

PACK 1540

HANDBOOK

version 2023.08.15





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Summary:

- **Our Pack is committed to following all guidelines of the BSA’s Youth Protection program.** "Two deep" leaders and the "buddy" system are always enforced for all Pack and Den activities. All Adult Leaders must be registered with Scouts BSA and complete Youth Protection Training 2.0 and Position Specific Training courses.
- **All Scouts, both new and returning, pay yearly registration/dues at the beginning of each Scout year, due October 1st,** through the Pack’s website: <https://www.pack1540.com/pack-registration/pack-1540-registration>
- **Our Pack relies on one fundraising effort to fund the majority of our activities: Annual Popcorn Sales Program.** Every Scout must sale popcorn as at a minimum amount set by the Pack committee each year to offset the costs to the Pack for their participation in Scouts. Families who wish to not participate in the popcorn sales must pay the opt-out fee to cover this cost.
- **All Scouts as well as adults attending overnight events with the Pack are required to complete the Scouting Health Form, Parts A-B.** The form should be downloaded, completed, and turned into your Scout’s Den leader.
- **Each Cub Scout's parent(s)/legal guardian(s) will review the Code of Conduct agreement with their son(s) or daughter(s) and agree to abide by the Code.**
- **As a parent-child activity, parents are expected to participate with their children. Each Scout should have at least one parent or adult with them at each Den Meeting, unless pre-approved by the Den Leader.**
- **All adults (leaders, volunteers, and family members) will review and agree to follow the Adult Code of Conduct and accept consequences for violating the code of conduct.**
- **If a Scout missed a Den Meeting or outing where a required adventure was completed, it is up to the Scout’s family to help their Scout complete the requirement (with assistance from the Den Leader as needed).**
- **In order for our Pack to function, a representative from each family will be required to fill one volunteer role in the Pack each year: Committee Member, Den Leader, or Subcommittee Member (or Lion Scout Adult Partner).**



INTRODUCTION

Welcome to Cub Scout Pack 1540! The Pack was formed on June 1, 1988 and has a rich history of teaching youth from Kindergarten through fifth grade. We are members of the Powhatan District, National Capital Area Council. Our Chartering Organization is Fairfax Church of Christ. We draw Scouts from across the Fairfax area and beyond, with families from several local schools, both public and private. Our Pack is one of the largest in Fairfax -- each year, more than 100 youth participate in our activities!

The best way to find out what you do best is to do it - swing a bat, pitch a tent, build a Pinewood Derby car. Cub Scouts are at the magical age where everything is new and possible and, most important, fun. They live in a world of “firsts” — first home run, first campfire, first checkered flag — where their game plan is their imagination. Their most valuable reward is the friends they make for life and a parent’s proud smile. These are invaluable experiences that can be had in Scouting. These are life lessons that eventually transform boys and girls in Cub Scouting, through advancement, into members of Scouts BSA.

As a parent of a Scout, you are setting your son or daughter on the path of Scouting’s grand adventure. This is a tremendously rewarding endeavor that you will share with your child(ren) and which will have a lasting impact on their lives. Cub Scouting is truly a family activity - the more engaged you are as a parent, the more you and your Scout will get out of Cub Scouting.

Consider this handbook your compass to Pack 1540. Let’s set a course for success by staying on the same path together. For more than 100 years, Scouting has been a symbol of adventure, excitement, and achievement. Providing once-in-a-lifetime experiences that prepare the next generation of boys and girls for a lifetime of opportunity is a serious endeavor that couldn’t be more fun.

This guide describe the organization of our Pack and the advancement path Scouts will follow during their time in Cub Scouts. It also highlights key activities that happen each year. Reading this handbook will help you understand how your Scout can make the most of his or her time in Cub Scouting. It will also help you understand how you can assist the Pack and enhance your Scout’s experience through a variety of volunteer roles.

Rappelling a cliff. Shooting the rapids. Volunteering on a Pack Committee. All can be a white-knuckle ride if you aren’t outfitted with the proper gear. Have no fear. The Pack Handbook contains all the tools you need to understand how to contribute. If curiosity, adventure, and fun are your camp kit, then our families are the square knots securely holding the Pack together. So, Scout me in! Because together we’re blazing a trail into the future.





AIMS & METHODS

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 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:

Trustworthy	Obedient
Loyal	Cheerful
Helpful	Thrifty
Friendly	Brave
Courteous	Clean
Kind	Reverent

Cub Scout Motto: Do Your Best!

There are four aims of Scouting: Citizenship, Character, Personal Fitness, and Leadership.

The methods of Cub Scouting are: living the ideals, belonging to a den, advancement, family involvement, activities, serving the community, and the uniform.

Living the Ideals

Cub Scouting's values are embedded in the Scout Oath, the Scout Law, the Cub Scout motto, and the Cub Scout sign, handshake, and salute. These practices help establish and reinforce the program's values in Scouts and the leaders who guide them.



Belonging to a Den

The den—a group of six to eight children who are in the same grade and are the same gender—is the place where Cub Scouting starts. In the den, Cub Scouts develop new skills and interests, they practice sportsmanship and good citizenship, and they learn to do their best, not just for themselves but for the den as well.

