

An Introduction to Pack 320

Welcome to Pack 320

The Cub Scouts, leaders and parents of Pack 320 would like to welcome all new members and their families to our Pack family. We've all been new to Scouting at some time and we hope that this information will serve as a quick reference for new and current Scouts alike.

What is Scouting?

Cub Scouting is the younger brother of Boy Scouting and one of the main goals of Cub Scouts is to prepare boys for Boy Scouts. The Scouting program emphasizes character development, spiritual growth, good citizenship, sportsmanship, growth of mind and body, an appreciation of family, team building, personal achievement, exploring new things and doing one's best. In order for a boy to get the most from Scouting, a strong partnership between the Scout, his family and the leaders must be established. The program requires some time and hard work, both at home and at meetings, but your son will gain a great sense of accomplishment and self-worth. Scouting's roots reach to turn-of-the century England. Its traditions are deeply rooted in Native Indian lore, as well as Rudyard Kipling's *Jungle Book*. Many of the terms and symbols we use today reflect this, including the Law of the Pack, Akela, Den, Pack, Gold and Silver Arrow Points and the Arrow of Light emblem.

Pack Structure

Our Cub Scout program is overseen by the Old North State Council. It is self financed and governed by the Charter and Bylaws of the Boy Scouts of America. The Council is divided into geographic regions or districts. Pack 320 is part of the General Greene District. A Pack is chartered by a parent organization, in our case, Rehobeth United Methodist Church. The charter organization appoints a representative to be the liaison between the Pack and the Church, and this representative has final approval over all Pack leaders. The business side of the Pack is overseen by a committee, headed by the Committee Chairman and the Cubmaster. The Chairman and Cubmaster work as a team to coordinate the business and activities of the Pack. Cub Scouts are organized by grade into dens. Each den has a registered leader who runs the weekly meetings of the Scouts, and coordinate activities with the Cubmaster. Parent volunteers help with the details of meetings, activities, fund-raisers and special events.

Pack 320 strives to provide a quality program that meets the goals of the Cub Scouting in a fun, exciting and informative way. In order to do this, the Pack must rely heavily on its member families. In addition to needing adults to serve as registered leaders for the committee, Pack and dens, parent volunteers are needed to lend a hand in organizing various events and activities throughout the year. Pack policy requests that all Scout families pitch in by participating in Pack fund-raisers and help with at least one event during the year. Keep in mind that all of our leaders are volunteers and that the more we can distribute the workload, the better the program we can offer.

Meetings and Attendance

All regular meetings will be held at 7:00 pm on Tuesdays at Rehobeth United Methodist Church. Pack meetings are normally on the last Tuesday of the month. There are no meetings on Tuesdays that fall on Guilford County School holidays. Den meetings are a time for Scouts to work on specific advancements and activities organized by the Den Leaders and parents are always welcome. Den meetings may sometimes meet in different locations for special activities, field trips, etc. Pack meetings are a time when the entire Pack comes together to share ideas and information and recognize the accomplishments of our Scouts. Pack meetings allow Scouts to show their best and family members are highly encouraged to attend. Occasionally,

special events will be scheduled on Saturdays. A Pack calendar will be available on the Pack website, <http://www.pack320.org>.

Dues, Registration and Fees

Each Scout pays an annual registration fee to the BSA. This fee is paid when a Scout first joins the Pack then annually at the Pack Recharter in February. An optional *Boy's Life* magazine subscription is paid at the same time along with an annual insurance payment. In addition to these annual fees, we ask Scouts to pay a minimum of 25¢ each week to support the basic needs of the Pack. Payment of dues is anonymous and optional. These dues help provide Den and Pack supplies, advancement materials, program materials and other needs of the Pack. There may be other fees paid to the Pack during the year such as Family Campout or Blue and Gold Banquet. These fees will be held to a minimum. Other fees may be required to participate in Council or District sponsored events. It is highly recommended that Scouts earn their due payments by helping out at home.

No boy will be excluded from participating in Scouting because family circumstances prevent dues or registration payments. Please contact a Pack leader for details.

Uniforms

A Scout's uniform is his main outlet for displaying his accomplishments and it should be worn with pride. Advancement, recognition and special activity badges are all displayed on the uniform. This helps build pride, loyalty and self respect in a Scout. Pack 320's uniform requirements are kept simple to minimize expense. The appropriate uniform shirt with correct patches and neckerchief are all that is required. A Cub Scout belt is a good option in order to display belt loops earned. Uniforms can be purchased at the Scout Office at 1405 Westover Terrace in Greensboro. If a family is unable to afford a uniform, please contact a Pack leader.

