



**NEW SCOUT & PARENT
INFORMATION GUIDE**

CUB SCOUT PACK 346

Revised – September 3, 2007

Pack 346 welcomes you to our Pack and hope you, your son, and your family will enjoy the scouting experience as much as we do. This guide is designed to give you some basic info on Cub Scouts and Pack 346. Our hope is this guide will answer your initial questions and help remove the feeling of uncertainty than can accompany new members who join an existing group. If you have any questions on topics covered here or topics not covered, please do not hesitate to contact one of the registered leaders listed on the last page of each newsletter. We are all here to help.

BRIEF HISTORY OF SCOUTING

Lord Baden-Powell, a general in the British Army, wrote a book titled *Aids to Scouting* to help soldiers learn the skills needed to survive in the wilderness. The book became popular with England's youth and began being used by youth leaders and teachers all over England. Upon seeing the success, Baden-Powell decided to write a new version of the book geared specifically toward the boys who were already using it. To test the ideas for his new book, Lord Baden-Powell took twenty boys from different social backgrounds to Brownsea Island for camping from August 1 to August 8, 1907. This event is seen as the real origin of the scouting movement and was followed by release of the new book in January 1908.

The new book, *Scouting for Boys*, covered scoutcraft (scout oath, law, uniform, etc.), woodcraft (tracking, animals, plants, etc.), camp life (camping, hut building, cooking, etc.), endurance and chivalry (health, honor, duty to God, etc.), and saving life and patriotism (rescue, first aid, citizenship, etc.). Soon after the release of the book, boys began forming up Scout Troops all over the country and the scouting movement spread like wildfire across the world. On February 8, 1910, the Boy Scouts of America was created and has been serving boys between eleven and eighteen ever since. In the following years the program has been expanded to include Cub Scouts, Varsity Scouts and Venturers to spread the mission and values of scouting to as many youth as possible.

THE PURPOSE OF SCOUTING

Lord Baden-Powell has described scouting as a game with a purpose. That purpose is to, through fun activities, prepare our youth to make ethical and moral decisions and instill the scouting values in them while teaching them to be the leaders of tomorrow. Scouting will not only teach the values we hold dear, but it will also expose the boys to a vast number of hobbies. For every 100 boys who join Scouting, records indicate that:

- RARELY will one be brought before the juvenile court system
- 2 will become Eagle Scouts
- 17 will become future Scout volunteers
- 12 will have their first contact with a church
- 1 will enter the clergy
- 5 will earn their church award
- 18 will develop a hobby that will last through their adult life
- 8 will enter a vocation that was learned through the merit badge system
- 1 will use his Scouting skills to save his own life
- 1 will use his Scouting skills to save the life of another person

THE CUB SCOUT PROGRAM

The Cub Scout program is a grade level program for boys in first through fifth grade. They work on specific badges based on the grade level they are currently in. First graders are Tiger Cubs, second graders are Wolves, third graders are Bears, and fourth and fifth graders are Webelos. Upon joining a Cub Scout Pack, each scout will earn their Bobcat badge first which requires the scout to learn the basic info on Cub Scouts (i.e. promise, law, sign, etc.). Once they earn the Bobcat badge, the scout will then start working on the appropriate badge based on their grade level.

Scouting is based on life skills education, leadership development, citizenship, and twelve core values to develop youth with strong character who are physically fit and prepared to be good citizens. These core values are Citizenship, Compassion, Cooperation, Courage, Faith, Health and Fitness, Honesty, Perseverance, Positive Attitude, Resourcefulness, Respect, and Responsibility. You will find that these values are present throughout all the scouting programs offered by the BSA.

ORGANIZATION STRUCTURE

Boy Scouts of America has several council offices across the United States. Each council office serves scouts in a specific geographic area. We are members of the Lincoln Heritage Council that covers central Kentucky and southern Indiana. The council is then divided into districts which support a number of units and we are members of the Cherokee District which covers southeastern Jefferson County. Our unit number is 346 and we are sponsored by St. Gabriel the Archangel Catholic Church. It is important to note that a scout is not required to belong to St. Gabriel in order to belong to the unit. The unit is then divided into multiple programs with the Cub Scout program being the Pack. Therefore, we are Pack 346. The other program available at St. Gabriel is the Boy Scout Troop 346 for boys from 11 to 18.

