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CUB SCOUT PACK 1459 HANDBOOK

September 2016



BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA®

CUB SCOUT PACK 1459

CHANTILLY, VA

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WELCOME TO PACK 1459!

We are glad that your family has joined Scouting and we hope you and your son will have a great adventure with Cub Scout Pack 1459. Since 1990, Pack 1459 has been meeting in Chantilly, VA. The pack continues to thrive due to the dedication of its volunteer leaders and parents like you! We believe that Scouting is an important part of the physical, mental, and spiritual development of our boys. We strongly encourage family participation in all events!



Pack 1459 is in the Sully District, one of several districts in the VA, MD, DC Metro area, that is part of the National Capital Area Council (NCAC), Boy Scouts of America. We are chartered annually by the National Council of the Boy Scouts of America, which is chartered by the Congress of the United States of America.

Mission Statement

The committee, leaders, and parents of Cub Scout Pack 1459 strive to offer a quality, year-round, values-based youth development program for first through fifth grade boys in Chantilly, VA. We focus on character building, service to the community, development of positive appreciation for the outdoors, and personal fitness.

We are a family-focused organization that follows the principles of the Scout Oath and Law and focuses on personal development through fun, adventure, achievement, and hands-on learning via structured activities. We hope to establish a strong foundation that will lead our sons to become strong, independent, good, and moral leaders for the next generation. Our goals are to:

- Teach each Cub Scout to be a good citizen.
- Provide opportunities for mental and physical fitness.
- Develop teamwork and leadership skills.
- Provide safe, fun, and year-round activities.
- Teach outdoor skills.
- Maintain transparency of Pack activities and operations.
- Inform parents of the advancement needs of the Cub Scouts.
- Offer encouragement to each Cub Scout if the family wishes to develop and strengthen his faith.

About Our Chartered Organization

All Cub Scout Packs are associated with a chartering organization that sponsors them, ensures proper meeting facilities, and approves the selection of leaders. Pack 1459 is grateful for the support of our chartered organization, Poplar Tree Elementary School Parent-Teacher Association (PTA), in Chantilly, VA.

PACK ORGANIZATION

A group of approximately 5 to 10 Scouts of the same age who are working on earning the same rank make up a Den. All of the Dens together make up the Pack.

Individual dens have Den Leaders and Assistant Den Leaders. These leaders plan and execute the den meetings, which usually meet at least once a month.

A Pack Committee consisting of interested parents, leaders, and members of the Chartered Organization are responsible to support the pack in areas such as planning and implementing pack activities, fundraising events, field trips, outings, camping trips, banquets, derbies, etc.

The Pack Committee is headed by the Pack Committee Chair, and includes the following members over the following areas:

- Chartered Org Representative
- Treasurer
- Awards/Advancement Chair
- Membership Chair
- Outdoor Activities Chair
- Popcorn Kernel
- STEM Chair
- Scoutbook Chair / Pack Trainer
- Webmaster
- Flag / Bridge Storage Coordinator
- Religious Emblems Coordinator
- Various Events Coordinators
- Public Affairs / Newsletter

The Cubmaster and Assistant Cubmasters plan and execute monthly Pack meetings around monthly themes (i.e., STEM, Water Rockets, Safety, Disability Awareness, Emergency Preparedness, Leave No Trace, Service Projects, etc.). The Cubmaster, Assistant Cubmasters, and Pack Trainer work to support the Den Leaders and encourage and provide training relevant to the leader's position.

MEETINGS

Most dens in Pack 1459 meet at least once a month at the den leaders' discretion. (Please see the following sections on Den meetings and Pack meetings for schedule information.) Some dens may decide to adopt various meeting schedules or locations. Your son's Den Leader will discuss your den's meeting schedule and location and will inform you of any changes. Please try to arrive at meetings on time.

The Pack Calendar is on the pack web site, www.pack1459.org. Any updates to the calendar will appear on the pack website, as well as communicated via email.

If the Fairfax County School District cancels scheduled classes due to inclement weather (or for any other reason), the Den or Pack will not meet that night.

Den Meetings

Dens have meetings 1-2 times a month and provide your son with opportunities to enjoy various planned activities, learn new skills, and have great fun. While parental attendance is not required at Den Meetings (except for Tigers), it is certainly encouraged! Some Dens will require parent participation at specific meetings. Please keep in touch with your son's Den Leader so that you will know what activities are taking place and can track the progress your son is making.

Pack Meetings

Once a month, all Dens meet together for a "Pack Meeting", which all Cub Scouts and their families are encouraged to attend. The Pack Meeting is a fun time for everyone. We will have an activity each month as the main program of the Pack Meeting. Dens may show off the projects they have been working on, lead songs, perform skits, and the Cubmaster will present awards to the Scouts. It is a time for the family to get information on upcoming activities and share in the Scouting spirit. Be sure to attend and join in the excitement while watching your son advance!

Awards are a very important part of the Scouting program. They are intended to help build self-esteem by providing recognition for a Scout's hard work. We encourage you to applaud, and

cheer for all of the Scouts as they are presented with their awards at Pack Meetings.

The Pack Meeting is usually the first Monday of each month held at the Poplar Tree Elementary School Auditorium but may change due to legal holidays or other events. See the Pack Calendar posted on the Pack 1459 website (www.pack1459.org) for exact dates... Regardless of the time that your son's Den meets, Pack meetings will take place from 7:00 PM to 8:00 PM unless stated otherwise. Gathering activities will begin at 6:15, and the opening ceremony will begin promptly at 6:30. Please be on time!

It is the responsibility of everyone in the pack to assist with cleanup following the Pack Meeting, especially when refreshments have been served.

Facility Guidelines

Please Show Respect for Our Meeting Place, Poplar Tree Elementary School.

We are fortunate to have the support of the Poplar Tree Elementary School leadership and we are proud to be associated with this school in our community. We have a tradition of respecting property and do not wish to reflect negatively on Scouting, Pack 1459, or on Poplar Tree Elementary School.

We understand that "boys will be boys" and outbursts of enthusiasm will occur. However, there may be teachers or administrators working, or other groups meeting at the school at the same time we are meeting, so please be polite to them, and reasonably quiet so as not to disturb what they are doing. **We are guests in this school!** Please avoid running and yelling in the school or anywhere outside unless a part of an organized game and do your best to keep everything neat and clean. Please ask your Scout to stay away from the air wall partition on the stage, the music room, and other school equipment that may be present while we are meeting.