Advancement

Recognition is important to everyone. The advancement plan provides fun for the Scouts, gives them a sense of personal achievement as they earn badges, and strengthens family understanding as adult family members and their den leader work with them on advancement projects.



Family Involvement

Whether a Cub Scout lives with two parents or one, a foster family, or other relatives, their family is an important part of Cub Scouting. Parents and adult family members provide leadership and support for Cub Scouting and help ensure that Scouts have a good experience in the program.



Activities

Cub Scouts participate in a huge array of activities, including games, projects, skits, stunts, songs, outdoor activities, trips, and service projects. Besides being fun, these activities offer opportunities for growth, achievement, and family involvement.



Serving the Neighborhood

Cub Scouting focuses on the home and neighborhood. It helps Scouts strengthen connections to their local communities, which in turn supports their growth and development.



Uniform

Cub Scout uniforms serve a dual purpose, demonstrating that a Scout is part of a team and showing individual achievement (Scouts wear the badges they've earned). Wearing the uniform to meetings and activities also encourages a neat appearance, and good behavior.





REGISTRATION

To register for Cub Scouting with Pack 1540, please visit the Pack Registration web page:

<https://www.pack1540.com/pack-registration>

Dues

All Scouts, both new and returning, pay yearly dues to the Pack at the beginning of each Scout year, due by October 1st each year. When a Scout pays their dues each year, they receive the following:

- Scout Handbook for their new rank
- Neckerchief for their new rank
- All earned awards and patches throughout the year
- Free or reduced cost for Pack Activities (Pinewood Derby Car, Fall and Spring Campsites, etc.)
- Full privileges of National BSA registration
- New Scouts also receive a “Class B” Pack T-shirt when they join the Pack (additional t-shirts may be purchased).

At Pack 1540, we strive to keep dues as low as possible and to ensure that the programming far exceeds the annual cost. In fact, our dues don't cover our expenses each year (from awards to programming, to camping) and we rely heavily on our popcorn fundraiser to offset these costs. We also work with our chartering organization, Fairfax Church of Christ to reduce costs to each family.

Financial assistance is available to any Scout family:

Contact Pack Committee Chair Drew Enszt for more information: pastoraenszt@gmail.com

New Scouts

Complete a **BSA Youth Application** for each new Scout through the BSA website:

<https://my.scouting.org/VES/OnlineReg/1.0.0/?tu=UF-MB-082paa1540>

Note: This link will require you to create a My.Scouting account and then redirect to the proper online form for Pack 1540. Please contact our Cubmasters with any questions.

Pack Registration

- Review the **Pack 1540 Handbook** (this document) for details on Pack policies.
- Review and agree to the **Scout and Adult Code of Conduct**.
- Review the [Role of Parents](#) section of this handbook and select the required position(s) that you commit to assist the Pack with for the upcoming year.
- Pay the annual [Pack 1540 Registration Dues](#) on the website
- Print and complete the [Scouting Health Form](#) and bring to your first Den meeting.
- Bookmark our **website**, Pack1540.com
- Subscribe to the **Pack Newsletter** using the form at the bottom of the [Pack website](#)
- Stay tuned for future communications to create a [Scoutbook](#) account (used for advancement tracking, Pack emails, and information from your Den leader).

New Adult Leaders

Each new adult leader will be required to complete and return the following items to the Pack Leadership:

- **BSA Adult Application**
- Certificate showing completion of **Youth Protection Training 2.0** (YPT 2.0 - see bottom of page 11)
- Completion of **Position Specific Training** course(s), as applicable (online through My.Scouting's ScoutingU or in-person at a district or council training event)
- Print and complete the [Scouting Health Form](#) and bring to your first Den or Pack meeting.



Returning Adult Leaders

Each returning adult leader needs to verify that his or her Youth Protection Training (**YPT**) is current (and will remain current through the program year - YPT certification is good for two (2) years) and complete a [Scouting Health Form, Parts A-B](#) to turn into your Scout's Den leader (The form must be completed each year).

If a leader is **changing or adding positions**, he or she must complete a new BSA Adult Volunteer Application for the new position, and take any additional training, as applicable.

Health Forms

All Scouts as well as adults attending overnight events with the Pack are required to complete the [Scouting Health Form, Parts A-B](#). The form should be downloaded, completed, and turned into your Scout's Den leader. The form must be completed each year.

Pack Communications

Scoutbook and Pack emails are your primary sources for information about the Pack, contact information for Pack/Den Leaders, and upcoming Pack/Den events. Our website is Pack1540.com. Please make sure that your email address is current in our system by filling out the "Subscribe" form at the bottom of the Pack's homepage.



ROLE OF PARENTS

Our Pack is supported by numerous adult volunteers--mostly parents of our Scouts. However, with older Scouts crossing over to Scouts BSA each year, we always need a new group of volunteer leaders at the start of every year. A successful Pack requires active adult participation from each family.