UNIFORMS

Pack 346 and cub scouts around the world wear uniforms to help create a feeling of belonging to the group, providing a place to display your achievements, as well as letting others know you agree with the scouting values. The uniform should be worn to all Cub Scout activities (den meetings, pack meetings, outings, etc.) unless your Den Leader tells you otherwise. During events where the official uniform is not worn (typically camping and hiking), a scouting t-shirt should be worn instead. Uniforms are available at the two scout shops located in town. The official uniform is as follows:

- **Shirt**
 - Tiger Cubs, Wolves, Bears (1st – 3rd grade) – Wear the official blue Cub Scout shirt with either long or short sleeves. This shirt is worn until the end of the third grade so you should buy it large.
 - Webelos (4th & 5th grade) – Wear the official tan Boy Scout shirt with either long or short sleeves and blue loops. This shirt can also be worn for boy scouts so you should buy it large.
- **Pants**
 - Tiger Cubs, Wolves, Bears (1st – 3rd grade) – Since most of the boys in Pack 346 attend St. Gabriel School, we have agreed to use the navy school pants (either short or long) instead of the official Cub Scout pants. Jeans and jean shorts are also approved.
 - Webelos (4th & 5th grade) – Webelos should wear either jeans, jean shorts, or olive pants. The official olive pants are encouraged but not required.
- **Belt**
 - Tiger Cubs, Wolves, Bears (1st – 3rd grade) – Wear the official blue belt with the Cub Scout brass buckle.
 - Webelos (4th & 5th grade) – Wear the official blue belt with the Webelos brass buckle.

- Neckerchief and Slide
 - Tiger Cubs (1st grade) – Orange neckerchief with Tiger Cub slide (orange background)
 - Wolf Cubs (2nd grade) – Yellow neckerchief with Wolf Cub slide (red background) or generic cub slide (navy background)
 - Bear Cubs (3rd grade) – Light blue neckerchief with Bear Cub slide (light blue background) or generic cub slide (navy background)
 - Webelos (4th & 5th grade) – Plaid neckerchief with Webelos slide.
- Hat (optional)
 - Tiger Cubs (1st grade) – Blue hat with orange front and Tiger Cub emblem.
 - Wolf Cubs (2nd grade) – Blue hat with yellow front and Wolf emblem.
 - Bear Cubs (3rd grade) – Blue hat with light blue front and Bear emblem.
 - Webelos (4th & 5th grade) – Olive hat with plaid front and Webelos emblem.
- Socks (these official socks are optional)
 - Tiger Cubs (1st grade) – Blue socks with orange tops
 - Wolf & Bear Cubs (2nd & 3rd grade) – Blue socks with yellow tops
 - Webelos (4th & 5th grade) – Olive socks with red tops
- Shoes – Tennis shoes are commonly worn to den meetings and pack meetings, however, hiking boots or shoes are recommended for camping and outdoor activities. Open toe shoes should NOT be worn to any scout event.

ADVANCEMENT

- Ranks – The cub scout program is a school grade based program. This means that the scout is working on a specific rank based on the school grade they are currently in and not based on which ranks they have already earned. This is due to the fact that interests and skill levels change quickly in the first five years of school. Therefore, these ranks are geared toward the age of the boy to explain concepts at a level they can comprehend. The twelve core values (Citizenship, Compassion, Cooperation, Courage, Faith, Health and Fitness, Honesty, Perseverance, Positive Attitude, Resourcefulness, Respect, and Responsibility) are present at every rank and will continue to be important after the boy crosses over to the Boy Scouts.

Each rank has specific achievements that must be completed to earn the rank badge. These achievements are outlined in the rank handbook. While some of these achievements will be completed at den meetings, others will require the scout to complete them on their own. Once an achievement is complete, the scout should have the den leader sign off on the achievement so it can be recorded in the Pack records.



- Bobcat (All grades) – This is the first rank badge earned by all cub scouts independent of the grade they are in. While earning this badge, the scout will learn what it means to be a Cub Scout as well as learn the Cub Scout Promise, the Law of the Pack, the scout sign, handshake, salute, and motto. These are items that are common across all ranks of Cub Scouts. This badge must be earned before any other rank badges can be earned. Typically, this badge can be earned in a month or two.