We always provide all of our own materials for our programs, so there should never be any need to use any of the school's materials found in the classrooms or cafeteria. Please leave the school facilities set up the way you found them, and always neater than you found them.

Poplar Tree Elementary School administrators and teachers understand that upon occasion accidents happen and that things get worn, dirty, and broken. Pack 1459 is committed to act responsibly to prevent as much damage as possible and to be good stewards of what we have graciously been given by the school. We will check all of the facilities before and after our meetings, especially the bathrooms and grounds. We will clean, repair, replace, or reimburse as needed. **If you see any problems, please alert the Den Leaders or the Cubmaster right away!**

Note specifically that the school administration has instructed us that the use of the playground requires ACTIVE parent supervision; we cannot just simply "let them go play."

You can help by talking frankly with your children about following the school's rules, even when school is out, and the importance of respect and stewardship. Please ensure your children learn responsibility and respect. We want to remain a welcome part of Poplar Tree Elementary School's outreach!

REGISTRATION

Our Pack's charter runs from February 1 to January 31 each year and the Pack encourages all Scouts to re-register for the next year no later than Oct 15th. Our annual registration fee is \$100 per boy. Pack 1459 offers a \$5 sibling discount per child registered with Pack 1459 after the first full price registration.

A portion of this fee goes to the BSA national organization and local National Capital Area Council to cover insurance, a Boy Scouts of America (BSA) national registration fee, and BSA operating expenses. The Pack uses the remainder of the registration fee (combined with proceeds of fundraising activities, den dues, and nominal charges for some events) to pay for Scout awards, leader training, campsite rentals, Den expenses, Pinewood Derby, crafts supplies, facilities rental, Banquet food and decorations, some field trip expenses, etc.

Your registration fee includes an annual subscription to Boys Life magazine. This magazine focuses on interests of the boys, and ties in closely with the monthly Scouting program activities. Registered adult Scout leaders receive a monthly subscription to Scouting Magazine, which parallels the topics in Boys Life magazine but is focused on the adult perspective.

If the annual registration fee places an excessive burden on your family's finances (especially if you have more than one son in Scouts), please contact the Cubmaster, Pack Committee Chair, or Pack Committee Treasurer to discuss alternate arrangements. Although the Pack depends upon this fee to fund our many activities, we would like to see all boys able to participate in Scouting and we do not want the registration fee to be an obstacle.

Cub Scouts are discouraged from joining the Pack from January through April since too little time remains in the year to complete the requirements for advancing in rank.

Transfers into the Pack (from another Pack) by families moving into the area are welcome at any time throughout the year as space permits. The Council collects a \$1.00 transfer fee at the time of each transfer and is good for the remaining school year. Full registration fee will be required at the normal fall re-registration time.

We will work diligently to get transfer Scouts or new Scouts into an established den ASAP.

Because of insurance liability, Scouts who have not made at least a partial payment of the registration fee for the current charter year will not be allowed to participate in Scout activities. Unregistered Scouts are not members of BSA and cannot earn badges or awards of any kind (the Council records system will not accept their entries!)

CUB SCOUT ADVANCEMENT

School year groups divide the pack into the different Cub Scout ranks: Tiger Scouts (1st Grade), Wolf Scouts (2nd Grade), Bear Scouts (3rd Grade), and Webelos Scouts (4th and 5th Grades).

Advancement is one of the methods we use to achieve Scouting's aims and its desired outcomes. As boys earn the ranks of Bobcat, Tiger, Wolf, Bear, Webelos, and Arrow of Light, they achieve important goals in developing skills and favorable dispositions related to personal fitness, good character, participatory citizenship, outdoor skills and awareness, and leadership development. Each level of the program from Tiger to Arrow of Light is designed to achieve these goals through a series of developmentally appropriate and fun adventures.

Tiger, Wolf, and Bear are one-year programs. The Webelos program runs for up to 18 months.

All new Scouts must first earn the Bobcat badge. After earning the Bobcat badge, Scouts work towards the rank of Tiger, Wolf, Bear, or Webelos, depending upon their age. Each of these ranks has its own unique handbook from which the boys work on their advancement.

Your Den Leader will try to let you know what the Den will be doing in advance of each meeting. If you are unable to attend a Den meeting, consider doing the same activity with your son on some other night so that he will not feel as though he is dropping behind the other Scouts in his Den.

Bobcat



Scouting, including the Cub Scout Motto, Salute, Handshake, and Sign.

Completion of this badge gives the Scout the right to wear the Bobcat patch on his uniform (in

The Bobcat badge is the first badge that is earned by all Cub Scouts. This badge is required for all boys because it involves learning the Scout Promise, the Scout Law, and other fundamental aspects of Cub

the twelve o'clock position of the front left shirt pocket) and the right to proceed to his next rank (which will vary based upon age).

Tiger (1st Graders)



In the Tiger program, an Adult Partner (a parent, grandparent, or other guardian) always accompanies each boy. The Tiger and Adult Partner form a team. The first few

Tiger meetings are organized and run by the Tiger Den Leader in order to introduce the Tigers and Adult Partners to Scouting. After that, each Tiger/Adult team selects a topic from the Tiger book and presents the topic to the Tiger Group (one topic per meeting).

The Tiger earns adventure belt loops towards earning his Tiger badge. Completion of this badge earns the right for the Scout to wear the Tiger patch on his uniform (in the six o'clock position of the front left shirt pocket, directly beneath the Bobcat patch).



At the end of the Scout year, Tigers graduate into a Wolf den.

Wolf (2nd Graders)



In the Wolf program, a Scout's completion of achievements in the Wolf handbook leads to earning the Wolf badge and adventure belt loops. Adventure belt loops can be worked on during the

entire year. The Wolf handbook includes many activities that are family oriented. Your son will need your assistance to earn this rank.

Completion of this badge earns the right for the Scout to wear the Wolf patch on his uniform (in the nine o'clock position of the front left shirt pocket).



At the end of the Scout year, Wolves graduate into a Bear den.