Actively Participating Alongside your Scout

As a parent-child activity, parents are expected to participate with their children. This is especially true during Pack meetings, when we can have more than 200 people in the room! At Pack meetings, Scouts sit by Den and we ask that parents sit behind their Scouts to keep them focused and quiet (especially when the Scout Sign is up!). Also, we ask that parents (and leaders!) take conversations outside the meeting room as it very hard for others to hear and makes it difficult for leaders and guest presenters to hold the Scouts' attention. Lastly, we encourage parents to stay engaged and off their cell phones at Pack meetings. If you are engaged, your Scout and his/her friends will be too!

The same goes for Den meetings. **Each Scout should have at least one parent or adult with them at each Den Meeting, unless pre-approved by the Den Leader. Drop-offs are typically not permitted. Lions and Tigers are required to always have at least one adult present.** This is to ensure the safety of our Scouts and our leaders and to ensure that all Scouts get the most out of their experience. At every Den meeting, ask your Den leader how you can help and get involved. Stay off your phone and stay on your feet! Once the year is underway, Den leaders will assign meetings and adventures to different parents so that the program experience is spread among all Den families. **Be prepared to organize and lead some Den meetings!** Your Den leader needs help (whether they ask you or not!), and your Scout will love seeing you in that role. Don't worry - materials and guidelines will be provided.

In addition, parents will need to provide transportation to and from Den and Pack meetings, as well as camping trips and other activities.

In order to ensure active parent/guardian participation and a fun and rewarding experience for our Scouts, the Pack has adopted the following policy:

Pack 1540 Parent Participation Agreement:

Cub Scouts is a family activity. Within Pack 1540, it is our policy to have parents participate actively along with their Scout(s). A parent/guardian must be present and an active participant in ALL Den and Pack activities, unless pre-approved by the Den Leader (Lions and Tigers are required to always have at least one adult present). Unless sibling Scouts are in attendance at the event, we require a one adult to one Scout ratio at all times. This policy is for ALL ranks within the Pack and will ensure that our Scouts are able to learn and grow in a safe and focused environment.

Please be mindful to keep cell phone use to a minimum during Scouting events. We also ask that you do not use laptops or any other electronic devices during the events for things other than Scouting purposes. Scouting is a family adventure - families will get more out of the lifelong lessons and experiences acquired during Scouting events if everyone is actively participating.

Volunteering with the Pack

As one of the largest Packs in Fairfax, we have the opportunity to reach a large number of kids through our Scouting program. However, a large Pack requires LOTS of parent volunteers. We are all busy, but we make time for what's

important to us. Scouting must be important to you, because you joined this Pack and you serve as your Scout's adult partner.

Scouting isn't like soccer or baseball where we're on the sidelines cheering our sons and daughters on. Cub Scouting is hands-on! Scouting uses a fun program to promote character development, citizenship training, leadership, and mental and physical fitness. You can help by encouraging attendance, assisting with your child's advancement, attending meetings for parents, and assisting the unit when called upon to help. The unit cannot provide a quality program without your help. Whether you're helping Scouts learn how to tie knots as a Den leader, working with the local grocery to setup a popcorn sales booth, checking in cars at the Pinewood Derby, helping to build the campfire on a camping trip, or serving food at the Blue and Gold banquet, **we need you**.

Pack 1540, like all Cub Scout packs, is run completely by volunteers. No adult leadership in our pack is an employee of the Boy Scouts of America, nor is compensated in any way to run the Cub Scout program. Like all adults, most of our leadership has full time jobs and other life commitments. A successful pack has many positions to fill and a whole team of adults willing to donate their time. **By joining Pack 1540, you acknowledge that you will contribute in some way to the betterment of the pack.** This can be in the form of volunteering for a position on the committee, to be a den or assistant den leader, a den parent, or simply committing to help plan an event or covering fundraising shifts. Pack 1540 is a community of families that all work together to benefit the pack, our scouts, and the Fairfax area.

You are not alone - experienced leaders and mentors are available to help volunteers get properly trained, started, and underway. We are invested in your success and never further than a phone call away if you get stuck on something.

In order to have enough volunteers to assist with these duties, each family will be required to have at least one representative fill one volunteer role in the Pack each year. There are three types of volunteer opportunities:

Pack Committee	Den Leadership	Subcommittees
The committee has multiple positions that work together behind the scenes to plan exciting events and pack meetings for the scouts. These positions are best held by people that enjoy working with other adults to plan and execute events, fundraising, money tracking, and disseminating information to scout families.	Den leaders, assistant den leaders, and den parents work directly with the scouts each week to keep the den interested and engaged in the scout's badge requirements. These positions are best held by people that enjoy working directly with the scouts as they learn team building, social, and life skills throughout the program.	If you are unable to commit to a Committee or Den Leader position, you will be asked to pick subcommittee for an upcoming event. It takes a lot of people to put on events for a pack of our size. We will need subcommittees for camping trips, Pinewood Derby, Blue & Gold Banquet, etc. It is expected that every scout family without a Committee or Den Leader position contribute to at least one event planning subcommittee per scouting year.

