

GREEN MOUNTAIN COUNCIL



Cub Scouting Parent Guide

Cub Scouting and Your Family

Preparing Vermont's youth for life.



Your Unit Information:

Pack Number: 655

Pack Meeting Location, Date and Time: Approx 3rd Thursday of each month (see included schedule)

Cubmaster Name and Contact information: Jeremy Watarz | Phone: 802-355-6485

Email: watarz@pack655.org

My Cub is a: _____ in Den# _____

Den Leader Name and Contact Information: _____

Den Meeting Location, Dates and Time: _____

Pack Website: PACK655.ORG

Pack Facebook page: https://www.facebook.com/colchesterpack655

My Pack's Dues and Registration fees are: Registration: \$35 | Dues: \$40 (includes activity t-shirt)

Council Contact Information:

Mailing Address:
PO Box 557
Waterbury, VT 05676

Physical Address:
838 US Route 2
Waterbury, VT 05676

Phone: 802-244-5189

Toll Free: 800-704-3089

Website: www.Scoutingvermont.org

Subscribe to our Newsletter: www.Scoutingvermont.org/newsletter

Facebook: Green Mountain Council, Boy Scouts of America

Welcome to Scouting!

Joining Cub Scouts is the start of an Adventure which will last a lifetime. While your daughter or son will think that Cub Scouts is all about fun (and there's lots of that), they'll be learning practical skills, building character and physical fitness, participation in community service projects and receiving recognition for their accomplishments.

Cub Scouts is a family-oriented program where youth and their families are organized in small groups of same-age Scouts, called a

Den. All Dens will frequently come together and have fun as a Pack. Activities are designed to be fun as they help the Scouts learn about themselves and the world around them.

Some activities may be new to your family and others will be things your Scout may already be doing at home or school: cooking, skits, crafts, games, hikes, family outings, sports, archery, BB gun shooting, camping and much more!

The Cub Scouting program year approximates the school year. Each year starts anew so your son or daughter can join in any grade and not be behind.



Scouting's Foundation

The mission of the Boy Scouts of America is to prepare young people to make ethical and moral choices by instilling in them the values of the Scout Oath and Law.

Scout Oath

On my honor, I will do my best, to do my duty to God and my country, to help other people at all times and to obey the Scout Law.

Scout Law

A Scout is:

<i>Trustworthy</i>	<i>Obedient</i>
<i>Loyal</i>	<i>Cheerful</i>
<i>Helpful</i>	<i>Thrifty</i>
<i>Friendly</i>	<i>Brave</i>
<i>Courteous</i>	<i>Clean</i>
<i>Kind</i>	<i>Reverent</i>

How Cub Scouting Works

Scouting is Family Oriented

- Activities are intended for the whole family. ALL siblings included!
- You work with your child on his or her Adventure and Award requirements.

Your child is a member of a Cub Scout Den

- Dens meet weekly to work on Adventure or Award requirements and have fun!
- Dens are grouped by grade and gender.
- Dens are led by a Den Leader, a trained volunteer who is a parent just like you!



Your child and her/his Den are part of a Cub Scout Pack

- A Pack consists of all of the Dens and leaders and typically meets once a month.
- All Cub Scout family members are invited and encouraged to attend Pack Meetings.
- The Cubmaster and Assistant Cubmaster lead the Pack meetings.
- Pack meetings include activities, skits, songs, ceremonies and the presentation of awards that the Scouts earned that month.

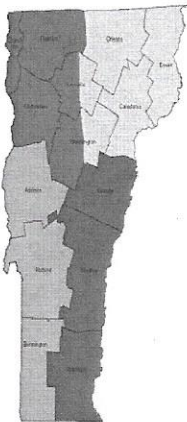
The Pack is under the supervision of a Pack Committee

- The Committee is a group of volunteers that usually includes a Chartered Organization Representative, Committee Chair, Secretary and Treasurer.
- Many of these leaders are parents of Scouts in the Pack.
- The Committee meets monthly to handle administrative and support tasks.
All Interested parents are encouraged to attend.
- The Committee recruits leaders, keeps records, manages Pack finances and equipment and ensures that all Cub Scouts receive a quality Pack Program.



The Pack is “owned” by a Chartering Organization

- Charter organizations can include schools, parent associations, religious organizations, service clubs, or other groups interested in youth.
- The charter organization approves leaders, provides a meeting place and operates the Pack within the guidelines and policies of the charter organization and the Boy Scouts of America.
- The charter organization selects a Chartered Organization Representative who serves as a liaison between the Pack and the organization. The Chartered Organization Representative approves all adult leaders in the Pack.



Each Pack is part of a District and Council

- Councils and Districts are geographically based

Three
Rivers

Long
Trail

- Our Council, the Green Mountain Council, consists of all Vermont's BSA Scouting units
- The Green Mountain Council is divided into 4 geographic areas called Districts

- District Committees, made up of volunteers, provide support to and organize events for the units in their District.

