

# What Parents Need to Know about ..... PACK 11 CUB SCOUTS



## Leadership and Contact Information

Pack 11 Cub Scouts are led by our Cubmaster and Assistant Cubmaster guided by the Pack Committee made up of additional volunteers. All leaders are volunteers. We are always open to additional help from parents, grandparents and community members. Please contact any of our leaders if you would like to become involved in helping to plan/manage special events, campouts, activities.

<b>Role</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Cell Number</b>
Cubmaster	Michael Wiggins	864-415-1712
Asst. Cubmaster	Kim Atchley	864-415-9881
Tiger Den Leader	Katherine "Kit" Wiggins	864-415-2754
Asst. Tiger Leader	all parents	
Wolf Den Leader	Steven Pipes	864-542-4896
Wolf Den Leader	James May	864-497-6077
Bear Den Leader	Wade Thompson	864-590-1249
Bear Den Asst.		
Webelos 1 Leader	Michael Wiggins	864-415-1712
Webelos 1 Asst.	Chris Ebert	864-804-7920
Webelos 1 Asst.	Randy Burnett	864-497-6077
AOL Webelos Leader	Keith Keller	864-764-4788
AOL Webelos Leader	Ellie Baqurian	864-415-8627
Pack Secretary & Trip Coordinator	Kim Atchley	864-415-9881
Pack Treasurer & Scout Accounts	Ellie Baqurian	864-415-8627
Church Liaison and God & Me Leader	Rev. Jack Dodds	864-590-8951

# Our History

Morningside Baptist Church is the chartering organization for Pack 11 and Troop 11 Scouts. Boys do not have to be members of Morningside to be involved with either group. Dr. Kirk Neely, now retired pastor of Morningside, a long-time Scout Leader and Past President of the Palmetto Council, and Distinguished Eagle Scout Award winner from BSA, encouraged the scouting program at the church. There is a long history of Scouting at Morningside, however there was a brief period where there was neither a Cub Scout nor Boy Scout group at the Church. In the fall of 2010 the Pack 11 Cub Scouts were (re)chartered with the Piedmont District of the Palmetto Council.

## Communication

The majority of Pack and Den communication is handled via email. If you do not have an email that you check regularly, please let us know. A newsletter with calendar, schedule, and deadline information is handed out at the monthly Pack Meetings which parents are asked to attend with their Cub. Please read the newsletter!

We also maintain a closed group on Facebook. If you would like to join the group, please go to the Pack 11 page and request permission to join.

## Meetings

Den meetings are scheduled weekly at 6:30 on Tuesday nights. One of the meeting nights each month is set aside for the Pack Meeting. A Tiger parent is required to attend all meetings with his/her Tiger Cub, but parents of Wolves, Bears, and Webelos are not required to attend meetings. Prompt drop-off and pick up is expected if the parent is not staying for the meeting. Cubs are expected to wear Class A (full field) uniforms to meetings unless otherwise notified.

Boys are expected to address restroom and water needs before meetings begin or wait until after the meeting. If your child has a health issue causing him to need water or restroom breaks more frequently than hourly (our meetings last an hour) please let us know. Otherwise, we will ask any Cubs requesting water/restroom breaks to please wait until after the meeting.

Parents are expected to attend the monthly Pack meetings if at all possible. Cub Scouts often receive awards during those meetings and any business issues as well as details about upcoming trips are given at the Pack Meetings.

Only Tiger parents are expected to stay for den meetings. Parents may offer to help, but we have often found that Cubs with parents in the room often look to parents, not their leaders, for direction, making meetings less effective. Parents are welcome to wait for their Cub in one of the other rooms.

Cubs may not bring electronic games or toys to den or pack meetings.