Each Scout family will be required to provide the name of the representative and their preferred role during the annual registration process. Lion Scout (kindergarten) representatives can fulfill this as a Lion Scout Adult Partner.

The following is summary of key Pack Committee, Den, and Subcommittee Positions:

Pack Committee

- **Pack Committee Chair** - To make Cub Scouting work it takes a team made up of each Cub Scout's parent or guardian and other caring adults who agree to take on roles that best fit their individual talents. Together this team makes up the Pack Committee. The Pack Committee Chair is appointed by the Chartered Organization to oversee the Pack

Committee as they provide support to Den Leaders to ensure a quality program. The Pack Committee Chair is responsible for running the monthly Pack Committee meetings and handling the Pack's annual re-charter with the National BSA.

- **Chartered Organization Representative** - Each Pack is required to be chartered by a nonprofit organization. Our Pack is extremely fortunate to be chartered by the Fairfax Church of Christ. The church is unwavering in its support of the Pack and of the aims and ideals of Scouting. The Chartered Organization Representative serves as the liaison between the Chartered Organization and the Pack.
- **Cubmaster** - The Cubmaster is the adult leader responsible for the program of the Pack. The Cubmaster and Assistant Cubmaster(s) work with the Pack Committee, Den Leaders, and other registered Pack leaders and volunteers to ensure the Pack's Scouts experience a meaningful.
- **Assistant Cubmaster(s)** - The Assistant Cubmaster(s) assist the Cubmaster and Committee Chair in planning and implementing the Pack program. Assistant Cubmasters may perform specific tasks based on skill set or may more generally assist in operations.
- **Treasurer** - The Pack Treasurers plan the annual Pack budget, oversee the payment of annual dues, ensure Pack and Den leaders are timely reimbursed for approved Scouting expenses.
- **Secretary** - The Pack Secretary records notes from Pack Committee Meetings, communicate meeting dates and times, assist with writing thank you notes as needed, and other tasks as needed by the Committee.
- **Den Leaders and Assistant Den Leaders** - provide ideas, input, and collaboration on Pack activities.

Den Leadership

- **Den Leaders** - The Pack's Den leaders are key to the success of the Pack and to the Scouts' experience - they lead each of the Dens across all of our ranks -- Lion through Webelos II - planning, preparing for, and leading (with the help of the other parents in the Den) the Den's annual programming - from which adventures to work on, to what activities and outings to undertake, etc.
- **Assistant Den Leaders** - Each Den needs at least one registered Assistant Den Leader to ensure two-deep leadership at all Den gatherings, and to facilitate fun, organized events for the Scouts.

Subcommittees

- **Advancement** - *1-2 volunteers* - responsible for ensuring that Scouts promptly receive the recognitions they've earned through the use of Scoutbook and other advancement tools and purchases the necessary patches, belt loops and other awards from the Scout Shop.
- **Camping** - *2-4 volunteers* - spearheads the Pack's fall and spring camping trips - reserves sites, makes payments, creates signups, organizes volunteers, helps with the campfire program, etc.
- **Blue & Gold Banquet** - *5-10 volunteers* - plans our annual Blue and Gold banquet (February), determines the budget available, decides on a theme, decor, and food for the event, culminating in day-of decoration and set-up.
- **Recruitment & New Member Welcome Coordinators** - *1-5 volunteers* - coordinates the Pack's fall recruitment efforts and ensures that all new families are welcomed into the Pack, receive all the information they need, etc.
- **Pinewood Derby Pit Crew** - *10-15 volunteers* - oversees the Pinewood Derby events from car distribution to lining up and manning build days, to setting up track/software and running races on practice and race day.
- **Popcorn Pack and Den Kernels** - *2-3 volunteers* - coordinates the Pack's annual popcorn fundraiser including storefront reservations and helping distribute product for wagon sales.
- **Service Projects** - *1-2 volunteers* - researches and proposes community service projects suitable for the Pack and Dens to be implemented into the annual Pack program.
- **Rocket Launch Ground Crew** - *4-5 volunteers* - coordinate the distribution of rocket kits and instructions and oversees a safe launching of rockets on a date and location picked by the subcommittee.

- **Field Day - 2-10 volunteers** - plans and leads the annual Field Day, typically held in May, which includes various outdoor games the Den rotate through such as a bicycle course, basket ball and soccer mini-games, shaved ice stand, and more.
- **Summer Adventures – 3-10 volunteers** –
 - **Camp Snyder Coordinators** works with the Lion through Wolf families to advertise and register Scouts for the 4-day long summer day camp as well as coordinates carpooling to and from the camp. Ensures that the Pack meets the camp's requirements for adult training.
 - **Camp Snyder Coordinators** works with the Bear through Webelos families to advertise and register Scouts for the week-long summer overnight camp as well as coordinates carpooling to and from the camp. Ensures that the Pack meets the camp's requirements for adult training.
 - **Summertime Activity Coordinators** plan and execute plans for the Pack's summertime activities in June, July, and August, ensuring that the Pack offers year-round activities for our Scouts. Holding these activities allows the Pack to earn the National Summertime Pack Award each year.
- **Pack Webmaster - 1-2 volunteers** - manages the Pack's website including keeping it up-to-date with information.
- **T-Shirt Coordinator(s) - 1-2 volunteers** - manages the purchase and distribution of the Pack's Class-B t-shirts.
- **"Scouterhorn" Mobile Climbing Wall Subcommittee - 2-6 volunteers** - The National Capital Area Council owns and makes available for unit a 24-foot tall mobile climbing tower with automatic cable belays which can be set up in a parking lot or field for our recruiting efforts, field days, or other events. Training is required. A council-owned truck for towing are available. More details: <https://www.ncacbsa.org/c-o-p-e-climbing/>



