

## Online Resources:

- [www.tidewaterbsa.com](http://www.tidewaterbsa.com) – our council website, where you can find local council information, calendars and register for events.
- [My.Scouting.org](http://My.Scouting.org) - Connect to Scoutbook and learn how to run a quality and safe Scouting program.
- [www.scouting.org](http://www.scouting.org) - National BSA website, where you can find National information policies and the gateway to online leader training.
- [BeAScout.org](http://BeAScout.org) – Sign up for Scouts online. Send this link to friends and

You Are In Pack # \_\_\_\_\_ Meeting Day/Time \_\_\_\_\_

Chartered by \_\_\_\_\_

Location Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Cubmaster \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Den Leader(s) \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Den Leader(s) \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

My child is a \_\_\_\_\_ Scout  
(Lion - Kindergarten, Tiger - 1st, Wolf - 2nd, Bear - 3rd, Webelos - 4th or 5th Grade)

NOTES: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

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### Boys' Life Magazine

Boys' Life is full of entertaining stories and Scouting information. Parents can always be confident content is wholesome, age appropriate, entertaining, and educational.

# NEW PARENT GUIDE



## TIDEWATER COUNCIL Boy Scouts of America



## Congratulations on becoming a Scouting Family!

Take these first steps to ensure that your family gets the most out of Scouting:

1. Complete a youth application.
2. Know your Cubmaster and his/her contact information.
3. Learn about the who, what, when, where of your Pack.
4. Learn how to get involved at your meetings.
5. Attend a campout with your Pack as soon as possible.

## Why Cub Scouting?

As parents, we all strive to instill in our children:

1. **Strong Character**
2. **Serving Others** (family, community and country)
3. **Physical and Mental Fitness**

Everything we do in Scouting revolves around these three things. Of course, we **HAVE FUN**, so the youth keep coming back!

## How Cub Scouting Works

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

Your child is a member of a **DEN**, consisting of 6 - 10 youth, similar in age or grade, who typically meet once a week with two **Den Leaders**, usually a parent. All of the dens make up the **Cub Scout PACK**.

The typical **PACK** meets once a month with the **Cubmaster**, with all the other **DENS** and families in attendance. At the **PACK** meeting you will have fun activities, recognition and have the opportunity to engage with other **DENS**.

Your **PACK** is part of the **TIDEWATER COUNCIL, BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA**, which serves youth and volunteers in the Hampton Roads of Virginia and

**The Council Service Center** is the customer service hub for Scouting in the Hampton Roads area. Our friendly staff can answer questions and provide help to you and your Pack leaders.

**Tidewater Council**  
1032 Heatherwood Dr.  
Virginia Beach, VA 23455  
(757) 497-2688  
[www.tidewaterbsa.com](http://www.tidewaterbsa.com)

**Service Center Hours**  
Open: 8:30 am - 5:00 pm  
Monday - Friday excluding holidays.

**Scout Shop Information**  
We have a full service **Scout Shop** where your Scout's books, uniforms and supplies are purchased.

Phone: (757) 497-2688  
Open: 11:00 am - 6:00 pm  
Tuesday and Thursday  
1:00 am - 5:00 PM  
Wednesday and Friday  
12:00 am - 3:00 pm  
Saturday

Closed Sunday and Monday

Call in orders welcome and shipping is available.

### Kindergarten Grade Youth

#### *Lion Den*

\*Youth sign up with an adult partner .(adult is required)

\*Usually meet 2x per month

\*Works on achievements & family activities in the Lion Adventure Book .

### 1st Grade Youth

#### *Tiger Den*

\*Youth sign up with an adult partner. (adult is required)

\*Usually meet weekly or 2x per month and go on field trips / outings.

\*Works on special recognitions through fun family activities.

## Your Local Scout Camp

The Tidewater Council operates camp properties to support our youth, parents and leaders. These quality camping facilities are the heart of our outdoor program. They host events and activities on a regular basis for the youth and adults. These activities are in addition to the many fun and exciting pack level activities. Scout units can utilize each camp for weekend unit camping at minimal cost due to Friends of Scouting and other revenue support like the annual popcorn sale.

### **Pipsico Scout Reservation— 57 Pipsico Rd, Spring Grove, VA 23881**

Our premier 916 acre camp on the James river, with special program areas some of which include individual campsites, swimming pool, rifle/shotgun/archery range, climbing wall, rappelling tower, ropes course, canoes, kayaks, rowboats, sailboats, dining hall and many other program assets.

# What Does Scouting Cost?

Registration Fee \$66.00 per year (Prorated by month)

There is a \$25.00 New Members Joining Fee

Boys Life Magazine: \$12.00 per year (Prorated by month) (Optional)

Handbook \$9.99 to \$16.99 (Need ASAP after signing up)

A full uniform cost between \$55 and \$85 depending on grade. Uniforms are used multiple years and can be purchased in increments (shirt first). Most units maintain a gently used uniform closet.

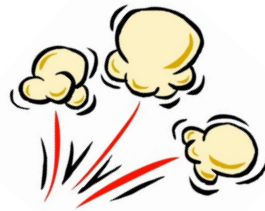
Pack Dues, if any, vary by pack and are used to buy program materials, and awards. The Annual Popcorn sale also helps support unit program needs.

