

# PACK 73 Parent Handbook

## Introduction

Welcome to Cub Scout Pack 73. We are chartered by Central Grade School PTO and open to boys in first through fifth grade. Generally scouts live in Central Grade School District 51 area. Boys who are home-schooled or attend private school are welcomed and encouraged to join.

We are part of the larger Boy Scouts of America organization. We are in the Wotamalo District (Woodford, Tazewell, Mason, Logan counties) of the W.D. Boyce Council (Central Illinois area).

We have prepared this orientation to help you better understand how our pack functions and let you know what to expect.

## Ranks and Advancements

Each boy in Scouts is a certain year. Each year the goal is for the boy to earn the rank badge associated with that year.

Grade In School	Scout Year	Scout Badge Goal
*All Grades	*All Ranks	Bobcat
First Grade	Tigers	Tiger Badge
Second Grade	Wolf	Wolf Badge
Third Grade	Bear	Bear Badge
Fourth Grade	Webelos I	Webelos Badge
Fifth Grade	Webelos II	Arrow of Light

\*Every boy must also earn the Bobcat Badge before earning any badge.

Boys can join at any age and at any point during the year. They cannot however go back and earn earlier rank badges with the exception of Webelos badge, which can be earned by fourth or fifth graders and is a requirement for the Arrow of Light.

Each badge has certain requirements. Through these requirements the boys learn new skills, information, and have fun. They are outlined in the handbook for that year. The requirements may be completed through various activities with his family, den, pack, school, camp etc. Dens will generally work on completing many of the requirements together. However, **parents are primarily responsible for making sure a boy completes his rank requirements.** We encourage the boys when possible to earn the rank badge by the Blue and Gold Banquet in February. The latest the rank badge can be earned is May. Each level also has additional activities that can be completed for more recognition after the rank badge is earned.

Scouts graduate to the next level at the May pack meeting. During the summer, scouts are considered to be at the level for their grade in the fall. For example between 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> grade, scouts are considered to be Wolves.

Boys are given increasing responsibility with age and rank. **Tigers for example must have a parent or guardian at every scout function and activity.** By Webelos the boys begin to take

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more leadership. After the Blue and Gold banquet in February the Fifth Graders/Webelos II usually transition to a Boy Scout Troop. The Arrow of Light award, which can be earned as a fifth grader is the only award in Cub Scouting that can be worn on the Boy Scout uniform.

### ***Pack Organization***

Boys are divided into dens of about 5-7 boys of the same year. There may be more than one den of each age. Dens usually meet once or twice a month. Each den has a **Den Leader** and an **Assistant Den Leader** who plans activities for that den. They also provide the primary parent contact for those boys. Each den also has a number assigned to it. In recent years we have had about 9 dens. Dens usually remain together as they progress through the years. A den may have a Den Chief (a boy scout) that helps them.

The Pack also has several other leaders.

The **Cubmaster** is the most visible and usually runs the pack meetings and leadership meetings. He may have one or more **Assistant Cubmasters** who help him and may coordinate specific activities..

The **Pack Committee Chair** is also active in running the pack. They also make sure that Pack is following all BSA requirements.

The **Treasurer** maintains the checking account and the budget.

The **Secretary** takes minutes for the leadership meetings and maintains the files.

The **Newsletter Chair** writes and distributes a monthly newsletter to all Scout families.

The **Photographer** takes pictures for the newsletter or media.

The **Popcorn Chair and Assistants** run the annual popcorn sale.

The **Pack Trainer** maintains training records for leaders and is a focal point for leadership training.

All of these people make up the leadership team. Leadership meetings are generally held on the Thursday evening the week after the pack meeting. Parents are always welcome to attend. Please contact the Cubmaster for exact meeting details.

### ***Meetings***

Dens will usually meet one or two times per month. The frequency is up to the den leader. They may also meet for additional field trips or activities.

Pack Meetings occur once a month usually on a Thursday or Friday night (special activities) at Central Grade School small gym. Pack meetings are family affairs. A parent or guardian should attend with each boy.

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Pack Meetings have several parts (not in order):

1. Opening and Closing Flag Ceremonies (led by dens).
2. Announcements
3. A uniform inspection generally occurs beginning in October (see uniform section). A parent in attendance is one of the uniform inspection requirements.
4. Awarding of rank badges, patches, pins and any other awards.
5. Rank badges as well as many other patches, and pins are awarded at Pack Meetings. This point of pride for the boys is important to the boys to share this with their family.
6. A program or activity, which varies by month. This includes things such as games, pinewood derby, turkey shoot, safety presentations, popcorn kickoff and awards, etc.
7. Sign ups for any extra events such Chiefs games, day camps, etc.
8. Light refreshments are sometimes served.