For positions that require training, please know that this is provided at no cost to help the volunteer parent with his/her duties in the Pack. There is a wealth of support available not only at our Pack level, but at the Powhatan District level and National Capital Area Council level as well. Many training resources can also be found online. Each month we hold a Pack Leaders Meeting, and all parents are welcome to attend. The district also holds a monthly roundtable for all leaders, regardless of position.

Youth Protection Training

Protecting the safety of the youth involved in Scouting is of paramount importance and we take the safety and security of our Scouts very seriously.

Scouts BSA has developed materials for use in the Scouting program that provide essential information to Scouts and their families. A detachable booklet in the front of each Cub Scout Handbook provides information to help families increase self-protection skills. Scouts also complete "CyberChip" training each year designed to help them understand how to safely use the Internet.

Our Pack is committed to following all guidelines of the BSA's Youth Protection program. "Two deep" leaders and the "buddy" system are always enforced for all Pack and Den activities. Parent attendance and participation at all meetings and outings ensures that these guidelines are met.

To take the online Youth Protection course go to [my.Scouting.org](https://my.scouting.org), create an account, and select E-learning. The YPT course list is at the bottom of the page. Once completed please save the certificate electronically or print off and submit to the Pack Trainer.

Note: Every adult who attends a Cub Scout summer camp is required to be a registered adult with the Pack and complete YPT. We encourage all adults to complete the YPT training as well.



ACTIVITIES

Pack 1540 is a very active Pack, and we pride ourselves on offering an exciting annual program that appeals to boys and girls of all Cub Scouting ages. Highlights of our program year are set forth below. Please see the Pack calendar, available at Pack1540.com/Pack-Calendar for the dates for this year's activities. Updates to the calendar will be posted on the website, shared via Scoutbook emails and/or the Pack emails.

Monthly Pack Meetings

We usually hold our monthly Pack meetings on the third Friday of each month from 7:30 to 8:30 pm at Fairfax Church of Christ or Navy Elementary (but this schedule is subject to change based on specific activities and holidays). We will host special activities at our regular Pack meetings, including presentations, carnivals, etc. Have a great idea for an entertaining and engaging Pack meeting? Let us know!

Monthly or Weekly Den Meetings

Our Dens meet at different times of the month based on the schedule set with each Den Leader and the Scouts' parents. Dens typically meet 1-2 times per month, which may include a "go-see-it" activity, such as a visit to a nature center or fire station.

Fall and Spring Family Camping Trips

The Pack organizes two family camping trips every school year - one in the fall and one in the spring. Camping trips are open to the entire family -- parents, guardians, and siblings are encouraged to come along (no pets allowed, though!).

You will receive complete information and directions from your Den Leader prior to each trip. All camping trips are at locations with bathroom facilities to ease our families into camping. The campouts are typically less-structured camping experience, providing Dens the ability to catch-up on requirements, relax, and simply enjoy the outdoors.

In recent years, we've primarily camped at Lake Fairfax Park in the fall due to its proximity to most families' homes. Both camping trips provide excellent opportunities for fishing, hiking, and getting outdoors! It is only through annual dues and Pack popcorn sales that we can offer these camping experiences without registration costs to our Pack families, although families will need to chip-in to cover the cost of food for their Den.

More information about camping will be communicated prior to the trips (packing lists, maps, safe camping guidelines, etc.).



Trail's End Popcorn Fundraiser

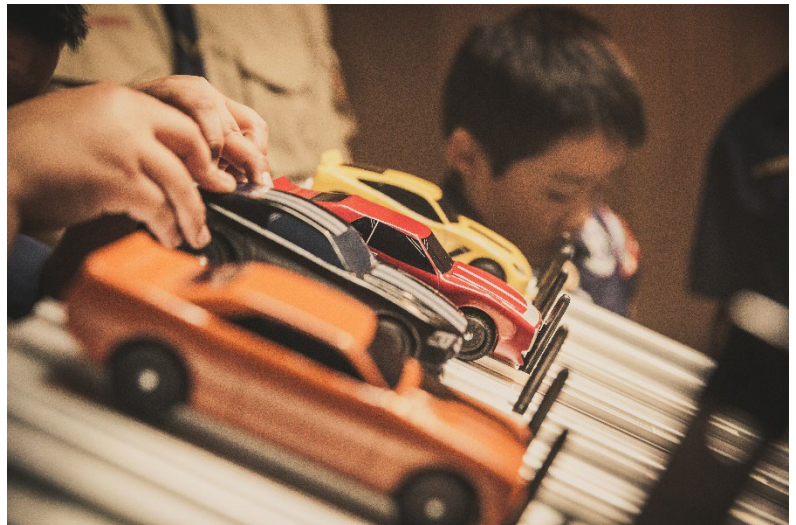
Our Pack relies on one fundraising effort to fund the majority of our activities: Annual Popcorn Sales Program. This event gives Scouts a chance to develop important skills that build character like public speaking, supporting a team, and time management. When you and your Scout go out into your neighborhood to raise money for our Pack, it deepens your connection to our organization and our community. And it's fun! Whether you're phoning family about products, selling online, walking door-to-door, or selling outside a retail business with friends, you'll have a great time watching your child sell Scouting!