**Please note: Cubs should never wear flip flops or open-toed shoes to den meetings, excursions, or campouts. Many activities are held outdoors and this is a safety precaution.**

## Long Term Planning

Long term plans are being formulated for more extensive excursions with the goal of one larger Spring/Summer trip each year. As these tend to be more expensive, we are already making tentative plans for the following:

- 2017 (estimated) Backpacking Trek at Philmont Boy Scout Ranch located in New Mexico. This is a 12-day trip for ages 14 & up. We will wait until several groups have cycled from Cub Scouts into Boy Scouts and become age-eligible to plan a group trip.
- 2019 World Scout Jamboree - Summit Bechtel Reserve, Beckley, West Virginia (this would be for Boy Scouts only, Cub Scouts are not eligible) This will be the next time that the World Scout Jamboree is in the United States.

## **Ranks & Achievements**

Cub Scouts move through different ranks according to age. They start at the level that matches their age when they enter a Cub Scout Pack. Boy Scouts move through their ranks only by the number/type of achievements, not by age.

Each Cub enters a den according to his age when entering the pack. The first rank he earns is the Bobcat. Then through the scouting year, the boys work to earn their rank badges Tiger (first grade), Wolf (second grade), Bear (third grade) Webelos (fourth and fifth grades.) Activities toward earning rank are completed in den meetings, Pack meetings, and at home. There are a set number of requirements that must be completed for each Cub to earn his rank badge. Our goal is to have the boys achieve rank by the February Blue & Gold banquet but they have until mid-May to finish requirements for their rank if it is not completed by February. Cubs can also complete electives for his rank. Electives are listed in each Rank book. Tigers, Wolves, and Bears have various electives described in their rank books. After 'making rank' they earn additional awards (gold beads for Tigers and arrow points for Wolves & Bears), work toward their Arrow of Light (Webelos).

Belt Loops and Pins are awards that Scouts can earn above and beyond their Rank Advancement and can be earned by cubs throughout their years in Cub Scouts. There are printed guides to the academics and sports belt loop/activity pins in the scout office, however, you can simply go to [www.BoyScouttrail.com](http://www.BoyScouttrail.com) or [www.scouting.org](http://www.scouting.org) to look up your child's interest area and help him work toward the loop or pin according to the guidelines. A Belt Loop/Pin book can be purchased at the Scout Shop as well.

**Example:** your child plays flag football this fall. Go to [www.BoyScouttrail.com](http://www.BoyScouttrail.com). Type football in the white search box. Cub Scouts can earn awards for playing flag football. Click the link and you'll see the listing of what needs to be done to earn the loop and pin. At the bottom of that page is a link to a worksheet where you, as your child's Akela, can mark his progress. Have your cub turn in his worksheet to his den leader so that he/she can make sure the award is presented at the next awards ceremony.

Webelos are the highest level of Cub Scouts. In addition to their badge work, they also work toward their Arrow of Light, a special award that helps them become ready to move from being a Cub Scout to a Boy Scout. Many belt loops, and activity pins earned while Tigers, Wolves, or Bears are earned or re-earned as part of the Webelos rank achievement.

If the information is reported to the pack secretary by deadline set per pack meeting, the award will be made at the next pack meeting when awards are scheduled. The Pack pays for the first

time a belt loop or pin, or special activity badge is earned. If a Scout meets the belt loop or pin requirements a second time, the pack will not pay for the award. If a cub is not present at an awards event, the den leader will present him his awards at the next den meeting he attends. Awards are not held over for the next pack meeting. Awards not picked up by the final May meeting will not be awarded.

A note from Shana McKenzie, whose son, Stephen received his EAGLE SCOUT rank and is now an assistant scoutmaster with Troop 11.

**Question:** Since your son has gone through scouting from Cub Scouts through the highest rank of Boy Scouts, what recommendation can you give parents for how best to support their son in his scouting goals?

