MICHIGAN CROSSROADS COUNCIL

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1776 West Warren Avenue
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1155 East Long Lake Road
Troy, MI 48085

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AUBURN SERVICE CENTER
5001 11 Mile Rd
Auburn, MI 48611-8512

FLINT SERVICE CENTER
507 W Atherton Road
Flint, MI 48507-2404

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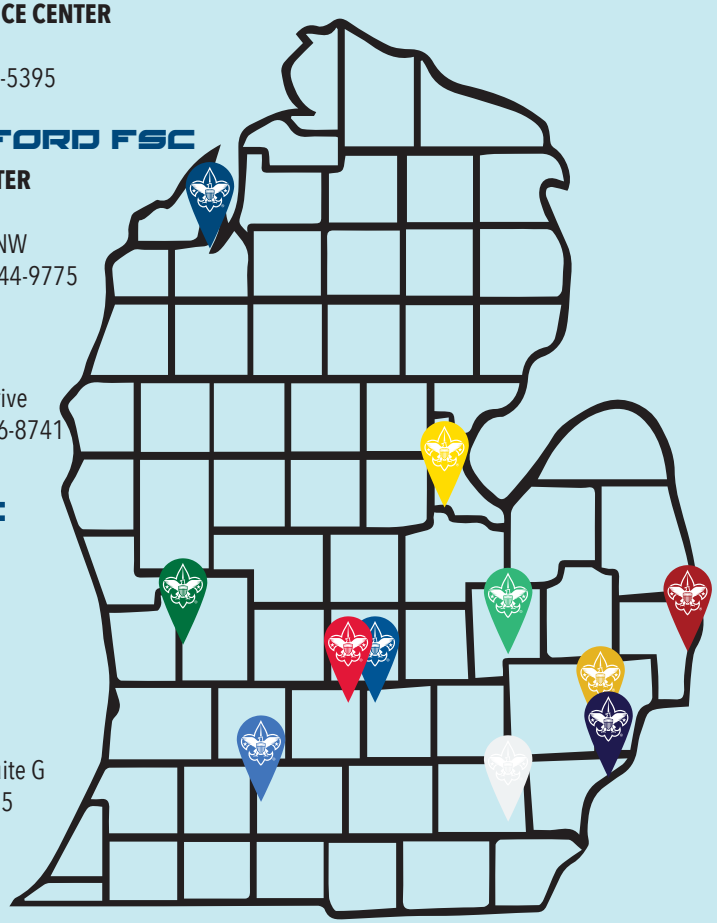
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3213 Walker Avenue NW
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Traverse City, MI 49686-8741

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1791 W Columbia, Suite G
Battle Creek, MI 49015



For more contact information visit: www.MichiganScouting.org or call 1-855-940-4210

BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA®
MICHIGAN CROSSROADS COUNCIL

CUB SCOUT
PARENT ORIENTATION GUIDE

MichiganScouting.org



WELCOME LETTER

Dear Parents,

Welcome to Cub Scouting and congratulations on taking the first step on a journey of a lifetime for your son and family. This is the beginning of a trail of fun and adventure that will challenge your son and allow you to share experiences that you probably wouldn't find anywhere else.

As a parent of a Cub Scout, I know that you want your son to grow up to be a great person who is independent and makes good decision. One who is reliable, kind, trustworthy and loyal. Scouting has the same goals for all of its' Scouts and has been delivering exciting adventures through its program since 1910 to help young boys learn the importance of personal fitness, leadership skills and lifelong values.

While we have these goals for all of our Scouts, our boys join to have fun with their friends and make new ones. Scouting is naturally fun, and it is our mission to deliver activities that not only help inspire all of the values of our program but also gives your son memories of a life-time.

The following information will be valuable to you as you begin your adventure together in Cub Scouts. Additional information is available at joinbsa.org or michiganscouting.org that can also help explain some of the questions you may have. We also encourage you to contact our fantastic staff members that are ready to help you with any questions now or in the future. You can reach us at 1-855-940-4210.

We know first-hand that Scouting makes a huge positive difference in the lives of young people. We're thrilled that your family has made the great decision to become part of our Scouting family.

Welcome!

