



PACK 54

Parent Handbook

Welcome to Our Pack!

This handbook is a reference for the parents and Cub Scouts of Pack 54.

Families new to Pack 54 or to Scouting will find answers to many of their questions by referring to this manual. If you don't find the answer to your question here, you may want to visit our website at www.pack54toledo.org or contact your Pack Leaders.

The Pack 54 Committee reserves the right to review and revise Pack policies and the contents of this handbook as needed.

January 2007

Pack 54 follows the Cub Scout Promise and the Law of the Pack

The Cub Scout Promise:

I promise to do my best,
To do my duty to God and my country,
To help other people, and
To obey the Law of the Pack.

The Law of the Pack:

The Cub Scout follows Akela.
The Cub Scout helps the Pack go.
The Pack helps the Cub Scout grow.
The Cub Scout gives good will.

The goals of Pack 54 are to:

- Influence each Scout's character development
- Promote Spiritual Growth
- Develop habits and attitudes of good citizenship
- Encourage good sportsmanship and pride in growing strong in mind and body
- Improve understanding and communication within the family
- Strengthen skills in getting along with and respecting others
- Foster a sense of personal achievement by developing new interests and skills
- Encourage each scout to participate in Community Service
- Provide fun and exciting things to do
- Encourage each Scout to "do your best"
- Prepare each Cub Scout to become a Boy Scout

Cub Scouting is a family activity.



Organization

Cub Scout Pack 54 is made up of boys from Elmhurst Elementary school grades one through six. Pack 54 is one of 18 other Packs and 18 Boy Scout Troops in Northwest District. Northwest District is one of six districts in the Erie Shores Council. The Boy Scouts of America is made up of over 300 councils in the United States.

The Erie Shores Council offices and Scout Shop are located at:

1 Stranahan Square, Suite 226 (The United Way Building)

Toledo, OH 43604.

Our District Scout Executive Chris Nowak has his office at this location.

His e-mail is: cnowak@bsamail.org

Pack Structure

The Pack is a family organization and is run by parents who volunteer as Den Leaders, Assistant Den Leaders, and Committee members or as special event planners. In order to be successful in achieving the stated goals of Scouting, parent involvement is required. Please be prepared to volunteer for Pack and Den activities. All of the boys, especially your son, benefit from your participation in the Pack and in the Scouting community. **"Two-deep Leadership"** is required for all Cub Scout events. This means that two adults must be present for all Den or Pack events.

The Pack is made up of several Dens. The Pack includes not only the boys in those Dens, but also their families and their Leaders. The Pack holds meetings once per month, which are attended by Cub Scouts, Leaders, parents and other family members. The Pack meeting is the culmination of that month's Den meetings and activities. It gives the Dens something to look forward to and work toward. This is a chance to recognize the boys, their parents and their Leaders. In addition to its regular meetings, the Pack sponsors special projects and events about once per month. These include community service projects, Scouting for Food, outdoor activities (summer picnic, family campout), fundraising activities (popcorn sales, Friends of Scouting), and other fun activities (Blue & Gold Banquet, Pinewood Derby). We also have entertainment at one or more Pack meetings during the year.



The **Pack Committee** consists of several positions filled by adult volunteers that plan the Pack program and activities as well as managing such things as record keeping, finance, Leadership recruitment, training, and registration. The Pack Committee meets monthly, and everyone is welcome to attend Committee meetings.

Pack 54 Leaders do their best to provide a quality program as outlined in the National Guidelines. All the Leaders in the Pack are volunteers and therefore have many other obligations. We depend on parents; we depend on *you*, to help provide a top quality program. We ask every parent to help in some capacity in addition to assisting his/her son's Den Leaders with the Den. There are many opportunities for you to help our organization.

Pack Leadership Positions

Committee Chair: The Committee Chair is responsible for conducting committee meetings, managing the Packs Re-Charter and other Pack business, and overseeing the organization of Pack activities. The Committee Chair coordinates with the Cubmaster on policy issues and maintains Pack records. The Committee Chair also recruits volunteers for Leadership positions.