We need all Pack 1540 parents to help their Scout succeed so that we all thrive. We have a lot of great incentives to celebrate sales goals and milestones, but **we ask every Scout to sale popcorn as at a minimum amount set by the Pack Committee each year to offset the costs to the Pack for their participation in Scouts.** Families who wish to not participate in the popcorn sales must pay the opt-out fee to cover this cost online at <https://www.pack1540.com/pack-registration/popcorn-opt-out-fee>.

Pack 1540 has an impressive track record of popcorn sales. In 2019, the Pack was one of the top sellers in the entire National Capital Area Council, selling over \$20,000 in popcorn! Let's break our 2019 sales record and fund a great year for our Scouts!

Pinewood Derby

The Pack sponsors annual Pinewood Derby races, which will take place in February. Each Scout receives a racing kit that consists of a block of wood, wheels, and axles. Scouts will craft the block of wood into a rolling Pinewood Derby vehicle, with the help of a parent or guardian. The Pack has a 4-lane racing track with computerized racing results projected on a large screen for everyone to see. Don't be overwhelmed when you see the kit - there are many resources that can help you prepare your racer, including Pack-sponsored workshops/cut days. We encourage Scouts to take the lead on building their vehicle with only minimal help from their parent or guardian.



Scout Sunday

Each February, the Scouts of Pack 1540 are invited to attend worship service at Fairfax Church of Christ. It's a great way for our Scouts to showcase their "Duty to God" and to support our chartering organization that does so much to support our Pack. Scouts can assist in welcoming the congregation to the service, passing out bulletins, and collecting the offering. This event also counts as a service project and is a great time to present religious awards earned by Scouts.

Blue & Gold Banquet

Held each February, the annual Blue & Gold Banquet serves as a birthday celebration for Cub Scouting, as well to honor Scout achievements and leader contributions. In 2020 "The Science Guys" put on a show for everyone while food was catered from Anita's New Mexico Style Mexican Food. Prior year performers have included magicians, animal showcase, and a gem mining truck.

Webelos Crossover and Arrow of Light Ceremony

Typically held in late March, this ceremony recognizes our fifth grade Scouts as they are awarded their Arrow of Light – Cub Scouting’s highest rank, and crossover to the Scouts BSA troop. We encourage younger Scouts to attend the Crossover Ceremony to see what they can look forward to one day.

Summer Camp

Summer Camp is an affordable, action-packed week of outdoor activity and camaraderie. In any given year, Pack 1540 may have as many as 50 Scouts participate in a summer camp, and they enjoyed games, Scout skills, archery, BBs, crafts, nature, and so much more. During the week, campers complete a slew of requirements that count toward the next rank. Cub Scout Summer Camps has to be one of the best summer camp values in the area!

Summertime Pack Activities

The Pack fun doesn’t end in May! For those Scouts in town during the summer months, Pack Leaders sometimes plan a special activity for each of June, July, and August. In previous summers, we’ve hosted a triathlon or participated in parades, but interest waned in recent years. We host a “Welcome Back Pack Meeting” in August when school returns. Typically, participation has been low in the summer, so the Pack has not planned any summertime events recently. Dens are encouraged to continue to meet in the summer.

Service Projects

The Pack participates in a number of service projects throughout the year. Past projects have included:

- Scouting for Food - collecting food for local food banks every November
- Packing holiday gift boxes every November
- Picking up trash at Rock Creek Park on Earth Day in April
- Cleaning up sites for Fairfax County Parks and Recreation, Navy Elementary, or Fairfax Church of Christ
- Retiring U.S. flags at campfire programs
- Dens may also often complete service projects as part of their advancement requirements each year.





UNIFORMS

How the uniform can help a Scout

Whenever a Scout sees another person in a Scout uniform, he or she recognizes that other Scout as someone who, like them, has committed themselves principles of the Scout Oath and Scout Law. The Scout Oath and Law bind all Scouts around the world together in a common purpose. By wearing the uniform, Scouts give each other strength and support. Beyond accenting the common bond between Scouts, by wearing the uniform Scouts are declaring their faith and commitment to some important beliefs that bind them to all people. It is a way of making visible their loyalty to our country and their commitment to helping other people who need them.