Ethan
Allen

Calvin
Coolidge

- The Council leadership includes both paid staff and volunteers who offer training, operate the Scout Shop in Waterbury, maintain and manage the Council's two residential camps, and more to support Vermont's BSA units.

Advancement

Everyone likes to be recognized for what they have done, and Cub Scouting's advancement program provides tangible and immediate recognition to youth as they complete themed activities called *Adventures*. Each Adventure consists of several related activities that provide a mix of age-appropriate hands-on fun. Once the Adventure's activities are complete, the associated Adventure belt loop or pin is awarded – usually at the next Den or Pack meeting.



Completing Adventures leads to the youth earning that year's rank badge which is awarded in a special ceremony held at a Pack meeting in front of fellow Cub Scouts and family members. All Dens participate in both required and elective Adventures to achieve their rank. Elective Adventures allow Cub Scouts to learn and explore new areas of interest to them. While only one elective Adventure is needed to complete a rank, Cubs are encouraged to participate in as many Adventures as they wish!



At the end of the program year (usually the school year), all Cub Scouts move up to the next level and start working on the new Adventures toward their new rank. Once the program year ends, all Cubs advance even if they did not complete the prior year's rank.

Scouts are assigned to Dens based on age / grade as follows:

Lion: A 6-year-old or a child in Kindergarten (the year prior to 1st grade) joins Scouts with an adult partner (usually a parent, grandparent or guardian) who shares in the Scouting fun. Lions



participate in activities that emphasize family understanding and learning about the community.



Bobcat: Bobcat is the first rank badge earned by all first grade and older youth in Cub Scouting and unlike all other ranks it is not tied to a specific age / grade. It is awarded after learning the Scout Oath, Scout Law, handshake, salute, sign, and motto. After earning the Bobcat badge, the youth works on the Adventures for his or her Den.

Tiger: First grade or 7-year-old Cub Scouts are in the Tiger Den. Similar to Lions, Tigers are learning about themselves, the world around them and Scouting as they do activities with their adult partner.



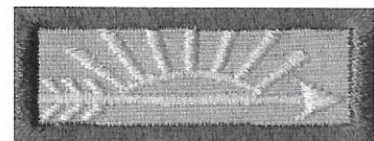
Wolf: Second grade or 8-year-old Cub Scouts are in the Wolf Den. Wolves learn to tie knots, help in the community, go on a hike, make and perform skits and much more as they have fun earning their Wolf Badge.

Bear: Bear Cubs are in the third grade or 9 years old. They learn the safe use of pocket knives and many other new and more challenging activities to earn their Bear Badge.



Webelos: A Cub Scout who is in fourth or fifth grade or is age 10 is a Webelos. "Webelos" means **WE'll BE LOyal Scouts**. To mark this change, Webelos Scouts wear a different uniform and earn Adventure pins instead of belt loops. Webelos Scouts may also be invited to accompany a Scouts BSA Troop on a camping trip or other outings as they earn their Webelos badge.

Arrow of Light: Fifth grade Webelos work toward earning this rank, the highest rank a Cub Scout can earn. They will learn outdoors skills, visit a Scouts BSA Troop and practice leading their fellow Scouts in activities. Once a youth completes the Arrow of Light and is at least



10-1/2 years old, they are eligible to cross over and join a Scouts BSA Troop. The Arrow of Light rank badge may be worn on youth Scouts BSA uniforms.

Regardless of whether they complete the Arrow of Light requirements, when a youth reaches 11 years of age or completes the fifth grade, they graduate from Cub Scouting to a Scouts BSA Troop. We strive to graduate every Cub Scout into a Scouts BSA Troop.


Supplies

Handbooks

Each Cub Scout age group has its own Handbook. These contain the information your daughter or son will need for the coming year, especially the requirements for that year's Adventure loops and rank badge. They are available at the Scout Shop in Waterbury.

Uniforms

The uniform is an important part of the program. At the minimum, your son or daughter will need the Cub Scout belt so that they can wear their Adv loops with pride! After the belt, the uniform shirt is next in importance because this is where their rank badges will go. The uniform shirt can be worn for several years, especially if you buy the shirt large enough for your child to grow into.

 Buy a short-sleeved shirt so that you don't have to deal with the problem of "too long" sleeves. Long-sleeve t-shirts may be worn underneath in cooler weather.



A special Lion T-shirt is the official Lion uniform. Tigers, Wolves and Bears wear the blue Cub Scout uniform shirt. Scouts in Webelos and Arrow of Light years wear a tan uniform shirt. This is typically the time when a youth outgrows their blue shirt and a tan shirt will be worn when they join a Scouts BSA Troop.

