



Pack 325

BOY SCOUTS  OF AMERICA®



Cub Scout Pack 325 Welcome Letter

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Introduction

Welcome to Cub Scouts, Pack 325. We are excited that you are interested in or have chosen to be a member of our Pack. This letter is meant to help new Cub Scout families understand the organization of Cub Scouts and Pack 325. Cub Scouting is a Family Program; it requires parents to volunteer. This way, both the parents and the boys benefit from the program.

We are registered with the Greater Niagara Frontier Council of the Boy Scouts of America. The Council service center and BSA Store are located at the following address:

Greater Niagara Frontier Council, BSA
2860 Genesee St, Buffalo, NY 14225 (716) 891-4073

Sponsor

Pack 325 is sponsored by the Annunciation Holy Name Society, Church of the Annunciation in Elma, NY.

Vision Statement

Cub Scouts strives to promote core values such as Citizenship, Compassion, Cooperation, Courage, Faith, Health and Fitness, Honesty, Perseverance, Positive Attitude, Resourcefulness, Respect, and Responsibility.

Cub Scout Pack 325 uses fun activities to help our children learn these values.

Pack Leaders

Pack Leaders are responsible for planning and holding Pack Meetings and assuring that the pack adheres to BSA rules and regulations. Pack Leaders are expected to attend monthly Committee meetings, district roundtable meetings, and BSA Adult Leader training classes.

Meetings and Outings

The entire pack meets once a month for a Pack Meeting, which lasts 1 ½ to 2 hours. Each den meets once a month for a den meeting, which lasts 1 to 2 hours, depending on the planned activities. There is usually a planned pack outing once a month, such as visiting a zoo, a police station, nature hike or other fun event.

The pack attends a Boy Scouts of America summer camp program every year in either July or August. This is usually a 4-day overnight program at Camp Scouthaven (Freedom, NY).

Pack Meetings

Pack Meetings are held once a month September thru May, on the second Monday of the month starting at 6:00 and last 1 ½ to 2 hours. See the Pack 325 website for exact dates (<http://pack325gnfc.ScoutLander.com>). Unless otherwise stated, the Pack Meetings will be held at the Annunciation School gymnasium, on Clinton St. in Elma.

Pack Meetings are the primary way in which Cub Scouts receive praise and awards in front of their peers. Pack Meetings are an opportunity for the boys to show-off what they have learned or made during the past month's Den Meetings. A display table will be available at each pack meeting so that the boys can display the crafts or projects they have worked on that month. The display tables allow families and other dens to see what has been made and what to look forward to.

Pack meetings may include: Greeting, Opening Activity, Opening Thought, Flag Ceremony (e.g.: Pledge of Allegiance, Scout Promise, and Scout Law), Introductions, Songs, Den Skits, Advancement Recognition, WEBLOS Demonstration, Games, Announcements, Closing Ceremony (e.g.: retiring of the flag and words of praise), and Cleanup.

Den Meetings

The Cub Scout pack is organized into dens; Tiger Scouts (1st Grade), Wolf Scouts (2nd Grade), Bear Scouts (3rd Grade), Webelos (4th and 5th Grade). Dens are led by parent and or Boy Scout volunteers. Each den usually meets once per month for 1 to 2 hours, depending on the planned activities.

Each Den can establish its own system and schedule for conducting den meetings. Den Meetings typically focus on a published monthly theme. Den Meetings also may consist of going to a park or a museum. Have fun - you'll love it and so will the kids!

Tiger Scouts (1st Grade)

Tiger Scouts and Parent(s) work as a team and join scouting together. Tigers Scouts require at least one adult 18 years of age or older accompany the tiger scout to every scout function. This includes all den meetings, pack meetings and field trips. Tiger scout parents take turns leading den meetings, with help and ideas provided by the Den leader.

Wolf & Bear Scouts (2nd & 3rd Grade)

Wolf and Bear scouts complete twelve Achievements to earn their rank badge (patch). All the requirements are outlined in the rank hand-books. These requirements are meant to be completed at home with parent /guardian assistance. Achievements may be worked on at Den meetings at the discretion of the Den Leader. Either a parent or the den leader can approve and sign off the work. After the rank badge has been earned and awarded the scout / parent focus changes to arrow points. Arrow points are earned by completing electives. When ten electives or unused achievements are completed, a boy is awarded a Gold Arrow Point. When another ten projects are completed a Silver Arrow Point is awarded. For every ten electives/achievements thereafter another Silver Arrow Point is awarded. Note: There are slight differences for the use of un-used achievements for Arrow Points by Bears (see the handbook for details).

