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PARENT INFORMATION GUIDE



BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA®

Marin Council, Boy Scouts of America

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ADVENTURE IS WAITING

As a parent, you want your children to grow up to be self-reliant, dependable, and caring individuals. Scouting has these same goals in mind for them. Since 1910, we have been weaving lifetime values into fun and educational activities designed to assist parents in strengthening character, good citizenship, and physical fitness in youth. Scouting teaches family values. However, we know that kids do not join Scouting to build their character. Youth join because it is fun.

SCOUTING IS A GAME WITH A PURPOSE!

*Welcome to the fun
and excitement
of Cub Scouting—
where character counts
and the adventure
is waiting.*



Scouting in Marin.

YOUR JOURNEY BEGINS HERE



THE BASICS

Youth development program for youth in Kindergarten through fifth grades

- ◆ Builds character
- ◆ Teaches citizenship
- ◆ "Do Your Best"



THE BIG PICTURE

- Den meetings
- Small groups organized by grade
- Pack meetings and activities
- Family events combining all dens
- Council events
- Communitywide activities



WHY CUB SCOUTING?

- ◆ Brings the family together
- ◆ Master new skills
- ◆ Make new friends
- ◆ Learn to get along
- ◆ Build self-confidence
- ◆ Service Projects to help others
- ◆ FUN!



ADVANCEMENT

- Age-based ranks
- Assigned by grade
- Awards and badges
- Connecting effort and success
- Recognition
- Celebrating achievement and building self-confidence



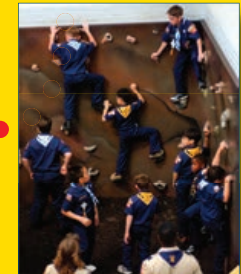
SCOUTING ACTIVITIES

- ◆ Camping
- ◆ Pinewood derby
- ◆ Raingutter regatta
- ◆ Hiking, fishing, biking
 - ◆ Get active!
- ◆ Cool field trips



TRAINING

- ◆ Youth protection
- ◆ Job specific training available
- ◆ Printed resources



THINGS TO BUY

- ◆ Uniform
- ◆ Book
- ◆ Patches



WHAT'S NEXT?

- ◆ Learn about your pack
- ◆ Register tonight!

THE CUB SCOUT PROGRAM



Family involvement is key to the success of Cub Scouts. Cub Scout packs are typically formed around neighborhood areas, drawing members from those whom the child lives near or with whom he or she goes to school.

WHAT IS A DEN?

Cub Scouts organize themselves by grade level in small groups (6–8 boys or girls) called dens. Dens meet anywhere from once a month for Lions and Tigers to two or three times a month for Webelos. Activities in these dens are age appropriate and help Scouts earn their rank badge.

Kindergartners form Lion dens—A youth and his or her adult partner learn and explore through hands-on, high-energy activities. They learn about health, communities, the outdoors, self-care, and leadership.

First graders form Tiger dens—In this program, youth with their adult partners begin exploring their world while learning about teamwork, health, communication, and the outdoor.

Second graders form Wolf dens—Wolves work together learning and doing projects in the home and community. They learn about safety, our flag, science, collecting, environmental protection, healthy eating, and much more.

Third graders form Bear dens—Throughout the year, Bears learn about wildlife, conservation, knot tying, whittling, astronomy, nature crafts, swimming safety, and more.

Fourth and fifth graders form Webelos dens—These older youth will do more in-depth, age-appropriate adventures to earn the Webelos badge in fourth grade and then the Arrow of Light award in fifth grade. During the latter part of fifth grade, the Scouts can join a Scout troop of their choosing.

THE CUB SCOUT PACK



WHAT IS A PACK?