**Answer:** *Make sure you are following your son's achievements when he is a Cub Scout and go over his progress with him. By the time your child is in Boy Scouts, he has to earn his achievements and merit badges independently. If the boys get into the habits of meeting achievement goals now, they will be well trained to be successful Boy Scouts. Parents are less and less involved as scouts get older, so by helping them understand how to reach the goals set by BSA to reach Cub Scout Ranks, and any other awards they want to earn like belt loops, pins, or special badges, the boys learn goal setting. That's a skill they'll use in everyday life whether they go on into Boy Scouting and earn their Eagle or not.*

## Expectations

1. Parents are expected to work with their son(s) at home on their scouting accomplishments.
2. We understand that you will have some meetings that you will miss, however, it is your responsibility as a parent to know what your child has missed and help him to catch up with requirements. Many requirements toward rank achievement are covered in den meetings. It is the responsibility of the parents to report any achievements met at home by showing the signed rank book their den leader.
3. Den leaders enter achievements into our tracking system.
4. Cubs are expected to have a Class A Uniform and Rank Books.

## Rank Books

Each Cub Scout Rank has its own book and each Cub is expected to have his own book each year. These books are written in so they are not reused. Please take time to read through your son's rank book when you get it. This will help you familiarize yourself with the Scouting Program and what your son will be working toward. You may be surprised to see many activities related to things you already do at home or at school. This is the great home-Scouting connection. By showing your son how what he learns in Scouts are good skills for home and school, he will learn that Scouting isn't about den meetings, it's an approach to life that will help him in the future.

# Uniforms

Cub Scouts are expected to come to meetings in their **Class A (Full Field) uniforms**. A Class A uniform includes the Cub Scout shirt, pants, hat, neckerchief, and slide. These can be purchased at the Scout Shop located at the Palmetto Council office, 420 South Church Street in Spartanburg. You can shop online at [www.scoutstuff.org](http://www.scoutstuff.org). It generally costs around \$100 for the full uniform. There are patches that are put on the uniform. The Palmetto Council Patch, the 11 (two #1 patches) for our Pack number and your den number patch. Your leader will let you know your den number. The cap, neckerchief, slide (and rank book) will change as your Cub moves through the ranks for an estimated expense of \$30, but a new uniform is not required until your Scout enters an Arrow of Light Webelos den. That uniform, with patch modifications, can then be worn into the Boy Scout years. We recommend buying uniform shirts and pants large so that they last more than 1 year.

**Class B uniforms** are more casual, 'play' type uniforms and are basically t-shirts that can be worn with Class A pants or jeans/shorts as needed for the event. We will place a Class B t-shirt order in the fall for the Pack Shirt ordered the previous year. The cost is approximately \$10 for anyone who wishes to order one. When your dues are paid by the end of October, your cub will receive a new Class B shirt, the cost of which is included in the dues fee. You may order Class B shirts in the fall for other members of the family. You can also purchase Class B shirts at the Scout Shop or online, however these shirts will not have specific Pack 11 references.

A note about shoes: Please send your scout in close-toed shoes each week *unless otherwise noted*. We often have outdoor activities as part of our den/Pack meetings and want to ensure safety.

# Dues

Pack 11 has an annual dues fee of \$60 which are due by the October pack meeting. We realize that many Cubs enter a Pack in the fall as the school year starts. We do not want to add more than the cost of the uniform to your back-to-school time expenses and wait to collect annual dues for that reason. The \$60 helps to cover many aspects of Scouting, from supplies for the weekly den meetings to advancements and special awards (badges, patches, belt loops, pins) and a Class B t-shirt. Your Scout will also receive Boys' Life Magazine. The dues do not cover all the expenses for each Scout, but the Pack Committee feels it is a reasonable amount to expect a parent to contribute toward expenses for all your Cub receives from his Pack 11 scouting experience.

