

CUB SCOUT
PACK 26
PARENT HANDBOOK

September 2008

Three Fires Council
Chippewa District
Cub Scout Pack 26
Bartlett, Illinois

History and Purpose of Scouting

Scouting's history actually goes back to the turn of the century and a British Army officer, Robert Stephenson Smyth Baden-Powell. Baden-Powell, who was stationed in India at the time, found that his men did not know basic first aid or the elementary means of survival in the outdoors. They couldn't follow a trail or tell directions, recognize danger signs, or find food or water. Baden-Powell, who earned a reputation as a courageous soldier and able army scout, felt a need to teach his men resourcefulness, adaptability, and the qualities of leadership demanded by frontier conditions, so he wrote a small handbook called *Aids to Scouting*.

While serving in South Africa in 1899, Baden-Powell became world famous during the Boer War by protecting, for 217 days, the small town of Mafeking. The town was being besieged by enemy forces 10 times larger than his own. Upon his return to London, he was promoted to major general and hailed as a national hero.

Baden-Powell was also amazed to find that his little handbook had caught the interest of English boys. They were using it to play the game of scouting.

Baden-Powell had the vision to see some new possibilities, and he decided to test his ideas on boys. In August 1907, he gathered together 20 boys from all parts of England. Some were from exclusive schools and others were from the slums, the shops, and the farms. He took them to Brownsea Island, in a sheltered bay off England's southern coast. There, along the shore, they set up a makeshift campsite that would be their home for the next 12 history making days.

The boys had a great time! They divided into patrols and played games, went on hikes, and learned stalking and pioneering. They learned to cook outdoors without utensils. And in the evenings, in the magic of the campfire, they were spellbound by Baden-Powell's stories of his army adventures. What none of them realized was that Scouting had begun on that island and would sweep the globe in a few short years. Soon patrols and troops began to spring up all over England and in other countries, as well.

The next year Baden-Powell published his book *Scouting for Boys*, which revealed a warm understanding of boys and what they liked to do. He had no idea that this book would set in motion a movement that would affect the boyhood of the entire world. The same year, more than 10,000 Boy Scouts attended a rally held at the Crystal Palace. This was living proof of how quickly Scouting was establishing itself. Two years later, the membership had tripled.

In 1909 a Chicago businessman and publisher, William D. Boyce, was lost in a London fog. As he groped his way through the fog, a boy appeared and offered to take him to his destination. When they arrived, Boyce reached in his pocket for a shilling tip. But the boy stopped him by courteously explaining that he was a Scout and could not accept payment for a Good Turn.

Intrigued, the publisher questioned the boy and learned more about Scouting. The boy took him to Baden-Powell's office, and once there, disappeared into the fog. No one knows what happened to him. The unknown Scout was never heard from again, but he will never be forgotten. At the Scout Training Center at Gilwell Park, England, a statue of a buffalo was erected in honor of this "Unknown Scout." His Good Turn is what brought Scouting to our country.

As Boyce interviewed Baden-Powell, he became captured by the dream. When he boarded the transatlantic steamer for home, he had a suitcase filled with information and ideas. On February 8, 1910, Boyce incorporated the Boy Scouts of America.

Since 1930 the Boy Scouts of America has helped younger boys through Cub Scouting. It is a year-round family program designed for boys who are in first grade through fifth grade. Parents, leaders, and organizations work together to achieve the following:

- Positively influence character development and encourage spiritual growth.
- Help boys develop habits and attitudes of good citizenship.
- Encourage good sportsmanship and pride in growing strong in mind and body.
- Improve understanding within the family.
- Strengthen boys' ability to get along with other boys and respect other people.
- Foster a sense of personal achievement by helping boys develop new interests and skills.
- Show how to be helpful and do one's best.
- Provide fun and exciting new things to do.
- Prepare them to become Boy Scouts.

