



# Pack 60 New Parents Frequently Asked Questions



*So, your child wants to join Cub Scouts...  
but you were never a Scout or it's been a loooong time...*

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**Q** This all sounds like a foreign language. Am I really sure I want to jump into this?

**A** We won't lie, it's a lot of information in the beginning but take it one step at a time. Hopefully this document walks you through the basics!

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## Costs

**Q** How much does it cost to join?

**A** [Annual Membership Fee](#)

The annual [national membership fee to BSA](#) is \$66, which covers 12 months of membership. Starting August 1, 2020, there will also be a [one-time \\$25 joining fee for new program participants](#) in Cub Scouts, Scouts BSA, Venturing and Sea Scouts; however, there is no joining fee for Exploring participants, participants previously registered in any BSA program, those transferring from one program to another, council-paid memberships, or adult volunteers. \*\*\* Do NOT let funds keep you from Scouting. Contact a unit leader if you need help with funds, as there are also several scholarships available.

[Pack Dues](#)

To cover the costs of awards and recognition, crafts, and special events most local packs have dues. Packs may offer opportunities to conduct fundraisers to offset these costs. Dues are established by the families in the pack through the pack committee. The [dues in Pack 60 for the 2020-2021 school year will be \\$70](#). \*\*\* Do NOT let funds keep you from Scouting. Contact a unit leader if you need help with funds, as there are also several scholarships available.

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**Q** What else costs money throughout the year?

**A** [Handbook](#)

Each grade level has a specific handbook they use. Handbooks are about \$17 and are used for the year. Handbooks have all the required and elective adventures for each rank. Handbooks also serve as a Scout's record of completing adventures.

[Uniform](#)

The uniform is a method of delivering the Scouting program. It shows that you are a member of a team. Each grade has a specific uniform for their program.

[Activities](#)

Additional activities such as overnight campouts, field trips, day camps and resident camps have additional costs associated with them. These costs differ based on several factors.

[Boy's Life Magazine](#)

For only \$1 a month, \$12 for the year, Cub Scouts may subscribe to Boys' Life magazine.

# Overall Questions

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**Q** I heard about bankruptcy in the news. What does this mean for our pack?

**A** In February 2020, the national organization of the Boy Scouts of America (BSA) filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy to achieve two key objectives: equitably compensate victims who were harmed during their time in Scouting and continue to carry out Scouting's mission for years to come.

The Sam Houston Area Council (the group to which our pack belongs) and Pack 60 have not filed for bankruptcy. Our Council is legally separate, distinct and financially independent from the national organization. Our pack is also legally separate.

Scouting programs will continue. This means that unit meetings and activities, district and council events, other Scouting adventures and countless service projects will take place as usual. In short, we expect no changes to the local Scouting experience in Southeast Texas.

Scouting is safer now than ever before. Over many years, we've developed some of the strongest expert-informed youth protection policies found in any youth-serving organization. We can also assure you that our volunteers and employees take youth protection extremely seriously and do their part to help keep kids safe."

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**Q** What does scouting do to keep my child safe?

**A** *Safety Priority*

The Boy Scouts of America places the greatest importance on creating the most secure environment possible for our youth members. To maintain such an environment, the BSA developed numerous procedural and leadership selection policies and provides parents and leaders with resources for the Cub Scout, Scouts BSA and Venturing programs.

*Leadership Selection*

The Boy Scouts of America takes great pride in the quality of our adult leadership. Being a leader in the BSA is a privilege, not a right. The quality of the program and the safety of our youth members call for high-quality adult leaders.

The adult application requests background information that should be checked by the unit committee or the chartered organization before accepting an applicant for unit leadership. While no current screening techniques exist that can identify every potential child abuser, we can reduce the risk of accepting a child abuser by learning all we can about an applicant for a leadership position—his or her experience with children, why he or she wants to be a Scout leader, and what discipline techniques he or she would use.

