

Cub Scouts Parent Orientation Guide



Thank you for joining Cub Scouts! As a parent, you want your children to grow up to be a self-reliant, dependable, and caring citizen. Scouting has these same goals in mind. For over 110 years, the Boy Scouts of America has been weaving lifetime values into fun and educational activities designed to assist parents in strengthening character, good citizenship, and physical fitness for youth. Scouting is about positive youth development. Scouting teaches family values and works to strengthen your relationship with your children. It also provides activities for the whole family to enjoy. We appreciate you being a part of the Mecklenburg County Council family.

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 Scout Law.

The 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.

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

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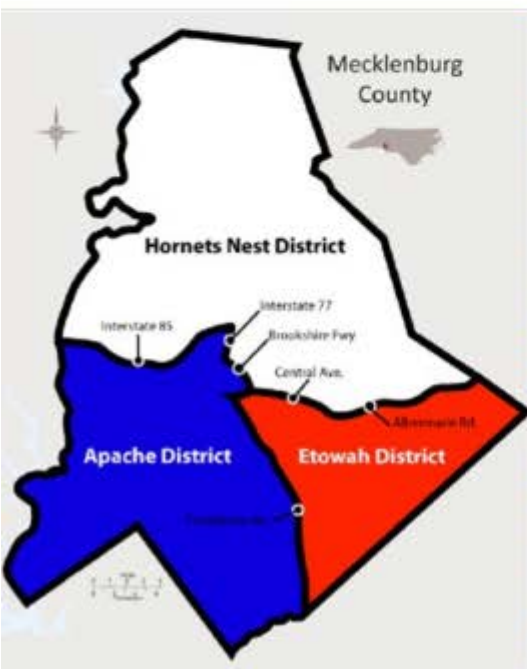


Come and shop at our
Scout Shop

Also located at
1410 East 7th Street in Charlotte
See mccscouting.org/scout-shop
for store hours



The Mecklenburg County Council is a leading youth organization serving over 5,000 youth in Mecklenburg County. We have over 1,500 registered adult volunteers that are delivering outstanding programs to 150 units. The Council provides leadership and program support to the youth we are dedicated to serve, through quality program that builds young people and future leaders.



The Council is divided into smaller service areas called Districts. The purpose of the District is to organize and support successful Scout units by working through Charter Organizations. Your District has a team of volunteers called the District Committee which develops quality district-wide programs in which your children can participate.

Your Den is a family centered program made up of six to ten boys or girls of similar age who meet with adult leaders to play games, learn skills, complete adventures, perform skits and songs, and take field trips. Dens meet at the convenience of leaders and families, at least twice a month, sometimes weekly. A Den is led by a Den Leader (parent volunteer) who is assisted by an assistant Den Leader and parent helpers.

Your Cub Scout Pack is made up of one or more Dens. Once a month, all Cub Scout families attend a Pack meeting with games, skits, songs, ceremonies, and presentations of badges that your

children earned that month. The Pack meeting is led by the Cubmaster with help from Den Leaders. Packs will also have other activities, like Pack family camping, pinewood derby, and field trips. Each Cub Scout Pack has a Charter Organization that approves leadership, helps secure meeting facilities, and keeps the Pack within the guidelines and policies of the BSA.

Your new Scout will need a handbook and uniform to get started. These can be purchased at the Scout Shop near Uptown Charlotte located at 1410 East 7th Street. Scouts have opportunities that many other youth do not have. They get to learn alongside their peers, be challenged and rewarded for their good work, and attend amazing events!

Our Council has some amazing camps. Belk Scout Camp is a 286-acre property located in Midland, NC. It is known for its modern amenities with an air-conditioned dining hall, health lodge, Cub World with platform tents, archery ranges, BMX track, state-of-the-art climbing tower, swimming pool, and a newly renovated fishing pond. Belk Scout camp serves thousands of weekend campers, the Order of the Arrow, and is home to many district events. We are fortunate to also have Mecklenburg Scout Reservation in the North Carolina mountains. This 1,200-acre reservation, known as Camp Grimes, is where thousands of Scouts enjoy weekend and week-long summer camp adventure. On the reservation we have a 90-acre lake and waterfront area where Scouts can enjoy aquatic activities including: canoeing, rowing, sailing, fishing, water skiing, swimming, and motor boating. We have a new dining hall with Scoutmaster lounge and trading post. Throughout Camp Grimes are beautiful campsites and program areas. We also have a Cowboy shooting range in the Frontier area. We look forward to seeing you around the campfire!

BSA's commitment to safety is very important. Many of the rules and regulations of safe scouting can be found at www.scouting.org/safescouting. BSA policies on safe Scouting include youth protection training (YPT). All leaders must take YPT and follow its guidelines.



Here is a breakdown of the Cub Scout advancement plan which is grade specific:

Bobcat – All Scouts earn the Bobcat badge by learning the Scout Oath and Law, handshake, salute, Scout sign and Cub Scout motto. After receiving the Bobcat badge, the Scouts work on requirements based on their grade level.

