



Pack 95 Parent Handbook

2024-2025 School Year

Location: Seabrook, Texas
District: San Jacinto
Council: Sam Houston

Pack Meeting Location: Seabrook United Methodist Church
Pack Charter Organization: Seabrook Association

Pack Email (monitored by Pack Leadership):
scout95seabrook@gmail.com

Pack 95 Organization

Pack Leadership:

Cubmaster: John Carson
Committee Chair: Charlotte Cherry
Treasurer: Andrea Meloni
Assistant Cubmaster: Bobby Wright
Advancement: Cinnamon Wright
Recruiting/Membership: Kennda Lynch
Fundraising: Jimmy Wright
Committee Member: Sam Hood
Website & Media: HELP NEEDED
Events/Games Coordination: HELP NEEDED
Campout Coordination: HELP NEEDED

Den Leadership (by elementary school grade):

Lions (Kindergarten): OPEN
Tigers (1st): Emma Holliday
Wolves (2nd): Bryce Hall
Bears Den (3rd): Mike Smith
Webelos (4th): Paul Meloni & Andrea Meloni
Arrow of Light (5th): Justin Benecke & Rob Morehead

Pack 95 Mission

The purpose of Scouts BSA (incorporated on February 8, 1910, and chartered by Congress in 1916) is to provide an educational program to build character, to train in the responsibilities of participating citizenship, and to develop personal fitness. Cub Scouting was created in 1930 to extend the scouting experience to younger children. Cub Scouts is a year-round family oriented program for boys and girls who are in elementary school. Our pack was chartered by the Seabrook United Methodist Church in 1938, and our current charter organization is the Seabrook Association.

Pack Meetings & Events

Pack and Den Meetings are generally held on **Tuesdays from 6:30-7:30 pm at Seabrook United Methodist Church** (3300 Lakeside Drive, Seabrook, Texas 77586).

Pack Meeting: Pack 95 has one Pack Meeting each month during the school year. They are usually held on the **last Tuesday of the month**, unless there is a conflict with a school or other holiday. We ask that parents attend the Pack Meeting, and siblings are welcome.

Den Meetings: The Pack is divided into smaller units called Dens. Dens generally consist of six to eight scouts in the same grade, but we do have some smaller and even larger Dens. Dens meet separately from the Pack for 2-4 times a month to work on Cub Scout Adventure Achievements that allow progress toward the grade-relevant next rank.

Pack Calendar: A calendar will be provided at the first meeting and also be available on the pack website and Scouting App. The calendar lists Pack and District events throughout the year. Please monitor the website, app, and den/pack communications via email for important calendar revisions, cancellations, and new additions.

Events: Our Pack organizes several events throughout the year that appear on our calendar. Each year we have several new and many repeat events. Our local Scouting District (San Jacinto District) also runs events during the year that our pack joins. The Pack also provides volunteer service at several local community events (e.g., 4th of July Children's Parade, Trash Bash, Celebration Seabrook, cleaning of Sundial at Pine Gully Park in Seabrook, etc.). Several of our regular events are described at the end of this handbook.

Pack Website & Social Media

Pack 95 maintains a website at <https://pack95seabrook.org>. Our website contains announcements for upcoming events, calendars, forms, payment/dues links, uniforms, financials, and more. Chances are, if you have a question about these topics, then the answer is located on our website! Links to Scoutbook, Sam Houston Area Council, and San Jacinto District can also be found on the website.

Also visit our Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/cubscoutpack95seabrook>. The pack periodically posts pictures from our events.

Pack Emails & Scouting App

Please provide the pack leadership or your den leads with your preferred email address for receiving pack communications. Our primary means of notifications for meetings, events, and other activities is via email as paper printing has become costly.