*Required Training*

Youth Protection training is required for all BSA registered volunteers and is a joining requirement. Youth Protection training must be taken every two years. If a volunteer's Youth Protection training record is not current at the time of recharter, the volunteer will not be re-registered.

*Guide to Safe Scouting*

All participants in official Scouting activities should become familiar with the Guide to Safe Scouting, applicable program literature or manuals, and be aware of state or local government regulations that supersede Boy Scouts of America practices, policies, and guidelines. The Guide to Safe Scouting is an overview of Scouting policies and procedures gleaned from a variety of sources.

<https://www.scouting.org/health-and-safety/gss/toc/>

# Uniforms

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**Q** Where do I buy a uniform?

**A** There are 3 ways to outfit your Cub Scout in the official uniform:

**In College Station:**

Burdett & Son Outdoor Adventure Shop  
1055 Texas Ave. South (Near Chili's)  
College Station, Texas 77840

**In the Houston Area:**

There are 5 Scout Shops in the Houston area. Find the locations at [www.shac.org/scout-shop](http://www.shac.org/scout-shop)

**Online at ScoutShop.org**

<https://www.scoutshop.org/>

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**Q** What do I buy and how much does it all cost?

**A** The uniform is one of the methods of delivering the Scouting program. In addition to creating a sense of belonging, the uniform gives a Scout the ability to display their personal achievements. The specific uniform components vary based on the grade of each Cub Scout.

Expect \$50-\$100, depending on the age of your child. A full description for each grade is found at <https://www.scouting.org/programs/cub-scouts/cub-scout-uniform/>

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**Q** Where do I put the patches?

**A** Burdett & Son is happy to sew the patches on for a small fee. If you prefer to sew your own, refer to the first few pages in your handbook for placement.

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**Q** Is there a way to save money on uniforms?

**A** Of course! We gladly collect old uniforms to offer to our new scouts. Please ask to see our stash.

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**Q** When should my child wear his uniform?

**A** Pack Meetings - The uniform is encouraged at the monthly pack meetings to show unity within the pack and encourage progression toward higher achievements and ranks.

Den Meetings - Check with your Den Leader, but often a pack t-shirt is sufficient for den meetings. If your den is meeting off-site or going on an outing, the uniform may be encouraged.

Service Projects - Since many service projects are highly visible in the community, the uniform is often worn for service projects to highlight the desire for Cub Scouting to impact communities.

Campouts - For some campouts, the uniform is encouraged, for others, it is not necessary. Check with your Den Leader for more details.

Other Times - At various times during the year, the uniform may be encouraged at pack events or activities. Look for more details in pack or den communications.

# Meetings

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**Q** What is the time commitment for Cub Scouts?

**A** Cub Scouting focuses on activities with a den (boys of the same age), advancements (activities and lessons that teach skills and concepts), family involvement, events and other activities with the pack (Kindergartners through 5th graders), and serving the community.

Each month, a den will have 1-2 meetings, generally on the same night each week. The den may also have an experiential outing on another day - as needed. The pack will have one meeting each month, generally on a Monday evening.

Beyond this, there are often 1-2 other activities within a month with the pack, which may be a service project, a campout, a competition, or other activity. These are often not mandatory."

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**Q** What are den meetings?

**A** The den—a group of six to eight children who are in the same grade and are the same gender—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.

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**Q** What are pack meetings?

**A** Pack meetings are the "big" meetings held on the last Monday of each month during the school year. The pack meeting brings all of the dens in the pack together for the purposes of recognizing the achievements of the Cub Scouts, communicating information about upcoming events, and providing a program that enriches the Cub Scouting experience. It helps the Cubs realize their den is part of a larger organization.

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**Q** What if we miss one?

**A** No big deal! We all have busy schedules and choices have to be made - we completely understand. It is a good idea to follow on the calendar or check with you den leader to see if there were "required" activities covered. These can easily be completed on your own time to stay on track for your scout to earn their rank badge.