- Tiger Cub (1st Grade) – The Tiger Cub rank badge is the rank worked on by all 1st grade cub scouts. Scouts have until the end of the first grade school year to complete the achievements to earn the badge. Once the school year is over, the scout will advance to Wolf and cannot work on any Tiger requirements anymore at that time (even if they didn't earn the badge). The Tiger Cub rank requires an adult partner (typically a parent or guardian) to accompany the scout to all events and assist them with the achievements.



- Wolf (2nd Grade) – The Wolf rank badge is for scouts who have finished 1st grade but not yet completed 2nd grade. Any scout in 2nd grade is a Wolf cub even if they did not earn the Tiger Cub rank. To earn this rank, the scout must complete 12 separate achievements. At the Wolf rank, the scout can do some things on their own, but involvement from an adult partner is still strongly encouraged.



- Bear (3rd Grade) – The Bear rank badge is for scouts who have finished 2nd grade but not yet completed 3rd grade. Any scout in 3rd grade is a Bear cub even if they did not earn the Tiger Cub or Wolf rank. There are 24 separate achievements in the Bear book divided into 4 categories (God, Country, Family, and Self). The scout must complete 1 achievement related to God, 3 achievements related to Country, and 4 achievements each related to Family and Self for a total of 12 achievements. This allows the scout to select achievements that they are interested in. Therefore, not all scouts in a den will do the same achievements to earn the Bear rank.



- Arrow Points (Wolf & Bear) – There are several electives included in both the Wolf and Bear handbooks to once again provide diverse exposure of interests. For every ten electives the scout completes, they earn an Arrow Point that goes on their uniform. They can work on these electives at any time during their rank but they cannot earn the Arrow Point until after they have earned their corresponding rank badge. Bear cubs can also use achievements that they didn't complete for their rank badge as electives.



- Webelos (4th & 5th Grade) – The Webelos rank is for scouts who have finished 3rd grade but not yet completed 5th grade. Any scout in 3rd or 4th grade is a Webelos even if they haven't earned the Tiger Cub, Wolf, and/or Bear ranks. Webelos stands for "WE'll BE LOyal Scouts" and is designed to start preparing the scout for Boy Scouts. In order to earn the Webelos rank, a scout must complete some basic items as well as earn three Webelos Activity Badges. The activity badges are similar to the merit badges earned in the Boy Scouts and are designed to expose the scouts to a variety of interests. There are 20 total badges broken up into 5 categories (Physical Skills, Mental Skills, Community, Technology, and Outdoor). Some of the badges are required to earn the Webelos and Arrow of Light rank and the scout is allowed to choose from the others based on his interests. During the Webelos years, the scout is expected to become more independent as they are preparing to become a Boy Scout. As Webelos, the adult partner no longer signs off on requirements as they are completed. The scout must now present the work to the Den leader and the Den leader will determine if the work has been successfully completed for the requirement. This ensures the scout understands the material and more importantly gets them ready for Boy Scouts where they will be expected to demonstrate their knowledge to their peers and leaders before earning advancements.



- Arrow of Light (4th & 5th Grade) – Once the Webelos rank is earned, the scout can start working on the Arrow of Light. This is the highest rank that can be earned in Cub Scouts and the only Cub Scout rank that can be worn on the Boy Scout uniform. To earn the Arrow of Light, the scout must earn an additional 5 Webelos Activity Badges as well as grow their knowledge and exposure with the Boy Scouts including visits to Boy Scout troops and camps.

- Sports & Academics Belt Loops & Pins – The Sports & Academics program provides a way for Cub Scouts to once again be exposed to various interests. There are 17 academic and 25 sport areas the scout can learn about and earn advancements. The first exposure to the area allows the scout to earn a metal belt loop they can wear on their official scout belt with their uniform. If the scout is interested in the subject they can learn more about it and earn a pin.
- Religious Emblems – Every time we say the Cub Scout Promise, we promise to do our duty to God. As a result, every religion has two religious emblems that can be earned by Cub Scouts. These emblems are age based like the ranks, which means the age of the scout determines which emblem they can work to achieve. Upon earning the emblem, it can be worn on their official uniform. Pack 346 strongly encourages our scouts to achieve their religious emblems.

