

# Pack 1 Cochituate Parent Handbook



[www.pack1wayland.com](http://www.pack1wayland.com)

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## **Welcome to Pack 1**

And welcome to Cub Scouting. The purpose of this Parent Guide is to provide you with some basic information on the Cub Scout program and how Pack 1 operates. Much of this information has been summarized from many other sources in an attempt to give you a quick reference guide that you can use when questions arise. It is by no means complete, so if you don't find an answer to your question here, please don't hesitate to ask.

Cub Scouting is a home-centered program for boys. The goals are simple: to teach and have fun. Boys try new things, learn new skills, develop good citizenship and good sportsmanship, and gain a sense of personal achievement. They also have fun with games, stunts, crafts, and songs as part of Den and Pack activities.

Throughout the year, the boys will be able to explore and learn about many different things, from simply hammering nails to building and racing cars. All of these activities are organized and put on by volunteer leaders, which are the parents.

### **General Information:**

Council: Knox Trail

District: Liberty

Charter Organization: Wayland Scouters, Inc.

Charter Representative: Bill Judy

### **Pack 1**

Cub Scout Pack 1 is made up of boys in grades 1 through 5 of the Clay Pit Hill and Happy Hollow Elementary Schools in Wayland. In Cub Scouts, the Pack is made up of several dens. The Pack includes not only the boys in those dens, but also their families and their leaders. Pack 1 usually has a meeting or special event every month during the school year with Cub Scouts, leaders, parents and other family members attending.

In keeping with the spirit of Scouting, we have lots of fun. But we can't do it without the help of the many parents of Pack 1. Thanks in advance for your help in the many activities of Pack 1 during the coming year!

### **Pack 1 Organization**

Pack 1 is an all- volunteer organization. The Pack follows the traditional organization as presented by the Boy Scouts of America, but we've changed some of the names and titles to make them less "official" sounding. One thing that you will notice is that Pack 1 isn't big on titles and ranks for the parents, except for the few positions that make the organization run. We do this so we can focus our efforts on the boys and the activities.

There are two "programs" or areas that encompass Cub Scouting. These are Tiger Cubs and Cub Scouting. Tiger Cubs is a school-year program for first-grade boys and their adult partners that stresses simplicity shared leadership, learning about the community and family understanding. Each boy/adult team meets for family activities, then once or twice a month all the Tiger Cubs meet for a group activity. The second area is Cub Scouting. This is also a family- and home-

centered program for boys in the second through fifth grades. Cub Scouting emphasizes involvement between boys and their parents, adult leaders, and friends. Currently, Cub Scouts is the largest of the three membership divisions that makes up the Boy Scouts of America (the others are Boy Scouting and Exploring).

### **The Den**

The Cub Scouts of Pack 1 are divided into small groups of boys called dens, which meet weekly or bi-weekly under the direction of adult Den Leaders. The Den leaders are trained parent volunteers. The den allows boys to get to know each other better and work on activities and develop new skills that would be difficult to do so in a larger group.

### **The Den Leader**

This job is best described simply as a leader of the den. The Den Leader is a parent volunteer who helps organize the den and helps in pack activities. Both moms and dads can be Den Leaders. Some time during the year, Den Leaders should attend Cub Scout Leader Basic Training, which is a four hour training session presented by the Knox Trail Council. All parents are encouraged to attend this one-day training session as well. A minimum of one adult per Den must complete the Youth Protection Training which is offered on-line at the Knox Trail Council website (<http://www.ktc-bsa.org>), all parents are encouraged to complete this training.

The Den Leader makes sure that regular den meetings are scheduled and is also involved in the preparation of the monthly Pack meetings. However, the Den Leader does not do everything. In Pack 1, we think all parents should take turns in organizing the den meetings. Typically, the Den Leader will meet with the parents of the Den during the first part of the school year and together they develop a calendar of meetings and activities that will be performed for the rest of the year. During this meeting, parents will "sign up" to lead one or two den activities during the year. The Den Leader and the parents may also meet other times during the year as well and participate in activities outside of the regularly scheduled den meeting time. Of all of the positions, Den Leader is one of the easiest and the most fun! Try it for a year and see for yourself.

### **The Den Leader Assistant**

The Cub Scout Handbook recommends that each den have a Den Leader Assistant to help the Den Leader. In Pack 1, we believe that every parent, by definition, is an assistant since they help and lead activities during the den and Pack meetings. If your den is a larger one, the Den Leader may ask for a volunteer to assume a more active role in the den.

### **Cub Master and Assistant Cub Master**

The Cub Master and Assistant Cub Master host the monthly Pack meetings, acting as the emcees for the night. They are also resources to Den Leaders and parents alike, answering questions and making sure that the dens are running smoothly. The Cub Master represents the Pack during meetings with Scout officials; sometimes the Cub Master will ask other Den Leaders to fill in during these meetings.