Lion (Kindergarten) – As a Lion, you make friends, laugh loud, gain confidence, discover nature, and most of all have fun. Focus is on character development, citizenship, and personal fitness through engaging and exciting adventures.

Tiger (1st Grade) – The Tiger badge is earned after completing six adventures and one elective adventure. Adventures can be a Den activity, family activity or a field trip. After completing the Tiger rank, the Scout may do more adventures.

Wolf (2nd Grade) – The Wolf badge is earned after completing six adventures and one elective adventure. Adventures can be a Den activity, family activity or a field trip. After completing the Wolf rank, the Scout may do more adventures.

Bear (3rd Grade) – The Bear badge is earned after completing six adventures and one elective adventure. Adventures can be a Den activity, family activity or a field trip. After completing the Bear rank, the Scout may do more adventures.

Webelos (4th Grade) – When a Cub Scout has completed the third grade (or turns 10 years old), the Scout works on requirements for the Webelos badge. The Webelos badge is earned after completing five adventures and two elective adventures.

Arrow of Light (5th Grade) – When your youth completes the fourth grade, the Scout works on requirements for the Arrow of Light badge. The Arrow of Light badge is earned after completing four adventures and three elective adventures.

When a Scout completes 5th grade or turns 11 years old, they graduate from Cub Scouts to Scouts BSA at a graduation ceremony called a Cross Over. Other awards that a Cub Scout can earn are Cub Scout Outdoor Activity, Religious Emblems, Cub Scout World Conservation, STEM/NOVA, etc.

Cub Scouts means doing! Everything in Cub Scouts is designed to have the Scout doing things. Activities are used to achieve citizenship training, character development, personal fitness, and other adventures of a lifetime with programs like these: Day Camp, Pinewood Derby, Scouting for Food and other service projects.

Pack Family Leadership – Your Cub Scout is led by parent volunteers who provide leadership to a variety of key positions that ensure every youth and family has a quality Scouting experience. For this reason, we encourage at least one parent to participate in a leadership role. Here are some examples on how you can get involved today:

- **Den Leader** – Leads the weekly den meeting and participates in the monthly Pack meeting and attends the Pack Leaders' meeting.
- **Cubmaster** – Helps plan and carry out the Pack program with the help of others, emceeds the monthly Pack meeting, and attends the Pack Leaders' meeting.
- **Pack Committee** – Pack committee members perform administrative functions of the Pack which include some of the following: Committee Chair, Secretary/Treasurer, Advancement Chair, Pack Trainer, Parent Helpers.

Scouting provides training to new leadership. The main purpose of training is to provide leaders with the tools needed to put on a quality program for youth and to help you have a fun time leading them. All adult leaders must take our required youth protection training. Job specific training is designed to present in-depth information for a new leader in a specific leadership position. Sign on to my.scouting.org to take training or visit mccscouting.org for more information.



Your Pack will have a full schedule of fun activities. If it is fun, safe, and includes the family, it can be Cub Scouting. Here are some events planned by our Council:

- Trailblazer Day – October 1st at Belk Scout Camp where your new Scout will get to shoot archery & BB's, play outdoor games, participate in nature activities, fishing, climbing and BMX racing.
- Family Cub-o-ree's at Belk Scout Camp and Camp Grimes – These happen on weekends in the spring and fall, your family will enjoy fun filled themed programs for your entire family.
- Pack Pinewood Derby – During January-March, you and your Cub Scout will build and race a Pinewood Derby car. Who will have the fastest car? There is also a Council race and sleepover at the NASCAR Hall of Fame in March.
- Cub Scout Day Camp – In June, your Cub Scout can participate in Cub Scout Day Camp. Activities at day camp include swimming, boating, fishing, climbing, shooting BB and archery, learning about nature, BMX and much more.
- Webelos Adventure Camp – During July, Webelos Scouts may attend a great three day and night camping adventure. Scouts will have a great time and earn awards.
- Scout Nights – You and your family can enjoy Scout Night at the following venues throughout the year: Charlotte Hornets, Charlotte Knights, NASCAR Hall of Fame, Winterplace Ski Resort, Charlotte FC, and the Charlotte Checkers.

Funding your Scout – The Council provides two fundraising opportunities for your Scout and your Pack to raise funds to help pay for their Scouting experience. We sell Trail's End popcorn in the fall and camp cards in the spring. Scouting is one of the most affordable programs for families to take part in. With all the new skills learned, friends made, and fun, it is the best return on your investment. The Scout Law teaches Scouts to be thrifty, and to earn your own way.

Friends of Scouting (FOS) – Once a year our Council asks Scouting families, businesses, and civic-minded citizens to financially support our mission of providing Scouting programs to 5,000 young people in the Charlotte metro area. Each gift, regardless of size, provides invaluable funding for our Scout programs and camps here in the Mecklenburg County Council. The FOS campaign provides over one-third of the money needed to support our camps, programs, and facilities for a calendar year. These camping and training facilities are where our Scouts have fun, learn leadership skills, and develop into better citizens. Please contact your Pack leader or the Council Office at 704.333.5471 with any questions you need answered.

Thank you for joining our Scouting family!

Council Contacts

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