- Special Awards – In addition to all the advancements covered previously, there are many special advancements that scouts can also earn throughout their Cub Scout career. These advancements are as diverse as scouting and include conservation, leave no trace, outdoor activity, summertime award, whittling chip, emergency preparedness and many others. Each award has its own requirements that can be found in handbooks, the scout shop, and the internet.

ACTIVITIES

Each year there are a wide variety of activities planned at both the Pack and Den Level. In order to truly appreciate the scouting experience and reap the rewards, you and your scout should try to participate in as many of the activities as possible. If you make the effort, you will not regret it. This section covers the basic categories and examples of activities that Pack 346 participates in.

- Committee Meetings (Adults Only) – This meeting is for all adults associated with the Pack (leaders, parents, etc.) and is held the first Thursday of each month in the scout room (memorial hall of the Multi-Purpose Building at St. Gabriel). The meeting starts at 7:00pm and is where all activities, finances, and Pack related issues are discussed. Any decisions about Pack operations are made at these meetings, so the more members present will help ensure the decisions made reflect the overall views of the Pack instead of a select few.
- Den Meetings – Each Den will have monthly meetings where just the Den members and parents meet to work on achievements and outings. Dens typically meet two or three times a month all year long. Meeting locations, times, and activities are planned by the Den and will be provided to you by the Den leader.
- Pack Meetings – Pack meetings are where all the dens come together to celebrate their accomplishments and have a good time. This is also the time that advancements and awards are handed out. There is typically one Pack meeting a month during the school year. One of the most special Pack meetings is the Blue & Gold banquet, which is considered our graduation ceremony for each rank, typically held in March. We urge all scouts to have their rank advancements complete by this time since this is when each scout typically gets their Rank badge in a very special ceremony.
- Derbies – Pack 346 has two annual derbies that our scouts participate in each year. For each derby, the scout along with their adult partner, will build a race vehicle. The scout should do as much of the work on their vehicle as they can safely do (we don't want scouts getting injured using power tools). A brief description of the derbies follows.
 - Rocket Derby – In January, we hold the Pack 346 Rocket Derby. The rockets are a balsa wood rocket that is propelled on fishing line by a rubber band engine. The rocket can be shaped easily by sandpaper and a potato peeler. Official rules will be provided a month before the event and the kits are available in the scout shop. Scouts will race against all the other scouts of their rank and trophies are typically awarded to the top four finishers in each rank.
 - Pinewood Derby – In February, Pack 346 holds their Pinewood Derby race. This is a car made from a block of pinewood that cannot weigh any more than 5.0 ounces. Trophies are typically awarded to the top four finishers in each rank, however, the first place winner of each rank will move on and represent Pack 346 in the Cherokee District Pinewood Derby. Official rules for this race will be provided approximately one month before the event and kits are available at the scout shop (you must use the parts from the official BSA kit).

- Camping – As a member of Pack 346, you will have several opportunities each year to camp and enjoy the great outdoors. This is a great time to relax and grow closer with your family. If you have never camped before, you need not worry about having to buy a lot of gear. This section will help you know what is essential to have. You will find that all of these items are available at Wal-Mart, Meijers, Dicks, Target, Bass Pro Shop, etc.
 - Sleeping – To be comfortable sleeping outside, there are a few items you will need.
 - Tent – A small tent to protect you from the elements is essential. Be careful when looking at the capacity rating on a tent. While you can put four people in a four person tent, there is no room for anything else. You will want room to store your clothes inside the tent as well. It is a good idea to also apply seam sealer to your tent in case of rain. (Food should NEVER be taken into your tent unless you want animals to come in there also). ONLY battery powered lights should be used inside a tent (NEVER use a propane lantern in a tent)
 - Tarp – A tarp, slightly smaller than your tent, should be used under your tent. The tarp will help prevent ground water from seeping into the floor of the tent.
 - Sleeping Bags – Typically a 40 degree sleeping bag is warm enough for Cub Scout camping.
 - Sleeping Cushion – You may also want some form of cushion to place between the ground and your sleeping bag. You will see campers with mats, air mattresses, and cots. The choice is up to you.
 - Miscellaneous Camp Items – There are several miscellaneous items you should also have at your campground to make your experience safe and more enjoyable. These items include:
 - First Aid Kit – A small personal first aid kit is recommended. This should include band-aids, alcohol wipes, etc.
 - Sunscreen
 - Bug spray
 - Flashlight – A small personal flashlight along with extra batteries is essential for getting around the campground at night.
 - Lantern – A small battery powered lantern can be useful in the campground and especially inside the tent at bedtime.
 - Rain gear – You never know when it might rain, so it is always a good idea to have rain ponchos with you at all times.
 - Chairs – Chairs are essential unless you prefer to sit on the ground. They can be camping chairs, lawn chairs, or anything else you want to bring.
 - Cooler of drinks – Running water is available at most campgrounds we visit, but it is always nice to have some cold drinks for meals.
 - Water bottle/Water – It is important to make sure all members of your family drink a lot of water when camping, especially in the summer. We do not want anyone to become dehydrated and miss out on the fun.
 - Personal toiletry items (toothbrushes, toothpaste, deodorant, soap, etc.)
 - Plates, utensils, cups, etc.
 - Paper towels
 - Garbage bags
 - Cooking – If you do not have a grill to take camping, do not worry. You will find that there are a lot of grills in our Pack and most people will be glad to let you cook up a hot dog or hamburger on theirs. It is also recommended for dens to get together and plan their meals so everyone is not carrying the same items. This will help lighten everyone's load. The Pack typically supplies the meat and bread for the Saturday night meal and asks that each family bring a side dish to share.