We are also starting to leverage a smartphone app called 'Scouting' that you can install on your phone to track and input advancements done outside of den events, as well as see the pack calendar of events. Pack leadership is new to using this tool but will attempt this school year to use it to maintain pack calendars. Individual dens may or may not use the tool, so check with your den leader, as well.



iPhone: <https://apps.apple.com/us/app/scouting/id1218464473>

Android: https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.bsa.sbm&pcampaignid=web_share

Once downloaded onto your smart phone, you will need to login with your scouting.org credentials created when you register your child online with ScoutsBSA via <https://www.scouting.org>. More info later on registration.

Youth Protection & Youth Protection Training (YPT)

Pack 95 and ScoutsBSA places great importance on creating the most secure environment possible for our youth members. To maintain such an environment, ScoutsBSA has developed multiple procedural and leadership selection policies, plus accompanying training, to provide parents and leaders with resources for Scouting programs. <http://www.scouting.org/Training/YouthProtection.aspx>

New Members: Pack 95 requests all new parent members take 'Youth Protection Training' (YPT) offered online at no charge to provide full awareness of all ScoutsBSA policies and procedures related to Youth Protection.

Parents/Guardians and Cub Scout Campouts: **our pack requires parents to complete online YPT and provide the certificate in order to attend campouts.** Cub Scouts always camp with their adult guardian present. Overnight guests are not allowed as they are not YPT vetted.

Pack Leaders and Background Clearances: ScoutsBSA realizes that background checks are an important component of a comprehensive Youth Protection program. Before a volunteer can be confirmed as a Pack or Den Leader by ScoutsBSA, their references are checked, a National criminal background check is conducted, and the person is screened against a list of names of people who do not meet the high standards of Scouting.

Two-Deep Leadership & the Buddy System: no adult is allowed alone with a child (except for their own) without another adult present. Cubs also use the buddy system when they are at events or away from their den (e.g., going to the restroom at summer camp, hiking at a campout).

What to Expect & How to Contribute (Please)

As parents and guardians, we have expectations of the opportunities that our children experience with Cub Scouts. Our Pack strives to provide our Cubs with new life experiences, growth of character, and the rewards of a team environment. To achieve these goals as a Pack, we need parent involvement and responsive communication – we are an organization of volunteer parents/guardians, and our success is a direct result of the contributions of our Pack families. Below are some ways we can have the best possible scouting experience for our children and us.

We ask that all parents and their scouts attend all Pack meetings. Siblings are welcome, but we ask that they be supervised. We also ask that parents and their scouts do their best to attend and participate in their Den meetings and events.

Please stay updated on Pack activities through the following: Email, Scouting App, and Pack website. Please monitor your preferred form of communication. Please make sure your email and phone info are current with your Den Leader and Pack Leadership, in addition to Scouting.org.

Our Cub Scouts vary in ages (Kindergarten through 5th grade), and each group has different needs, communication skills and experience levels. As adults, we should be mindful of this and in family outings and overnight experiences – if there is a situation that needs attention, please inform the Pack/Den Leaders and allow them to resolve the issues.

Please be mindful that for Pack and Family events (camping, field trips, etc.) we need timely RSVPs and payments (if an event has a cost) by advertised deadlines – we need to know who is attending and to pay venues according to their deadlines. If you want to bring a potential recruit to an event, we need to know in advance. Overnight guests, for instance, are prohibited from Pack and Family camping. We are mindful of Youth Protection guidelines, and last minute, overnight guests cannot be vetted – the safety of our youth is our priority.

Please volunteer in this journey with your children and to contribute to the team experiences of your Pack. Everyone is busy with work, family and other commitments, and without our volunteers, we cannot exist. Many hands means less work for everyone, and we all have unique gifts to offer to our Pack. Committee Members and parents plan and organize Pack Activities. These volunteers rotate off as their scouts move through the ranks and move on to a Troop, which means every year there are positions to fill. Please volunteer.

Example Pack Volunteer and Leadership Positions

- Den Leader
- Assistant Den Leader
- Website & Media
- Events/Games Coordinator
- Campout Coordinator
- Treasurer
- Secretary
- Representative to District Activities
- Pack Committee Chair
- Cubmaster
- Assistant Cubmaster
- Charter Organization Representative
- Advancements
- Fundraising
- Membership/Recruiting

What Does it Cost?

