

Welcome to the Pack 171 Family!

FAMILY INFORMATION GUIDE

PACK 171 – Pioneer District



BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA®

Table of Contents

| | |
|--|----------|
| Where and Who?..... | 3 |
| FAQ..... | 4 |
| What does my scout wear to meetings? | 4 |
| What do I need to bring? | 4 |
| What forms do I need to fill out? | 4 |
| What do I need to bring to a camp out? | 4 |
| What is my role as a parent in scouting?..... | 4 |
| How often do we meet? | 4 |
| How can I pay dues and other scouting expenses?..... | 4 |
| Why Join Cub Scouting? | 5 |
| Dens | 6 |
| The Lion (Kindergarten) and Tiger (First Grade) Dens..... | 6 |
| The Wolf (Second Grade) and Bear (Third Grade) Dens..... | 6 |
| The Webelos Scout Den (Fourth and Fifth Grades)..... | 6 |
| Pack Meetings..... | 7 |
| Den Meetings..... | 7 |
| Scouting year overview | 7 |
| How Can You Help? | 8 |
| Training..... | 8 |
| Youth Protection..... | 9 |
| You Are Not Alone!..... | 9 |
| The Pack Committee | 10 |
| Stay informed! | 10 |
| 2024 - 2025 Activity Calendar..... | 11 |

Where and Who?

Pack 171 meets at **Otterbein Church** at **6:30 pm** on **Monday**.

Address: 647 Forge Rd, Carlisle, PA 17013. Park in the back parking lot and enter through door at the top of the ramp

Our pack's chartering organization: **South Mountain American Legion Post 674**

Our unit is part of the **Pioneer District** of the **New Birth of Freedom Council**

District Website: <https://newbirthoffreedom.org/districts/pioneer-district/>

Pack 171 Website: <https://www.facebook.com/pack171.boilingsprings>

Pack 171 Email: 171cubscouting@gmail.com

| Our Leaders | Name | Phone No. | Email |
|--|---------------|------------------|-------------------------|
| Charter Organization Representative | James Otto | | jim5584@comcast.net |
| Committee Chair | Andrew Thumma | 717-385-8874 | AndrewThumma@gmail.com |
| Treasurer | Kristin Line | 732-684-4424 | kmemmelaar@yahoo.com |
| Advancement Chair | | | |
| Cubmaster | Phil Kondas | 330-559-1125 | philkondas@gmail.com |
| Assistant Cubmaster | Dan Kenyon | 717-512-0864 | dakenyon@target-sys.com |
| Lion Den Leaders | Dan Kenyon | 717-512-0864 | dakenyon@target-sys.com |
| Tiger Den Leaders | Dan Kenyon | 717-512-0864 | dakenyon@target-sys.com |
| Wolf Den Leaders | | | |
| Bear Den Leaders | | | |
| Webelos Leader | Phil Kondas | 330-559-1125 | philkondas@gmail.com |
| Arrow of Light (AOL) | Kristin Line | 732-684-4424 | kmemmelaar@yahoo.com |

FAQ

What does my scout wear to meetings?

The Cubmaster will send out an email when there are any specific uniform expectations. For den meetings it will generally be the activity shirt (sometimes called Class B uniform provided by the pack).

The uniform code for our pack is a request and not mandatory. If it's possible then do but there's no need to add extra stress to your family to purchase or add complexity to your evening to get your scout in uniform.

Additionally, for the field uniform, we do not require scout uniform pants, however weather appropriate comfortable clothes (jeans, shorts, etc.) and close-toed shoes are required.

➤ **Talk to your Pack / Den leaders for additional options to obtain uniforms or if you have any uniform related questions.**

What do I need to bring?

A water bottle is highly recommended for meeting nights, however there are water fountains at the church. If anything is needed for your scout to have with them it will be announced ahead of time. Activities and supplies required for meetings will be provided by the pack unless otherwise noted in advance.

What forms do I need to fill out?

