

# Cub Scout Pack 905

## Parent Handbook

Information for  
Our Pack Family

[www.geocities.com/pack905](http://www.geocities.com/pack905)

[www.boyscouts-ncac.org/goosecreek/](http://www.boyscouts-ncac.org/goosecreek/)



**Sponsored by  
Galilee United Methodist Church**



# Welcome to Cub Scouting...

## *In National Capital Area Council, BSA*

As a parent, you want your son to grow up to be a person of worth, a caring, dependable and self-reliant individual. Scouting has these same goals in mind for him. Since 1910, we have been weaving lifetime values into fun and educational activities designed to assist parents in strengthening character, developing good citizenship, and enhancing physical fitness in youth.

These values help your son make good decisions throughout his lifetime and give him confidence, as he becomes an adult leader of tomorrow. With all the negative influences in today's society, Scouting provides your son with a positive peer group and a program that is *fun* and *adventurous* and helps him to "be prepared" to shape his own future.



### **HISTORY OF NCAC**

When your son registers as a Scout, he joins a national organization: the Boy Scouts of America (BSA). The BSA is divided into regions, councils, and districts. Our Pack is a part of the Goose Creek district, which in turn is a part of the National Capital Area Council (NCAC).

Until October 27, 1910, the Boy Scouts of America was officially a District of Columbia organization. On this date, the Committee on Organization formally handed over their records and holdings to the Board of Managers and the National Council was officially established. At the end of 1919, there were 2,386 Scouts registered in 93 troops. By the end of 1924, the Council was initiated because the territory of the council had grown with the addition of Arlington County. This expansion made the Council what came to be known as an Area Council.

The District of Columbia, at the request of the National office, assumed jurisdiction over Culpeper County in Virginia and St. Mary's, Calvert and Frederick counties in Maryland. Throughout the Depression and both World Wars, the Council's membership increased or decreased according to economic times. The NCAC closed the year 1945 with 303 Scout Troops and 128 Cub Packs.

In 1966, Goshen Scout Camps were established with wooded and open land, a 450-acre lake, swimming, boating, camping, sailing, high adventure, and many other activities. At the end of 1969, 76,285 boys were registered in 2,078 units and 366 boys attained Eagle Rank.

The 80's saw membership at 47,857 for youth and 1,393 units. At present, NCAC has about 82,000 youth registered in approximately 1,620 units.

### **National Capital Area Council**

9190 Rockville Pike  
Bethesda, MD 20814-3897  
Telephone: 301-530-9360  
[www.bsa-ncac.org](http://www.bsa-ncac.org) or [www.scouting.org](http://www.scouting.org)

### **SCOUT BASICS**

#### **Your Boy Is a Member of a Den**

- A den has usually up to 8 boys.
- The den meets 2-3 times a month.
- A den leader, usually a parent, leads the dens.
- An assistant den leader, a den chief who is a Boy Scout, and a denner, a Cub Scout elected by the den, usually assists a den leader.

#### **Your Boy Is a Member of a Pack**

- A pack is made up of several dens.
- The pack meets once a month – all Cub Scout families attend.
- The Cubmaster leads the monthly pack meeting.
- Pack meetings have games, skits, stunts, songs, ceremonies, and presentations of badges that the boys earned that month.

#### **The Pack Committee runs the Pack**

- The pack committee is made up of a group of qualified adults who volunteer to administer the programs of the pack. Usually the committee members, as well as other pack leaders, are parents of boys in the pack.
- The committee meets once a month.
- A Committee Chairman and the Cubmaster lead the committee.
- The committee selects leaders, performs record keeping, manages pack finances, orders badges, maintains pack equipment, helps train leaders, and recognizes leaders.

#### **The Pack Is Owned by the Chartered Organization**

- Chartered organizations include schools, parent-school associations, religious organizations, service clubs, and other groups interested in youth.
- The chartered organization approves leaders, provides a meeting place, and operates packs within the guidelines and policies of the chartered organization and the Boy Scouts of America.
- The chartered organization selects a chartered organization representative who serves as a liaison between the pack and organization.

## HISTORY OF PACK 905

Pack 905 was chartered by Galilee United Methodist Church in 1996 and served the community attending Algonkian Elementary. With growth in the community Countryside Elementary was added to the pack in 2003. Pack 905 continues to provide a quality scouting experience to its Scouts and their families.

We try to keep a close affiliation with our community and provide volunteer assistance in community events such as CountrySide Clean-Up.

## PACK STRUCTURE

Within each Pack, the boys are divided into dens according to grade level. Dens consist of 5-10 boys. Each den has at least one BSA-registered adult leader. In most cases, the den also has an assistant leader.

Any boy who is 6 years old or is in the first grade may join Cub Scouts. Ranks are as follows:

**TIGER CUBS** First grade boys get their first taste of Scouting in this adult-child partnership.

**BOBCAT** This is the first rank achieved by all new Cub Scouts. Tigers will earn this badge at the end of the Tiger year.