- Camping guidelines – There are several guidelines the BSA has put in place for camping to make the camping experience safe and fun for us and future campers using the site. The main points are as follows:
 - Leave No Trace – The Leave No Trace principles are discussed frequently in scouts and are part of our outdoor code. When we go camping, hiking, or participate in any other event we should practice these principles. Basically, it means we should leave a site in better condition than we found it. All garbage should be picked up and carried out (even garbage that was there when we got there) and nature items should be left in nature. You will sometimes hear it described as “Take Only Pictures, Leave Only Footprints.”
 - No Ground Fires – While this is covered under Leave No Trace, it is important enough to mention again. All fires should be in a fire ring provided at the campground or in a fire box carried by the campers. Under no circumstances should a fire be built on the ground.
 - No Alcoholic Beverages – Scouting is a family activity and therefore, alcoholic beverages are not permitted on any official scouting event.
 - Tobacco Use – Tobacco products are not prohibited but the BSA does require that they are used in a location out of the sight of the scouts.
 - Liquid Fuels – Liquid fuels are not prohibited, however, their use is strongly discouraged. This is due to the increase risk of accident over propane fuel. If liquid fuel is used (coleman fuel, lighter fluid, etc.) it should be locked up when not in use.
- Service Projects – Every time Cub Scouts say the Cub Scout promise, we promise to do our duty to God, country, and others. Pack 346 has three annual service projects that we participate in to help others. Other service projects may also be scheduled.
 - Scouting for Food – In November, Pack 346 along with all the other Packs and Troops in the area collect food for the homeless and needy in the area. One Saturday, we will canvas a neighborhood hanging flyers on every house in the area asking for donations. The following Saturday, we will go back to the same houses and pick up donations left on their porch and take them to the drop off center. Specific details will be discussed each year as the event grows near.
 - Christmas Presents – At Christmas, we adopt a few needy families and provide them Christmas gifts. We typically have each den take one or two children (depending on the size of the den) and ask that the scout earns some money doing extra chores to buy the gifts. Typically a den will elect a shopper or two to buy the gifts for the child(ren). More info will be made available as the event grows closer. This is a great way for the scout to learn the true meaning of Christmas.
 - Easter Baskets – At Easter, we make Easter baskets for the Schumman Center. These baskets go to underprivileged children and provide social workers (who deliver them) an opportunity to ensure the children are being taken care of and not in danger of abuse and/or neglect. We ask that each den collect enough items to make one basket per scout. Suggested items are individually wrapped candy (not chocolate since it melts), coloring books, crayons, bubbles, stuffed animals, small puzzles, etc. It doesn't take much to brighten a child's Easter. Once again we ask that the scout work some extra chores to earn the money for the gifts.