Bear (3rd Graders)



In the Bear program, a Scout's completion of achievements in the Bear handbook leads to earning the Bear badge through earning adventure belt loops. Adventure belt loops can be worked on during the entire year. The Bear handbook includes many activities that are family oriented. Your son will need your assistance to earn this rank.

Completion of this badge earns the right for the Scout to wear the Bear patch on his uniform (in the three o'clock position of the front left shirt pocket).



At the end of the Scout year, Bears graduate into a Webelos den.

Webelos I (4th Graders)



The Webelos program (and there is always an S at the end of Webelos) is designed to transition the boys from Cub Scouts to Boy Scouts. In the Webelos program, Scouts earn adventure pins in areas such as Cast Iron Chef, Duty to God and You, First Responder, Stronger/Faster/Higher, and Webelos Walkabout that count towards the Webelos rank.

As such, the Webelos program is broken into two phases, based upon the rank badge being earned.

In the First-Year Webelos program, the boys work on their Webelos badge. Additional adventure pins beyond the Webelos badge earn the Compass Emblem and "Compass Points."

The focus of the Webelos den is to work together as a team, much like a Boy Scout Patrol. This includes Webelos den camping. The Webelos program prepares the boys to enter the Boy Scout program. (Webelos is an acronym for "WE'll BE LOyal Scouts" WE-BE-LO-S).



Webelos 2 - Arrow of Light (5th Graders)



The Second-Year Webelos, commonly referred to as "Webelos 2's," work on the Arrow of Light award. You may find some literature that refers to the Second-Year Webelos as an Arrow of Light den.

The Arrow of Light is the highest award that a Cub Scout can earn and one of the few Cub Scout emblems that may be worn on the Boy Scout uniform.



Bridging to Boy Scouts

As previously stated, the goal of the Webelos program is to prepare boys to succeed as Boy Scouts. As such, and in line with the standard Boy Scout troop program, our pack "bridges" the boys to their new troop as part of the March Pack Meeting. This is the appropriate time to bring the new boys into the troop, as the troop program at that time expects incoming Scouts, and can integrate them into the troop with their peers in time to get them ready for summer camp. There are many troops to choose from in our area, large and small, each with their own emphasis on how they deliver the Scouting program. Choose the best troop that fits your son's and your desires.

About Advancement

All rank advancement must be turned in to the Den Leader at least one week before a Pack meeting. The leaders must turn in an advancement report via Scoutbook to the Advancement Chair on that date in order to get the awards in time for the Pack Meeting. If your son has worked on his advancement, make sure he brings his book (signed by you where applicable) to the meetings. Sign offs should also be completed online within Scoutbook. The Den Leader is required to do the final sign-off for all advancement.

If the advancement sign off is not turned in at least a week before the Pack meeting via Scoutbook, the award cannot be presented to the Scout until the next Pack Meeting, which will certainly be a big disappointment to your son. Scouting is a family adventure and your assistance and cooperation is essential to your son's success in earning his rank.

Cub Scouting is a very family oriented program. As such, responsibility for promoting rank advancement lies with the parents, the Scout, and his family. Although there will be activities organized by the Den and the Pack which count towards rank advancement, most of the activities should be done at home under your guidance. There is no substitute for active family involvement.

The standard to apply when determining if your son has accomplished an achievement or elective is simply "did he do his best?" While that is somewhat subjective, and obviously not the same from boy to boy, it is the standard used in Cub Scouts. As such, that is why advancement is something to be done under the parent's guidance, where he/she signs off in the handbook as the "Akela."

Advancement is a good indicator of how much a Scout is participating in the program and how successful he has been in learning the new things that the program offers. As a parent, you will see ups and downs over your son's Scouting career with an occasional lack of interest. This is normal; especially with all of the activities kids are involved with these days, such as sports programs and video games. Please encourage your son and help motivate him to hang in there and earn his advancement.

Don't let a sports season end a Scouting

career. We realize how important sports and other seasonal or short-term activities are to the boys and their families. Please try to participate as often as you can, even if you have to show up late and in your soccer uniform! And plan to get back into the swing of things as soon as you can. Our leaders will be happy to help your son get caught up with the rest of the den.

If you are concerned about the quality of any aspect of the program or about your son's loss of interest in the program, please talk with his Den Leader or the Cubmaster right away. Scouting is the best youth program anywhere, but like anything worthwhile, it takes commitment from everyone involved. You only get out of the program what you are willing to put in. Your son cannot benefit at all from Scouting if he drops out!

Our Council offers a weeklong, summer day camp that is highly recommended. Besides having a lot of fun, your Scout will be able to complete requirements for some of the achievements needed for his next rank advancement. You'll receive more information on the day camp from your Scout Leaders in the spring.

Each Scout has until the last meeting in May to earn his current rank badge. If there are extenuating circumstances, please contact the Cubmaster as soon as possible.

UNIFORMS



The Boy Scouts of America is a uniformed organization. We encourage you to acquire a uniform for your son at least by the time of the October Pack meeting so that he may proudly wear his Bobcat badge and other awards on it.

BSA has many reasons for requiring uniforms. Among them are quick identification of the group, providing a place to display emblems representing hard work by the Scouts, and to foster a sense of brotherhood and pride.

We realize that uniforms can be expensive, so we suggest you start with the shirt and encourage grandparents, aunts, uncles, etc. to purchase Scouting uniform parts, equipment etc. as gifts throughout the year.

Occasionally, the Pack or District may sponsor a 'uniform exchange', where used uniforms, which a Scout has outgrown, can be traded, sold, or purchased at a discount. Your Pack Leaders will inform you of these events as we become aware of them.

Pack 1459's uniform is the official uniform designated by the Boy Scouts of America. An official uniform (including the BSA shirt, pants, belt, hat, neckerchief, and slide) is known as a **"Class A" uniform** (i.e., a dress uniform). Occasionally, it is appropriate for Scouts to not wear their "Class A" uniform, but still be quickly recognizable as Scouts. (For example, while playing outdoor games or while on a hike). In these cases, Scouts may wear the **"Class B" uniform**, consisting of Pack 1459 t-shirt, plain colored shorts or pants, and their Cub Scout hat.

Scouts should not wear brightly colored sports shorts/pants with their pack t-shirt, nor with the Class A uniform.