Cubmaster: The Cubmaster, along with other members of the Committee, helps plan the program year. The Cubmaster helps plan and officiates at Pack meetings and most of the program events (such as the Blue & Gold Banquet). The Cubmaster plans and conducts advancement ceremonies like the Arrow of Light ceremony and spring Crossover ceremony. It is the Cubmaster's responsibility to recruit parent volunteers.

Assistant Cubmaster: The Assistant Cubmaster works with the Cubmaster to plan and run Pack meetings and functions. When necessary, the Assistant Cubmaster stands in for the Cubmaster.

Den Leader Coach: The Den Leader Coach is as an advisor to Den Leaders. The Den Leader Coach provides the Den Leaders with orientation training, ideas and supplemental information for their Dens.

Den Leader: The Den Leader will conduct Den meetings and other Den activities with the assistance of a Co-Leader or Assistant Den Leader and parents. It is the responsibility of the Den Leader to keep all Den families informed of Den and Pack activities.

Assistant Den Leader: The Assistant Den Leader will help plan and conduct Den activities. Two adults must be present at all Scout meetings and events including Den and Pack meetings.

Advancement Chair: The Advancement Chair records the progress of the Cub Scouts, purchases and organizes advancement and achievement awards for distribution at Pack meetings, and assists the Cubmaster at Pack meetings when awards are distributed. The Advancement Chair submits a list of awards for the current month to the Newsletter Editor to be included in the monthly Newsletter. The Advancement Chair also provides Den Leaders with the necessary forms and reports for advancement.

Treasurer: The Treasurer maintains the Pack checking account, deposits monies, disburses funds and reports on finances of the Pack.

Secretary: The Secretary records minutes at Committee and Leader meetings. He/she also provides follow-up reports on meetings and events to be distributed to the Committee members and Den Leaders.

Quartermaster: The Quartermaster keeps inventory of and arranges for storage and maintenance of all Pack equipment (Pinewood Derby track, resource materials).

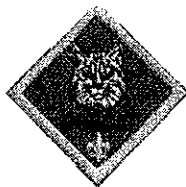
There are many opportunities available to help the Pack run smoothly, and any position can be held by men or women. Anyone interested in volunteering should contact their Den Leader, or attend a Committee Meeting.

Leadership Training

All registered Leaders receive Cub Scout Leadership training. Training includes the Cub Scout Fast Start Training (an online training program from the Northwest Council at nwdistrictscouts.org) and a district-led Cub Leader Specific Training course. In addition, Leaders may attend monthly Roundtable meetings and an annual Pow-Wow to receive additional ideas for running Den and Pack activities. Pack 54 also provides training for Den Leaders at the beginning of each school year so that they can be prepared for the next rank. Pack 54 will pay for or reimburse you for the registration fee for any Leader training. All Den Leaders will be provided with various items and materials needed in order to run their Dens.

Dens

The Cub Scout Den is the basic unit of Cub Scouting. Dens are composed of boys of the same age, grade or rank. Dens meet two to three times per month, September through May. Meetings are conducted by the Den Leader(s), Assistant Den Leader(s) and parent volunteers. A Boy Scout from a local Troop may assist as a Den Chief. The Dens work on achievements, electives, and activity pins specific to their rank. Den Leaders may plan field trips to facilitate the completion of an achievement or just for fun! Two adults must be present at every activity. Dens meet at a time and location to be determined by the Den Leaders. Some Dens meet after school, some in the evening and some on the weekend. Field trips usually take place outside of Den meetings. Den Leaders will arrange for your meeting location. Den meetings can be held in homes, at Elmhurst Elementary School, or wherever it is convenient for you and your Den Leaders. Each scout will need a handbook for their specific rank. These handbooks are available at the Scout Shop and also at Woodville Surplus. The handbook explains the achievements and activities required to earn their rank badges.