Pack 26 History and Organization

Cub Scouting is a branch of Boy Scouts of America that was introduced to the United States in the 1920's. Pack 26 was founded in 1968 and chartered by Immanuel United Church of Christ and for many years was the only Cub Scout Pack in Bartlett and served a large geographic area. Today, due to the enormous population growth in Bartlett, there are several packs in the area. Because of this, Pack 26 mainly recruits new scouts from Bartlett Elementary School. However, all boys are welcome and accommodated whenever possible.

Boy Scouts of America is divided into Councils. Pack 26 belongs to the Three Fires Council, which is headquartered in St. Charles, Illinois. The council is divided into districts. Pack 26 is a part of the Chippewa district. The adult leaders from throughout the district meet once a month to share information and help plan council events.

Pack 26 consists of boys in grades 1 through 5, or ages 6 through 11. Each grade level corresponds to a Cub Scout rank. Boys in first grade start in the Tiger scouting program. In second grade they move to the Wolf rank and in 3rd grade they become Bears. Fourth and fifth graders are Webelos. Within each rank, the boys are divided into Dens of 4 to 8 boys. Each den has two adult leaders that have volunteered to be the Den Leader and Assistant Den Leader. Some Dens have a Den Chief, who is a Boy Scout that has completed special training and assists the adult leaders. Dens meet 2 to 3 times per month.

Once a month all the Cub Scout Dens meet as a whole at a Pack meeting. During the school year Pack 26 generally meets on the 3rd Thursday of the month. There are some exceptions to this rule. A planned calendar of events for this school year is contained in this handbook. The Pack also plans several activities during the summer months, such as participation in the Independence Day Parade and an outing to the Kane County Cougars. Den Leaders are responsible for keeping their scouts and families informed about Pack events. Never hesitate to call your Den Leader if you have questions regarding Pack or Den activities.

Uniforms are required - Cub Scouts need a blue shirt (Webelos Scout may choose to switch to the brown Boy Scout shirt), a scout belt, and a neckerchief with a slide. There are two Scout stores in our area:

Norris Scout Shop	Deicke Scout Shop
415 N. 2 nd Street	155 W. Roosevelt Road
St. Charles, IL	West Chicago, IL
(630) 584-9250	(630) 231-3192

Adult Volunteers Make Our Pack Go!

Pack 26 is a non-for-profit organization that is completely volunteer run. All activities are planned by the Pack Committee, which consists of several parent volunteers. The committee meets once a month at 7 p.m. on the first Thursday of the month in the meeting room at Immanuel United Church of Christ, which is our charter organization. **The committee meetings are open to anyone interested in attending.**

The primary committee positions consist of the following:

Cubmaster	Plans and carries out the Cub Scout program with the help of the committee, runs monthly Pack meetings, and guides and supports Den Leaders.
Assistant Cubmaster	Assists the Cubmaster as needed to plan and carry out the Cub Scout program, and participates in monthly Pack meetings.
Committee Chair	Organizes and supervises monthly committee meetings, deliberates with Cubmaster on policy matters, and helps plan and implement the Pack's Cub Scout program.
Treasurer	Keeps Pack financial records, reports to the committee on income and expenditures, maintains the Pack's bank account, and dispenses reimbursement checks.
Secretary	Takes minutes at committee meetings.
Advancement Chair	Provides Den Leaders with advancement worksheets, collects forms from Den Leaders, purchases appropriate advancements (badges, pins, etc.), and organizes advancement materials for Pack meetings.
Tiger Cub Coordinator	Plans and organizes Tiger Cub Roundup, provides orientation for Tiger Cub dens, acts as resource person for Tiger Cub Den Leaders and parents.
Chartered Organization Representative	Communicates information between the Pack and the charter organization.
Membership Chair	Submits new member applications to the Council as needed, prepares annual registration documents for the Pack's re-charter each year.
Den Leaders and Assistant Den Leaders	Each Den is to be represented at the committee meetings to help plan Pack activities and obtain information that needs to be relayed to Scouts and their families.