A youth application is required for each scout participating in events to earn awards. Adults who wish to volunteer for a position with the pack will also need to complete an adult application. Speak with the cubmaster or one of the other leaders. They will guide you through getting the correct paperwork for you and your scout(s).

What do I need to bring to a camp out?

A recommended packing list will be sent out prior to any camping events. If you don't have access to something needed for an event please speak to the pack leaders and we can assist.

What is my role as a parent in scouting?

Parent involvement is key to our pack and your scout's journey. This is an amazing opportunity to connect with and watch your scout grow. While many of the core achievements are done as part of the den and pack, some are more about your scout's connection to faith and family. That looks different for everyone so it will be a journey together with your scout to work together on those. At den meetings, you know your child best and can work with the den leader to ensure they have the best experience possible based on their specific needs.

How often do we meet?

The schedule will be distributed via email and during meetings for specific times and dates. We generally have den meetings the 1st and 2nd Monday of the month and pack meetings the 3rd Monday. We follow the South Middleton School District calendar for holidays and closures. If the school is closed, we are as well.

How can I pay dues and other scouting expenses?

Payment can be made by bringing a check to a meeting and giving it to the Cubmaster or Treasurer.

Why Join Cub Scouting?

- If you could give only one gift to the young people who are most important in your life, what would it be? No matter what your family situation is, it is within your power to help these children grow into people with a good feeling about themselves and a genuine concern for others. Cub Scouting can assist you in providing this greatest gift of all.
- Cub Scout-age children benefit developmentally from belonging to a small group of peers. Your child will be a part of a den, a small group of Cub Scouts in the same grade level. Through this sense of belonging, children build self-esteem and learn to get along with others.

As a parent, you want to be assured that the groups that your child joins will teach values consistent with good citizenship, character development, personal fitness, and leadership. The values we seek to instill are found in the Scout Oath and Scout Law.

1. **Family Involvement:** Family involvement is an essential part of Cub scouting. Your engagement through their process will give them guidance and motivation while helping them feel more connected to their family and community.
2. **Activities:** In Cub scouting, Scouts participate in a wide variety of den and pack activities such as games, projects, skits, songs, outdoor activities, and trips.
3. **The Outcome:** In Cub Scouts, "**Do your best**" means showing effort, regardless of the outcome. It's about the experience, not meeting a set standard. Like our kids, as parents and leaders, we're also encouraged to do our best, which varies daily. Our activities are about exploration, not expertise, laying the groundwork for future growth and learning. What matters is the attempt, not perfection, as each effort builds towards future successes.
4. **The Uniform:** The Cub scout uniform helps build pride, loyalty, and self-respect. Wearing the uniform to all den and pack meetings and activities also encourages a neat appearance, a sense of belonging, and good behavior. [See the FAQ for details on our pack's uniform guidelines.](#)

The uniform and its cost vary by program for both youth and adults. Uniforms may also be purchased at your local Scout shop. See www.scoutshop.org for details and current prices. Additionally, online sites like Ebay and Poshmark are great places to find deals on pre-owned uniforms in good condition.

References for how to wear and setup of the uniform

<https://www.scouting.org/programs/cub-scouts/cub-scout-uniform/>

<https://www.scoutshop.org/blog/the-beginners-guide-to-cub-scout-uniform-insignia.html>

<https://cubscoutideas.com/1276/cub-scout-uniform-patch-placement/>

Dens

The Lion (Kindergarten) and Tiger (First Grade) Dens

Cub Scouts who join in kindergarten or first grade join with

an adult partner, usually the parent or guardian. A Lion or Tiger den should be no more than eight Cub Scouts and their adult partners. An adult is selected to serve as the den leader (usually one of the parents) and coordinates the meetings. Each adult partner takes a turn assisting or hosting meetings or activities with the den leader. This shared leadership model is a great way to ensure the den leader has the help needed to deliver a quality program.



- Lion and Tiger dens meet twice a month or more often if the den leader and families choose to.
- At den meetings, Lions and Tigers work on adventures that are found in their handbooks.