# Advancements

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**Q** What are advancements?

**A** Recognition is important to everyone. The advancement plan provides fun for the Scouts, 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 them on advancement projects. Cub Scout activities are centered around earning badges that are specific to each school grade level. This badge represents a rank. Advancement refers to the progress a Cub Scout makes toward their badge of rank. All of the activities for each rank are in the Cub Scout handbooks. Learn more about the progression at: <https://www.scouting.org/programs/cub-scouts/what-cub-scouts-earn/the-advancement-trail/>

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**Q** Where does my Cub Scout start in the ranks?

**A** First graders, and anyone beyond that grade who is new to Cub Scouting, completes the Bobcat Rank prior to working on their grade-specific badge of rank. Kindergartners, who are Lions, do not work on Bobcat.

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**Q** What is "Bobcat" and why is it so important?

**A** The Bobcat Rank is like an orientation for kids and parents. Every Cub Scout will achieve the Bobcat Rank (also called the Bobcat Trail). Doing the Bobcat Trail gets you familiar with the principles of being a Cub Scout. Doing the Bobcat Trail also gets you familiar with the workflow for achievement in Cub Scouts.

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**Q** What types of adventures will my Cub Scout complete?

**A** Based on different topics such as hiking, nature, science, citizenship, first aid, sports, and more, adventures are earned as a Cub Scout advances toward their badge of rank. Once an adventure is completed, a Cub Scout receives recognition in the form of an adventure loop or adventure pin.

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**Q** What do we have to do on our own and how does my Scout get credit for something done on our own?

**A** Generally, adventures and advancements are completed with your Cub Scout's den at den meetings, outings, or other activities. However, some activities like Duty to God (out of respect for everyone's beliefs) and limited computer based adventures are to be completed at home. Please take a quick picture, video or appropriate form of documentation to send to your den leader.

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**Q** What is the big picture goal?

**A** To earn your rank badge by completing the requirements listed at the beginning of your handbook. And have fun!  
**\*\* Keep in mind that in Cub Scouts, each grade level has its own set of awards, and each scout is automatically promoted on June 1st of each year. Once advanced, you cannot go back. So keep checking with your den leader on what is left for your Cub Scout.**

# Camping

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**Q** I've never been camping before, what should I expect?

**A** In short, fun times, and not too much work. There is a lot we could go into here, but know that you will not need to go buy a bunch of equipment. There are places that rent equipment, and many in the Pack have stuff they can loan you. Ask your leaders. The exact details about the campout depend on where we are going.

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**Q** We love to camp as a family, but how is this different?

**A** Probably not too different. There will likely be some structured activities for the Pack, and campfires and snacks, but also some family free time. Again, the exact details depend upon where the pack is heading.

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**Q** What is Camp Bovay?

**A** Bovay Scout Ranch was founded in 2001 and is named after its founders, Mr. and Mrs. Harry E. Bovay Jr. Located three miles south of downtown Navasota, Texas, Bovay Scout Ranch offers each visitor an opportunity to enjoy the wonder and beauty of central Texas. Bovay Scout Ranch is a sight to behold with its rolling hills and lakes, campsites, and sunsets that are absolutely breathtaking. The ranch's 1,498 acres are a natural paradise for plants and wildlife. Bovay Scout Ranch has facilities for a wide range of activities including a water park, slingshots (wrist rockets), BMX bikes, dino dig, Cub Scout shooting range and more.

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**Q** Do we have to go camping?

**A** Cub Scout families have opportunities to go camping and to participate in outdoor adventures. Lessons learned in the out-of- doors help to develop a life-long respect for the environment. Camping is encouraged, but not required.

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**Q** What is Day Camp?

**A** Children in grades first through fourth can usually participate. Day camps are not overnight camps. They involve one to five days of daytime or evening camp activities. Most of these activities take place outdoors. Day camps are themed. Themes may focus on activities like bug catching or sports, but other activities that vary from the theme are introduced to break up the day. Day camps usually focus on nature, sports, aquatics, and crafts.