# Fundraising and Finances

Pack 11 has been generously supported with a designated budget from Morningside Baptist Church. These funds are designated for specific needs for running the Pack and leadership training and do not cover all of the expenses for Pack operations and activities. Fundraising benefits the Pack as well as individual Scouts. The pack maintains an accounting of each Cub's portion of fundraising efforts. The accounting is set up so that parents may pay into the account in anticipation of fees for expected trips. However, fundraisers help offset the costs of trips. Parents and their cubs can raise their own money for activities and trips through Pack fundraisers.

## **Fall - Popcorn**

You may already be familiar with Scouting Popcorn. This is the largest fundraiser for our Council (and Scout Councils across the nation) and our Pack. This fundraiser begins at the end of September and ends at the end of October. A portion of the popcorn sale profits benefits our Council and a portion is returned to the Pack. One half of the Scout's individual profits are designated for his own Pack related expenses such as uniforms, rank books, summer camps, and any trips/outing fees not already covered by the Pack. Please note: the portion of popcorn sale profits that stay with the Pack help offset some pack activity costs but not all.

## **Spring - Scout Discount Cards**

At the March Pack Meeting, Parents may sign out a number of discount cards that they can help their Scout sell. The profits from these sales are credited to the Individual Scout accounts.

\*We may hold additional fundraisers as determined by the Pack Committee and approved by the Palmetto Council and Morningside Baptist Church.

**Wish List** - A letter will be sent home with Scouts that can be copied and shared with family, friends, and parents' contacts through work. We know that others are willing and interested in supporting our Pack 11 Scouts and we will offer a wish list specific to the events planned for the Pack. Receipts will be available for donations so that donations can be counted for tax deductions.

**Friends of Scouting** - Each year, at the Blue and Gold Banquet, a representative from the Palmetto Council comes to recruit Friends of Scouting donors who are either prepared to donate that day or make a pledge to donate within a designated amount of time. This is a fundraiser specifically designed for the Palmetto Council and its operations.

# Individual Scout Accounts Guidelines

as set up by the Pack 11 Finance Committee

1. Scouts may not transfer their funds outside Pack/Troop 11. If a Scout leaves the Pack, any earned funds from Pack Fundraising Events in his account remain with the Pack/Troop.

*Please note: If a parent wishes to pay into his/her child's account in anticipation of an expensive outing and the Scout leaves the pack before the outing fees are due, those funds paid by the parent **will** be refunded.*

2. **There should be no expectation of refund of any funds when scout accounts are used to pay for trips or camps after the deadlines for Pack payment for the event have passed. Many events require non-refundable deposits and full payment for participants before the actual event.**
3. One half of the individual scout *profits* from Popcorn sales will go into the individual scout accounts.
4. Individual Scout accounts can be used for cub expenses such as: standard uniform, rank book, trips and camp (Bob Hardin or Summer Camps). Trips include any pack/den outings that require fees such as overnights, or extended trips.
5. Scout account funds may not be applied to the cost of trips until the annual dues have been paid.
6. **There will be no extensions for any deadlines for payments. If total fees for any activities are not paid in full by the deadline set, the Scout will not be considered a participant.** If partial payment of any such fees comes from the Scout's individual account and the full payment is not met by the deadline, the portion of the fees being paid from the account are returned to the account and the Scout is not considered a participant in the event.
7. Annual dues of \$60 will be due at or before the October pack meeting and include one class B t-shirt. Dues may be paid from the individual Scout accounts.
8. Individual scout accounts can be used for cub expenses, not family expenses. Ex. If your whole family wishes to participate in a summer trip with a per person cost, the scout's portion may be paid through his scout account. The rest of the family pays the individual participant rate.
9. Scout funds cannot be used at the Scout Shop. If you wish to have your cub's uniform or rank book costs covered from his scout account, contact the pack treasurer to arrange that specific purchase. Scout funds are not accessible for other items at the Scout Shop.

