



Pack 9 Lancaster

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What is Cub Scouts?

Being a Cub Scout puts a boy on a path to being a good citizen and his best self. Working through a series of fun, active “Adventures” that promote character, citizenship and outdoor skills, boys learn valuable skills while internalizing the Scout Law:

A Scout is trustworthy, loyal, helpful, friendly, courteous, kind, obedient, cheerful, thrifty, brave, clean and reverent.

Lancaster Pack 9 Program

Boys are separated by age into grade-level “dens” led by two parent leaders. A den is a small community of boys and their parents committed to spending time together learning basic skills in healthy living, first aid, outdoor recreation and being part of a community. Dens meet every *other* week throughout the school year in the school cafeteria or elsewhere. Pack-wide events include a Rocket Launch in November, the Pinewood Derby in January, Blue & Gold banquet in February, maple syrup-making and Pancake Breakfast in March/April, overnight sleepover (date varies) and year-end campout in early June. Active Dens gather for weekend activities and field trips organized by the leaders and parents.

Advancement

Boys thrive on achievement and recognition. The yearly program is built around six “Adventures” with specific requirements that the boys work on together with their parents, primarily in their Den meetings. Upon completing each Adventure, each boy receives an “Adventure Loop” in a den ceremony and wears it on his belt thereafter. At the end of the year, boys receive their “Tiger,” “Wolf” or “Bear” etc. badge during the “Court of Honor” at the June campout. That badge is affixed to their uniform pocket signifying their advancement through the program.

All Tigers (first graders) as well as boys joining older dens complete their Bobcat badge during their first few months with the Pack. The Bobcat Badge signifies that the boy knows the Scout sign, salute, motto, handshake, etc. and is familiar with and has begun memorizing the Scout Law and the Scout Oath.

Attendance

Boys are expected to attend den meetings and events. If other activities continually supersede den activities, it’s likely a sign that Cub Scouts isn’t working out. That said, single-season sports can make attendance challenging for a period of time, and we understand that. If a boy misses den meetings or activities that fulfill Adventure requirements, then he must complete those requirements on his own with his family.

Parent participation

Parents are expected to attend and participate in meetings through Bears (3rd grade). Leaders are constantly encouraged to plan activities that include *both* the Scout and his parent. Scouts is not a drop-off program and your son will miss you in activities that call for him to work with mom or dad. Many

parents continue to attend in the Webelos and Arrow of Light years (4th and 5th grade), simply because they enjoy the activities and the other parents – the den has become a community.

Siblings

Cub Scouts is a family program and siblings are welcome at den meetings and activities. It often makes it easier for parents, and motivates younger boys in particular to join when it's "their turn." That said, a den meeting is time for you and your son to connect. Your attention must be primarily on your Cub Scout and on the activity at hand, setting up siblings to either play on the side, or join in under your supervision.

Uniforms

Boys are required to wear a uniform to meetings and most events. Uniforms may be purchased at the [New England Scout Shop](#) at 23 Turnpike Road, Southborough.

The uniform is comprised of the following:

1. Blue short-sleeved Cub Scout shirt
2. Belt
3. Patches: "9" (for Pack 9); "1" (for Den 1)
4. Hat
5. Neckerchief
6. Neckerchief Slide
7. Pants

Not all of this must be purchased new. The minimum purchase is:

1. Cub Scout shirt (Buy large so he can wear it through at least 3rd grade) (\$35)
2. Belt (\$10)
3. Patches: "9" (for Pack 9); "1" (for Den 1) (\$8)

The above will last some boys for their entire 5-year Cub Scouting career. Faster growers will need to repurchase these items in 4th or 5th grade, but they may be used in Boy Scouts upon completion of Cub Scouts.

The following are required but there are alternatives for purchasing new:

- Nat, Neckerchief and Slide – These are required parts of the uniform; however, we have a Uniform Swap program whereby a Scout can pay \$5 plus his current hat, neckerchief and slide for a hand-me-down from the den that is one year ahead of him. Alternatively, these may be purchased new for approximately \$30.
- Pants - Pants are also required and cost \$35 purchased new. However, based on numerous reports from parents, we recommend trying them on first. While no one has reported poor quality or durability, several parents have regretted the purchase due to poor fit. If you don't buy Cub Scout pants, your son will need a pair of dark pants with belt loops (preferably blue) to wear for ceremonies. The belt loops are important because boys earn brass belt loops for each Adventure they achieve throughout the year and they wear them on their belts. Suggested alternative: *Old Navy Flex Uniform Pants for Boys*.

Finally, there two additional recommendations are:

- “Badge Magic” – iron-on kit for attaching patches to uniforms. Unless you are handy with a sewing machine, Badge Magic is a must. \$9
- Den Handbook – Handbooks are published for each Den level. They are packed with great information to support the program. If you enjoy reading with your son, or he is the type of boy who enjoys poring over books and magazines, then the Handbook is a fine purchase. In the same vein, [Boy's Life](#) is the official magazine of Scouts BSA and also serves to augment the program with 10 issues/year for a reasonable annual fee.

Joining

Boys can join Cub Scouts any time. They are never “behind.” They simply join the program at the point the rest of the boys are at. Simply contact Cubmaster Steve Tarver at the number or email on the letterhead above and he will take it from there.

Cost

Annual dues are \$100/boy. The uniform costs are shown above. Prospective new joiners may attend two meetings before payment is due.

Website

The Pack Website – www.pack9lancaster.org – has the full calendar of yearly Pack activities, as well as a “News” section that recaps many of the great activities the Pack and the different Dens do throughout the year. Information and details regarding Pack-wide events conveyed through the Pack website, not via email or individual den announcements. Dues are collected via PayPal or credit card through the website as well.

Each den has their own page within the site as well – some of the dens are more active with their pages than others.