These small groups of Lion through Webelos dens comprise a larger unit called a pack. A pack can have only girl dens (all girl pack), only boy dens (all boy pack), or both, making it a *family* pack. Family members volunteer to help run the dens and the pack. Pack meetings are held once a month where Cub Scouts are recognized for their achievements. It's fun for the entire family. The pack is made up of one or more dens and:

- ◆ Meets once a month at the pack meeting—all Cub Scout families are expected to participate
- ◆ The pack meeting is led by the Cubmaster
- ◆ The pack meeting is the climax of the month's den meetings and activities
- ◆ Pack meetings follow suggested themes that have games, skits, songs, ceremonies, and presentations of badges that Cubs earned that month

YOUR PACK IS RUN BY THE PACK COMMITTEE

- ◆ Made up of den leaders, pack leaders, the pack trainer, and parents
- ◆ The committee meets once a month or more often if needed
- ◆ Led by the committee chair
- ◆ The committee selects leadership, finds meeting places, performs record keeping, manages pack finances, orders badges, maintains pack equipment, helps train leaders, recognizes leaders, and plans activities

ADVANCEMENT



BOBCAT

All Cub Scouts earn the Bobcat badge first, by learning the Cub Scout Motto, Scout Oath, Scout Law, handshake, salute, sign, and telling what they all mean. After receiving the Bobcat badge, the Cubs work on requirements based on their grade level.

LIONS

To earn the Lion badge, a Scout must complete five adventures. The badge is worn on a Lion t-shirt, hat, or brag vest.

TIGER

To earn the Tiger badge, a Scout must complete six required adventures with their den or family and one elective adventure of the den or family's choosing. As each adventure is completed, Scouts receive the adventure loop for that adventure, which can be worn on a belt. When they have completed the seven required adventures, they can receive the Tiger badge.

WOLF

The Wolf badge is earned by completing six required adventures and one elective adventure. Parents or guardians and den leaders approve each requirement by signing the handbook, and the Scout receives an adventure loop for each adventure. When they have met all requirements, the Wolf badge is presented to the Scout at the next pack meeting.



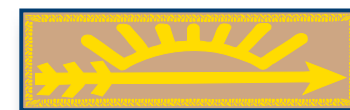
BEAR

Bears complete six required adventures and one elective adventure to earn the Bear badge. Parents or guardians and den leaders approve each requirement by signing the handbook, and the Scout receives an adventure loop for each adventure. When all requirements have been finished, the Bear badge can then be presented to the Scout at the next pack meeting.

WEBELOS

Webelos work on the five required Webelos adventures and choose two of the 18 elective adventures that are shared by the Webelos and Arrow of Light ranks. For each adventure completed, the Scout receives a pin to wear on the Webelos colors or on their hat. After completing seven adventures, including five required adventures and two elective adventures, the Webelos badge is awarded.

The final rank award in Cub Scouts is the Arrow of Light. Earning this rank prepares a Webelos Scout to become a Scout. For Arrow of Light four required and three elective adventures are completed to earn the Arrow of Light rank. For each adventure completed, the Webelos Scout receives a pin to wear on the Webelos colors or on a hat.



SPECIAL ACTIVITIES



CUB SCOUT CAMPING

Family Fiesta—A spring weekend of family camping for Cub Scouts. Events are conducted by Scout troops and Venturing crews. Fun for the entire family!

Cub Scout Day Camp—An activity for Wolf-Webelos that includes crafts, games, nature, sports, songs, and skits. Camps run five days at Camp Tamarancho.

Tiger Cub Expedition—A two day overnight camping experience for first graders and an adult partner at Camp Tamarancho. Activities include sports, archery, swimming, crafts and campfires.

Cub Scout Adventure Weekend—A two night camping experience for Wolf through Webelos at Camp Tamarancho.

Webelos Woods—A two-night stay at Camp Marin Sierra. Webelos Woods is designed to introduce Webelos to both older Scouting and Camp Marin Sierra where they may soon camp with a troop. Activities include swimming, shooting sports, games, crafts, Scout skills, and more!

PINWOOD DERBY



Parent/child project to build a race car made from a block of wood. Kids will race their cars at the Pinewood Derby.



BLUE AND GOLD BANQUET

Our birthday party for Cub Scouting usually held at the February pack meeting.

