

## Online Resources:

- [www.swflcouncilbsa.org](http://www.swflcouncilbsa.org) – our council website, where you can find local council information, calendars and register for events.
- [My.Scouting.org](http://My.Scouting.org) - Connect to Scoutbook and learn how to run a quality and safe Scouting program.
- [www.scouting.org](http://www.scouting.org) - National BSA website, where you can find National information policies and the gateway to [online leader training](#).
- [BeAScout.org](http://BeAScout.org) – Sign up for Scouts online. Send this link to friends and family to find local Scout units in their area.

You Are In Pack # \_\_\_\_\_ Meeting Day/Time \_\_\_\_\_

Chartered by \_\_\_\_\_

Location Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Cubmaster \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Den Leader(s) \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Den Leader(s) \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

My child is a \_\_\_\_\_ Scout  
(Lion - Kindergarten, Tiger - 1st, Wolf - 2nd, Bear - 3rd, Webelos - 4th or 5th Grade)

NOTES: \_\_\_\_\_

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### Boys' Life Magazine

Boys' Life is full of entertaining stories and Scouting information. Parents can always be confident content is wholesome, age appropriate, entertaining, and educational.

# NEW PARENT GUIDE



## BUILD YOUR ADVENTURE TODAY!

### SOUTHWEST FLORIDA COUNCIL



## Congratulations on becoming a Scouting Family!

Take these first steps to ensure that your family gets the most out of Scouting:

1. Complete a youth application.
2. Know your Cubmaster and his/her contact information.
3. Learn about the who, what, when, where of your Pack.
4. Learn how to get involved at your meetings.
5. Attend a campout with your Pack as soon as possible.

## Why Cub Scouting?

As parents, we all strive to instill in our children:

1. **Strong Character**
2. **Serving Others** (family, community and country)
3. **Physical and Mental Fitness**

Everything we do in Scouting revolves around these three things. Of course, we **HAVE FUN**, so the youth keep coming back!

## How Cub Scouting Works

The mission of the Boy Scouts of America is to *prepare young people to make ethical and moral choices over their lifetimes by instilling in them the values of the Scout Oath and Law.*

Your child is a member of a **DEN**, consisting of 6 - 10 youth, similar in age or grade, who typically meet once a week with two **Den Leaders**, usually a parent. All of the dens make up the **Cub Scout PACK**.

The typical **PACK** meets once a month with the **Cubmaster**, with all the other **DENS** and families in attendance. At the **PACK** meeting you will have fun activities, recognition and have the opportunity to engage with other **DENS**.

Your **PACK** is part of the **SOUTHWEST FLORIDA COUNCIL, BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA**, which serves youth and volunteers in Collier, Charlotte, Desoto, Hendry, Lee, Sarasota, and Manatee counties.

## Day and Summer Camps

**Day Camp:** An optional summer activity which includes crafts, games, nature, sports, & outdoor activities. Camp typically runs 1 week; Monday - Friday from 9 am - 4 pm.

**Resident Camp:** A 3 night- 4-day optional camping adventure at *Camp Miles*. Experience Cub & Webelos requirement and elective adventures while working on the next badge of rank.



## Pack Campouts and Activities

Your family can attend periodic campouts and field trips with your Pack that can vary from a day visit to a neighborhood attraction, to an exciting overnight adventure. Some of these overnight campouts have included sleeping under the Space Shuttle at the Kennedy Space Center, camping out at Fort DeSoto National Park or watching the races at Daytona International Speedway. They are also as simple as staying at Camp Miles, Camp Flying Eagle or one of your local state parks where the families can just hang out and have fun exploring the outdoors.

## Your Local Scout Camps

The Southwest Florida Council operates 2 camp properties to support our youth, parents and leaders. These quality camping facilities are the heart of our outdoor program. Both camps host events and activities on a regular basis for the youth and adults. These optional supplemental activities are in addition to the many fun and exciting pack level activities. Scout units can utilize each camp for weekend unit camping at no or minimal cost due to Friends of Scouting and other revenue support like the annual popcorn sale.