If not otherwise indicated Scouts should default to wearing their "Class A" uniform.

Tiger, Wolf, and Bear Cub Scout uniforms consist of the following:

- Cub Scout Shirt (blue)
- Cub Scout Pants or Shorts (blue)
- Rank Hat
 - Tiger – Orange front
 - Wolf – Yellow front
 - Bear – Light Blue front



- Neckerchief
 - Tiger – orange
 - Wolf – yellow
 - Bear -- blue
 - Neckerchief Slide



Webelos Scout uniforms consist of:

- Webelos Shirt (tan)
- Webelos Hat (Plaid front)
- Webelos Pants or Shorts (green official)
- Webelos Neckerchief and slide



The uniforms also sport an assortment of emblems that identify the Scout's council, pack, rank, and certain accomplishments. Many of these emblems are described on the inside covers of the book for each rank. The Uniform Inspection Guide is provided as an attachment to assist with patch locations on the uniform.

BSA requests that Tiger, Wolf, Bear and Webelos Scouts wear a complete uniform including the official pants (or shorts) and socks. We encourage each boy to wear the complete, official "Class A" uniform, but at least have the shirt, hat, and neckerchief/slide for each meeting.

Webelos Scouts are in transition from Cub Scouts to Boy Scouts. They may also be at an age where they are outgrowing their Cub Scout uniform and need a new one, even though they will bridge to Boy Scouts soon. *For this reason, BSA provides the option that Webelos Scouts may wear the blue Cub Scout uniform until they outgrow it.* Webelos Scouts purchasing a new uniform should buy the tan and green Boy Scout uniform. All Webelos Scouts should be wearing the tan and green uniform by the time that they earn the Arrow of Light and bridge into a Boy Scout Troop.

Webelos Scouts also wear a set of colorful, braided ribbons called the "Webelos Colors" on their uniform. The adventure pins that they earn should be displayed on the Webelos Colors.

Uniform items that are easily removable (such as hats, neckerchiefs, and neckerchief slides) should be marked permanently with the Scout's name so that lost items can be returned to their owner.

Pack 1459 will provide a neckerchief and slide of the appropriate rank when Scouts advance to their new rank. If a Scout loses these items, it is not the pack's responsibility to replace them.

Uniforms can be purchased at the Northern Virginia Scout Shop at 5234 Port Royal Road, Springfield, VA 22151. Phone: 703-321-4836. <https://www.facebook.com/NorthernVirginiaScoutShop>

Another option is National Capital Scout Shop at 9190 Rockville Pike, Bethesda, MD 20814. Phone: 301-564-1091 <https://www.facebook.com/NationalCapitalScoutShop>

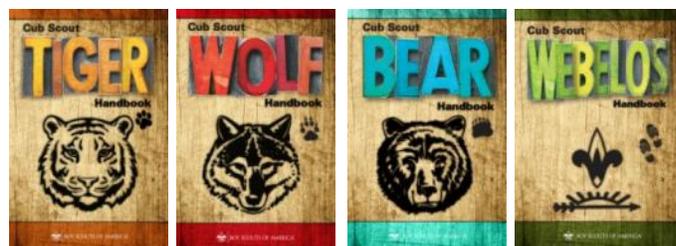
You can also order uniforms online at: <http://ScoutStuff.org>

<http://www.ncacbsa.org/about-ncac/scout-store/>

Cub Scout Handbooks

Owning a copy of the Cub Scout handbook for each rank is important. The book provides the requirements for each activity and a place to record progress. Each Scout is expected to own a copy of the handbook appropriate for their rank and to bring the handbook to each Den meeting. Scouts should write their names in permanent ink on the title page (inside the book) in the space provided for this purpose.

The Pack does not provide a copy of the handbook. They are available for purchase at the Scout Shop or online.



AWARDS

The Pack pays for all awards, and presents them to the uniformed Scout at pack and den meetings. The pack does not cover the cost of replacement awards. Additionally, in some cases, a Scout may repeatedly earn an award; however only a single award is presented by the pack.

Check your handbook and the pack web site for information on various awards your son can earn. Not all awards can be worn on the uniform shirt. For information on where these items belong on the shirt, see the Cub Scout and Webelos Scout Inspection sheet attached as enclosures at the end of this document. Rank patches, unit insignia, and other badges are to be worn on the uniform shirt.

If a badge is not shown on the uniform, then it is not appropriate to wear on the shirt. Examples of these patches would include patches from hiking, fundraising, camping, and other outings. These patches can be worn on a red Scout vest that can be purchased at the Scout Shop.

Other Awards The Boys Can Earn:

Cub Scout Outdoor Activity Award



Tiger, Wolf, Bear, and Webelos Scouts may earn the Cub Scout Outdoor Activity Award. This award recognizes the Scout for taking part in outdoor recreation and conservation projects. In many cases, you can earn this award while doing other Scouting activities. [Click here for more information about this award.](#)

Religious Emblem Awards



One of the 12 points of the Scout Law is a Scout is Reverent and has a "duty to God." While Scouting makes no preference, selection, or distinction in this regard, there is a set of

religious emblems for various faiths, available for Scouts to earn to help them in fulfilling their duty to God. For more information, see <http://www.scouting.org/scoutsource/Awards/ReligiousAwards.aspx>.

Religious emblems are an optional program that a scout can experience with his family and congregation. Parents should contact the religious emblems coordinator when starting a program. Most of the programs are workbooks that can be purchased online or through the Scout Store or online. All Scouts who earn a religious emblem through their faith group will be recognized and awarded a "knot" patch at a Pack meeting.

Cub Scout World Conservation Award



The World Conservation Award for Cub Scouts provides an opportunity for individual Wolf, Bear, and Webelos Scouts to "think globally" and "act locally" to preserve and improve our environment. This program is designed to make youth members aware that all nations are closely related through natural resources, and that we are interdependent with our world environment.

Requirements for this award must be completed *in addition to* any similar requirements completed for rank. This award may not be earned by Tigers.

Outdoor Ethics Awareness Award Outdoor Ethics Action Award



Cub Scouts who are interested in learning more about outdoor ethics and Leave No Trace may earn the Outdoor Ethics Awareness Award. The Outdoor Ethics Action Award asks Scouts to use their new knowledge to take steps to improve their outdoor skills. [Click here for more info.](#)

STEM/Nova Awards



The Nova awards for Cub Scouts are for Wolf, Bear, and Webelos Scouts who are interested in learning more about science, technology, engineering, and mathematics. Tiger Scouts may not earn these awards as they are geared toward more advanced developmental levels.