PACK OUTINGS

Tours of the Exploratorium and aquariums, camping trips, hikes, trips to various locations such as the ocean, woods, community locations, you name it!

ANNUAL POPCORN SALE

Each year, the Marin Council conducts its annual popcorn sale to benefit all Scouting programs. The sale teaches Scouts a valuable life lesson of earning their own way and helps pay for Scouting expenses.

COMMUNITY SERVICE PROJECTS

The Scouts in Marin Council average over 30,000 hours of service projects per year and collect an average of 41,000 pounds of food per year for the SF-Marin Food Bank. Cub Scouts are part of this giving back to the community.



THE COST OF SCOUTING



REGISTRATION (per person/per year)

Scout or Adult	\$33.00
Insurance	\$3.00
Boys' Life Magazine.....	\$12.00

(The above three items go directly to the National BSA. Marin Council takes none of it.)

Pack Dues (different for various packs)

UNIFORMS AND BOOKS

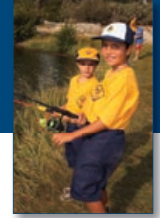
Approximate Costs—Can Change

Shirt.....	\$24.99–\$29.99
Cap	\$14.99
Neckerchief.....	\$8.99–\$9.99
Slide.....	\$5.99
Belt	\$9.99
Pants.....	\$24.99–\$34.99
Handbooks.....	\$12.99–\$18.99

Uniform Insignia

World Crest	\$1.99
Shoulder Strip	\$3.60
Numerals	\$1.49 ea.
Den Number.....	\$1.49
Webelos Colors	\$5.99

Prices vary with rank and styles.



CUB SCOUT UNIFORM

Uniforms are very important for both Scouts and leaders. After going through your child's book with him or her, you'll probably have a good idea how serious a Cub Scout they will be. The uniform is an important part of the program and it represents an investment on your part. Our uniforms are of very high quality and, in most cases, will last for several years. So, be sure to buy one large enough for your Cub Scout to grow into.

If you can find an "experienced" uniform in good shape, be sure to get it. Many of these uniforms will be just like new and will be all a Scout needs at a very low cost.

Most new Cub Scouts will have to buy a uniform, and the council Scout shop is the official distributor of BSA uniforms and equipment. It is located in the council service center on the first floor at 225 West End Avenue, San Rafael. Our store personnel are more than happy to help you find what you need.

Cub Scouts don't require much more than this. They can also acquire "brag vests" to wear any patches they earn that cannot be worn on the uniform. The Cub Scouts are encouraged to wear their uniforms whenever they are doing a pack or council activity.



HOW CAN I HELP?



Scouting operates through volunteer leadership. Volunteer leaders are an example of Scouting's principle of service to others. Naturally, parents are the primary source of leaders in the Scouting program. You volunteer not only to serve Scouting, but also to help your child and his or her friends and to have the chance to be a positive influence on the youth in your community.

SOME OF THE BENEFITS OF VOLUNTEERING

Being a leader is fun, challenging, and rewarding. Leaders find that their experiences help them to become better parents. The following are some of the many dividends that will enrich your life as you dedicate your time, talents, and enthusiasm:

- ◆ Fun and fellowship with your children and other families, sharing your pride in the Scouts' accomplishments
- ◆ The privilege of helping to enrich and strengthen families. A chance to help girls and boys learn good citizenship and to help shape them into adults who have strength of character and are sensitive to the needs of others
- ◆ The opportunity to help make a difference in the lives of youth as they grow strong in mind and body
- ◆ A code to live by which will set a worthwhile example for both fellow Scouts and adults
- ◆ The satisfaction of being a member of a worldwide movement, and pride in being publicly identified as a part of this organization – wearing the Scouting uniform is a visible means of showing you believe in and stand up for the ideals and objectives of the Boy Scouts of America

PACK VOLUNTEER POSITIONS



SOME PACK POSITIONS

Den Leader—Leads the den at den and pack meetings. Attends the monthly pack leaders' meeting.