In addition, the Pack needs adult volunteers to help on a short-term basis to plan and organize individual Pack events. This usually requires a commitment of 2 to 5 hours of work and attendance at 1 or 2 meetings. The Pack Committee assists these volunteers and guides them in whatever tasks are necessary.

Pack 26 Fundraisers

Pack 26 charges an annual membership fee each year (determined each year). A portion of this fee is sent to the Council for BSA dues, insurance, and a subscription to Boy's Life magazine. The remainder is used by our Pack to purchase advancements, supplies for Pack meetings, Blue & Gold party, camping, and other Pack activities.

In order to fund other parts of the program the Pack sponsors fundraisers throughout the year. These fundraisers are reviewed annually and are subject to change at any time, upon the discretion of the Pack Committee.

Popcorn	September/October
Wreaths	September/October
Car Wash	Summer

Scout participation in all fundraisers is not mandatory, but it is expected that each Scout will participate in at least one fundraiser per year. For wreath sales Scouts receive back a portion of their sales in the form of a credit that is managed by the Treasurer. This credit can be used for their annual membership dues, purchases at the Scout store, or to attend Pack activities. In this way, no boy should feel he cannot participate in the Scouting program based on financial restraints. The Boy Scout Council also offers various scholarship programs. Consult your Den Leader for more details.

Each fundraiser requires 1 or 2 adult coordinators. A coordinator's duties include:

1. Attend a Pack Committee meeting to obtain details for the specific fundraiser and distribute information to committee members.
2. Contact the vendor and organize all the information.
3. Distribute information to Pack families at a Pack meeting.
4. Collect the order sheets from Den Leaders.
5. Distribute the products to the Den Leaders.
6. Collect the money from Den Leaders.
7. Turn over the money to the treasurer with a report about how much each Scout sold based on information from Den Leaders.

We will make sure that each coordinator has as many helpers as they request.

Policies and Procedures

Arrow Points: Arrow points can be worked on up until September for the previous rank. Example: A Bear can continue working on his arrow points for Wolf until September 1st, and then he begins working on Bear arrow points.

Advancement Forms: Den Leaders must turn in Advancement Forms (to the Advancement Chair) at a Committee Meeting. It is important to turn in Advancement forms at this time. There are times when the Scout Store will be out of items and they will have to be ordered. Awards are given out at that month's Pack Meeting. If forms are not turned in on time, those advancements will be held until the next month's Pack Meeting. Advancements will only be purchased by the Advancement Chair.

Check Policy: Pack 26 accepts CHECKS ONLY – NO CASH. Please note what the check is for in the memo section. Checks collected from fundraising activities should also have the Scout's name listed in the memo section.

Committee meetings: On the first Thursday of every month at 7:00 p.m. (except in June, July, and August) the Pack Committee meets at Immanuel United Church of Christ. Every Den must be represented by either one of their Den Leaders or a den parent to receive important monthly updates and information. Advancement forms are due at this time. **The committee meetings are open to anyone interested in attending.**

Den Dues: Den dues are collected at the beginning of each den meeting and are used to support the activities of a Den and to buy supplies for the Den meetings. The Scout should earn his Dens dues, rather than the parents paying them for him. By helping people, or donating his time to something, the Scout can take responsibility for his dues. If the Scout already does things to earn an allowance then that is fine. Each Den Leader determines the amount for Den Dues.

Den Formation: A new Den can only be formed when two adults volunteer to be the Den Leader and Assistant Den Leader. It is up to the Den Leader (not the Pack Committee) to decide how many boys are allowed into a Den, but it is typically 4 to 6. There is training provided by the District for Den Leaders and Assistant Den Leaders.

Den Leader Training: Adult Den Leaders are reimbursed for any type of scouting leader training they attend. Note: The local council provides Den Leader training for free at many times throughout the year.

Eagle Cave: Only Pack 26 Webelos Scouts (no younger siblings) can attend the Eagle Cave overnight campout held in January. One parent must attend with their child.