**WOLF** Second grade boys must complete the achievements outlined in the Wolf Book. Also, note that any boy, who joins as a 2<sup>nd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> grader, must first complete the Bobcat badge requirements.

**BEAR** This rank is earned by completing Bear Book requirements.

**WEBELOS** "WE'll BE LOyal Scouts" - Fourth and fifth grade Scouts work toward the Webelos badge. The rank is earned during the 4<sup>th</sup> grade year. Scouts are called "Webelos" until graduation in February of the fifth grade year.

**ARROW of LIGHT:** This is the highest rank in Cub Scouting. It is earned by completing Webelos achievements over and above those required for the Webelos rank.

Each Scout needs a BSA Scout book for his rank. The book outlines the program for the year and specific rank requirements.



## DEN MEETINGS:

Dens meet 2-3 times every month during the school year. A field trip or outdoor activity is often scheduled as well. Days, times, and locations of den meetings are determined by the den leader and den parents.

Den Leaders are responsible for coordinating den activities; however, parents will be called upon to assist as needed. This may mean helping with a den meeting or providing snacks. Your den leader will hold a parent meeting to discuss parent participation and support.

Due to BSA Youth Protection Guidelines, **no den meeting may take place without two-deep adult leadership.** This means one registered Scout volunteer and at least one other adult must be present at any den activity. **There are absolutely no exceptions to this rule.**

## UNIFORM

The Cub Scout uniform gives your son group identity and a place to display his award patches! Tigers, Wolf and Bear Scouts wear the blue scout shirt; Webelos may wear either the blue or khaki shirt. Placement of scout awards and patches is detailed in your Cub Scout book.

The uniform should be worn to all official Scout functions: den meetings, pack meetings, field trips, etc., except for particularly messy den meetings or field trips. Scouts can also wear their uniform to school on pack meeting day.

Pack 905 has adopted a "Belt Up" policy on Uniforms. This means that each Cub must have a BSA official web belt, uniform shirt, kerchief, slide and hat. Blue jean, green or khaki pants and shorts can be worn. Sweat pants, running pants, sport uniform pants/shorts, swim gear or athletic shorts are NOT acceptable. Sneakers and hiking boots are accepted as footwear, sandals, flip-flops, and cleats are not accepted.

A new scout needs to purchase a hat, scout belt, blue or khaki scout shirt, patches, neckerchief with slide and a handbook for their level of scouting. Please contact your den leader or the committee chair, because we often provide some of the patches and a neckerchief for new scouts.

Shirts as well as other uniform supplies can be purchased at:

**National Capital Area Council Scout Shop**  
9190 Rockville Pike  
Bethesda, MD 20814-3897

**LEESBURG HOBBIES & COLLECTIBLES**  
9 WEST MARKET STREET  
LEESBURG, VA 20176

**RIDER'S HOBBY SHOP**  
21800 TOWN CENTER PLAZA #236  
STERLING, VA 20164

## **PACK MEETINGS**

Each Scout is expected to attend the monthly Pack meeting. Pack meetings are held on the first Thursday of each month during the school year. Pack 905 meets on the first Thursdays of the month, 7:00 – 8:00 PM in the Cafeteria at Algonkian Elementary.

Pack meetings are an opportunity for all dens to gather and recognize the achievements of other Scouts (or their own achievements). Pack meetings begin with a flag ceremony, usually followed by Scout skits, announcements, and presentations of awards.

Award ceremonies are an important part of Pack 905 meetings. Pack leaders strive to make rank ceremonies as meaningful as possible. Please make every effort to ensure your son's attendance at these meetings.

Family attendance is also encouraged at Pack meetings. We do request that each Scout have at least one parent in attendance.

## **SPECIAL PACK ACTIVITIES**

As a part of our mission to build community-minded, responsible young men, Pack 905 sponsors several special events. Some of these are service oriented however most are just plain fun activities.

Check the pack calendar for specific dates. A general list of upcoming events includes:

- Scouting for Food
- Popcorn fundraiser
- Holiday events
- Blue and Gold Banquet
- Pinewood Derby
- Community Service project
- Pack Picnic
- Summertime events

## **AWARDS AND RECOGNITION**

While pack and den leaders focus on the big picture – character building, citizenship, personal fitness, and so on – the boys focus on something else: AWARDS.

Parents should assist the den leader in tracking their son's advancement toward earning rank. The den leader has the responsibility to report all awards to the pack Awards Chair. IT IS THE PARENTS' RESPONSIBILITY TO REPORT ADVANCEMENT CREDITS TO THE DEN LEADER. Please make sure that your Scout receives all the awards that he has worked so hard to earn.

Cub Scouts may earn awards and recognition in several special areas. Awards such as the World Conservation Award, Good Turn Award, and Summertime Den Award are usually done as den projects.

The BSA Religious Award program may be completed as a den activity or individually. The award requires a special workbook (available at the Scout Shop) and a church mentor to monitor the Scout's progress. Pack 905 awards the religious knot, or patch, during pack meetings. A religious medal typically supplied and awarded by the sponsoring church/synagogue.