Cub Scout day camps are distinct from other summer camps in that they prepare younger children for overnight camping by building their outdoor skillsets. So while your seven year old may not be ready to head out for a week of camping quite yet, he may be prepared to camp with his pack after a few years of day camp.

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**Q** How much does it cost?

**A** Costs vary widely based on the type of campout and the organizers. Pack campouts can cost as little as \$25 per person, day camps can be \$80 to \$100 per scout, and week-long day camps can cost as much as \$150 or more, depending on location and activities. Fundraising activities can often offset costs for individual scouts. Speak with a Den Leader or Pack Leader for more details.

## Pack Activities

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**Q** What is the Pinewood Derby?

**A** Partnered with a parent or guardian, Cub Scouts work together, strengthening bonds and building confidence – and their own custom race cars! They begin with an official Pinewood Derby Race Car kit, then create a design, then carve it from the wood block provided in the kit, and detail it with paint, decals and other accessories, and perfect strategies to compete in their pack’s own Pinewood Derby.

It’s a wonderful learning experience centered on teamwork, ingenuity and sportsmanship – all for the thrill of the race and a lifetime of great memories to share with fellow racers young and old.

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**Q** What should I expect at the Pinewood Derby Build Day?

**A** Pack 60 leaders recognize that not everyone has all of the tools necessary to build a great Pinewood Derby car. Therefore, the pack organizes one or two times in the late fall or early spring where parents and scouts can get access to power tools, paint, and other supplies to build their cars. Trained adults will monitor the safety of all participants and no Cub Scouts are allowed to operate power tools.

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**Q** What is Blue & Gold?

**A** Blue and Gold Banquets are a tradition within packs, celebrating the leaders and parents who volunteer to make Cub Scouting fantastic, as well as the accomplishments of the Cub Scouts, themselves. The Arrow of Light ceremony may even be included as the 5th graders cross over to a troop. Sometimes community leaders or special guests are invited to attend. Across the nation each spring, Blue and Gold Banquets are known for creative decor, exciting entertainment, and delicious food.

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**Q** What is Summer Camp?

**A** A long term overnight camping experience for cub scouts and their parent or guardian. Resident camps are three to five days usually held at a local scout camping facility.

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**Q** What kind of service projects will we do?

**A** Doing service projects together is one way that Cub Scouts keep their promise “to help other people.” While a Scout should do their best to help other people every day, a group service project is a bigger way to help people. While you’re giving service, you’re learning to work together with others to do something that’s good for your community.

Service projects may help the natural world, the community, or the chartered organization. Make sure to review the Guide to Safe Scouting to ensure Cub Scouts are doing age appropriate activities. Some service projects fulfill requirements for adventures in the Cub Scout handbooks."

## Scoutbook

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**Q** What is Scoutbook?

**A** Scoutbook is BSA's website to track your scout's advancement, communication & calendar planning.

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**Q** How can I connect Scoutbook to my personal calendar?

**A** Pack url: <http://www.scoutbook.com/ics/71482.6C11D.ics>  
Your specific den url can be found in Scoutbook or ask your den leader.

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**Q** Is there an app?

**A** Yes! Search ""scouting"" in your app store or go to [scoutbook.com](http://scoutbook.com) in your phone's browser.  
The Scouting App provides parents the ability to see how their child is progressing, get notifications about meetings, and inform Den Leaders when a Cub Scout has completed a requirement at home.

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## Other Questions

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**Q** We LOVE Cub Scouts. How can we do more on our own as a family?

**A** There are many more adventures and achievements listed at: [scouting.org/awards](http://scouting.org/awards)

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**Q** I want to get involved. What can I do?

**A** Simply reach out to your Den Leader, Cubmaster, or anyone involved with the Pack. The more volunteers we have, the better the experience is for everyone. You can step in as little or as much as you would like!