COMMUNICATION

- Yahoo! Groups – There are a lot of activities happening in Pack 346 all year long. In order to ensure everyone knows what is going on, Pack 346 has started a Yahoo! Groups account to save all of our data on. This site includes a calendar that will be kept up to date, a files section with info on upcoming events as well as miscellaneous scouting info, and links to useful scouting websites. The hope is that you will be able to find answers to almost any question you have about what is going on with the Pack at this web site. To join, visit <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/pack346/> and select “Join This Group”. Your membership will need to be approved so please provide your name in the request so we know that the request is from an actual Pack member. This security feature is to prevent our info from being visible to everyone on the internet. IMPORTANT NOTE: This site does not include information about any Den specific events.
- Newsletter – Every month we publish a newsletter with small articles and pictures about upcoming events and highlights on events that have happened. The newsletter is distributed via e-mail in pdf format. Dens are encouraged to submit articles and pictures about their activities and outings to show the rest of the Pack what they are doing.
- E-Mail – While the Yahoo! Groups web site is intended to minimize e-mail use, some e-mails are still critical to alert everyone about events. Most of the e-mails will hopefully be short notices letting you know to check the Yahoo! Groups web site for important information and files.

COSTS OF SCOUTING

- Dues – The cost of scouting is small compared with other programs and what your family and son will gain from the experience. In order to provide a quality program, Pack 346 has annual dues of \$80.00 per scout which is collected in December. This amounts to \$6.67 per month for a year of fun. It is also possible to greatly reduce or eliminate the dues by selling popcorn during the BSA popcorn fund raiser. The main items that are covered by the dues include:
 - National BSA dues – These are the registration dues required every year to have the scout registered and eligible for advancements.
 - Boy’s Life magazine subscription – This is the official magazine of the BSA and your scout will find a lot of interesting things in it. It is a great magazine to read as a family.
 - Handbooks – Each year your Scout will receive their handbook for their new rank which covers the required tasks for them to accomplish to earn their new rank badge and continue advancing on the Cub Scout trail.
 - Advancements & Awards – Each award or advancement that a Scout earns is purchased by the Pack and presented to the scout at the Pack meetings.
 - Race supplies – The top four racers in the Rocket Derby and Pinewood Derby receive trophies to celebrate their accomplishments. Each Scout will also get a ribbon for participating.
 - Food – Bug Juice (Kool-Aid or Lemonade) is supplied at all Pack meetings. Pack 346 also supplies bug juice, meat, and bread for a meal at four events (fall camping, Blue & Gold banquet, Picnic-In-The-Park, and Berger Farm camping). Typically, we also have a Pizza party at the Halloween Pack meeting.
 - Leader’s dues – Pack 346 also cover’s the national BSA dues for all registered leaders in the Pack.

- Fund Raisers – Pack 346 participates in two BSA fund raisers each year to help keep the costs of scouting low for all involved. It is important to note that dues only cover a small part of the total cost of scouting. The BSA uses these fund raisers along with contributions from businesses and individuals to cover the complete costs of publications, camps, facilities, and the rest of the scouting experience.
 - Popcorn – Girl Scouts sell cookies, Boy Scouts sell popcorn. The popcorn fund raiser takes place in November with the profits being split evenly between the Lincoln Heritage Council and the Pack. The Pack will use our portion to reduce the selling scout’s annual dues while the Council uses the money mainly for the upkeep and improvements of the two scout campgrounds in our area (Camp Crooked Creek & Tunnel Mill). As mentioned in the dues section, 33% of your Scout’s popcorn sales will be applied to his annual dues up to a maximum reduction of \$50.00. The final \$30.00 of the annual fee (the national portion) will be eliminated for scouts who sell \$450.00 or more in popcorn. (See the chart below for examples)

<i>Amount of Popcorn Sold</i>	<i>33% Applied to Annual Dues</i>	<i>Net Annual Dues</i>
\$0.00	\$0.00	\$80.00
\$50.00	\$16.50	\$63.50
\$100.00	\$33.00	\$47.00
\$150.00	\$50.00	\$30.00
\$250.00	\$50.00	\$30.00
\$450.00	\$80.00	\$0.00
\$600.00	\$80.00	\$0.00

- Scout-O-Rama Tickets – Each spring, in an effort to publicize scouting to the area, the Council holds the annual Scout-O-Rama at Churchill Downs. This shows the community what scouting is all about and is a fun time for all. To get the word out, each scout is asked to sell Scout-O-Rama tickets. The tickets are typically \$2.00 each and come with a coupon worth at least that amount.