Fund-raising

All money needed to support the Pack must be raised by the Pack. Although dues are paid each week, this money only covers the basic requirements of providing for the Pack. To make up for the shortfall we hold one annual fund-raiser. All Scouting families are encouraged to participate in the fund-raiser but participation is not required. Donations of any material or services that may be offered will also be gladly accepted.

Scouts will earn 10% of the profits from individual sales. This money is placed in an Individual Scout Account and can be used to pay for Scouting related expenses. Expense reimbursements are for Cub Scouts only, not leaders or parents, and must include a reimbursement form. More information on the Individual Scout Accounts is located on our website at <http://www.pack320.org> on the Forms page.

Advancement, Graduation and Crossover

As Scout progress through the year they will qualify for many advancements and awards. Scout accomplishments will normally be recognized during the monthly Pack meetings. Our Pack goal is for all Scouts to complete their rank advancement (Tiger, Wolf, Bear, Webelos or Arrow of Light) by the Blue and Gold Banquet in February. Fifth-grade Webelos normally "cross over" to a Boy Scout Troop in the spring and a special ceremony will recognize this achievement. All other Scouts "graduate" to the next level during a special ceremony in May. A Scout graduates even if he does not complete the requirements for his current rank and there is no "going back" to complete a rank that has been missed.

Keeping Track

Careful record keeping is essential if a Scout is to be recognized for his accomplishments in a timely manner. The term *Akela* means leader and many adults in the Scout's life serve as Akela including a parent, Den Leader, older sibling, grandparent, coach, teacher or neighbor. It is Akela's job to help a Scout with his achievements. Den Leaders organize activities for Scouts in Den meetings, and parents and other significant

adults help Scouts with achievements away from the Pack. Webelos activities are a bit different and are normally worked on in Den meetings with the Leader or a qualified counselor.

Each Scout should download his appropriate advancement chart from the Pack website and track their progress towards rank. This chart should be brought to all Den meetings and will be your son's primary Pack record. Leaders will need to be told of completed requirement in order to properly award achievements. Your son's book will be for his personal record and it will be ***your*** responsibility to sign it.

Service to Others

A main emphasis in the Scouting program is service to the community and environment. Throughout the year, Scouts and their families will be asked to take part in community service projects. These may include collecting food for the hungry or Christmas gifts for the needy, helping a charity, working on projects at the Church, helping at Pack or Council functions or working on conservation projects.

Academic and Sport Awards

The Cub Scout Academic and Sport program allows a Scout to learn about specific sport and academic areas in a fun and exciting way. There are 21 sports categories and 12 academic areas. There are two levels of awards. A belt loop is earned after completing three basic requirements in the subject or sport. A pin is earned by Scouts who want to continue to master an area. Most pins require a Scout to complete 5 activities from a list. The Academic and Sports letter can be purchased by a Scout to display pins he has earned. Loops and pins can be earned through any related activities including school, organized sports, at home or in Den and Pack activities. If your son is interested in pursuing one of these awards, please contact the Cubmaster. The Pack has a limit of six awards that it will purchase for each boy during a Scouting year. Scouts can earn a loop or pin any number of times but it will only be awarded once by the Pack. All Scouts are eligible to participate.

Camping

There will be a number of opportunities throughout the year to participate in Cub Scout Family Camping. The Pack, District and Council will organize events in the fall, spring and summer. An adult partner must accompany a Scout on any overnight camping trips. All campers must follow BSA safety rules at all times during Scout-sponsored events.

Keepings in Touch

With our Pack growing, communicating can sometimes be difficult. To keep families as informed as possible, we have a Pack website, <http://www.pack320.org>. It will contain announcements, newsletters and monthly calendars. The site also contains many forms that you and your Scout can use during the Scouting year. Pictures from Scouting events are also placed on the website in a password-secured area.

What are these people talking about?

When you are new to Scouting it may seem as if everyone is speaking a foreign language. Here is an explanation of some of the common terms you will hear. Remember, if you don't know what something is talking about, just ask!

Blue and Gold Banquet: A celebration of the anniversary of Scouting that is usually held in February. This is one of the highlights of the year and brings families together for a meal and an evening of fun and special recognition. Scouts who have earned their rank award are presented with their badge during the ceremony.

Council: The Old North State Council is responsible for all Scouting programs in seven North Carolina counties. It ensures that BSA policies are followed and provides support and training to leaders. The

Council organizes activities and events, run numerous summer camping programs for Cub and Boy Scouts and maintain camping facilities for Scouting uses. You can contact the Council at 336 378-9166, 800 367-9166 or visit them on the web at <http://www.bsaonsc.org>.