The Wolf (Second Grade) and Bear (Third Grade) Dens

Children at this age are becoming more independent, and activities are designed to meet their developmental needs.

A Wolf (second grade) or Bear (third grade) den is ideally no more than eight Cub Scouts, a den leader, an assistant den leader. (usually, parents of some of the den members), and often a den chief (an older Scout who helps the den leader).

They typically meet twice a month at a regularly scheduled time and place, and they also attend the pack meeting with their families.

The Webelos Scout Den (Fourth and Fifth Grades)

The Webelos den is much like the Wolf and Bear dens, but there is more emphasis on learning to take leadership roles and preparing to join a Scout troop.



Pack Meetings

The Cub Scout pack is made up of all the dens, which meet monthly at the pack meeting, led by the Cubmaster.

There are games, skits, songs, ceremonies, and presentations of achievements and badges that Cub Scouts earned during that month. This is where families can see the achievements of their Cub Scout.

The pack, including families, also participates in other special events throughout the year, including:

Pinewood Derby®—You can build and race a model car with your child. **Blue and gold banquet**—Cub Scouting’s birthday party—for all pack members and their families— takes place in February.

Camping—Overnight and day camp opportunities introduce your family to the camping experience.

Service projects—Packs may participate in food drives, conservation projects, or other community activities.

Field trips and special outings—Den outings are a great way to learn more about the people and places in your community.



Den Meetings

Dens meet twice a month; the pack breaks out into their dens and will focus on rank-related activities. Those are focused primarily on games and activities related to gaining their achievements towards their next rank. If anything special is required for the meeting then it will be communicated with you by the Den leaders ahead of time.

Scouting year overview

The majority of scouting activities follow approximately with the school year. About mid-August is when the scout year starts. Meetings will end in May with a bridging ceremony & party where the scouts will get their new rank and any last awards for the year. During the summer there will still be plenty of scouting opportunities like Day camp, overnight camps, field trips, etc... but no reoccurring meet ups as a pack. The Cubmaster will stay in communication throughout the year and keep you posted on the schedule of events.

- **The summer events are not required but worthwhile if your schedule allows it. There are many opportunities for awards and achievements for your scout. Additionally, they are wonderful opportunities for your scout to gain new experiences.**

Make memories with your child that will last a lifetime!

How Can You Help?

The most important help that you, as a parent, can give your child is to work with them on their Cub Scouting adventures as they work toward their badge of rank. The Cub Scout handbook is full of age-appropriate activities; some of them you do together at home. Den meetings are designed for Cub Scouts to complete adventures that are required for them to earn their badge of rank. When you have completed a requirement at home, make sure your den leader is informed so that they can properly record it and your child can be recognized for their achievements. **Your role as a parent is the secret to a successful Cub Scouting program!**

The den and the pack rely on parent participation to run a successful program. Cub Scouting operates through volunteer leadership. Volunteer leaders are an example of Scouting's principle of service to others. By volunteering in Scouting, you are also giving your child and family the gift of your time. What could be more valuable? You will have an opportunity to be a positive influence in their life and in the lives of their friends.

Some of the positions we're looking for:

- Den Leaders
- Popcorn Kernel (coordinator)
- Popcorn sales assistants
- New Member Coordinator
- Secretary
- Pack Trainer
- Advancement Coordinator
- Pinewood Derby assistants

Volunteer. Talk to your Pack leadership about opportunities. There's always more that needs to be done helping with the various tasks that keep our pack held together and bringing our scouts new experiences.

Training

The Boy Scouts of America offers convenient training for parents who volunteer. As a new parent, you can learn all about Cub Scouting and how quality Scouting programs are built. Log on to [my.Scouting.org](https://my.scouting.org) and create an account to gain access to all available training content. For more information about training at all levels of the program, go to www.scouting.org/training or speak with your pack leaders.



Youth Protection

Child abuse is a serious problem in our society, and unfortunately, it can occur anywhere, even in Scouting. Youth safety is of paramount importance to Scouting. For that reason, the BSA continues to create barriers to abuse beyond what previously existed in Scouting.