### ***Parent Expectations***

Cub Scouting is a family affair! It is a great opportunity to get involved in your son's life. Boys cannot be successful in scouting without parent support. We have several expectations of parents:

1. Volunteer. **We ask each parent to volunteer in some way during the year.** This may be serving as a den leader or assistant or as a member of the leadership team mentioned above. It also may be helping at a special activity such as pinewood derby or serving on a committee to plan an activity such as the Blue & Gold banquet or Pizza Party. This pack cannot exist without volunteers. Parents will also find the more they put into Scouting, the more their boy will get out of it.
2. Popcorn Fundraiser. Each family should participate in the Popcorn Sale. See the Fundraising section for more details.
3. Communicate with the Den leader regarding scout's activities, advancement, etc.
4. Read the handbook and signoff on any completed requirements (In Webelos, the den leader actually signs off).
5. Help boys complete the requirements for their advancements. Although Den leaders do a lot in dens, it is ultimately the parent's responsibility to make sure everything is done.
6. Take scout to den meetings, pack meetings, etc. It is important that scouts attend pack meetings, den meetings, and den fieldtrips if at all possible. Many of these count toward their advancement. **For Tiger Cubs only, a parent or guardian must remain with the scout at every activity and event. This must be the scouts parent/guardian not that of a friend.**
7. Attend monthly pack meetings.

### ***Fundraising/Financial Information***

Pack 73 is funded through 2 main sources:

1. A portion of the registration fee collected each year is used for local programming. The rest is turned into the Council to run the District, Council, and National organizations and to pay insurance. Optionally a parent can choose to also order Boys Life Magazine at a reduced rate.

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2. Popcorn Sale. Each fall Pack 73 participates in the Council Popcorn sale. This is where the majority of our income comes from. Every Scout is expected to participate in the popcorn sale or for the family to make a donation equal to the programming cost for each scout per year. In the past several years we have been one of the top packs participating, which has enabled us to do many things at no additional cost to scout families.

Our pack receives **no** direct income from the Council, United Way, Central Grade School or the PTO.

In addition some dens may collect dues to pay for supplies and teach boys responsibility.

Once a year the Council will come to a pack meeting and share information about the Friends of Scouting program and ask for donations. This is not a Pack fund raiser and only goes to the council, which is used to cover expenses for improving the scouting program at a regional level.

Our income is spent on programming, awards, supplies, etc. The Pack pays for awards earned by scouts. At the end of the year the handbook and neckerchief for the next level are given to each boy continuing. In addition, due to our outstanding popcorn sales, in recent years we have been able to pay for most activities without charging. District and Council events such as Day Camp, Cub-O-Ree, and tickets to sporting events and shows usually cost extra.

All leaders are volunteers. A Pack treasurer maintains the checking account and prepares monthly budget reports. If there is ever a question about this area, please contact the Treasurer and/or Cubmaster.

**We do not want lack of money to ever prevent any boy from participating. Please contact the Cubmaster if financial assistance is ever needed for any scouting activities.**

### ***Uniforms***

Uniforms provide a sense of pride and identification for the scouts. They also are a place to display the awards the scout has earned. It identifies the boy as a scout to other people. The pride of a new scout the first time he wears his uniform is evident on his face.

Uniforms should be worn to all pack meetings. Uniform Inspections will take place. Uniform may also be worn to other scout functions and to school. We recently bought Pack T-shirts (Class B Uniform), which may be worn to extra activities but do not meet uniform inspection criteria for Pack Meetings. Please contact your Den Leader for uniform requirements for den meetings. When purchasing uniform pieces, be certain to look at how many years it will be worn. For example a first grader will wear a blue Cub Scout shirt for 3-5 years so buy large.

Uniforms are available at the W.D. Boyce National Scout Store located at the Council Office at 614 NE Madison Avenue, Peoria. This is about 2 blocks North East of I-74 between Hancock and Greene Streets and a block or two Northwest of Jefferson and Adams streets. It is across the street from St. Mary's Cathedral.

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Here are the uniform pieces used in our pack.

	<b>Tigers (1<sup>st</sup> Grade)</b>	<b>Wolves (2<sup>nd</sup> Grade)</b>	<b>Bears (3<sup>rd</sup> Grade)</b>	<b>Webelos (4<sup>th</sup> &amp; 5<sup>th</sup> Grade)</b>
Shirt	Blue Cub Scout Shirt			Blue Cub Scout or Tan Boy Scout Shirt
Insignia	<p>The following insignia should be on all shirts. The Scout store will help you with these.</p> <p>Pack Numerals (73) Den Number Strip US Flag Emblem W.D. Boyce Council patch World Scout Crest Emblem</p> <p>Additional Rank Badges, Service Year Pins, etc are worn as awarded.</p>			
Pants	Our Pack does not wear official Scout pants. Boys are expected to wear clean pants with belt loops and without holes. Jeans or Shorts meeting these criteria are fine.			
Belt	Blue Cub Scout belt			Blue Cub Scout belt or Olive Cub Scout Belt (blue belt is recommended because it will hold belt loops earned)
Belt buckle	Tiger Cub Buckle	Cub Scout Buckle		Webelos Buckle
Neckerchief	Orange Tiger Neckerchief	Yellow Wolf Neckerchief	Blue Bear Neckerchief	Plaid Webelos Neckerchief
Slide	Tiger Cub Slide	Cub Scout Slide		Webelos Slide
	At all levels a boy may also wear a slide he has made himself			
<b>Hat (Optional)</b>	Orange Tiger Cub Hat	Yellow Wolf Hat	Blue Bear Hat	Plaid Webelos Hat
Patch/Brag Vest <b>(Optional)</b>	Red vest for sewing on patches earned throughout the year. Optional at all levels but bonus points are awarded at uniform inspection if present.			
Book	Tiger Handbook	Wolf handbook	Bear Handbook	Webelos Handbook
<b>Other (optional)</b>				Webelos Colors (recommended). Activity badges/pins can be worn on this or on hat