Pack Dues, ScoutsBSA Registration, Uniforms, & Fundraising

Overview (PLEASE READ)

One of the most frequent questions is “how much will Scouts cost?” – the cost is made up of annual dues to the Pack and registration fees to ScoutsBSA, along with initial costs for uniforms and shirts for formal and informal Scouting events. The dues to the Pack are paid directly to the pack and by the school year (consistent with when and how our pack operates). The ScoutsBSA registration fees are paid online via [scouting.org](https://www.scouting.org) directly to ScoutsBSA and on an annual basis set by when you initially registered. More details are provided below on costs and how they are paid.

Required Costs

1. **ScoutsBSA Registration Fees paid annually when you register: \$91 (as of May 1, 2024).** (more detail can be found at <https://www.scouting.org/programs/cub-scouts/cost-of-cub-scouting/>). There is also the option for another \$15 to subscribe to Scout Life magazine. Pay via the ScoutsBSA website: <https://www.scouting.org> (click on “my.scouting” at the top right). New families will need to create an online account and submit your child’s application. Returning families will use their prior login credentials.
2. **Pack 95 Dues for 2024-2025 School Year: \$132 per scout with two options to pay:**
 - a. Pay the entire \$132 per scout
 - b. Pay \$50 per scout and commit to the pack fundraisers to raise the remainder

This cost supports the pack and is separate from the registration fee to ScoutsBSA. This is the actual cost of scouting based on the Pack program-year budget that estimates 50 scouts in the pack. An explanation of this budget is in the pack parent-info charts or available upon request.

Pay via four options: Venmo to Pack Treasurer, paid via <https://pack95seabrook.org> (has added 2-3% vendor fee), check made payable to “Pack 95” and include your scout name(s), or cash in a sealed envelope listing the scout names(s) and handed directly to the Pack Treasurer (current Treasurer listed on the cover page).

Fundraising

In the past, our Pack’s primary fundraiser for the year was selling popcorn. The committee made a decision in 2022 to try other options – this decision was based on broad parent feedback. We now hold a **Car Wash** fundraiser to supplement our annual dues. More details on this to follow in pack meetings and emails. If you would like to volunteer with the Fundraising Committee this year, we could use your help! We will need our pack members to volunteer to make these fundraisers a success and to keep our pack funded and operating – lowering the costs for all.

Additional Expenses

Scout Uniform (Class A Uniform—also “Field Uniform”): the uniform is an important part of the Scouting experience. For current pricing information, please visit the Scout Shop at:

<https://scoutshop.org>. You can purchase Cub Scout uniforms online or from physical stores in the Houston (3) and Galveston (1) areas: <https://www.scoutshop.org/storelocator/>. Some have purchased their uniforms on eBay or Facebook Marketplace at reduced costs. In some cases, the Pack receives donated shirts that can be repurposed, so please ask if interested. If you would like to donate a shirt (new, outgrown, or unwanted), then please contact anyone in pack leadership.

Pack 95 T-Shirt (Class B Uniform) – this is worn for informal Pack and Den activities. New scouts to the pack receive one t-shirt upon paying their first pack dues and ScoutsBSA registration. Returning scouts, parents, and siblings can buy additional shirts from the pack for \$12 each.

Activities and Outings – The cost of activities and outings will vary. In general, for overnight camping trips, the Pack will determine the cost based on overnight fees at the facility plus the cost of required food. For other events, the costs will be determined by the venue.

Summer Camp – These activities are not required but are a great opportunity for Scouts. Twilight Camp, Day Camp, or Webelos Resident Camp fees and gear requirements will vary. Check with your Den Leader or our Cubmaster for helpful tips on where to spend your money wisely.

Some of Our Typical Annual Events

Our Pack develops many unique and new events each year, and those are outlined in our annual calendar and at our Pack meetings. Below is a listing of several traditional, annual events that we hold or participate in with our larger District and community.

