

**The Purpose of Cub Scouting:**

In 1930 the Boy Scouts of America launched a home-and neighborhood-centered program for boys 9 to 11 years of age. A key element of the program is an emphasis on caring, nurturing relationship between boys and their parents, adult leaders, and friends. Currently, Cub Scouting is the largest of the BSA's three membership divisions. (The others are Boy Scouting and Venturing.)

Cub Scouting has nine purposes:

- To influence the development of character and encourage spiritual growth
- To develop habits and attitudes of good citizenship
- To encourage good sportsmanship and pride in growing strong in mind and body
- To improve understanding within the family
- To strengthen the ability to get along with other boys and respect other people
- To foster a sense of personal achievement by developing new interests and skills
- To show how to be helpful and do one's best
- To provide fun and exciting new things to do
- To prepare boys to become Boy Scouts

**Membership:**

Cub Scouting has program components for boys in the first through fifth grades (or ages seven, eight, nine, or ten). Members join a Cub Scout pack and are assigned to a den, usually a neighborhood group of six to eight boys. First-grade boys (Tiger Cubs) meet twice a month, while Wolf Cub Scouts (second graders), Bear Cub Scouts (third graders) and Webelos Scouts (fourth and fifth graders) meet weekly.

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

**Volunteer Leadership:**

Thousands of volunteer leaders, both men and women, are involved in the Cub Scout program. They serve in a variety of positions, as everything from unit leaders to pack committee chairmen, committee members, den leader coaches, and chartered organization representatives.

Like other phases of the Scouting program, Cub Scouting is made available to groups having similar interests and goals, including professional organizations, governmental bodies, and religious, educational, civic, fraternal, business, labor, and citizens groups. These "sponsors" are called chartered organizations. Each organization appoints one of its members as a chartered responsible for providing leadership, the meeting place, and support materials for pack activities.

**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. Packs also obtain income by working on approved money-earning projects. The community, including parents support Cub Scouting through the United Way, 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.

**Activities and Sports:**

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 weekly den meetings and the monthly pack meetings.

Fun and fitness are combined in the Cub Scout Sports program. This program provides the opportunity for every Cub Scout to learn the basic skills of a sport and experience sports competition while learning good sportsmanship and personal fitness habits.

**Camping:**

Age-appropriate camping programs are packed with theme-oriented action that brings Cub Scouts and Webelos Scouts into the world of imagination. Daycamps comes to the boy in neighborhoods across the country; resident camping is at least a three-day experience in which Cub Scouts and Webelos Scouts camp within a developed theme of adventure and excitement. "Cub Scout Worlds" are used by many councils to carry the world of imagination into reality with actual theme structures of castles, forts, ships, etc. Cub Scout pack members enjoy camping in local resident camps and council-approved national, state, county, or city parks. 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.

**Safe Havens:**

Cub Scouts are organized into small units called *Dens* - neighborhood-based groups of same-age boys. Dens are supervised by volunteer den leaders of men and women who help the boys pursue age-appropriate activities. The den is where many young boys first learn about the requirements of leadership and the give-and-take associated with teamwork.

Once a month several dens meet for a pack meeting - a highlight for the Cub Scout's entire family. Parents see their boys interact with their friends, meet

other parents from surrounding areas, and share in their son's successes and achievements.

**It's Neighborhood Based:**

If you attend a mosque, temple, or church, or participate in the Lions Club, Kiwanis Club, or Moose Lodge, chances are you already know someone who participates in Cub Scouting.

Cub Scouting maintains long-standing relationships with thousands of different groups that espouse the same ideals as the BSA. The BSA calls these groups chartered organizations. They include most religious groups, community and fraternal organizations, and public and private schools.