How the uniform can help the Pack

When properly worn, the uniform can help build good Pack spirit. The uniform makes the Pack visible as a force for good in the community. Scouts in uniform create a strong, positive, youth image in the neighborhood.

Class "A" and Class "B" Uniforms

Scouts are expected to wear their Class "A" uniform at all regular Pack Meetings and, as determined by the Den Leader at Den Meetings as well as at other Pack or Den events (e.g. service projects, sporting events, campouts, etc.).

The Class "A" uniform consists of:

- Shirts: Lions wear the official Lion t-shirt instead of a uniform shirt; Blue Cub Scout Uniform shirt (Tiger-Bear); and Tan Webelos Uniform shirt (Webelos I and II/Arrow of Light)
- Neckerchief and slide: Pack 1540 will provide the neckerchief
- Navy blue shorts/pants/skort: does not have to be "official version" from Scout Shop
- Webbed belt and belt buckle: navy for Cub Scouts; olive green for Webelos (does not have to be "official version" from Scout Shop)
- Appropriate patches: council strip, Pack numerals, Den numerals, world crest, etc.
- Rank insignia and other awards: provided by Pack 1540 when earned
- Scout hat: *optional*, but encouraged if appropriate for outdoor activity
- Scout socks: *optional*

More information about the components of the Scout uniform can be found on the following website:

https://www.scoutshop.org/uniform_builder

To attach patches, you have two options:

- You can sew the patches on yourself or take the uniform to a local alterations shop and have them sewn on (recommended, as they can be easily removed if needed);
- Or you can use a badge adhesive (Badge Magic, etc. sold at the Scout Shop). Adhesives do leave residue when a patch is removed.

Uniforms and supplies can be purchased at the Northern Virginia Scout Shop, which is located at 5232 Port Royal Road, Springfield, Virginia 22151. Gently used uniforms can also often be found at consignment sales or through online local exchanges. At times, the Pack also has a donation bin with used items.

The Class “B” uniform is our Pack 1540 t-shirt. This is provided by the Pack for all registered Cub Scouts and Pack leaders during their first year. Additional t-shirts may be purchased in subsequent years.

What the Pack Provides:	What the Scout Must Purchase:
Neckerchief Scout Handbook Pack Class “B” T-Shirt (<i>new Scouts only</i>) Adventure Belt Loops Rank Patches Other Awards Earned	Neckerchief Slide Class “A” uniform shirt Council Strip, Pack Numerals, Den, World Crest Patches Scout Belt to display Adventure Belt Loops Navy blue pants

For more information on the Cub Scout uniform, see your Scout’s Handbook, or view the information found here:
<https://www.scouting.org/programs/cub-scouts/cub-scout-uniform/>



As a minimum, we ask that each Scout in 1st grade and above wear at least the uniform shirt to Pack and Den activities, as appropriate. The shirt is available for purchase [online](#) or at the local Scout Shop and typically cost \$30.

Pack 1540 has some used uniform components available. Additionally, financial assistance for purchasing a uniform is available to any Scout family: contact Pack Committee Chair Drew Ensz for more information: pastoraenz@gmail.com



RANKS & REQUIREMENTS

Cub Scouting is divided into ranks based on age/grade:

Grade	Rank	Badge
All New Scouts (1 st – 5 th) *	Bobcat	
Kindergarten	Lion	
1 st	Tiger	
2 nd	Wolf	
3 rd	Bear	
4 th	Webelos I	
5 th	Webelos II/Arrow of Light	

**All new Scouts Tigers-Webelos II begin their Cub Scouting adventure by earning their Bobcat award, which focuses on the core values of Scouting, and is typically earned in the first month of Scouting.*

Cub Scout Advancement

Cub Scouts earn their rank badges by completing a certain number of adventures over the course of the year, typically in Den Meetings. These include a specified number of required adventures along with one or more elective adventures. For each adventure, a Scout will earn a belt loop (Lions-Bears) or pin (Webelos) designed to provide immediate recognition for the Scout's accomplishment. These loops and pins are typically awarded at the Den level.

If a Scout missed a Den Meeting or outing where a required adventure was completed, it is up to the Scout's family to complete the requirement. Den Leaders can provide examples and ideas on how to complete the missing requirements at home.

Once a Scout completes all the requirements for a rank, the Scout earns the applicable rank patch. Rank patches are awarded at the Spring Campout when Scouts move up to their next rank. A Scout can continue to work on completing adventures over the summer, but once the Scout starts the next program/school year, he or she may not go back and complete prior requirements / earn prior ranks.

Other Awards

Cub Scouting offers a variety of other awards and recognitions beyond rank advancement, including the following:

- Youth Religious Emblem
- Recruiter Strip
- World Conservation Award
- STEM Nova and Supernova Awards
- Outdoor Activity Award
- Summertime Award
- Whittling Chip
- Emergency Preparedness Award
- Shooting Sports Award

See your Scout Handbook or the official BSA website for details on these and other opportunities to enhance your Scout's experience.