Each of our camps have special program areas some of which include individual campsites, swimming pool, rifle/shotgun/archery ranges, climbing wall, rappelling tower, ropes course, canoes, kayaks, rowboats, sailboats, dining hall and many other program assets. Both camps are also home to a variety of wildlife and each have their own distinct natural habitat.

### **Camp Miles—38751 Bermont Rd., Punta Gorda, FL 33982**

Camp Miles Consists of 1,200 acres in a diverse preserve setting.

### **Camp Flying Eagle—16009 Upper Manatee River Rd., Bradenton, FL 34212**

The camp is 185 acres of densely wooded area on the Manatee River.

### Kindergarten Grade Youth

#### *Lion Den*

\*Youth sign up with an adult partner .(adult is required)

\*Usually meet 2x per month

\*Works on achievements & family activities in the Lion Adventure Book .

### 1st Grade Youth

#### *Tiger Den*

\*Youth sign up with an adult partner. (adult is required)

\*Usually meet weekly or 2x per month and go on field trips / outings.

\*Works on special recognitions through fun family activities.

## Outdoor Adventures and Special Activities

### Earn Awards and Badges

On the advancement trail, a Cub Scout progresses from rank to rank, learning new skills as a Scout goes. Each of the ranks and awards in Cub Scouting has its own requirements. As a Scout advances through the ranks, the requirements get more challenging, to match the new skills and abilities as the Scout learns and gets older. These are completed as a den, pack and family. All the requirements to earn these awards are in the Scout's handbook. A Scout will receive these awards at Pack meetings and your Pack's Blue and Gold Banquet.



### Fun Projects

Youth participate in many fun project such as the Annual Pinewood Derby. Cub Scouts design and build small wooden cars to race on an inclined track. This is a great opportunity for youth to work with their parents or other adults in the Pack to construct a race car and compete in the race.



### Cub Extravaganza

This October, join the Southwest Florida Council for a full weekend of fun! Program will include Carnival Games, BB Shooting, Rock Climbing, Rappelling, Midway Exhibits, 1800's Frontier Village, Fishing, Canoeing, Scout Skills, Bounce Houses, Adventure Rides, Nature Training, Friday Night Astronomy demonstration & a Saturday night campfire featuring a 4th of July style fireworks presentation.

### Winterfest

December in Southwest Florida is a GREAT time to camp! Parents, bring the kids and the camping gear, but leave the kitchen home because we do the cooking for you. Enjoy a fun filled holiday themed camp weekend including playing in **5 tons of real snow**.

These events are one of many optional SWFL region activities held are our camps during the year. Visit our council website for a listing of all calendar events.

### Help Your Community

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 they're giving service, they learn to work together and to do something good for their community. Some of these activities may include: Give a flag ceremony for a school, collect food for food banks, clean litter in park, or any other worthy and age appropriate tasks. February is Scouting Community Service month in the Southwest Florida Council.

## Council Service Center and Scout Shop

The Council Service Center is the customer service hub for Scouting in Southwest Florida. Our friendly staff can answer questions and provide help to you and your Pack leaders.

This is also the location of the **National B.S.A. Scout Shop** where your Scout's books, uniforms and supplies are purchased.



**Southwest Florida Council**  
1801 Boy Scout Drive  
Fort Myers, FL 33907  
(239) 936-8072  
[www.swflcouncilbsa.org](http://www.swflcouncilbsa.org)  
Open: 8:30 am - 5:00 pm  
Monday - Friday excluding holidays.

**National B.S.A. Scout Shop**  
1801 Boy Scout Drive  
Fort Myers, FL 33907  
Phone (239) 418-1603  
Open: 9:00 am - 6:00 pm  
Monday - Friday  
10:00 am - 3:00 pm  
Saturday

Call in orders welcome and shipping is available.

