetings:

The Pack Committee runs the Pack. These meetings are open meetings and any parent is invited to attend. They are held monthly at the home of one of the Committee members, usually beginning at 7PM. Contact the Cubmaster for the next planned location.

Why do we ask for insurance information at registration and re-registration?

The BSA has a liability insurance plan that covers you, your leaders and your son in the event of an accident. The BSA plan covers accidents above your own personal auto insurance. This insurance information is required for tour permits any time a BSA sanctioned event occurs outside of the Knox Trail Council limits.

Membership card:

The Cub Scout's membership card is good at certain stores for discounts. Currently, the following stores offer discounts. If you know of others, please inform the Committee Chair so an update can be made. Be sure to call or check with the manager before shopping to make sure the store has not discontinued the program.

- Coleman outlet store, Wrentham Premium Outlets
- Campmor catalog and online store, <http://www.campmor.com/> - Must call and ask
- Turtleface craft supply, <http://stores.ebay.com/Turtleface-Craft-Supplies-and-Gifts>

## What Pack 4 Expects From Cubs Scouts

First and foremost, we want the Cub Scouts to HAVE FUN! They will do this by lots of hands-on learning, exploring and getting outdoors.

- We expect the Cubs to attend Den meetings and Pack meetings and be in full uniform at these meetings.
- We expect them to try their best.
- We expect them to be on their best behavior at den and Pack meetings, and anytime they are in uniform as they are representing the Boy Scouts of America.
- We expect them to participate in the annual fundraiser and the Pack community service projects.

## Program Policies

Chartered organizations agree to use the Scouting program in accordance with their own policies as well as those of the BSA. The program is flexible, but major departures from BSA methods and policies are not permitted. As a parent, you should be aware that:

- Leadership is restricted to qualified adults who subscribe to the Declaration of Religious Principle, the Scout Oath and the Scout Law.
- Citizenship activities are encouraged, but partisan political activities are prohibited.
- Military training and drills are prohibited. Marksmanship and elementary drill for ceremonies are permitted.
- The Boy Scouts of America recognizes the importance of religious faith and duty; it leaves sectarian religious instruction to the member's religious leaders and family. Members who do not belong to a unit's religious chartered organization shall not be required to participate in its religious activities.
- Two registered adult leaders or one registered adult leader and a parent of a participant, one of whom must be 21 years of age or older, are required on all trips and outings. If activities are coeducational, leaders of both sexes must be present.
- Corporal punishment and hazing are **not permitted**. Parents and unit leaders must work together to solve discipline problems.
- One-on-one activities between youth and adults are not permitted; personal conferences must be conducted in plain view of others.
- If you suspect that anyone in the unit is a victim of child abuse, immediately contact the Scout executive, who is responsible for reporting this to the appropriate authorities.
- All Scouting activities are open to parental visitation. There are no "secret" organizations within the Boy Scouts of America.

## Useful Web Resources

Pack 4 Web Site

<http://www.hudsoncubscouts.org/>

Knox Trail Council

<http://www.ktc-bsa.org/>

Boy Scouts of America  
<http://www.Scouting.org/>

MeritBadge.com  
<http://www.meritbadge.com/>

US Scouting Service Project (has links to everything Scouting)  
<http://www.usScouts.org/>

Uniform inspection sheet  
<http://www.hudsoncubscouts.org/PDF/Uniform%20Placement%20&%20Inspecti%20on%20-%20Cub%20Scout.pdf>  
<http://www.Scoutstuff.org/misc/isheets/34282.pdf>

Scouting online catalog  
<http://www.Scoutstuff.org/>

## **Credits / Acknowledgements**

This parents handbook is based on one created by Pack 33 in Marlboro with permission. Any omissions, mistakes or errors are purely our fault or were put there to see if you really have read the handbook.

### **Revision History:**

- 00 - 25-Oct-2005  
Initial draft version
- 01 - 26-Jan-2006  
First revision based on feedback.  
Minor reformatting / typo changes  
Fixed URLs to be valid (no extra whitespace in them)
- 02 - 31-Jan-2006  
Revision of Pack 4 description  
Minor reformatting / typo changes  
Added several references to our web site  
Update the URL section  
Removed “*Storing cards and awards*” from Parents section
- 03 – 13-Feb-2006  
Incorporating feedback updates from Planning group.
- 04 – 5-Sep-2007  
Redid the cover page to better identify it as being from Pack 4 (using our new logo)  
Updated our Charter Organization information  
A few minor capitalization / textual changes here and there.  
Fixed truncated description under What to expect from Pack 4  
Minor change to the description of Webelos moving on to Boy Scouts and when.  
Trimmed the URL section down and removed any defunct references
- 05 – 30-Apr-2008  
Updated the Cubmaster (and the cover date)