Optional - Summer and weekend campouts have modest fees to cover materials, food, patches and other costs of putting it on. You only pay for the events you attend.

## Popcorn & ‘Earn Your Way to Camp’ Card Sales

“A Scout is Thrifty”. Our goal is to keep Scouting affordable while offering the highest quality program. The Southwest Florida Council provides funding needed to carry out Scouting and to reduce the cost of many activities for families.

The Annual Popcorn & Camp Card Sales are the official fundraisers of the Council. The annual sale allows your family to participate in Scouting with minimal additional costs. Your child can fully earn their way to camp or other fun activities, with the camp card sale as well as help defray pack program expenses through the popcorn sale.



# Building Strong Families

Scouting is a family oriented activity that is proven to enhance a child’s personal development. By volunteering you are also engaging your family by spending meaningful time with your child and your local community. Build your adventure together and watch as your Scout thrives!

When a new parent gets involved with their child’s Pack, these are the primary individuals needed to make your child’s Pack thrive:

**DEN LEADER/ASSISTANT DEN LEADER** — Leads the den at weekly den and monthly Pack meetings, attends the monthly Pack leader’s meeting.

**PACK COMMITTEE** — They perform administrative functions of the Pack. These include treasurer, secretary, fundraising, advancement and other behind the scenes support for the Pack,

**For the safety of your child**, all adult volunteers must complete a detailed adult application, a criminal background check, 3 levels of approval and to satisfactorily complete required **Youth Protection Training &** meet all other B.S.A standards of leadership.



## 2nd & 3rd Grade Youth

### *Wolf & Bear Dens*

\*Weekly meetings led by the den leaders.

\*Den meetings focus on learning new skills using games, project crafts, and basic outdoor skills.

\*Works toward achieving the Wolf or Bear Badge of rank.

## 4th and 5th Grade Youth

### *Webelos Dens*

\*Prepares youth for Scouts led by the Webelos den leaders.

\*Weekly meetings focus on activity pin advancements and outdoor oriented activities.

\*Work towards achieving Webelos Badge & Arrow of Light Rank.

## Outdoor Adventures and Special Activities

### Earn Awards and Badges

On the advancement trail, a Cub Scout progresses from rank to rank, learning new skills as a Scout goes. Each of the ranks and awards in Cub Scouting has its own requirements. As a Scout advances through the ranks, the requirements get more challenging, to match the new skills and abilities as the Scout learns and gets older. These are completed as a den, pack and family. All the requirements to earn these awards are in the Scout's handbook.

A Scout will receive these awards at Pack meetings and your Pack's Blue and Gold Banquet.



### Pinewood Derby!

Youth participate in many fun projects such as the Annual Pinewood Derby. Cub Scouts design and build small wooden cars to race on an inclined track. This is a great opportunity for youth to work with their parents or other adults in the Pack to construct a race car and compete in the race.

### Gold Rush!

Kick off your Cub Scout adventure with a day of fun and a chance to collect a pocket full of gold! New Scout families get a chance to do activities like shooting sports, games and get a sample of what lies ahead in Scouting!

### Fall Family Camp

A fun opportunity to enjoy time in the great outdoors and get away from the busy buzz of the city for the weekend. Family Camps are hosted by Pipsico Scout Reservation for the whole Scouting family. Scouts will have the chance to do a whole array of adventure, including shooting sports, nature hikes, outside games, crafts and much more fun. It will conclude with a big campfire full of skits, songs and fun!

### Help Your Community

Doing service projects together is one way that Cub Scouts keep their promise "to help other people." While a Scout should do their best to help other people every day, a group service project is a bigger way to help people. While they're giving service, they learn to work together and to do something good for their community. Some of these activities may include: Give a flag ceremony for a school, collect food

## Day and Summer Camps

**Day Camp:** An optional summer activity which includes crafts, games, nature, sports, & outdoor activities. Camp typically runs 1 week; Monday - Friday from 9 am - 4 pm.

**Resident Camp:** A 3 night- 4 day optional camping adventure at *Camp Miles*. Experience Cub & Webelos requirement and elective adventures while working on the next badge of rank.



## Pack Campouts and Activities

Your family can attend periodic campouts and field trips with your Pack that can vary from a day visit to a neighborhood attraction, to an exciting overnight adventure. Some of these overnight campouts have included Northwest River Park, sleeping overnight on the USS Wisconsin at Nauticus or checking out one of the many lighthouses in our council. They are also as simple as staying at Pipsico Scout Reservation or one of your local state parks where the families can just hang out and have fun exploring the outdoors.



## Training

Scouting is a volunteer led program and the Tidewater Council has the training and tools to help you along the way. Training will give you fresh ideas, a place to talk to other Scout parents, and the knowledge and information you need to carry out the Scouting program. All trainings are available online at [My.Scouting.org](http://My.Scouting.org) or face to face at designated training courses throughout the year. Den Leaders and Assistant Den Leaders will need to take Youth Protection and Den Leader Position Specific Training, which is available online, or in a classroom setting. Committee Members will complete Youth Protection and Pack Committee Challenge online or in a classroom setting near you. *Please also visit the Tidewater Council website to see the variety of supplemental training opportunities available.*