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Uniform inspection is based on the following criteria:

1. Scout is present (uniform inspections are generally done at the beginning of the pack meeting so punctuality is important).
2. All required pieces are worn
  - Shirt
  - Insignia
  - Belt & Belt Buckle
  - Neckerchief & Slide
3. A parent or guardian is present
4. A Den leader is present
5. Overall appearance is neat and tidy (shirt tucked in, hair, combed etc.)

**Optional:** A bonus point is award for wearing a red brag/patch vest.

Each boy who has met all of the required criteria will have their name put in a hat and one will be selected to receive a prize.

Uniform inspections are recorded over the year. Once or twice a year, a prize or pizza party is awarded to the den that has the highest percentage of points for uniform inspection. This is a percentage based on the number of scouts in that den. Please be aware if your scout is not at pack meeting or in uniform, he is hurting his whole den.

## ***Typical Year Overview***

The following is an outline of a typical year in Pack 73. This is not necessarily exactly how every year will go but will gives you an idea. Pack Meetings are typically held on the third Thursday of the month unless otherwise stated or conflict with school schedule.

### **Summer**

- Planning meetings for upcoming year and new scout sign-ups.

### **September** – First Pack Meeting

- Sign-up for new scouts at a special meeting or school open house.
- Recruitment of leaders for new dens (especially Tigers) and open positions.
- Distribution of new scouts into dens.
- First Pack Meeting/Popcorn sale introduction
- Show-N-Sell for Popcorn (Wal-Mart and Kroger)
- Popcorn sale/10 day blitz begins.
- Popcorn door to door sales
- Homecoming Parade

### **October**

- Cub-O-Ree/Fall Day Camp Preview
- Pack Meeting
- Popcorn Blitz Continues
- Final orders turned in for Popcorn Sales

### **November**

September 2008

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- Pack Meeting.
- Popcorn Delivery begins

## December

- Popcorn delivery ends and money turn in.
- Christmas Caroling or Other Holiday Activity
- Pack Meeting
- Popcorn Awards distributed.
- Pinewood Derby car kits distributed.
- Community Service Project

## January

- Pack Meeting/Pinewood Derby. This is held on a Friday night or a Saturday. Boys race the cars they built. Trophies awarded for Den and Pack level races and for Best of Show along with Most Unusual. For many boys this is the highlight of the year!

## February

- Roller Skating Party
- Pack Meeting/Blue & Gold banquet. This is held on a Saturday. This is a special celebration for all scouts. It is our send off for the second year Webelos to crossover to Boy Scouts. We encourage all boys to earn their badge by Blue and Gold.

## March

- Pack Meeting

## April

- Pack Meeting

## May

- Pack Meeting/Crossover/Pizza Party.
- This is held on a Saturday night with a Pack Meeting Crossover Ceremony followed by a Pizza party to celebrate the scout's crossing over to the next rank. Entertainment, games and activities are schedule for the Pizza Party.
- After this meeting the boys are considered to have advanced to the next scout year.

## June

- Fishing Derby. Usually held at Crossroads Methodist Church pond on the weekend that state fishing licenses are not required.
- Day Camp at Eureka 4-H/State Farm Park. All scouts are encouraged to attend and it gives them a start on their requirements for the next year.

## July

- Pool Party with other Washington packs at Washington Park Pool after regular pool hours
- Planning Meeting (see above)

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## August

- Weekend Family Campout for Pack
- Planning meeting (see above)

## Summary

We hope this packet gave you an overview of Pack 73. We look forward to working with you and your boy. Scouting provides many lifelong benefits. It all begins here and **YOU** are the critical component to how much your boy enjoys and gets out of scouting.

## Studies show:

For every 100 boys who join scouting:  12 will have their first contact with a church 5 will earn their religious emblem 2 will enter the clergy 1 will use Scout skills to save a life 1 will use Scout skills to save his own life 2 will become Eagle Scouts 18 will enter professions first learned through the Merit Badge system 17 will become Scouting volunteers and pass their skills, inspiration, and leadership along to countless youths 28 will develop hobbies started in Scouting that will give them lifelong interests And . . . Only rarely will one appear in a criminal or juvenile court!	Scouting Alumni are  71% of football captains 65% of basketball captains 85% of student council presidents 88% of school newspaper editors 77% of editors of school annuals 75% of business managers of school publications 80% of junior class presidents 89% of senior class presidents 65% of college graduates 72% of Rhodes Scholars 75% of Military Academy graduates 65% of U.S. Congress 85% of airline pilots 85% of FBI agents 26 of the first 29 astronauts were Boy Scouts 11 of the 12 astronauts who walked on the moon were Boy Scouts
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