Den: A group of five to ten boys, all the same age or grade, led by registered leaders.

Den Cheers and Yells: A chant, slogan or short skit aimed at blowing off steam and developing den spirit. They can be quirky, funny or just loud, as long as they're fun.

District: One of seven geographic regions in the Old North State Council that is managed by a District Executive.

District Executive: A full-time professional hired by the Council to oversee operation of a District. They are also called *DE*. Our DE is Dan Dobbins and he can be reached at 336 378-9166 or 800 367-9166.

KISKIF: Scout lingo for "Keep it simple, keep it fun!" This is the main factor in all Scouting activities.

Pack Times: Our monthly Pack newsletter.

Pinewood Derby: These are small wooden cars that a Scout shapes from a block of wood. All Scouts are eligible to race the car that they build.

Quality Unit Award: An annual award earned by Packs for achieving six of ten requirements set down by the BSA. All Scouts and leaders involved in earning the award are presented a patch to wear on their uniform.

A Guide to Cub Ranks



Bobcat:

This badge must be earned by all Scouts before they pursue other ranks. Requirements include learning the Cub Scout Promise, Motto, Salute, Handshake, Sign, Law of the Pack, meaning of Webelos and completing the youth protection guide with a parent. Although Den Leaders will cover these requirements in meetings, most of this work is completed at home and signed off by parents.

Tiger Cubs:

First Grade or age 7

The Tiger Cub program has undergone some exciting changes over the past couple of years. Tigers now earn a Tiger rank badge by completing three requirements in five different achievements. First, a Tiger earns his Immediate Recognition Badge by learning the Tiger Cub Motto, the Cub Scout Salute and the Cub Scout Sign. Tigers will earn beads for their Badge as they complete achievements. As the Scout works on the Tiger Cub badge, they can work on any of 50 electives. The Tiger Den is led by a Den Leader but each Tiger and their Adult Partner are expected to help organize activities throughout the year. An adult partner must accompany a Tiger Cub to all meetings and activities.





Wolf Cubs:

Second Grade or age 8

This badge is earned by completing a trail of 12 achievements. The achievements can be completed in any order. Many will be completed in Den meetings but a Scout must also work at home to achieve this rank. While working toward the Wolf Badge, a Scout will receive a yellow progress bead for every three completed achievements. Once the badge is earned, Scouts begin earning Arrow Points for every 10 electives completed. A Scout can work on electives at any time and in any order but Arrow Points will not be awarded until after the Wolf Badge is earned.

Bear Cubs:

Third Grade or age 9

This badge is earned by completing 12 achievements from a choice of 24. Although Bears have a choice of achievements to work on, they must complete a specific number from four groups: God, Country, Family and Self. While working toward the Bear Badge, a Scout will receive a red progress bead for every three completed achievements. Once the badge is earned, Scouts begin earning Arrow Points for every 10 electives completed. Bears can choose between 24 categories of electives, plus work on any achievements not credited toward the Bear Badge. A Scout can work on electives at any time and in any order but Arrow Points will not be awarded until after the Bear Badge is earned.



Webelos:

Fourth and Fifth grade or age 10

Webelos is a two-year program that is the final step before entry into Boy Scouts. All new fourth and fifth graders must complete the Webelos badge requirements before earning the Arrow of Light Award. Webelos earn activity badges, which are signed off by the Webelos Den Leader or a qualified adult serving as a counselor. There are 20 different activity badges available, divided into five groups. To earn the Webelos Badge, a Scout must complete the Fitness activity badge and two other activity badges from different groups. A Scout can then earn the compass points emblem. It is awarded after earning seven activity badges: four more in addition to the three earned for the Webelos badge. After earning the compass points emblem, a Scout will receive a metal compass point for each four additional activity badges earned. These compass points are pinned on the emblem in the *E*, *W* or *S* positions, in any order.

After a Scout has completed fourth grade and earned the Webelos badge, he is ready to start on the Arrow of Light Award. This is the highest award a boy can earn in Cub Scouting and the only Cub Scout badge worn on the Boy Scout uniform. The Arrow of Light is earned by completing five more activity badges in addition to the three already earned for the Webelos Badge. The total of eight activity badges must include: Fitness (already earned for the Webelos Badge), Citizen, Readyman and at least one each from the Outdoor, Mental Skills and Technology Groups.

Final Word

We hope that you are now prepared to jump right into Scouting. If you have any questions please see any Pack Leader or e-mail the Cubmaster at tvmangum@earthlink.net. Thanks for Pack 151 from Flowery Branch, Georgia, for the idea of this Pack Introduction.