For their first Nova awards, Scouts have the opportunity to earn the Nova award patch, followed by three more π (pi) pin-on devices. The patch and the three devices represent each of the four STEM topics. The Supernova awards have requirements that are more challenging and recognize more in-depth, advanced achievement in STEM related activities.

<http://www.Scouting.org/stem.aspx>

ACTIVITIES

Aside from normal Den activities and occasional field trips, several special activities are worth mentioning in this parent handbook.

Fall Pack Family Campout

The Pack will arrange to have a one or two night campout at a local campground in the fall. Please read the BSA Health and Safety Camping guidelines in the next section.

Popcorn Sales

Every year the Pack participates in the Boy Scout Popcorn sale. The sale occurs in the fall, and is the major fundraising activity of our Pack. Boys who participate in this event receive a patch and other recognition.

The Pack relies heavily on the funds generated by this fundraiser. Everyone's participation is expected and appreciated. The pack retains 30% of the proceeds of the popcorn sold.



Pinewood Derby

Once a year, around the end of January, the Pack has a Pinewood Derby race. The Pack provides each Scout with a Pinewood Derby kit at least one month before the Derby. Each Scout (with the help of his parents) designs and builds his car from a block of pine and wheels included in the kit. Each car must meet very specific rules (including weight and size requirements) and must be built from the official BSA Pinewood Derby kit. The cars are judged for speed in different age groups and for appearance. Guidelines will be provided closer to the event.

The Pack champions go on to compete with all the other Packs in our District/Council Pinewood Derby at the Scout Fair. The official rules for the Pack 1459 Derby are available for download from the pack website.

If you are interested in assisting with the Pinewood Derby, please contact the Pack Committee Chair.

District Family Camping Weekends

Attendance by Scouting families is encouraged at events held by our district and council such as

Camporees and Family Camping Weekend. At these events, the boys have a chance to work on their advancements and enjoy the company of Scouts from other packs.

Blue and Gold Celebration

Each year the Cub Scouts celebrate the anniversary of the founding of Scouting in the U.S. by having a Blue and Gold Celebration. This is traditionally a supper (either catered or potluck) where the entire family is encouraged to attend and has evolved to include many carnival-like games. This helps the Bear Scouts earn their Grin and Bear It adventure belt loop. It is usually held in February.

If you are interested in assisting with the Blue & Gold, please contact the Pack Committee Chair.

Bridging Ceremony

For the 2nd year Webelos, the final night of being a Cub Scout is at our March Pack Meeting. In addition to a memorable "bridging" ceremony to Boy Scouts for those boys who are continuing the Scouting adventure, we also present graduation "career arrows" to the boys for them to remember their time in Pack 1459. This meeting is usually run by Boy Scouts in the Order of the Arrow, and it is strongly encouraged for all boys to attend the meeting.

Spring Pack Family Campout

Pack 1459 has a one or two night spring campout at a local campground. Please read the BSA Health and Safety Camping guidelines in the next section.

Council and District Sponsored Activities

Throughout the year, the council coordinates events for Scouts from all packs to participate in. This includes events such as Scout Night at various sports events, parades, as well as numerous Day Camps and other activities. We encourage everyone to take advantage of these opportunities. These events will be publicized via the Pack website and emails.

Service Projects

The Pack has previously done service projects that help our local community. This could include Scouting for Food, Watershed Clean Ups, etc.

Parades

The Pack participates in the Chantilly High School Homecoming parade each fall, and is open to exploring participation in other local parades.

Summertime Activities

The Pack will schedule activities during the summer months. All summer activities will be publicized using email and the Pack website.

Scouts who attend at least one Pack activity per month during the months of June, July, and August can earn a special 'summertime activity' award.



BSA Health & Safety

All Scouting activities are in accordance with national BSA health and safety standards, as dictated by the Guide to Safe Scouting. All participants (Scouts, siblings, parents) must complete a BSA medical form (parts A and B) each year. The form can be found at: http://www.Scouting.org/filestore/HealthSafety/pdf/680-001_AB.pdf

CAMPING

Scouting is an outdoor-based program. Camping is permitted by Cub Scouts only in an age-appropriate context. Scouts must



have an adult family member with them at all times when camping. If your Scout wishes to attend only the daytime activities of a Family Campout you must make prior arrangements with another adult to take responsibility for your son if you cannot stay with him. You will need to fill out a permission slip for your son with all of the necessary emergency information included.

Please do not ask the Den Leader or Cubmaster to take responsibility for your son. It is not possible for the leaders to conduct the program, watch their own children, and be responsible for your child.

All camping is in accordance with BSA policy, as spelled out in the Guide to Safe Scouting, which can be viewed at

<http://www.Scouting.org/pubs/gss/>. Part of this policy includes two-deep leadership. In addition, for pack camping (which is open to all family members) at least one leader must have completed Basic Adult Leader Outdoor Orientation (BALOO). For Webelos den camping (which is open to just Webelos Scouts and parents) at least one leader must have completed Introduction to Outdoor Webelos Leader Skills (IOWLS).

BSA has specific rules and prohibitions with respect to camping, which will be reviewed by your leader prior to each event.

Liability Insurance

Part of every Scout's fees in National Capital Area Council pays for accident insurance that supplements your family's accident insurance policy to help cover the medical expenses should your Scout become injured while participating in a Scouting activity.

If you are transporting other Scouts to an activity, you must provide the Pack with information regarding your vehicle, your driver's license, and your insurance coverage. This is necessary in order for us to get a Local or National Tour Plan, without which our BSA accident and liability insurance will not cover us.

Your liability coverage only covers the Scouts if they are injured while being transported by you to or from the activity, not for any injury occurring while at the event destination. All local and state traffic laws must be followed at all times, and all passengers in any vehicle must wear a properly fitted seatbelt while the vehicle is in motion. Riding in the back of pickup trucks, flatbed trucks, or trailers is not allowed.

