

WELCOME! NEW CUB SCOUT FAMILY

A FAMILY INFORMATION GUIDE



Scouting  **America**
Connecticut Rivers Council

WHY JOIN CUB SCOUTING?

Cub Scouting: Adventure, Values, and Family Fun!

Cub Scouting is more than just fun – it's a meaningful way to spend quality time with your child and the whole family. Every activity is designed with a purpose: to help build the values you want your child to develop – character, leadership, personal fitness, and citizenship.

Through exciting outdoor adventures, hands-on learning, and discovering family traditions, Cub Scouts explore the world around them while developing essential life skills in a safe and supportive environment.

Belonging Matters

Cub Scout-age children thrive when they're part of a small group of peers. That's why your child will join a den – a close-knit group of Scouts, usually in the same grade. In this setting, kids build self-esteem, learn teamwork, and form lasting friendships.

Guided by Values

Everything we do is rooted in the Scout Oath and Scout Law, helping children grow into responsible, kind, and confident individuals.

Join us in making memories, building character, and having a blast—Cub Scouting is where the adventure begins!

Scout Law

A Scout is *trustworthy, loyal, helpful, friendly, courteous, kind, obedient, cheerful, thrifty, brave, clean, and reverent.*

Scout Oath

On my honor I will *do my best* to do my duty to God and my country and to obey the Scout Law; to help other people at all times; to keep myself physically strong, mentally awake, and morally straight.

We know that kids do not join Cub Scouting for character building. Youth join because it is fun. Your child will learn great lessons, but they will be far too busy having fun to notice.



MAKE MEMORIES WITH YOUR CHILD THAT WILL LAST A LIFETIME!

HOW DOES CUB SCOUTING WORK?

In Cub Scouting, your family actively participates in the program alongside your child, providing support throughout their journey. Each grade level has its own unique program, filled with *Adventures* tailored to their developmental stage. As your child progresses through these Adventures, they will earn belt loops and other forms of recognition to display on their uniform. As your child grows in Cub Scouting, your involvement will evolve from hands-on participation to guidance and coaching. Your support plays a crucial role in your child's success in this program!

The Cub Scouting experience is structured at two levels. Your child will belong to a **den**, which is a small group of Cub Scouts sharing the same grade. Typically, a den meets twice a month, although some may convene more frequently. All the dens, ranging from kindergarten through fifth grade, together form a **pack**. During pack meetings, the dens, along with their families, gather to engage in games, work on Adventures, and receive positive reinforcement for their accomplishments.

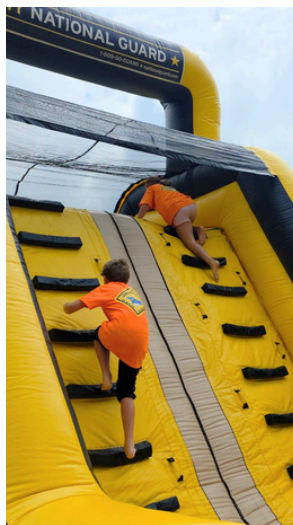
Each pack and/or den may be different based on the size of the pack and meeting space availability.

THE LION(KINDERGARTEN) AND TIGER (FIRST GRADE) DENS

Cub Scouts who join in kindergarten or first grade join with an adult partner, usually the parent or guardian. A Lion or Tiger den should be no more than eight Cub Scouts and their adult partners. An adult is selected to serve as the den leader (usually one of the parents) and coordinates the meetings. Each adult partner takes a turn assisting or hosting meetings or activities with the den leader. This shared leadership model is a great way to ensure the den leader has the help needed to deliver a quality program.



At den meetings, Lions and Tigers work on Adventures that are found in their handbooks and the Adult Partner Guides.



WOLF (2ND GRADE), BEAR (3RD GRADE), AND WEBELOS (4TH GRADE) DENS



Children this age are becoming more independent, and activities are designed to meet their developmental needs.

A Wolf (second grade), Bear (third grade), or Webelos (fourth grade) den is ideally no more than eight Cub Scouts, a den leader, an assistant den leader (usually parents of some of the den members), and often a den chief (an older Scout who helps the den leader).

THE ARROW OF LIGHT SCOUT DEN (5TH GRADE)



The Arrow of Light den is focused on preparing to join Scouts BSA. Arrow of Light Scouts move to the next level of Scouting, Scouts BSA

PACK MEETINGS

The Cub Scout pack is made up of all the dens, led by the Cubmaster. There are games, skits, songs, ceremonies, and presentations of achievements and badges that Cub Scouts earned during that month.

The pack, including families, also participates in other special events throughout the year, including:

Pinewood Derby®—You can build and race a model car with your child.

Blue and gold banquet—Cub Scouting's birthday party—for all pack members and their families— takes place in February.

Camping—Overnight and day camp opportunities introduce your family to the camping experience. Whether that is overnight at one of our three camps, or sleeping under the wings of a plane at the New England Air Museum. There are endless opportunities for adventure both day and overnight.

Service projects—Packs may participate in food drives, toy drives, conservation projects, or other community activities.

Field trips and special outings—Den outings are a great way to learn more about the people and places in your community.



HOW CAN YOU HELP?

The most important help that you, as a parent, can give your child is to work with them on their Cub Scouting Adventures as they work toward their badge of rank. The Cub Scout handbook is full of age-appropriate activities; some of them you do together at home. Den meetings are designed for Cub Scouts to complete Adventures that are required for them to earn their rank patch.