Rounding out the complete uniform includes a rank-specific neckerchief, slide and hat; pants, shorts, skirts or crop pants; and socks. The complete uniform is optional in most Packs.



Some packs will also have an "activity uniform" which is typically a customized t-shirt for the Pack. Activity uniforms are worn for informal occasions, down-and-dirty activities or as summer camp attire.



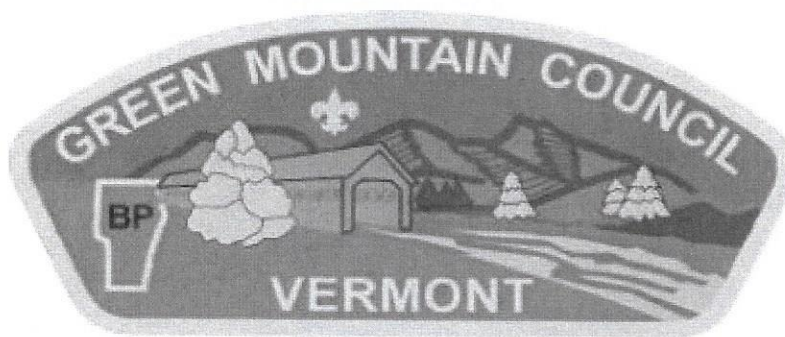
Your Pack may have specific policies regarding uniforming, so check with the Cubmaster or other Pack leader before purchasing.



There are some patches you'll need to put on the uniform shirt. They include the World Scouting Crest (shown to the left), the council patch (below), a Den number strip and your Pack's numbers. The staff at the Scout Shop can help you get what you need. Where to put the patches is shown in the inside cover of all Scout Handbooks.



You can attach the patches by sewing or by using a double-stick adhesive such as Patch Magic (available online or in the Scout Shop).



The Green Mountain Council Scout Shop is located in the Council Service Center at 838 US-2, Waterbury, VT 05676. You may visit the Scout Shop in person or if this isn't possible, give them a call and they'll ship you your order. For directions, business hours and a current price list see the shop's website at Scoutingvermont.org/Scout-shop or call (802) 244-5189 or toll-free at 800-704-3089.

Cost

The cost for joining a Cub Scout Pack includes:

- a national registration fee
- insurance coverage at all Scouting activities and events
- a subscription to *Boy's Life* magazine
- Pack and/or Den dues

Some Packs charge these items individually, while other Packs combine them into a single registration fee. The Pack dues help cover expenses such as awards or Pack activities like the Pinewood Derby. The annual registration fee and *Boy's Life* Subscription are pro-rated based on the month your son or daughter joins Scouting.

We want your daughter or son to be able to participate in Scouting, and there are resources and options available to assist if the cost is an issue. To learn more about the options available in your Pack, talk with your Pack's Cubmaster or Committee Chair.

Fundraising

Dues often cover only a portion of an active Pack's expenses. Most Packs conduct at least one fundraising activity during the program year. Beyond helping the Pack financially, fundraisers provide Scouts with the opportunity to earn their own way and be invested in their Pack.

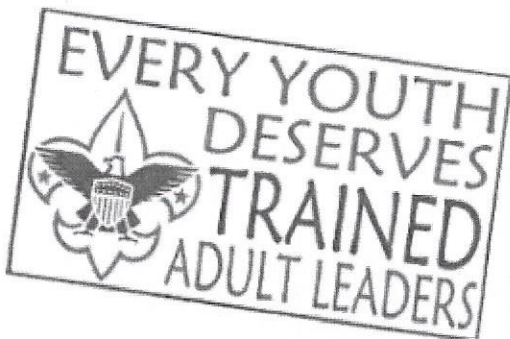
A very common fundraising activity in Scouting is the Annual Popcorn Sale. Most units choose to sell popcorn in the Fall, but Green Mountain Council also organizes a sale in the Spring. Packs may also organize other fundraising activities.



Leadership

Leaders make the Cub Scout activities happen and the more leaders a Pack has, the more activities that the Pack can do and the better the experience for the Cubs! We encourage every parent to help the Pack as much as they are able. There are a range of leadership opportunities from bringing a snack to a meeting, leading a single Den activity – all the way to being the Cubmaster. Being a Cub Scout leader is fun, challenging, and rewarding and leaders often find that their experiences help them to become better parents.

To register as an adult in Scouting, a prospective leader needs to take the on-line *Youth Protection Training* (YPT), complete an adult leader application and pay the national registration fee. Youth Protection Training covers youth safety including the BSA's procedures for preventing opportunities for abuse. All registered leaders must complete YPT every two years.



In order to help you be an effective leader, the BSA offers a number of training courses through on-line modules which are publicly available at

[my.Scouting.org](https://my.scouting.org). After creating an account, you may take any training. There is training specific to each role in Scouting as well as general skills and other topics.

NOTES

Contact Us!

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838 US Route 2
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