Greg Dunn
Michigan Crossroads Council
Membership Vice-President

Matt Thornton
Michigan Crossroads Council
Scout Executive

CUB SCOUT ADVENTURES

LION CUB (KINDERGARTEN) - Lion Cubs learn by doing through exciting indoor and outdoor activities designed for kindergarten boys and their adult partner. Lion Cubs learn by doing.

BOBCAT - The Bobcat badge teaches boys the basics of the Cub Scouting program. After earning this, boys move on to the Tiger, Wolf, Bear, or Webelos program depending on their age.

TIGER (1ST GRADE) - Tigers work directly with an adult partner and are part of a Den. To earn the Tiger badge, they complete six adventures; Backyard Jungle, Games Tigers Play, My Family's Duty to God, Team Tiger, Tiger Bites and Tigers in the Wild.

WOLF (2ND GRADE) - To earn the Wolf badge, boys complete six required adventures, like "Council Fire" and "Duty to God Footsteps". Wolves must also complete an elective achievement adventure of your den or family's choosing.

BEAR (3RD GRADE) - The Bear program is similar to the Wolf program, with more advanced activities.

WEBELOS (4TH & 5TH GRADE) - Typically, boys work on the Webelos badge in 4th grade and the Arrow of Light in 5th grade. This level of the program helps prepare boys to become Boy Scouts.

ORGANIZATION STRUCTURE

THE CHARTERED ORGANIZATION - Your Pack is "owned and operated" by an organization in your local community. This chartered organization provides space, approves adult volunteer leaders, and makes sure the Pack follows Boy Scouts of America guidelines.

THE PACK COMMITTEE - The Pack Committee is the "brains of the pack". This group of parents plans pack meetings and other activities, manages the pack's money, orders badges and supplies, and takes care of other behind-the-scenes tasks.

THE PACK - A pack is made up of several Dens. The pack meets once a month under the leadership of the Cubmaster. These pack meetings, which all Cub Scout families attend, let the boys show off the skills they've learned in their Den meetings. At the pack meeting, Scouts receive badges and awards they've earned.

THE DEN - Your son is a member of a Den. A Den typically consists of four to eight boys in the same grade. The Den meets once a week and is led by a parent called a Den Leader and one or more assistants (also parents). Den meetings consist of games, crafts, stunts, ceremonies, and lots of fun.

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

A FAMILY PROGRAM - Family involvement is essential to Cub Scouting's success. When we talk about "family" in Cub Scouting, we're sensitive to the realities of present day families. Many Cub Scouts do not come from traditional two-parent homes. Some boys live with a single parent or with other relatives or guardians. Cub Scouting considers a boy's family to be the people with whom he lives.

HOW CUB SCOUTING WORKS - The Cub Scout program takes place at two levels. Your son will be part of a den; a small group of boys in the same grade level, who meet at least twice a month. All dens, from grades one through five, make up the pack. Once a month, all the dens and their families, meet together at the pack meeting.

PACK MEETINGS - This meeting, conducted by the Cubmaster, gives the boys the opportunity to demonstrate their newly learned skills. They also play games, perform skits, sing songs and receive recognition for the badges and awards they have earned. The pack meeting is a family affair. Parents and siblings can see the achievements of their Cub Scout.

THE DOLLARS AND CENTS OF CUB SCOUTING

Expenses for your pack include awards and recognitions, outings, program materials, equipment, and leader training. These expenses are generally handled in three ways: dues, the annual Trail's End popcorn sale, and activity fees.

ANNUAL TRAIL'S END POPCORN SALE - The main source of money for your pack is money-earning projects. One of the best is the Council-wide Trail's End popcorn sale in the fall. This no-risk fundraiser lets boys earn prizes while supporting their pack.

DUES - Your pack may charge dues to cover the cost of program materials and supplies. Paying dues teaches boys responsibility and the importance of paying their own way.

EVENT FEES - Programs are designed to be self-supporting, so boys are typically charged an event fee to participate. Fees vary depending on the type of program and are paid online at www.MichiganScouting.org.







PACK VOLUNTEER LEADERSHIP

If you have a Tiger, you will act as his adult partner and work on all activities with him. For Wolf and Bear levels, you will work with him on advancements and sign off on achievements. Hopefully you will consider taking on an additional role to help your pack. The more help a pack has, the better your son's Scouting program will be!