### **The Parent**

This is probably the most important position, and you have already filled it! Kidding aside, you, the parent, play an important part in Pack 1. At the Den level, you will be asked to attend Den Planning meetings where Den activities are planned for the Cub Scouts. You may also be asked

to lead a den meeting or two where you can share a skill or hobby with the Scouts as they earn their various activity badges. At the Pack level, you are asked to attend the monthly Pack meetings with your Cub Scout. At Pack activities, you may be asked to generally help out, which may include setting up activities, helping the kids with the activities, serving snacks at functions, things along this line. Your participation and enthusiasm is vital in making Pack 1 an exciting experience for all the Scouts.

### **Attendance**

We are aware that kids today have many activities in addition to scouting. It's the policy of Pack 1 that scouts should strive to attend 75% of the Pack and Den activities. If problems arise concerning attending the required number of events, the parent should speak to their son's Den Leader or to the Cub Master.

### **Other "Behind the Scene" Positions**

There are several positions that aren't that visible in the daily operations. These positions include Secretary, Treasurer, and Awards, just to name a few. Volunteers are also needed in each Den to help with phone calls and such. Volunteers are needed to head up different activities that occur during the year. If you would like to volunteer just ask and den leader.

### **This Year's Den and Pack Leaders**

Please see the web site <http://www.pack1wayland.com> for an up to date list of this years den leaders.

### **The Bigger Picture**

Pack 1 is one of the many Packs that make up the Liberty District, which in turn is part of the Knox Trail Council (<http://www.ktc-bsa.org>). During the year, many Scout activities are organized and put on by the District, and you will receive mailings throughout the year announcing these activities. These include weekend camp-outs and other fun things. Feel free to attend these as time permits - you will have a great opportunity to see how other Packs are run and the types of activities that they do.

### **Pack 1, Year At A Glance**

Pack 1 holds many functions and special events throughout the year. Here's a brief description of those activities which happen every year, other events happen which may or may not be a yearly event:

#### **Popcorn Sale**

The popcorn sale is the only fund raising activity for the cub scouts for the year and that is why it is conducted early in the fall. The kids have fun selling delicious popcorn products to neighbors, family and friends. Along with the annual dues, the popcorn sale raises the additional money needed by the pack and dens to offset the cost for various activities, supplies and badges.

#### **Pinewood Derby**

The Pinewood Derby is an annual event where scouts build a wooden race car out of a block of pinewood supplied by Pack 1 and race it against other scouts in the Pack. Our four lane racetrack is computer timed, and we've needed it in the past with some races being won by thousandths of a second! This is always a popular event and it's fun to see the different designs

that the scouts come up with each year.

### **Blue and Gold Dinner**

The Blue and Gold dinner is Scouting's birthday party. To celebrate the occasion, the Pack hosts a dinner with the scouts from each den performing songs and skits. The Arrow of Light ceremony usually takes place as part of this event.

### **Arrow Of Light**

During the Blue and Gold Dinner, second year Webelos scouts graduate into Boy Scouts and leave Pack 1. This is a very important moment for these Cub Scouts as they receive Cub Scouting's highest award - the Arrow of Light. This award is the only Cub Scout award permitted to be worn on the Boy Scout uniform. Rank awards for all Scouts are presented during this meeting as well.

### **Memorial Day Parade**

Each year the Scouts and their families have the opportunity to participate in the Memorial Day Parade as well as the ceremonies at the cemetery. If you are in town for the holiday, consider participating. It's a memory you won't soon forget.

### **Progressing Through the Scout Program**

The Cub Scout program is meant to be fun and educational. Activities are focused on building knowledge and skills in different areas. Completing activities helps the Scout earn various awards; activity badges, hat pins, belt loops and other patches. The various programs are discussed below, along with the awards that are available at each level. More detail can be found in the Cub Handbook, or contact your Den Leader.

### **Tiger Cubs**

Tiger Cubs (1st graders) participate in activities that focus on areas outlined in the "Tiger Cub Handbook." As activities are completed, the Tiger Cub receives a bead that can be added to his Tiger Cub paw on his belt loop. At the end of the school term, Tiger Cubs graduate into the Cub Scout program and can start working on their Bobcat requirements.

### **Bobcat**

Regardless of when a boy enters the Cub Scouting program, his first challenge is to earn his Bobcat patch. To do this, he learns the Cub Scout Promise, Law of the Pack, the Cub Scout handshake, salute, sign and motto.

### **Wolf**

Second graders begin working on the Wolf achievements. There are twelve achievements in different areas that, when completed, earn the Cub Scout the Rank of Wolf, along with the Wolf patch. Once the Wolf achievements are complete, the second grader can continue to work on electives in twenty-two different areas. Completing the first ten electives earns the Scout a Gold Arrow Point, and each additional ten electives earn a silver Arrow Point. The Scout can work on achievements (for earning the Wolf badge) and electives (for earning Arrow Points) in any order, but Arrow Points will only be awarded after the Scout has earned his Wolf badge.

