

Tidewater Council

1032 Heatherwood Drive, Virginia Beach, VA 23455
757-497-2688

www.tidewaterbsa.com

The Mary Jayne Breeden Council Service Center is the customer service hub for Scouting in Tidewater Council. Our friendly staff can answer questions and provide help to you.

Open: **8:30 am - 5:00 pm**
Monday - Friday
(excluding holidays)

Scout Shop

At our full service **Scout Shop**, you can purchase your Scout's books, uniforms, and supplies. Call in orders are welcome and shipping is available.

Open: **11:00 am - 6:00 pm**
Tuesday through Friday
10:00 am - 2:00 pm
Saturday
Closed Sunday and Monday

NEW PARENT GUIDE

TIDEWATER COUNCIL
Boy Scouts of America



ESCAPE THE Great Indoors



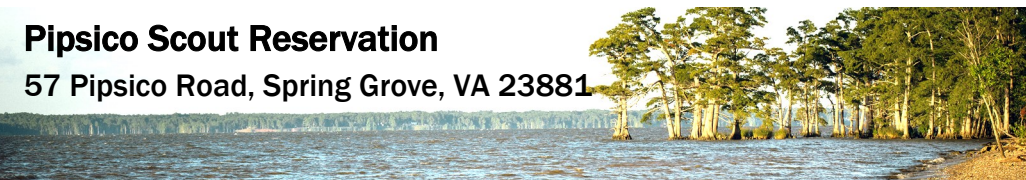
Congratulations on becoming a Scouting Family!

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.

Pipsico Scout Reservation

57 Pipsico Road, Spring Grove, VA 23881



Enjoy the outdoors at Tidewater Council's premier 916-acre camp on the James River. Special program areas include individual campsites, swimming pool, rifle/shotgun/archery range, climbing wall, rappelling tower, ropes course, canoes, kayaks, rowboats, sailboats, dining hall, and more.

Online Resources:

www.tidewaterbsa.com – Our council website, where you can find local council information, calendars, registration for events, and sign up for our newsletter.

My.Scouting.org - Access online training and learn how to run a quality and safe Scouting program.

www.scouting.org - National BSA website, where you can find general information and policies.

BeAScout.org – Sign up for Scouts online. Send this link to friends and family to find local Scout units in their area.

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!



What Does Scouting Cost?

Registration Fee: \$72 per year (Prorated \$6 by month)

New-Member Joining Fee: \$25 (One-time)

Scout Life Magazine: \$12 per year (Optional and prorated by month)

Handbook: \$16.99 (Need ASAP after signing up)

Uniform: A full uniform costs between \$89 and \$126, 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 event costs. You only pay for the events you attend.

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 - 8 youth, similar in age or grade, who typically meet once a week with two **DEN LEADERS**, usually parents. 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 the opportunity to engage with other **DENS**.

Your **PACK** is part of the **TIDEWATER COUNCIL, BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA**, which serves youth and volunteers throughout southeastern Virginia and northeastern North Carolina.



Building Strong Families

Scouting is a family-oriented activity that is proven to enhance a child's personal development. When you volunteer as a Cub Scout leader, 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 volunteers with their child's pack, these are the primary roles that make the pack thrive:

DEN LEADER/ASSISTANT DEN LEADER — Leads the den at weekly den and monthly pack meetings. Attends the monthly pack leaders meeting.

PACK COMMITTEE — Performs 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, three levels of approval, required **Youth Protection Training**, and meet all other BSA standards of leadership.

Training

Scouting is volunteer-led, but new leaders are not alone! 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 deliver the Scouting program. Trainings are available online at My.Scouting.org or face-to-face at designated training courses throughout the year. In addition to Youth Protection Training required of all leaders, there are position-specific training courses to help you learn about your specific role.



Kindergarten Youth

Lion Den

- *Youth sign up with an adult partner. (Adult is required.)
- *Usually meet twice per month.
- *Work 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 twice per month, and go on field trips and outings.
- *Works on special recognitions through fun family activities.



2nd & 3rd Grade Youth

Wolf & Bear Dens

- *Adult participation as needed
- *Weekly meetings led by the den leaders.
- *Den meetings focus on learning new skills using games, projects, crafts, and basic outdoor skills.
- *Work toward achieving the Wolf or Bear Badge of rank.



4th & 5th Grade Youth

Webelos Dens

- *Adult participation as needed
- *Weekly meetings led by the den leaders.
- *Den meetings focus on activity pin advancements and outdoor-oriented activities.
- *Work toward achieving the Webelos Badge & Arrow of Light Rank. Prepares youth for Scouts BSA.

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 they go. Each of the ranks and awards in Cub Scouting has its own requirements.

As Scouts advance through the ranks, the requirements get more challenging, to match the Scout's new skills and abilities as they learn and get older. Cub Scout Adventures 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 the pack's annual Blue and Gold Banquet.



Pinewood Derby

Youth participate in many fun projects, including the 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 and 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. The weekend concludes 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: conducting a flag ceremony for a school, collecting food for food banks, cleaning litter in a park, or any other worthy and age-appropriate tasks.

Day and Summer Camps

Day Camp: An optional summer activity which includes crafts, games, nature, sports, and outdoor activities. Camp typically runs one week.

Resident Camp: A 4-day, 3-night optional summer camping adventure at Pipsico Scout Reservation. Experience family-friendly camping and outdoor adventure.



Pack Campouts and Activities

Your family can attend periodic campouts and field trips with your pack, which 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. Your pack may choose to stay at Pipsico Scout Reservation or one of the local state parks, where the families can relax and enjoy exploring the outdoors.



2021 Fall Council Events

- **Cub Scout Family Camp - October 1-3, 2021**
- **Lion & Tiger Day - October 9, 2021**
- **Webelosree - October 8-10, 2021**
- **Gold Rush Field Days - October 16, 2021**
- **Fall Festival - November 5-7, 2021**

Visit [TidewaterBSA.com/calendar](https://www.tidewaterbsa.com/calendar) for more information.