# Trips, Outings and Special Activities

Great adventures in Scouting begin with monthly Go-See-Its planned in Tiger Cub dens and extend to day trips, hikes, campouts, and multi-day excursions. We want to offer the Cubs as many activities as possible but do not want families to feel pressured to attend any/all outings. As all rank requirements are covered either in den meetings or at home, we do not consider trips, outings and special events mandatory. *They are extras*. Individual Scout account funds may be used to pay expenses for these as long as the annual pack dues have already been paid. Costs for trips are kept to a minimum.

Pack 11 has a reputation for being a 'busy' pack. This simply means that we offer a wide variety of ways for your family to be involved. No one is expected to do everything, but we want you to feel included and welcome. The majority of our activities and excursions are family-centered. That means siblings (younger or older) are welcome to attend. It is up to each parent to determine if an activity is suitable for all family members. It is also important for parents to remember that they are the chaperone in charge for their own child/children. Den/Pack leaders will certainly supervise activities, but parents attending events are expected to monitor their child/children.

## ***Safety Issues and Regulations for Trips***

Tiger Cubs are required to have a parent or guardian present at any Scouting event. All Cub Scouts are required to have a parent or guardian along on any *off-site* excursion.

Wolves, Bears and Webelos may make arrangement for shared chaperoning with parent and Cubmaster approval for day trips/excursions. We are always required to provide two-deep leadership. A group going on an outing must have adequate adult supervision as determined by the Cubmaster. On any overnight camping experience, all Tigers, Wolves, and Bears must have a parent or guardian in attendance. There are no exceptions allowed. **These are Council and Boy Scouts of America rules designed for your child's protection.**

Only the Cubs who have earned their Whittling Chip are allowed to bring a knife to Cub Scout meeting/trip/camp/excursion. They must have their Whitting Chip (card) with them any time they use their knives.

## ***Medical Forms***

- A basic medical form that does not require a physician signature is required to be on file with Pack 11 for all Cub Scouts. These are needed for all adults attending outings or campouts as well.
- Any Scout attending a resident camp is required to have a medical form with physician signature before they can register for camp.
- If you filled out a medical form last year (with signature or not) please realize this is not valid for next summer's camp.





# Trip Supplies

Boys are expected to bring and carry the Cub Scout Essentials for their age level for every trip/excursion. The list for each rank is found in the rank book. Please know that the goal is to support the Boy Scout Motto: BE PREPARED. Starting with the essentials in Cub Scouts helps the boys develop the skills needed for the future.

Information regarding trips, costs, times, details, and supply lists will be emailed to parents in advance of any trip and posted on the Facebook Page. Each trip is unique, therefore, please pay attention to what supplies are needed for each trip so that you don't have unnecessary expense or over pack.

**Trip Etiquette:** There are certain behaviors expected of Cubs and their parents on trips

- Only adults may carry a cell phone which should be set to vibrate, used only for emergencies, and *used discreetly when necessary*.
- **NO** Electronic games or audio/video devices, or toys of any kind are allowed in den meetings, trips, excursions, or on campouts. Exceptions may be made when extended travel is necessary to reach a special event destination. In those cases, any such devices should be left and locked in the car.

**Travel:** Carpooling is encouraged. We may use the Church van for some outings though the van cannot accommodate all Scouts and parents at once.

**Medications/Health Issues:** The Pack will bring copies of medical forms on file for emergency use. You may not attend an outing without having one on file. However, it is the parent's responsibility to provide medication to the leader in charge (ie – inhalers, Epipens, regular timed medications) with directions for their use.

If a C-pap device is needed, please try to use a battery pack as an electrical outlet may not be available.

# Camping Policies

Camping can vary between one and two night adventures. There are some basic “do’s and don’ts” for each campout.