Cubmaster—Helps plan and carry out the pack program with the help of the pack committee. Emcees the monthly pack meeting and attends the pack leaders' meeting.

Pack Committee—Pack committee members perform administrative functions.

Committee Chair—Presides at all pack committee meetings. Helps recruit adult leaders. Also attends pack meetings.

Secretary/Treasurer—Keeps all records for the pack, including pack bank account, financial records, etc. Attends pack meeting and pack leaders' meetings.

Advancement Chair—Maintains advancement records for the pack. Orders and obtains all badges and insignia. Attends pack meetings and committee meetings.

Pack Trainer—Ensures that all leaders of the pack are trained. Attends pack meetings and committee meetings.

Membership Chair—Makes sure all Scouts and leaders are registered. Conducts yearly recharting of pack.

LEADERSHIP TRAINING



Training is an important part of learning to become an effective leader. The main purpose of training is to provide you with the tools you need to put on a quality program for the Scouts. Leaders who understand the whys and hows of the program are more effective in their roles and have a better understanding of how to use all available resources to provide an exciting and worthwhile program. Live training is best, but some training can be completed online at My.Scouting.org

YOUTH PROTECTION TRAINING

The Boy Scouts of America places the greatest importance on creating the most secure environment possible for our youth members and adults cannot be registered in the Marin Council without first taking the training. Subjects included are the BSA's Youth Protection policies, kinds of abuse, how to respond to disclosure of abuse, and proper reporting procedures. It does so by taking you through situations that require choices and produce consequences. This training is available online and council-wide throughout the year. In order for an adult to remain a registered leader in the Boy Scouts of America, Youth Protection Training is required every two years.

POSITION-SPECIFIC TRAINING

Position-Specific Training is designed to present in-depth information for a new leader in a specific leadership position such as Den Leader, Cubmaster, etc. This course is presented several times a year at the council level as well as online.

YOU ARE NOT ALONE



Thank you for your commitment to becoming a leader in the Boy Scouts of America. Please take advantage of the number of resources available to ensure your success as a leader.

- ◆ The staff of the Marin Council can help you or they will get you in touch with someone who can.
Phone: 415-454-1081
Web site: www.boyscouts-marin.org
- ◆ Roundtable is a monthly leaders' meeting for all adult volunteers. You can get help with den and pack programs as well as solutions to problems. It's a great place to ask questions and share ideas. Roundtable is the first Thursday of every month, 7:30, at the LDS Church, 220 N. San Pedro Road, San Rafael.
- ◆ Many packs have a pack library that contains the leader books you need.
- ◆ The council has a team of volunteers which develop quality programs in which our youth can participate.
- ◆ There is another volunteer team called the commissioner staff. They are your service team. They check on the health of your pack and are a communications link between your pack and the Scouting organization. A commissioner is assigned to assist your pack.
- ◆ Sign-up for our monthly Dispatch eNewsletter, which will keep you informed of everything going on around the council and beyond. There's always something for everyone.

MARIN COUNCIL FACTS



- ◆ The Marin Council was formed in 1923 and presently serves approximately 2000 youth, with almost 900 involved in Cub Scouts. Supporting those programs are nearly 1000 registered volunteers.
- ◆ Marin Council owns and operates two outstanding camp properties. Camp Tamarancho, located in Fairfax, is home to most of the Cub Scout camping programs, numerous older Scout events, and pack, troop, and crew camping. Camp Marin Sierra, near Emigrant Gap, is home to our Scout resident camp and Webelos Woods, along with year-round use by packs, troops, and crews.
- ◆ What Marin Council people think:
 - ▶ 95% of volunteers agree that Scouting in Marin teaches youth skills they can't learn anywhere else.
 - ▶ 99% of volunteers feel Scouting in Marin offers unique benefits
 - ▶ 100% of parents feel that Scouting in Marin is a great value for their money
 - ▶ 88% of older Scouts agree that Scouting makes them feel that they are part of something bigger than just themselves.



Scouting in Marin.

**Marin Council
Boy Scouts of America**

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