To assist in the planning of activities that require the transportation of Scouts, the Pack may attempt to build a list of volunteer drivers early in the year and will collect your driver information at that time. Then, as you volunteer to drive to events throughout the Scout year, we'll have all of the information that we need to file the Tour Plan paperwork.

Drug, Alcohol & Tobacco Use

Illegal drugs and alcohol are not allowed at any Scouting activity and persons under the influence of drugs or alcohol are not allowed to participate or be present at any Scouting functions. Any violation of this rule will result in immediate dismissal from the event and possible intervention by law enforcement agents.

Scouting provides a tobacco-free environment for the boys and smoking is not allowed in the presence of the Scouts. If you must smoke or use tobacco products, please do so outside and out-of-site of the boys and always remember to keep the area free of cigarette butts and trash.

Knives & Firearms

No fixed-blade sheath knives are allowed on any Scout activity. A Cub Scout can only carry a pocket knife once he has learned the safety rules for using a knife and earns his Whittlin' Chip card in the Bear Den or Webelos Den. Knives can then only be used under direct adult supervision. If a Scout is found handling his knife improperly, it will be taken away from him and given to the parents. Each time this happens a corner of the Whittlin' Chip card is to be snipped off. If all corners are removed the Scout no longer is allowed this privilege. In addition, any adult who sees a Scout with a knife can ask him to produce his Whittlin' Chip. If he cannot do so, the knife will be taken away from him and given to his parents.

Archery equipment, air rifles, and B-B guns are not allowed in the Cub Scout program except

under stringent supervision by a trained adult on a safe firing range **at a council or district-sponsored event**. Pistols are not allowed. Firearms are not allowed except under certain demonstration conditions and can only be handled by qualified adults. Use of firearms by Cubs is not allowed. See national BSA Health and Safety standards for details. Contact the Cubmaster before planning any den meetings that involve firearms. Except for police officers in their jurisdiction, there are to be no firearms at any of our activities.

Aquatic Activities

All aquatic activities must be supervised by trained, qualified adults while strictly following the BSA's Safe Swim Defense Plan for swimming activities and Safety Afloat Plan for boating. There are no exceptions. See national BSA Health and Safety standards for details. Contact the Cubmaster before planning any den meetings that involve aquatic activities.

Safe Scouting

The Guide to Safe Scouting can be found at <http://www.Scouting.org/pubs/gss/>. Den Leaders are expected to become familiar with the contents of the Guide and **to follow it strictly**. Den Leaders having questions related to the interpretation of any safety guidelines or questions related to a planned activity which they believe could pose an increased risk of harm to Scouts must discuss planned den activities with the Cubmaster prior to the activity.

Non-adherence to the Guide to Safe Scouting puts leaders at personal liability risk, and that is no small matter!

ADULT LEADERSHIP

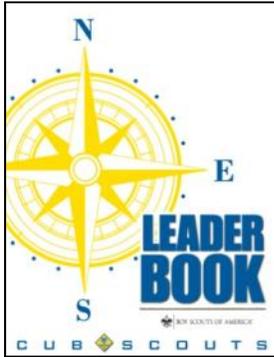
All Dens must maintain two-deep leadership at all times. If for some reason a Den is not able to have two registered leaders present, the Den Leader will have to cancel the meeting or activity. Please do your part to help us provide a quality program signing up to be an Assistant Den Leader.

Our pack is entirely dependent upon volunteers to operate. None of our leaders are paid Scouters.

Many other packs require a certain level of involvement by the parent(s) in order for the boy to participate. Pack 1459 may have to adopt that policy in the future.



Many parents are reluctant to volunteer to be a Cub Scout leader because they have never been in Scouting and are unfamiliar with the program. Many of our current leaders also lacked prior experience with the Scout program, but they volunteered anyhow and now they're



having as much fun as the boys! BSA provides a number of excellent tools to help you come up to speed as a new leader, including online training, one day training sessions, monthly roundtable meetings, and annual "Pow Wow" or University of Scouting event, etc.

Remember that you have other experienced Den Leaders in our Scouting family to draw upon. In addition, there are many, many ways to volunteer with the Pack other than being a leader. If you have any time to give, please contact the Pack Leadership and we will find a way to use your talents!

Scout Leaders receive no pay for their time but may be reimbursed for actual expenses that are approved in advance and documented by receipts. In addition, registered leaders may be able to claim certain deductions on their taxes, such as mileage. Please consult your tax specialist for details.

The leadership of the Pack is as follows:

Cubmaster: Responsible for all the leaders and keeps up-to-date on Den activities. He or she is responsible for the running of the Pack Meeting.

Assistant Cubmaster(s): Responsible for assisting the Cubmaster with all duties and steps in his/her absence.

Den Leaders and Webelos Den Leaders: Work directly with the Scouts at the Den level. They have direct responsibility for the boys and their rank advancement.

Pack Committee Chair: Responsible for the overall planning of the Pack activities and maintaining an open communication between the District, Council, and Poplar Tree.

Chartered Organization Representative: This person is the liaison between the Poplar Tree PTA and the Cub Scout Pack. They are responsible for representing the Pack to the PTA and relaying information to the Pack Committee.

In addition, the **Pack Committee** includes a number of parents who arrange outings, create newsletters, plan fund raising activities, handle public relations, put on the Blue and Gold Banquet, coordinate membership track advancement, plan the Pinewood Derby race, maintain the website, etc.

BEHAVIOR AND DISCIPLINE

“Do Your Best” is the Cub Scout Motto, and we expect the boys and all adults to live out this motto.

It is important that Scouts demonstrate proper behavior at Den and Pack meetings and all Scouting events.

Scouts are expected to address adults by title and surname, for example “Mr. Smith”.

Behavior is a synonym for a word that has fallen on hard times, and that word is discipline. Often times discipline is thought of in a negative form (namely punishment). However, the word actually means “training” or “a system of rules governing conduct.”

The first form of discipline, which is the most important, is self-discipline. Lacking that, the Den Leaders have direct responsibility for maintaining the behavior of the boys in their Den.

Rather than attempt to enumerate a complete list of “do’s and don’ts”, the following principles apply with regards to expectations on behavior:

- Scouts are expected to act like Scouts. The rest of the world has a reasonably accurate concept of how a Scout should act, and your **son should** have that concept as well.
- A Scout’s conduct should never be something that would bring discredit to themselves, their den, pack, or the Boy Scouts of America.
- Fighting / bullying or any form of physical or non-physical harassment, including verbal harassment, will not be tolerated.