### **Bear**

Third graders begin working on Bear achievements. There are twenty-four achievements in four

different groups. After earning his Bear badge, the Scout can work on twenty-four Bear elective areas. Completing the first ten electives earns a Gold Arrow Point, and each additional ten electives earn a Silver Arrow Point. The Scout can work on achievements (for earning the Bear badge) and electives (for earning Arrow Points) in any order, but Arrow Points will only be awarded after the Scout has earned his Bear badge.

### **Webelos**

After completing the third grade, the Scout becomes a Webelos den member. This is a special time for the boys in the fourth or fifth grades. The Webelos program is more challenging to the older boy - in fact, he's now called a Webelos Scout and wears a different uniform signifying his new status. As a fourth grader, the Webelos Scout starts working to earn his Webelos badge. In addition, he can earn twenty Webelos activity badges [actually pins] focused in a number of different areas. As a fifth grader, the Webelos II scout may earn Cub Scouting's highest award - the Arrow of Light Award. After receiving this award, the Webelos Scout leaves the Cub Scout program, typically joining one of the local Boy Scout Troops.

### **The Typical Den Meeting**

Den meetings are the time when the Scouts work on projects or activities that help him earn a badge or an arrow point. As a Scout parent, you may be requested to lead a Den activity. Don't worry! It is not as difficult as it sounds. This section will give you some guidelines that you can use to prepare for a successful Den meeting.

### **Plan the Meeting**

Before the meeting, you need to know what activity you are going to lead. If your Den calendar doesn't specify the activity, talk with your Den Leader. You should work on an activity or project that will help the boys earn a badge or an arrow point, if possible. Your Den Leader will know what activities have been done in the past so that you don't duplicate something that has been done already. Once you have your activity in mind, gather the materials that you will need. Be sure to have extra on hand of everything just in case. Test your activity. If you are making something, make a couple your self before the meeting. You may also want to use your Scout to test the project, too. Let him build one and watch to see what's easy to do and what's not so easy. You may have to change your project a little bit accordingly. The Scouts will lose interest quickly if an activity is too difficult to do. In some situations, you may need to call on extra parents to lend a helping hand.

### **Holding the Meeting**

Each Den meeting typically has the following components:

Opening Ceremony - The Scouts can recite the Pledge of Allegiance or the Scout Oath.

Check with your Den Leader to see what's customary for your Den.

The Activity - this is where the Scouts work on the activity you are leading.

Cleanup & snack time - leave a few minutes for cleaning up of your Den area.

Closing - If you were unable to complete an entire activity, tell the Scouts what they need to do at home to complete the achievement. Hand out notices and give reminders for the next meeting and any Pack activities that are coming up.

### **Tips For A Successful Den Meeting**

. Have at least two adult leaders at all cub meetings and activities (This is a requirement of the Boy Scouts of America)

- . Be organized. Plan out the meeting and have all necessary materials ready.
- . Work in small groups for best results. Use additional adults if necessary.
- . Get the boys' attention before beginning. Use the Cub Scout quiet sign. (The Scouts should give the sign also. Compliment the first one to do so.)
- . Talk quietly so the Scouts have to listen carefully.
- . Plan an extra game or song in case you have some extra time at the end.
- . When meeting in a public building such as a school or other facility, scouts should show respect and refrain from loud noise and running around the building.

### **The Uniform**

Scouts identify themselves by the uniform that they wear. The Cub Scout uniform is the traditional dark blue shirt, blue and gold neckerchief, blue and gold hat, and matching belt. Webelos Scouts (fourth- and fifth- graders) have the option of changing to a khaki colored shirt with matching hat, belt, and Webelos neckerchief. Some Cub Scouts prefer to complete their uniform with official pants, socks and dress shoes, but Pack 1 only asks for the uniform from the belt upward. Periodic uniform inspections will be made both at Den and Pack meetings.

### **When To Wear the Uniform?**

The Scout should wear his uniform:

- . To all Pack 1 meetings and events (unless otherwise noted)
- . To all Den meetings, unless the Den Leader notes otherwise
- . Any time the Scout is representing the Cub Scouts.

The Scout should be in full dress (from the belt upward) for the Memorial Day Parade activity.

### **Where To Buy The Uniform**

Cub Scout uniforms can be purchased at the following locations: The New England Scout Shop  
23 Turnpike Road (Route 9 West),  
Southborough, MA  
Call for store hours, 508-229-2396

On-line catalog: [www.scoutstuff.org](http://www.scoutstuff.org). You can browse what's available and print out a shopping list to take with you to a store, or for use with the 800-number.