1. Trips, outings and special events are not mandatory. They are extras. Individual Scout account funds may be used to pay the Scout’s expenses for these trips if annual pack dues and other outstanding balances (such as money due from sales) have been paid.
2. Cub Scouts are expected to bring and carry the Cub Scout Essentials for their rank for **every** campout/outdoor excursion.
3. Important information on every campout is posted well in advance of the event. Akelas (parents/grandparents) responsible for reviewing this. Changes from one campout/event to the next are common, including whether meals are provided or whether tents are needed.
4. If some needed item is to be borrowed from the pack, such as sleeping bags or tents, arrangements need to be confirmed prior to the event. The person taking up money for the campout/event is not usually the person who will need to bring the item.
5. Only adults may carry a cell phone which should be set to vibrate, used only for emergencies, and used discreetly when necessary. The only exception for this is for a special excursion where Cub Scouts are asked to take photographs, videos, or use an App for stargazing, geocaching, or some other specific task. In that case, the phone is to be used for that task alone, **and put away when it is over.**
6. **No electronic games or audio/video devices, or electronic toys of any kind are allowed in den meetings, trips, excursions or campouts.** This is a long running policy, and includes televisions, radios, iPads, video players, and any entertainment device you can think of. There are two exceptions: The leader in charge or the event and another designated leader should have cell phones ready for emergencies and keeping in contact with families in transit, as well as a weather radio. The second exception is when extended travel is necessary to reach a special event destination. In those cases, any gaming/entertainment device **MUST** be left and locked in the vehicle.
7. **An up-to-date Health Form must be on file for all participants.** Also, any adult other than the Scout’s parent, grandparent or legal guardian must fill out additional forms. See Cubmaster or assistant Cubmaster for more information.
8. **Medications/Health Issues:** The Pack will bring copies of medical forms on file for emergency reference by health professionals. You may not attend an outing without having one on file. However, **it is the parent/guardian’s responsibility to provide medication to the leader in charge (ie – inhalers, Epipens, regular timed medications) with directions for their use for every outing.**

## The Big No-Nos: Alcohol, Tobacco, Drug Use, Fuel Use

The following are referenced straight from the BSA's *Guide to Safe Scouting*:

**Alcohol (and controlled substances)** - *"It is the policy of the Boy Scouts of America that the use of alcoholic beverages and controlled substances is not permitted at encampments or activities on property and/or operated by the Boy Scouts of America, or at any activity involving participation by youth members."*

**Tobacco** – *"Adult leaders should support the attitude that they, as well as youths, are better off without tobacco in any form and may not allow the use of tobacco products at any BSA activity involving youth participants. All Scouting functions, meetings and activities should be conducted on a smoke-free basis, with smoking areas located away from all participants."*

**Medical Marijuana** - *It is unacceptable for anyone to use or be under the influence of medical marijuana at or during any Scouting activity."*

**Fuel Use** - *"No flames in tents. This includes burning any solid, liquid, gel, or gas fuel—including tents or teepees that feature or support stoves or fires; and any chemical-fueled equipment or catalytic heaters."*

- This means no propane or any other kind of fuel burning heaters. No fuel-burning lamps. No generators and no electric heaters. Anything that gives off heat other than disposable hand warmers and body heat is forbidden in tents.
- If you are concerned about warmth, Invest in cold weather sleeping bags (rated to 20 degrees Fahrenheit or less) fleece sleeping bag liners or camping blankets, closed cell sleeping pads, thermal underwear and extra layers.
- Generators near tents are not only dangerous because of fuel and heat, they are usually noisy and unnecessary for any items needed for camping.

### Cubmaster Notes

First of all, the above prohibitions do not mean, wait until nighttime, or when Scouts aren't around. It means they are not permitted. Failure to adhere to the policies on alcohol and controlled substances will result in being prohibited from attending trips, excursions and campouts after the first violation: **there will be no second chance.**

For tobacco use, note that the only acceptable place for a smoking area is away from all participants. That means away from all tents, game and activity areas; the parking area is often one's best bet for an off-site place to smoke or otherwise use tobacco products. If there are questions about an acceptable place to smoke, ask the pack leader in charge of the event. Vaping, or use of electronic cigarettes, is not acceptable in camp. These products should also be used off-site.