When you have completed a requirement at home, please ensure that your den leader is informed so that they can properly record it and your child can be recognized for their achievements.

Your role as a parent is the secret to a successful Cub Scouting program!

The den and the pack rely on parent participation to run a successful program. Cub Scouting operates through volunteer leadership. Volunteer leaders exemplify Scouting's principle of service to others. By volunteering in Scouting, you are also giving your child and family the gift of your time. What could be more valuable? You will have an opportunity to be a positive influence in their life and in the lives of their friends.

Here are some of the ways you could volunteer:

Den leader. Uses the den meeting resources to lead the den at den meetings. Attends the monthly pack committee meeting.

Cubmaster. Helps plan and implement the pack program in collaboration with the pack committee. Emcees the monthly pack meeting and attends the pack committee meeting.



THE PACK COMMITTEE

Every Cub Scout parent or guardian is invited to become a member of the pack committee.

Pack committee members perform the administrative functions of the pack. The committee meets monthly and is responsible for the tasks outlined below.

Committee chair. Presides at all pack committee meetings. Helps recruit adult leaders and attends the monthly pack meeting and pack committee meeting.

Advancement chair. Maintains advancement records for the pack. Orders and obtains all badges and insignia. Attends the monthly pack meeting and pack committee meeting.

Secretary. Keeps records of the pack committee meetings and communicates with families about upcoming pack events and activities.

Treasurer. Keeps all financial records for the pack, including the pack bank account, and gives a monthly financial report to the pack committee. Attends the monthly pack meeting and pack committee meeting.

TRAINING

Scouting America offers convenient training for parents who volunteer their time. As a new parent, you can learn all about Cub Scouting and how quality Scouting programs are built. Log on to [my.Scouting.org](https://my.scouting.org) and create an account to gain access to all available training content. For more information about training at all levels of the program, go to www.scouting.org/training.

For registered leaders, both the **Safeguarding Youth & Hazardous Weather** training is required.

SAFEGUARDING YOUTH

Child abuse is a serious problem in our society, and unfortunately, it can occur anywhere, even in Scouting. Youth safety is of paramount importance to Scouting. For that reason, Scouting America continues to create barriers to abuse beyond what has previously existed in Scouting.

Scouting America places the greatest importance on providing the most secure environment possible for its youth members. To complete the online training, please visit [my.Scouting.org](https://my.scouting.org).

If you complete the training online before obtaining a member number, be sure to return to [my.Scouting.org](https://my.scouting.org) and enter your number to receive training record credit.

- **Safeguarding Youth training** is required for all Scouting America registered volunteers and is a joining requirement.
- Safeguarding Youth training must be completed annually. If a volunteer's Safeguarding Youth training is not current at the time of annual registration renewal, the volunteer will not be re-registered.

More information: scouting.org/training/youth-protection/

HOW MUCH DOES SCOUTING COST?

2025–2026 Program Year

Cub Scouts & Scouts – \$160 per year

Registered Adults – \$80 per year

Scouts who qualify for Husky – \$60 per year

Merit Badge Counselors – \$25 per year (if not paid elsewhere)

OTHER POTENTIAL COSTS:

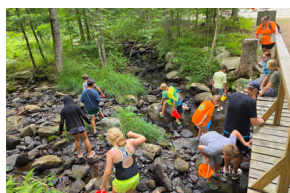
Pack dues: The amount varies by pack, depending on money-earning projects conducted by the pack to decrease the amount needed to run the pack program. Some packs may not charge these fees based on their annual fundraising campaigns.

Books & Supplies: Some units may charge or require books or other supplies for their meetings.

Uniform: The uniform and its cost vary by program for both youth and adults.

Uniforms may also be purchased at your local Scout shop. A uniform is a method of scout, but is not required. Some Packs do not require uniforms and may have a 'Class B' uniform, which usually consists of a Pack T-Shirt.

There may be other costs based on your unit's programs (activities, outings, camping, field trips, and more.) Units participate in easy annual fundraising opportunities such as Popcorn to reduce or eliminate some costs. Helping with your unit fundraising goes directly into helping your local scouting.



YOU ARE NOT ALONE!

Your **den** is in a **pack** that belongs to an organization chartered by the Connecticut Rivers Council – Scouting America to operate a Cub Scout pack. The chartered organization approves leadership, helps secure a meeting place, and ensures that the pack operates within the guidelines and policies of both their organization and Scouting America.

Many volunteers and Scouting America professionals are interested in the success of your pack. A special volunteer assigned to help your pack is called a commissioner.

The commissioner helps the pack provide a successful and high-quality program. The commissioner is also the communication link between your pack and the local council.

There are professional staff members at the Connecticut Rivers Council who can be found on the staff directory at www.ctscouting.org

Connecticut Rivers Council

District: _____

Pack _____

My child is in Pack _____, which meets at _____ (location) at _____ (time) on _____ (day and week of month).

My child is in Den _____, which meets at _____ (location) at _____ (time) on _____ (day of week).

Our pack's chartered organization is _____

Our local council name is _____

Phone No. _____ Website _____

Our Leaders & Contact Information

Den Leader _____

Committee Chair _____

Cubmaster _____

My Council Camps are:

Mattatuck Scout Reservation - Plymouth, CT

Camp Workcoeman - New Hartford, CT

June Norcross Webster Scout Reservation - Ashford, CT

Connecticut Rivers Council

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Hartford, CT 06103

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