### **Behavior at Scouting Events – Code of Conduct**

The Boy Scouts of America is a values-based youth development organization that helps young people learn positive attributes of character, citizenship, and personal fitness. The BSA has the expectation that all participants in the Scouting program will relate to each other in accord with the principles embodied in the Cub Scout Motto, Promise and Law of the Pack.

One of the developmental tasks of childhood is to learn appropriate behavior. Children are not born with an innate sense of propriety and they need guidance and direction. The example set by positive adult role models is a powerful tool for shaping behavior and a tool that is stressed in Scouting.

**Misbehavior by a single Scout in a Scouting unit may constitute a threat to the safety of the Scout who misbehaves as well as to the safety of other Scouts. Such misbehavior constitutes an unreasonable burden on the Pack and cannot be ignored.**

#### **Member Responsibilities**

All members of the Boy Scouts of America are expected to conduct themselves in accordance with the principles set forth in the Cub Scout Motto, Promise and Law of the Pack. Physical violence, hazing, bullying, theft and verbal insults have no place in the Scouting program and may result in the revocation of a Scout's membership in the Pack.

If confronted by threats of violence or other forms of bullying from other youth members, Scouts should immediately seek help from their Pack leaders or parents.

#### **Pack and Parent Responsibilities**

Pack 1 adult leaders are responsible for monitoring the behavior of the scouts and interceding when necessary. Parents of the scout who misbehave will be informed and asked for assistance in dealing with the matter. Parents in attendance at Pack or Den events are also asked to assist leaders with any behavioral issues that occur with their own Scout. Parents are asked to also pay attention to the "wolf ears" cub scout "quiet" signal and silently return the same.

The Pack 1 leaders will review repetitive or serious incidents of misbehavior in consultation with the parents of the Scout to determine a course of corrective action including possible revocation of the Scout's membership in Pack 1.

If problem behavior persists, Pack 1 may revoke a Scout's membership in the Pack. The Pack 1 leadership will strive to be unbiased, fair and objective. When the Pack revokes a Scout's membership, it should promptly notify the council of the action.

Pack 1 will inform the Scout executive about all incidents that result in a physical injury or involve allegations of sexual misconduct by a scout with another scout.

All Scouts and Adult Leaders are representatives of their community, family and local Scouting Council. Therefore, all Scouts and their parents are expected to adhere to this **Code of Conduct** as a condition for membership and participation, with the further understanding, that serious misconduct or infraction of behavior rules may result in expulsion from any activity or meeting. We want each Scout to be responsible for their own behavior and only when necessary will the procedure be invoked to send a Scout home from an event or be expelled from the Pack.

#### **Who Pays For Scouting?**

The biggest expense that Pack 1 incurs is for special activities at pack meetings, Pinewood Derby cars, pins, badges and other awards that the Scout earns. Other expenses include membership in Boy Scouts of America, training, books, and miscellaneous items. The money necessary to run Pack 1 comes from three primary sources: dues, fund raising activities, and contributions. Annual membership dues are charged at the beginning of the school year. The fee is based on past experience and has remained fairly constant over the years. The dues also cover membership

in Boy Scouts of America, which helps to fund national and international programs. Supplies that are used in the Den meetings are typically paid for by the parents that are leading that activity. Some projects are more expensive than others (such as buying wood for bird houses). In these situations, it may be necessary to ask the other parents to help pay for this additional cost. At the national and international level, Boy Scouts of America receives funding from various sources such as the United Way and other sources.

### **Pack 1 on the Web**

The Pack 1 Website located at (<http://www.pack1wayland.com>) is a resource that all parents should take full advantage of. On the web page you will find links to take you to each of the dens, some of which have their own den web pages. Another great asset is the Pack & Event Calendar. This calendar allows parents to view upcoming events for all dens and the Pack. Finally, the Bulletin board, located on the main page, is a great resource to keep parents and scouts informed of the next Pack event or important changes in the event schedule.

### **Use of Photographs**

Only photographs showing the Pack's membership participating in Pack activities shall be posted on the website. Unless informed otherwise, Pack 1 assumes that its membership agrees to the posting of pictures displaying their likeness without prior written consent. Please let the Cub Master or Webmaster know if you have objections to this policy. If anyone finds their likeness displayed on the website and would like to have the picture removed please notify the Cub Master and the referenced picture shall be promptly removed. This policy approach is intended to simplify the logistics of posting pictures on the website while respecting the desires and right to privacy of individuals.

When posting photographs of members, especially youth, it is important to consider their safety and privacy when writing captions or ancillary text. Therefore, when publishing photos the following guidelines shall apply:

- Pictures should illustrate group activities and not be individual portraits.
- Picture captions may identify the place and activity but **shall not** identify the subjects by name.

**Welcome to Pack 1!!**