Please take the time to discuss with your son the importance of not disrupting Den and Pack meetings. It is not fair to the other boys and the leaders for activities and meetings to be interrupted due to behavior issues.

If a boy becomes a behavior problem that the Den Leader cannot handle, the Cubmaster will be informed and a parent / leader meeting will be held to discuss the problem and possible action. If the problem cannot be resolved to the

satisfaction of all concerned, the Scout may be asked to leave the Pack. Please have your Scout “do his best!”

Scout Sign

Cub Scouts learn the “Scout Sign” very early. (With your right hand facing away from you, extend your index and middle fingers to form a ‘V’ and curl the remaining fingers into the palm of the hand.) The Scout Sign has a very important use during Den and Pack meetings. Whenever a Leader puts the Scout Sign up, the Scouts, parents, and other Leaders are expected to become quiet and also put the ‘sign up’.

This allows the Leaders to bring a room to order very quickly, without having to say a word. Please make sure that your son understands how to behave when the ‘sign’s up’.



FINANCIAL RECORDS

The cost of running a Cub Scout Pack such as ours exceeds \$10,000 per year. This includes payments that the Pack must make to the BSA national office and local Council, den and pack supplies, awards, Pinewood derby expenses, activity expenses, and much more. A portion of this money comes from the registration fee that each Scout pays. A significant portion comes from fund raising activities, namely the annual Popcorn sale.

Pack 1459 will provide access to detailed financial records at any time and hopes that each parent will have at least a high-level awareness of the Pack finances. The treasurer reports all income and expenses at Pack Committee meetings and summaries of the Pack’s finances will be reported regularly. A Pack budget is updated at least once a year. Parents are encouraged to participate in planning sessions related to the Pack finances. Any questions regarding the pack finances may be directed to the treasurer or pack committee chair.

All pack committee meetings are open to any parent who would like to attend.

COMMUNICATIONS

In our busy society, communication is at the heart of every successful organization. The same is true for Cub Scouts.

We want to avoid using meetings for the sole purpose of communicating information. **The pack meetings and den meetings are for FUN, not announcements.**



Our pack leverages three primary forms of communication:

- Email
- Pack Web site
- Scoutbook

The possibility of phone calls exists as well, though this is rare and impractical for a pack of our size.

Email

The primary communication mechanism of the pack is via email. If you are unsure if you are on the email list, please contact the Cubmaster immediately.

It is essential that you check your email, and if a response is requested, to do so in a timely fashion. If nothing else, it is respectful to the leaders who are communicating. Not responding only creates additional work for someone.

If for some reason email does not work out for you, contact the Cubmaster so that an alternate arrangement can be made.

Pack Web Site

Pack 1459 maintains a site as a mechanism to keep parents, Scouts, Leaders, and members of our chartered organization informed of our activities, progress, and changes of plan. The address of this website is www.pack1459.org.

We encourage parents to bookmark this site and check it often – it is an excellent tool for us to keep you up to date.

We also maintain the pack calendar on this website.

Scoutbook

Scoutbook is our pack's tracking and advancement web app. Each Scout gets a page that shows their advancements and awards earned. This is quickly becoming our primary means of communicating, as we can send emails from this app to the entire pack, den(s), or individuals, plan events and track activities, and even upload photos and videos. Scoutbook is owned and operated by the BSA. Pack 1459 subscribes for access to this software for all members of the pack.

Pack 1459 Website, Media Coverage, and Privacy Issues

We will occasionally post photographs of den and pack activities on this website. It is also possible that local newspapers and television stations may provide coverage of some of our activities and your son's name and photograph may appear in a publication or on TV. If you object to having your son appear on the website or in the media, please let our Pack Leaders know (in writing) as soon as possible.

For maximum protection of your son, it is our policy that:

- No Cub Scout will ever be identified on the website by his full name. Scouts will be referred to by initials, such as "B. M." and "T. K."
- No addresses or phone numbers will be posted on the website, except for Adult Leaders who consent to making this information available.

If you determine that any of these policies have been violated or if you have any other concerns about the website or privacy issues, please contact a Scout Leader in our Pack immediately.

BOY SCOUTS

When your son completes the Cub Scout program in March of his second year as a Webelos Scout, we hope he will continue participating in Scouting and join a Boy Scout Troop. The Webelos den leader and other pack leaders will be delighted to help your son connect with a Boy Scout troop.

PARENT RESPONSIBILITIES

Pack 1459 simply cannot be successful without your involvement. As a Cub Scout parent, we hope you will recognize and take seriously the following responsibilities:

- **Understand** the requirements for your son's rank advancement; assist him in fulfilling these requirements; help keep the record of his achievements (in his book and on Scoutbook) accurate and up to date and make sure that he brings his book to each Den meeting.
- **Assure** that your Scout has a full "Class A" uniform (as described elsewhere in this guide) and that he dresses appropriately for all Scout functions.
- **Notify** your son's Den leader whenever your son participates in a Scout activity that is not sponsored by the Pack (for example, Cub Scout Day Camp), so that he'll receive proper credit.
- **Notify** your son's Den leader whenever your son will be absent or late for a meeting.
- **Volunteer** to be a Den Leader, Assistant Den Leader, Den Parent, Assistant Cubmaster, Cubmaster, or member of the Pack Committee. Or, volunteer time to help organize and execute one or more specific Scout activities throughout the year (such as banquets, fundraisers, derby races, field trips, etc).
- **Support** the Pack's financial goals by understanding the Pack budget and participating in fund raising activities. If personal commitments prevent you from sharing your time with the Pack, consider making a monetary donation.
- **Complete** the BSA Youth Protection

Training, available online at <http://www.my.Scouting.org> within 30 days of your son joining the pack. Once you have completed this training, be sure to notify the pack membership chair via email.

- **Complete** parts A and B of the BSA medical form for EVERY family member (Scout, parent, siblings) that will be participating in any of our outings. Turn this and a copy of your insurance card into the membership chair. This form can be found at:
- http://www.Scouting.org/filestore/HealthSafety/pdf/parts_ab.pdf
- **Ask questions** if you do not understand something! There are no secrets in scouting, and Pack leadership is open and accessible to all parents.