## **PACK VOLUNTEERS**

Pack 905 is an all-volunteer organization and our activities only get done because helpful volunteers step forward to coordinate. The more adults who step forward, the better our program is for our boys! There are training and information sessions for most of these positions, so don't worry if you've never done it before – there's lots of support for volunteers.

If you would like to help with an event or activity, contact your son's den leader, the pack committee chair, or the Cubmaster.

Here are some of the essential volunteer positions:

### **Tiger Cub Den Leader**

Helps the pack's Tiger Cub den(s) stay active and participate with the pack.

### **Den Leaders**

Coordinates den meetings. Leads the dens at monthly pack meeting.

### **Committee Chair**

Coordinates activities of the pack. Presides at committee meetings. Helps recruit adult leaders.

### **Treasurer**

Keeps the pack bank account, financial records, etc. Sends reimbursements to members who spend money for the pack.

### **Awards Coordinator**

Orders badges, pins, and other awards for den leaders in time to hand out at monthly pack meetings.

### **Cubmaster**

Helps plan and carry out the pack program with the help of the pack committee. Emceeds monthly pack meeting, and attends pack leaders' meeting and the district's monthly roundtable meeting.

### **Popcorn "Kernal"**

Coordinates our annual fundraiser.

### **Camping Coordinator**

Coordinates camping outings for our pack.

### **Scouting for Food Coordinator**

Scouting for Food is an annual service project where all of the scouts in the National Capitol Area collect food for the needy. This volunteer coordinates Pack 905's food collection.

## **LEADER TRAINING**

If you decide to be a Pack Leader, the first step in training is to review the Fast Start training. Cub Scout Leader Fast Start is located at <http://www.scouting.org/cubscouts/faststart>. This interactive slideshow will give you an easy and quick look at your job and an overview of Cub Scouting. The next step is to take Cub Scout Leader Basic Training held at a location in the district. Basic training covers how to conduct den and pack meetings, program planning, and administration.

In addition to Cub Scout Leader Basic Training, the NCAC also offers other training opportunities for new leaders. Pow-Wow and University of Scouting are an all-day training opportunity in March that covers items such as crafts, skits and puppets, the blue and gold banquet, pack administration, games, Webelos Scout activities, Cub Scout sports, and special pack activities. There are also Outdoor Training sessions for Webelos Leaders offered in the fall and spring. Finally, there are monthly scout leader Round-tables held where scout leaders meet to share meeting and program ideas.

## **HOW SCOUTING IS FINANCED**

### **Unit, Pack or Den Dues**

The Pack collects dues at the start of each scouting year to cover the expenses of the Pack. The dues include the annual national registration fee to become a Scout and a subscription to *Boys Life* magazine. Other costs that are covered by the Pack include:

- Scout Neckerchief
- Scouting awards
- Blue & Gold, Picnic
- Pinewood Derby
- Adult leader registration fees
- Other Pack events & activities

In addition to Pack dues, your sons Den will generally collect "dues" to help in covering costs for the den activities and supplies. The Pack dues for this year are \$50.00.

### **Popcorn Sales**

Every fall, the National Capital Area Council organizes a fundraiser for its units to participate in; selling *Trails End* popcorn. This is a great way for packs, and the boys in them, to earn some money! The product is excellent, there are neat sales incentive prizes available for kids to earn each year, and best of all for unit leaders, it is simple. The council provides the materials needed to conduct the sale, offers training through the districts to show adult leaders how to conduct it, and helps keep you on track.

## **Friends of Scouting**

Just as a unit needs funds to function, so does the council, and Friends of Scouting is the vehicle through which it obtains a large portion of the money it needs to operate each year. During the spring every year, units are asked to "host" a Friends of Scouting presentation for its families.

During this presentation, a volunteer from the district or your unit will outline for you how much money the council's spending in support of your son and his unit, how much it is getting from its various sources (United Way, the business community, camp fees, etc.), and ask you for your financial support if you can give it. Contributions to the campaign are purely optional, and gifts of any amount are welcome and appreciated. The presentations are short, informative, fun, and important.

## **United Way**

The Boy Scouts of America is a United Way sponsored agency. Each year the council receives a significant amount of funding from the United Way, and the council's employees support and give to their campaign. We encourage you to do the same, if an opportunity presents itself to you. You can designate that your United Way contribution be directed to our local Boy Scout council.

## **IN CLOSING**

Essentially, Cub Scouting is a family activity. In today's world, it is unrealistic to expect that a boy can be dropped at the den leader's door twice a month and is somehow transformed into a Boy Scout in the 5<sup>th</sup> grade!

In today's Cub Scouting, the den mother is a thing of the past. A majority of all families in our community have two wage earners or a one-parent household. Everyone is busy and everyone has demands on their time from work, school, sports, church, etc. In order for your son's Cub Scouting experience to be memorable, it will require help from you. Not everything will, or can be, done at a den meeting. Working with your son to achieve a goal, and then seeing that goal achieved is Cub Scouting at its most basic level. The excitement and pride that you will see in your son's eyes will prove that time spent with Scouting is "family time" well spent!



Have a great  
Scouting year!