Blue & Gold Banquet, Baden Powell Birthday (Pack Event)

The Blue & Gold Banquet is an annual Cub Scouts celebration in February to honor Lord Baden Powell’s birthday (the founder of modern Scouts). For the banquet, a group of pack volunteers helps to coordinate food/potluck, cake, beverages, games and fun for the Cubs and families.

AOL Crossover (Pack Event)

The Arrow of Light Scouts (5th graders) hold a Crossover ceremony to honor their completion of Cub Scouts and a transition into Scouts (6th-12th grade). In our Pack, the crossover is held during our Blue & Gold Banquet. The AOL Parents coordinate, prepare and host the event. AOL’s will receive their individual award arrow at the ceremony and those would want to join a scout troop can and will do so at this time. We encourage all Cub Scouts and parents to attend this celebration to honor the achievement, advancement, and journey onward of our Arrow of Light Scouts.

Pinewood Derby (Pack Event)

The Pinewood Derby is one of the most popular and memorable events in Cub Scouting. Pack 95 usually holds its Pinewood Derby Winter or Spring (see annual calendar for the exact date). The Cubs receive their car kits in the fall following payment of annual dues and once District provides them to the Pack. The Cubs work with their parent/guardian to create and build a car to race. Scouts are expected to do as much of the work as possible by themselves but with adult guidance.

Tiger Cubs may only be able to help sand and paint their car, while Webelos should be able to do almost all of the work themselves. Scouts compete by rank in race and show categories. The races are electronically scored by computer and Cubs race in random heats to provide competition and excitement. This event is incredibly fun and gets better every year.

Trash Bash (City of Seabrook)

This annual event invites volunteers to help the cleanup of our Galveston Bay watershed! Pack 95 partners with the City of Seabrook to clean up Seabrook Parks on a Saturday morning in March. Specific dates are on the annual pack calendar. There are prizes, patches and food for participants! <https://www.trashbash.org/>

Fishing Tournament (San Jacinto District)

The fishing tournament is usually held in September on a Saturday morning. Registration is done online through the district. Typically held at Challenger Seven Memorial Park, 2301 W. Nasa Blvd, Webster. Online registration only: <https://shacbsa.org/san-jacinto-fishing-tournament>

Rocket Day (San Jacinto District)

All new Cub Scouts each year receive a rocket kit from the San Jacinto District to design, build, and launch at Rocket Day. Youth in kindergarten through fifth grade who are interested in joining Cub Scouting may also attend. The event is free; however, you must RSVP for one of the 20-minute launch slots on the district website. Please arrive 10 minutes before your time slot for check-in and rocket launch preparation. Challenger Seven Memorial Park, 2301 W. NASA Blvd. Online registration only: <https://shacbsa.org/san-jacinto-rocket-day>

Trail to Troop (San Jacinto District)

Trail to Troop is a campout designed to introduce **Webelos and Arrow of Light Scouts** (4th & 5th grade) to the many outdoor adventures of Scouting and the [patrol-method](#) of camping that is part of Scouts (6th-12th grade). These dens participate in competitions that require Scouting skills and knowledge – examples include first aid, fire building, Scouting knowledge, and knots, den flag and den yell, resourcefulness, leadership, teamwork, and Scout spirit. There are demonstrations during the camp and a scavenger hunt throughout the event. Trail to Troop is typically held at Challenger Seven Memorial Park, 2301 W. Nasa Blvd, Webster, TX. Online registration only: <https://shacbsa.org/san-jacinto-trail-to-troop>

First Aid Day for Webelos and AOLs (San Jacinto District)

First Aid Day is an opportunity for Webelos and AOL Scouts (4th and 5th grade) to learn first aid skills. During the morning segment, Webelos Scouts work on the First Responder Adventure. The event is typically held at the Multicultural Center, 951 Tristar Dr., Webster. Online registration only: <https://shacbsa.org/san-jacinto-first-aid-day>