

115th Parkwood Hills Cubs

2013-2014 General Information

Scouting Mission

To contribute to the education of young people, through a value system based on the Scout Promise and Law, to help build a better world where people are self fulfilled as individuals and play a constructive role in society.

The Cub program is built around a lively variety of games, crafts, music, storytelling, play-acting, spiritual fellowship and the outdoors. The Cub program focuses around six activity areas: The Natural World, Outdoors, Creative Expression, Healthy Living, Home and Community, and Canada and the World. The outdoors is an essential part of the Cub program. Weekend events, hikes and overnight camping opportunities round out the Cubbing experience.

The Cub motto of "Do your Best" is age appropriate and our program is geared specifically to meet the developmental needs of 8 to 10 year olds.

Pack Weekly Meetings

Our Cub Pack holds its meetings on Thursday evenings in the gymnasium at Century Public School, 8 Redpine Drive, Nepean. Meetings start at 7:00 p.m. sharp and finish at 8:30 p.m. Please arrive before the start and pick up your Cub promptly. Should there be a change in location for any meeting, you will be notified in advance.

For security reasons, parents are asked to accompany their child to the meeting, ensuring that two leaders are present and aware of your child's attendance before leaving. Cubs will not be permitted to leave at the end without a parent. If someone else is driving your child, please let us know.

Cubs should arrive in full uniform with their Cub book, and appropriate footwear for use inside the gymnasium. They should also have appropriate outerwear for the season in case we go outside for part of the meeting.

Outings

We try to be out of the meeting hall at least once a month for our meeting. We also aim at two or three camps, two or three Area events with other cub packs, and a few special hikes or other outings on weekends. Changes in Scout Canada policies have reduced the type of outings for which we need detailed permission forms, so this will simplify preparation for these outings. When we do need to count heads, get information from parents or collect fees, please respond quickly to make it easier for leaders to plan.

The Cub Uniform

The Cub Uniform has many purposes, among which are the following:

- to identify the wearer as a member of Scouts Canada and the World Organization of the Scout Movement
- to encourage a pride of belonging to Scouting
- to provide a common dress in which members from all segments of Canadian society can meet as equals.
- The uniform consists of the following and can be purchased at The Scout Shop, located at 1345 Baseline Road in Ottawa:
 - Greyshirt - \$25.99
 - Cub Book \$9.99
 - Necker etc. - provided by Pack (see below)
- The uniform should be worn with comfortable pants (blue preferred on formal occasions). The Cub trousers at the Scout shop (optional) have zip-off legs to turn into shorts, and many pockets that make them very useful for activities other than Cubbing.
- The green and white 115th Parkwood Hills neckers are provided by the pack upon investiture. Replacement scarves, if lost, will cost \$10.00 since they are hand-made by volunteers.
- Crests worn on the uniform are also provided by the pack, as are the Cub's first woggle (holds scarf on). Replacements are available at the scout shop.
- Uniforms should be kept relatively clean and Cubs should try to arrive tidy. We encourage some pride in wearing the uniform by having inspections.
- The Cub's name should be written on the tag of the shirt and on the special label inside the rolled up necker – they all look alike after they come off during a game!

Parents are asked to ensure their child arrives in Full Uniform for every Cub function unless otherwise specified. The scarves particularly are useful for identifying our Cubs during larger inter-group events (for outdoor winter events we will wear them outside our coats).

Activity Fees and other Costs

Cubs will also be asked from time to time to pay extra fees for special activities such as bowling or museums (\$2-10), event days (\$10) and camps (~\$45), to cover the costs. Please feel free to talk with the Group Committee chair or your Cub Leaders if the cost of the uniform or other activity fees creates a financial problem for your family. Group Committee/Scouts Canada may be able to provide assistance. It is very important that all children have the opportunity to participate in Scouting programs.

Program, Stars and Badges

The Cub program covers six activity areas: The Natural World, Outdoors, Creative Expression, Healthy Living, Home and Community, and Canada and the World. Each activity area is assigned a coloured star which the cubs earn as they work their way through the program.

Badges are grouped as well into the six activity areas. The badge and star requirements provide a cub pack with a structure for delivery of the scouting program. Although it is not actually necessary to earn badges, the achievement and the learning from these activities is a worthwhile aspect of the scouting program, and the awarding of badges and stars recognizes growth.

The Cub Book lists all the star and badge requirements and provides other helpful material. It is essential that each cub have a copy of the Cub Book. Make sure the Cub's name is inside the front cover (they all look the same). The on-line listing at <http://www.scouts.ca/ca/cub-scouts-badge-requirements> is pretty good too.

Pack activity: Much of the activity we do as a pack is related to requirements for certain badges and stars. By attending activities and meetings, a cub will earn certain requirements as part of the pack. Each year, our planning will focus on two stars and related badges (covering all six stars during a cub's three years). For 2013-2014 our focus is on the Black and Tawny stars and related badges. This does not mean that pack activities or individuals are limited to those activity areas, just that our planning will focus on these.

Homework: Additional work at home is encouraged to complete requirements in our focus areas, to make up for requirements that were covered at meetings or outings missed by your Cub, or to earn additional badges or stars as an individual.

Testing: Cubs can ask to be tested at any time for a badge or any requirement by signing up at the start of a meeting. We have occasional catch-up meetings where we set aside even more time for such testing and for work with cubs who missed pack activities. It is not necessary to test all at once for every requirement to earn a badge – requirements can be accomplished over a period of time. Some requirements must be done at home and can be signed off by a parent or other adult, and recorded in the cub book. These are then shown and discussed with a leader at a meeting in order to be recognized in our pack records.

Awarding and Display: Badges and stars are awarded at the closing ceremony of regular meetings. Cubs are expected to sew/glue them onto their shirt as soon as possible (they are encouraged to do this sewing themselves!) Crests given out for camps, special events and prizes are not to be sewn on the shirt – they are for collecting or campfire blankets.

Volunteers: Some requirements need or benefit from expertise that our leaders may not have. If you have a particular talent, profession or hobby that would make you a good mentor or tester for any badge or star requirement you see, please let us know. We would be glad to have your help! We are always looking for special visitors on different topics, or interesting places to visit, so if you can do it or have connections, please let us know.

Parent Volunteers (our Heroes)

The Leaders and Cubs love people who volunteer to make Cubbing the best it can be. All parents are expected to volunteer a few times a year in order to make our Cub program a

success. Typically volunteers would include:

- Coordinators to ensure all Cubs can get to events where transport is needed.
- Neckers sewers.
- Parent volunteers for meetings when needed.
- Spring Camp volunteers like cooks, canoe organizers, equipment and tent transporters and set-up, extra chaperones
- Group Committee members (governs over Cub, Scout and Beaver sections –chair, secretary, treasurer, fundraising, etc.)
- Coordinators for special activities (handouts, collecting forms, arrangements)
- People who can lend a reliable and helpful hand whenever needed.
- If you have a special talent, hobby or background that might help in part of our programming, let us know.
- If you work or have connections with an interesting place for a field trip, let us know.

Special Needs and Other Feedback

If your Cub has any special needs, or there is background information that will help us work with him/her better, please let us know. If there is something special happening in your Cub's life, or some event or condition, that is also useful to know. If you hear from your Cub about something that is bothersome with our programme, let us know. We are volunteers trying to do our best to understand and bring out the best in your Cub, so the more we know about the health of the Pack, the better!

Contact Us

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