Wolf and Bear Scout BSA documents state specifically that Wolf and Bear parents are not required to attend Den meetings. However, being a Den Leader can be a very time consuming activity which may require the help of parents. Some Den Leaders elect to have a parent host be responsible for running the Den Meetings. This allows the Den Leader to catch up on paperwork or have parent meetings. Den Leaders are expected to help plan or least advise on the Den meeting plan and provide needed books, literature and supplies. The parent host approach requires the Den leader and Den parents to work out a schedule for Den Meetings. If parents do not feel comfortable running a Den meeting or have scheduling conflicts they should discuss this with the Den leader or Cub Master so that an alternate means of supporting the Pack and or Den can be found. Remember to keep it fun and make cub scouts an enjoyable and memorable experience.

Webelos (4th & 5th Grade)

This program is for boys who have completed third grade (or are age 10). A boy may begin working on the Webelos badge as soon as he joins a Webelos den. This is the first step in his transition from the Webelos den to the Boy Scout troop. Webelos complete the requirements found in the Webelos Handbook, work on activity badges, attend meetings led by adults, and become familiar with the Boy Scout requirements—all leading to the Arrow of Light Award. A key difference is that the Webelos Leader is responsible for approving and signing off achievements (not the cub scouts' Parent /Guardian).

Cubmaster & Den Leader Duties

The Cub master and Assistant Cub master(s) duties include: leading and or conducting the monthly Pack meetings, guide & support Den Leaders, work with the Pack committee to plan an annual Pack program, and to coordinate the Cub Scout program in the Pack.

Den Leaders duties include: planning and carry out Den meetings with the goal of accomplishing the theme of the month; prepare its skits & exhibits for the Pack Meeting; lead the Den in its participation at Pack meetings; help the Cub master in presenting awards during Pack meetings.

Registration Fees and Dues

Registration with the Boy Scouts of America is \$45 per year for each scout.

Monthly den dues range from \$4-\$5 a month. Your Den Leader will discuss this with you. Dues are generally paid monthly but may be paid for the full year.

Fundraising

The pack participates in the annual District Popcorn sales event which takes place in Aug-Nov. The popcorn sale raises funds for pack programming and for scout camping and outings. All scouts are encouraged to participate. 20% of what each individual scout earns in popcorn sales goes directly to that scout's account. This money can be used to pay for their registration fee, dues, cover costs for camping and outings, and pay for their summer camp. This account may also be used for all purchases at the scouting store, including handbooks and uniforms. Complete details regarding the popcorn sale will be discussed at the sales kickoff meeting in the August / September time frame.

Pack Committee

The function of the Pack Committee is largely administrative. Meetings of the Pack Committee are held once a month. Pack Committee meetings are held to discuss upcoming Pack activities, and to determine how Committee members can best help facilitate the Pack activities. Pack Committee members may be elected or appointed to one year term. Any parent can come and participate in any Pack Committee meeting. At this point, there are no term limits, however it is believed the Pack will benefit by rotating

new parents through the Pack Committee. Optimistically, all parents would become members of the Pack Committee.

Training

All adult members (registered or not) are required to complete Youth Protection training. This training creates a safe environment for young people to enjoy the Cub Scout program's activities. It also provides strategies for personal safety awareness for youth as well as adults. Certification is every 2 years. This Training can be completed. More information can be found at <http://www.scouting.org/Training/YouthProtection.aspx>.

Uniform

Cub Scouts are expected to wear their Class "A" uniform (cap, neckerchief, neckerchief slide, and shirt) to all den and pack meetings. Other activities may specify a Class "B" uniform (cub scout t-shirt). Each scout should also own a handbook for their level (Tiger, Wolf, Bear, Webelos). Uniforms and handbooks are purchased at the BSA Store.

Links

Greater Niagara Frontier Council Website: <http://www.wnyscouting.org>

This site contains camp information, scouting events, scout shop store, forms and more.

Pack 325 Website: <http://pack325gnfc.ScoutLander.com>

Contact the Pack: <http://pack325gnfc.ScoutLander.com>

Registration Applications: <http://pack325gnfc.ScoutLander.com>