The Boy Scouts of America place the greatest importance on providing the most secure environment possible for its youth members. To maintain such an environment, the BSA has developed numerous procedural and leadership selection policies and provides parents and leaders with multiple online and print resources for all Scouting programs.

- **All leaders are required to complete Youth Protection training.**
- **All parents are encouraged to take the training as well.**

To complete the training online, go to my.Scouting.org and establish an account using the member number you receive when you register for BSA membership. If you take the training online before you obtain a member number, be sure to return to my.Scouting.org and enter your number for training record credit. Your BSA local council also provides training on a regular basis if you cannot take it online.

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 registered. For more information about Youth Protection, please see BSA's Youth Protection website at www.scouting.org/youthprotection.aspx.



You Are Not Alone!

Your **den** is in a **pack** that belongs to an organization chartered by the Boy Scouts of America (BSA) to operate a Cub Scout pack. The chartered organization approves leadership, helps secure a meeting place, and makes sure that the pack works within the guidelines and policies of their organization as well as those of the BSA.

Many volunteers and BSA professionals are interested in the success of your pack. A special volunteer assigned to help your pack is called a **commissioner**. The commissioner helps the pack provide a successful and high-quality program. The commissioner is also the communication link between your pack and the local council.

There are professional staff at your council service center who can help or will get you in touch with someone who can. Local Council Locator: www.scouting.org/LocalCouncilLocator.aspx

The Pack Committee

Every Cub Scout parent or guardian is invited to become a member of the pack committee. Pack committee members perform administrative functions of the pack. The committee meets monthly and includes the responsibilities below.

Committee chair. Presides at all pack committee meetings. Helps recruit adult leaders and attends the monthly pack meeting and pack committee meeting.

Advancement chair. Maintains advancement records for the pack. Orders and obtains all badges and insignia. Attends the monthly pack meeting and pack committee meeting.

New member coordinator. Manages the transition of new Scouts into the pack and coordinates orientation for new Scouting families. Responsible for the marketing and recruiting initiatives of the pack as well as the growth and retention of the unit.

Secretary. Keeps records of the pack committee meetings and communicates with families about upcoming pack events and activities.

Treasurer. Keeps all financial records for the pack, including the pack bank account, and gives a monthly financial report to the pack committee. Attends the monthly pack meeting and pack committee meeting.

Stay informed!

Leader meetings are once a month and Parents are not required but are highly encouraged to attend. Those are at 6pm on Thursdays, the third week of each month generally but will be noted with the calendar.

Correspondence on upcoming events, what to bring to meetings, etc will be communicated by email from our Cubmaster. Don't hesitate to reach out via phone, however, if something isn't clear. Additionally, you'll see correspondence from your Scout's Den leader on den specific topics.

For Parents there's both Scoutbook and the Scouting app that can be used to track and record your Scout's progress through the year. While den meetings will generally focus on the achievements your Cub Scout needs to progress, it's alright to work on them with your Scout at home on anything in their book. If for any reason you cannot access those tools, send a note to your den leader and they will record it for you.

Youth handbooks are provided at the beginning of scout year and included at no cost. These will contain all of the activities / achievements for your scout at their rank. Some are required for advancement and others are fun activities for your scout to learn new skills and games. The required ones will be noted in there but provide a clear path for your Scout as they progress.

Adult leaders use Scoutbook, the online tool found at scoutbook.scouting.org. to track scouts' progress through the year. But it can also be used by parents to record activities done at home or to just check in on their progress.

Download the Scouting app here [Apple App Store](#) or [Google Play](#)

More information here

<https://help.scoutbook.scouting.org/knowledge-base/scouting-mobile-app-for-scoutbook/>

Additional resources

Pack 171 website – scouting171.org

Pack 171 on Facebook - <https://www.facebook.com/pack171.boilingsprings>

BSA homepage – <https://www.scouting.org>

BSA Store online - <https://scoutshop.org/>