CUBMASTER - Emcees monthly Pack Meetings and attends the Pack Leader's meeting. Supports the Den Leaders to ensure a quality den program. Encourages all adults to become trained leaders and represents the pack at District Roundtables.

DEN LEADERS - Coordinates parent efforts of weekly den meetings. Plans the meeting via Program Helps & then assigns various functions to the other parents. Attends the monthly Pack Leader's meetings.

PACK COMMITTEE MEMBERS

PACK COMMITTEE MEMBERS PERFORM ADMINISTRATIVE FUNCTIONS OF THE PACK.

COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN - Presides over all pack committee meetings. Helps recruit volunteer leaders and attends the monthly pack meeting.

ADVANCEMENT CHAIRMAN - Maintains advancement records for the pack. Orders all badges and awards. Attends the monthly pack meeting and committee meeting.

SECRETARY/TREASURER - Keeps all records for the pack, including pack bank account, financial records, etc. Attends the monthly pack meeting and pack committee meeting.

PACK TRAINER - Coordinates training for adults. Promotes basic leader training and roundtable meeting attendance. Attends the monthly pack meeting and committee meeting.

PARENT HELPERS - Each year the pack will undertake several short-term projects. Parents and other volunteers are needed for activities such as pack fund-raisers (Popcorn Sale), Scouting for Food, Pack Good Turn, Pinewood Derby, Blue and Gold Banquet, Friends of Scouting, Pack Graduation, and Day Camp. These are short-term jobs and enable all families to assist with important pack responsibilities.

PACK PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

SOME EXAMPLES OF FUN IN CUB SCOUTING:

PINEWOOD DERBY - You and your son work together to build a miniature gravity-powered race car. Usually held in the spring.

COUNCIL ACTIVITIES - Your Field Service Council brings an extra dose of fun and adventure to your boy's Scouting journey. Participation in these events will keep your boy excited about Scouting - take advantage of these opportunities!

SCOUT NIGHTS - Events that all Cub Scouts are invited to, hosted by various local sports, clubs or organizations. Depending on the activity, this may be an overnight invitation.

BLUE AND GOLD BANQUET - Often held in place of the February pack meeting, this banquet is a special birthday party for Scouting. It may be a seated dinner or a covered-dish supper.

CUB SCOUT SUMMER CAMP - An overnight camping experience for boys in 2nd to 5th grade. Each year, a new theme for camp is chosen.

WEBELOS OVERNIGHT CAMPOUT - A camping adventure where older Cub Scouts learn the in's and out's of Boy Scout camping, preparing them for the transition to a Boy Scout Troop.

HOW TO GET STARTED

Turn in Membership Application, BSA Registration Fee ($24 per year, prorated, plus $1 insurance fee), Boy's Life Subscription (optional, $12 per year, prorated).

Learn about the pack you are joining. When and where is the first meeting, normal den & pack Meetings? Leader contact information?

BEFORE YOUR FIRST MEETING

Purchase age-specific handbook from a Scout Shop. (Approx. $13, $18 for spiral bound - see a Scout Shop flyer for store locations and hours.) Visit www.MichiganScouting.org for more detailed information for new Cub Scout parents.

BEFORE YOUR SCOUT EARNS HIS FIRST AWARD

Purchase a BSA uniform from a Scout Shop. (Approx. $50 depending on accessories.)

PURPOSES AND METHODS OF CUB SCOUTING

The Cub Scouting program has 10 purposes related to the overall mission of the Boy Scouts of America – to build character, learn citizenship and develop personal fitness:

1. Character Development
2. Spiritual Growth
3. Good Citizenship
4. Sportsmanship and Fitness
5. Family Understanding
6. Respectful Relationships
7. Personal Achievement
8. Friendly Service
9. Fun and Adventure
10. Preparation for Boy Scouts

MISSION OF THE BOY SCOUTS

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

SCOUT OATH

On my honor I will do my best to do my duty to God and my country and to obey the Scout Law; To help other people at all times; To keep myself physically strong, mentally awake, and morally straight.

12 POINTS OF THE SCOUT LAW

A SCOUT IS...

1. Trustworthy
2. Loyal
3. Helpful
4. Friendly
5. Courteous
6. Kind
7. Obedient
8. Cheerful
9. Thrifty
10. Brave
11. Clean
12. Reverent