Fundraisers & Credits: Participation in fundraisers is strongly encouraged. Top seller information will remain confidential by the organizing committee until all forms are collected. Fundraising credit can be used from the time it is earned at the beginning of the Scout season through July 30th for any Scout Camp, Pack membership fee or purchases at the scout store. It can also be transferred by a scout graduating to his Boy Scout Troop.

Newsletter Information: The newsletter is written from information discussed at the Committee Meeting and from the Pack's calendar of events. Items to be included in the newsletter must be submitted at the Committee Meeting so that they can be distributed at that month's Pack Meeting.

Pack Meetings: The Pack meetings are for the whole family and all family members are welcome to attend. At least one parent must be with the scout during the meeting - do not drop your child off. Younger siblings should be quiet during the meeting.

Parent Participation: Each Scout is encouraged to have a parent or other adult family member volunteer for at least one thing during the Pack year that supports the Den or Pack. This includes volunteering for an open Pack Committee position.

Perfect Attendance: In order to qualify for the Perfect Attendance Award, a Scout cannot miss more than two Den Meetings and one Pack Meeting during a regular Pack Year (September to May). Summertime Perfect Attendance requires the Scout to attend at least three summer events. Marching in the Memorial Day Parade counts as both a pack meeting and a summertime event. Discretion will be left up to the Den Leader and Cubmaster on what exceptions can be made when determining perfect attendance awards.

Policy and Procedure Exceptions: If there is a decision to be made concerning a policy exception that cannot wait for the next Committee Meeting then the Charter Organization Representative, Pack Committee, Cubmaster, Assistant Cubmaster, and Committee Chairperson can meet and make this decision.

Promptness: Please be courteous at Den and Pack meetings by arriving a few minutes before the scheduled start time of the meetings so that it can begin and end on time.

Quiet Symbol: When the Scout "Quiet Symbol" is displayed there is to be QUIET! Parents are expected to help enforce this.

Rank Advancements: When a Scout has completed the basic requirements for a rank, it is presented at the next Pack meeting. The Pack will do a special ceremony for Wolf and Bears in November, and for Webelos in December, and smaller ceremonies if a rank's badge is obtained at another time. Webelos will bridge over into Boy Scouting in February at the Blue and Gold Banquet. Tiger Cubs will advance to Wolf scouts at the March Pack meeting. Wolf and Bear scouts will have a graduation ceremony at the April Pack meeting.

Recharter: If a Scout does not re-charter in February, their last Pack meeting is the Blue & Gold Banquet. Included in the re-charter fee is a subscription to Boy's Life Magazine. When a boy joins during the Scouting year, the fee will be pro-rated.

Two-Deep Leadership: At least two (unrelated) adults must be present at all Den Meetings or any other Scout function. At least one registered adult must be in attendance. This is a BSA requirement. This requirement is generally satisfied by having the Den Leader and Assistant Den Leader present, but if one of them is unable to be present a den parent must fill in or the event cannot occur.

Uniform Policy: Scouts are required to be in uniform at all Pack Meetings and Scouting events unless otherwise specified. The minimum uniform requirements are that a Scout must wear a:

- Cub Scout Uniform Shirt (tucked in)
- Neckerchief and slide
- Blue pants (no holes in them, no sweat pants. Blue jeans are fine.)
- A Scout belt

Scout hats are optional. Scouts may also wear a red “brag vest” (to Pack and Den meetings) that can be either purchased from the Scout Store or made at home. The “brag vest” is used to display patches that are earned or received from participating in activities that are not directly related to rank advancements. Please remember that the “brag vest” is not part of the official Scout uniform so it should not be worn when the Scout is part of a ceremony such as the Memorial Day Walk.

Youth Protection Video: To ensure the safety of all Scouts, the BSA has provided a video about youth protection. Each Scout and his parents will have the opportunity to view this video annually at a Den meeting.

Website

Pack 26 has a website in order to keep Scouts and their parents up to date. It contains a variety of information, dates, forms, and the like.

www.bartlettpack26.org