Uniforms: General Information

The Boy Scouts of America has always worn uniforms. While there are many reasons for this, one reason stands out above all the rest. We wear our uniforms to identify ourselves openly with the principles to which we are committed: *character development, citizenship training, and physical and mental fitness*. The uniform is not intended to hide our individuality. It assists us in giving each other strength and support. The uniform represents a bond that unifies us in spite of our differences.

Uniforms should be worn to all Den and Pack events. The uniform should also be worn while participating in a Pack fund-raising project or service project unless otherwise specified.

Each Cub Scout buys his own blue uniform shirt (long or short sleeve), rank neckerchief and slide, the Erie Shores Council patch, Pack and Den numerals, and World Crest. Uniform pants, hats and belts are optional. Uniforms may be purchased at the Council Service Center Scout Shop, at Woodville Surplus or online at www.scoutstuff.org (from the Catalog Index, click Scout Necessities).

The Pack provides all of the rank patches that the boys earn and any other special uniform patches earned by the Pack that can be displayed on the uniform shirt or on the red brag vest.

Pack 54 expects uniform shirts to be complete and tucked into your pants.

Webelos Uniform

When a Scout graduates from the Bear Den to a Webelos Den, he has the option to wear the tan uniform shirt that he will eventually need when he crosses over into Boy Scouts. The patches are the same for both the blue and tan uniforms, with the exception of the Webelos shoulder ribbon which the Pack will provide. Activity Pins the Webelos earn are to be worn on the shoulder ribbon. Sports and Academic Pins should be worn on the brag vest and not on the shoulder ribbon. The Webelos Den Leader can help if your Scout is unsure about which pins go where.

Registration

Scouts are expected to pay registration fees of \$25.00 for returning scouts and \$35.00 for new scouts. All of this money goes to council. There is a \$10.00 National registration fee and the Boys Life subscription costs \$12.00. The remaining money is spent on registration and training of adult leaders. Registration fees are collected in September.

Pack Finances

Pack 54 is funded by the proceeds from the annual popcorn sale held every fall as well as various other fundraisers held throughout the year (bake sale, car wash, etc.) All Scouts of Pack 54 are expected to participate in the popcorn sale. The cost of running our Cub Scout program (including all awards, materials and activities) is approximately \$75.50 per Scout, and with a successful popcorn sale the Pack can cover most of that expense without asking for additional money from the Scouts. Scouts earn prizes based on their popcorn sales and also earn part of their camp fees for the summer. Den leaders may collect den dues, usually \$1 or \$2 per den meeting, to cover the costs of running the den.

Note: We will never turn any boy away because of a lack of ability to pay. If you, or someone you know, are in this situation, please contact the Cubmaster or Committee Chair to arrange for financial aid. These matters are kept strictly confidential.

Advancement

The standard scouting year is from September through May, although some special events may take place during the summer. All achievements must be completed before the end of the school year to earn the rank badge. Occasionally, due to unforeseen circumstances, a Scout may not be able to reach this goal in the time period allowed. The Pack Committee may extend the deadline until Day Camp begins, but only after a review of the circumstances. When Day Camp begins, the Scout will be placed in the next level of Cub Scouting. (For example, if a Wolf scout did not earn his badge, he will start camp as a Bear and begin working out of the Bear Handbook). A Scout may move into the next level, whether he earns a badge from the previous level or not. New Scouts join the den which contains members from his age group. Not everyone has to start as a Tiger Cub. Every new scout must earn the Bobcat Badge before any other badge can be earned.

Sports and Academic Belt Loops and Pins may be earned throughout the year. Pack 54 will purchase any Belt Loops and Pins required for rank, earned at Day Camp or earned through Pack Activities. Scouts who complete the requirements for any other Belt Loops and Pins will be presented a certificate of achievement from the Pack and may purchase the Belt Loops and Pins at their own expense from the Scout Shop.