### 2nd & 3rd Grade Youth

#### *Wolf & Bear Dens*

\*Weekly meetings led by the den leaders.

\*Den meetings focus on learning new skills using games, project crafts, and basic outdoor skills.

\*Works toward achieving the Wolf or Bear Badge of rank.

### 4th and 5th Grade Youth

#### *Webelos Dens*

\*Prepares youth for Scouts led by the Webelo den leaders.

\*Weekly meetings focus on activity pin advancements and outdoor oriented activities.

\*Work towards achieving Webelos Badge & Arrow of Light Rank.



## Building Strong Families

Scouting is a family oriented activity that is proven to enhance a child's personal development. By volunteering you are also engaging your family by spending meaningful time with your child and your local community. Build your adventure together and watch as your Scout thrives!

When a new parent gets involved with their child's Pack, these are the

**DEN LEADER/ASSISTANT DEN LEADER** — Leads the den at weekly den and monthly Pack meetings, attends the monthly Pack leader's meeting.

**PACK COMMITTEE** — They perform administrative functions of the Pack. These include treasurer, secretary, fundraising, advancement and other behind the scenes support for the Pack,

**For the safety of your child**, all adult volunteers must complete a detailed adult application, a criminal background check, 3 levels of approval and to satisfactorily complete required **Youth Protection Training** & meet all other B.S.A standards of leadership.



## Training

Scouting is a volunteer led program and the SWFL Council has the training and tools to help you along the way. Training will give you fresh ideas, a place to talk to other Scout parents, and the knowledge and information you need to carry out the Scouting program. All trainings are available online at [My.Scouting.org](http://My.Scouting.org) or face to face at designated training courses throughout the year. Den Leaders and Assistant Den Leaders will need to take Youth Protection and Den Leader Position Specific Training, which is available online, or in a classroom setting. Committee Members will complete Youth Protection and Pack Committee Challenge online or in a classroom setting near you. *Please also visit the SWFL Council website to see the variety of supplemental training opportunities available.*

## What Does Scouting Cost?

Registration Fee and Accident Insurance: \$34.00 per year (Prorated by month)

Boys Life Magazine: \$12.00 per year (Prorated by month) (Optional)

Handbook \$9.99 to \$16.99 (Need ASAP after signing up)

A full uniform cost between \$55 and \$85 depending on grade. Uniforms are used multiple years and can be purchased in increments (shirt first). Most units and the council office also maintain a gently used uniform closet.

Pack Dues, if any, vary by pack and are used to buy program materials, and awards. The Annual Popcorn sale also helps support unit program needs.

Optional - Summer and weekend campouts have modest fees to cover materials, food, patches and other costs of putting it on. You only pay for the events you attend.

## Popcorn & 'Earn Your Way to Camp" Card Sales

"A Scout is Thrifty". Our goal is to keep Scouting affordable while offering the highest quality program. The Southwest Florida Council provides funding needed to carry out Scouting and to reduce the cost of many activities for families.

The Annual Popcorn & Camp Card Sales are the official fundraisers of the Council. The annual sale allows your family to participate in Scouting with minimal additional costs. Your child can fully earn their way to camp or other fun activities, with the camp card sale as well as help defray pack program expenses through the popcorn sale.

**Youth Protection Training** is designed to help keep our youth safe. You will learn the Boy Scouts of America's Youth Protection Guidelines. It is required of all adult leaders in the Boy Scouts of America.

**How to complete youth protection training?** Visit [My.Scouting.org](http://My.Scouting.org). Click "create an account". Click the home icon and locate Youth Protection Training in the My Training Center. You may be prompted to insert a BSA membership ID number. This number is issued after you have completed Youth Protection training and after you have submitted an adult application. Follow the prompts to complete the training. After turning in your completed Adult Application (with Youth Protection Certificate attached) you will be issued an ID Number. Please enter this ID Number in your account information on [My.Scouting.org](http://My.Scouting.org). This will link your completed trainings to your account.