DISTRICT AND COUNCIL INFORMATION

Pack 1459 is part of the Sully District, in the Mountain West Area of the National Capital Area Council, often referred to as NCAC.

National Capital Area Council (NCAC) website:
www.ncacbsa.org

National Capital Area Council
Boy Scouts of America
Marriott Scout Service Center
9109 Rockville Pike
Bethesda, MD 20814-3897
(301) 530-9360

Sully District website:
<http://www.ncacbsa.org/sully/>

Purposes and Methods of Cub Scouting

The Cub Scouting program has 10 purposes related to the overall mission of the Boy Scouts of America – to build character, learn citizenship, and develop personal fitness:

1. Character Development
2. Spiritual Growth
3. Good Citizenship
4. Sportsmanship and Fitness
5. Family Understanding
6. Respectful Relationships
7. Personal Achievement
8. Friendly Service
9. Fun and Adventure
10. Preparation for Boy Scouts

Every Cub Scouting activity should help fulfill one of these purposes. When considering a new activity, ask which purpose or purposes it supports. Not everything in Cub Scouting has to be serious – far from it! Silly songs, energetic games, and yummy snacks all have their place in the program.

The Methods of Cub Scouting

To accomplish its purposes and achieve the overall goals of building character, learning citizenship, and developing personal fitness, Cub Scouting uses seven methods:

1. Living the Ideals

Cub Scouting's values are embedded in the Scout Oath, the Scout Law, the Cub Scout motto, and the Cub Scout sign, handshake, and salute. These practices help establish and reinforce the program's values in boys and the leaders who guide them.

2. Belonging to a Den

The den—a group of six to eight boys who are about the same age—is the place where Cub Scouting starts. In the den, Cub Scouts develop new skills and interests, they practice sportsmanship and good citizenship, and they learn to do their best, not just for themselves but for the den as well.

3. Using Advancement

Recognition is important to boys. The advancement plan provides fun for the boys, gives them a sense of personal achievement as they earn badges, and strengthens family understanding as adult family members and their den leader work with boys on advancement projects.

4. Involving Family and Home

Whether a Cub Scout lives with two parents or one, a foster family, or other relatives, his family is an important part of Cub Scouting. Parents and adult family members provide leadership and support for Cub Scouting and help ensure that boys have a good experience in the program.

5. Participating in Activities

Cub Scouts participate in a huge array of activities, including games, projects, skits, stunts, songs, outdoor activities, trips and service projects. Besides being fun, these activities offer opportunities for growth, achievement, and family involvement.

6. Serving Home and Neighborhood

Cub Scouting focuses on the home and neighborhood. It helps boys strengthen connections to their local communities, which in turn support the boys' growth and development.

7. Wearing the Uniform: Cub Scout uniforms serve a dual purpose, demonstrating membership in the group (everyone is dressed alike) and individual achievement (boys wear the badges they have earned). Wearing the uniform to meetings and activities also encourages a neat appearance, a sense of belonging, and good behavior.

Ten Commandments for Cub Scout Parents

1. Thou shall be prompt in arrivals and departures—and also in turning in monies or forms due, or responding to email from leaders.

Prompt arrival ensures activities get started on time and your Scout doesn't miss anything. Picking up your Scout on time allows the leaders to pick up their Scout and get on with their life. Getting monies and forms on time enables the leaders to make effective use of their time and energy in planning and delivering a quality program that benefits the entire group.

2. Thou shall see that thy Scout arrives in uniform with appropriate supplies.

Uniforms are easy enough to remember when you are playing sports, but may be forgotten for those weekly meeting. Uniforms create a sense of belonging to the group and build a sense of pride as your Scout shows off her awards and accomplishments.

You would not show up to sports without the right clothing and supporting equipment. Scouts are no different. Be sure they have their handbook every week.

3. Thou shall not wait to be called upon to help.

Plan on staying at meetings to help once in a while. Often times with a pack this size, on any given evening there is a need for additional adult help.

I know we're all busy, but a little help goes a long way. If every parent who's involved puts in a little effort it would go a long way with the volunteers who make your son's den and pack possible.

4. Thou shall take time at home to help thy Scout with his achievements.

Leaders cannot possibly do all achievements at their meetings without boredom soon setting in and lack of time to complete them all. Some achievements must be done at home. The same goes with practice for any sport or requirements for any club. Your child spends a limited time at Scouts. To get the most from his experience, he will need to put in some time at home.

5. Thou shall accompany thy Scout to events.

If thou cannot, thou shall make arrangements with another parent to take responsibility for your Scout's transportation and behavior. This other parent is NOT to be the leader.

Cub Scout leaders already put in a lot of time to assure your Scout has a quality program. They have a lot to organize for any event they attend. Don't add to that. Finding another parent to help you out allows the leader to concentrate on his own duties.

An important note: be sure the leader knows if your Scout will be going home with another parent.

6. Thou shall keep thy own Scout under control when you are present at functions.

It is awkward for a leader to reprimand a child when her parent is sitting right there! Thou shall reinforce with thy child that the rules of the meeting place are to be obeyed.

If you have other children with you, they need to behave, also. Nothing is more disruptive than children running through a meeting and can be dangerous if a little one wanders onto a ball field.

7. Thou shall set a good example for all Scouts during functions and activities.

Thou shall be a good sport about participating in the fun and games and keeping annoying chit-chat to a minimum during ceremonies and awards.

OK, perhaps grown-up chitchat during quiet events is even more disruptive than unruly children. It certainly sets a bad example and tells the children that their event isn't important to you.

8. Thou shall honor thy Scout leaders with TLC.

A smile and a kind word of gratitude will make up for a lot of noise and rowdiness.

From experience, I can tell you this is so true! Leader, coaches and any volunteer who works with children expects a certain amount of craziness, and that is OK, but it can be tiring. Sometimes simply knowing they're appreciated makes all the difference.

9. Thou shall notify thy leaders in advance when thy Scout has to miss a meeting

Sickness, vacation, and many other things come up. Please be courteous to your Scout's leaders and let them know in advance of any absence.

10. Above all, thou shall remember that the leader's job is one you did not want.

Do whatever you can to make that job easier.