Scoutbook

Scoutbook is a web-based tool for tracking and communicating Pack 1540 activities. Each parent will receive log-in credentials when the Cub Scout's registration is complete. The website is: [Scoutbook.com](https://scoutbook.com)

Using Scoutbook, you can:

- Track your Scout's Progress
- Update progress towards an achievement or rank
- Review what's needed to complete an award
- View contact information for all Pack leaders
- Use the group email function to communicate with individual families or entire Dens
- Track adult leader training
- Input camping nights, service hours, and hiking miles

The Pack will be providing additional training/resources to help our Pack families and leaders understand how to most effectively navigate Scoutbook.



SCOUT CODE OF CONDUCT

Each Cub Scout's parent(s)/legal guardian(s) will review the Code of Conduct agreement with their son(s) or daughter(s). If the family and Cub Scout agree to abide by the Code, the Cub Scout and parent(s)/legal guardian(s) will sign the form in the appropriate places and return the signed Code of Conduct form to the Cubmaster or Den Leader (*or check the box when paying the Pack registration fee online*). Returning Scouts shall return their signed Code of Conduct forms no later than October 1st each year; new Scouts no later than 30 days after they've joined the Pack. Any Cub Scout or parent(s)/legal guardian(s) have not turned in a signed Code of Conduct form to the Cubmaster or Den Leader will not be permitted to participate in Pack or Den meetings, events or activities until the form is signed and turned in. The reason for this is to reinforce the lesson of making a personal commitment to follow the rules.

Inappropriate Conduct & Consequences: "Three Strikes - You're Out"

1. The first time a Cub Scout breaks a rule at either a Pack or Den event, they get a warning.
2. The second time, the Cub Scout spends 5 minutes in time-out. After 5 minutes the Cub Scout is asked if they are ready to return to the group.
3. If a Cub Scout doesn't control themselves in time-out or when a Cub Scout commits their third infraction of the Code of Conduct, the Cubmaster or Assistant Cubmaster will be notified and will conference with the scout. At this time, the scout may be excused from the meeting, event or activity and the parent/legal guardian must take them home. Details concerning the incident must be documented and submitted to the Committee Chair.

A conference with the Cub Scout, Den Leader (if applicable) and at least one parent or legal guardian will be held before they can return to the next Pack or Den meeting. Details concerning the conference must be documented and submitted to the Committee Chair.

Cub Scouting is a program based on parent/legal guardian and child participation. **It is the policy of Pack 1540 that at least one parent is required to attend each Den and Pack meeting with their Scout. Unless approved by the Den leader (and only at the Webelos II level), drop-offs are not permitted.** In addition, the following expectations have been set with the safety and best interest of all the Cub Scouts in mind.

Guidelines for Pack & Den Meetings

Discipline at Den and Pack meetings and any Scouting event or activity will be at the discretion of the Den Leader/Cubmaster/BSA Leader in Charge in accordance with the following guidelines:

1. Failure to obey a rule will result in a warning, followed by time-out or removal from an activity. In cases of harmful or repetitive misbehavior, parents/legal guardians will be asked to take the Scout home.
2. At the Den Leader's discretion, parents/legal guardians may be required to remain at Den functions with their Scout.
3. Den Leaders have the right to exclude a Scout from their Den for reasons of misconduct. The situation will be reviewed by the Pack Committee in extreme cases and a Cub Scout may be dismissed from the Pack for misconduct.
4. It is the duty of any registered adult leader of Cub Scout Pack 1540 to assist in maintaining order with the Cub Scouts during any Den and/or Pack function. Parents are fully responsible for the conduct of their non-scout children during Den and Pack activities. Parents may be asked to remove disruptive children from these events when necessary.

Guidelines for Pack & Den Activities

Pack and Den activities are for the enjoyment of the entire family. The following guidelines ensure that all activities will be conducted in a safe manner:

1. An adult family member, over the age of 21, must accompany the Cub Scout on each and every outing unless approved by the Den leader (and only at the Webelos II level). In the case of Pack Camping Trips, the adult family member must be the scout's parent or legal guardian (per the BSA's insurance guidelines).
2. BSA guidelines pursuant to appropriate conduct will be followed at all time. No activities considered inappropriate for Cub Scouts will be allowed at any event.
3. Scouts will wear class A or B uniforms correctly at activities as appropriate.
4. Stay with the group at all times.
5. Our Pack is committed to following all guidelines of the BSA's Youth Protection program. "Two deep" leaders and the "buddy" system are always enforced for all Pack and Den activities.
6. Respect wildlife and our ecology by observing, not disturbing nature.
7. Follow the Outdoor Code and Leave No Trace guidelines.
8. Follow the directions/instructions of leaders at all times.





ADULT CODE OF CONDUCT

The Pack Committee has established this Code of Conduct (Code) to provide parents and adult leaders (“Scouters”) of Pack 1540 with a framework of expectations for adults. While the Committee wants each Scouter to be responsible for his or her own behavior, the Code will help ensure a common language and understanding of behavioral expectations and consequences, with the goal of creating an atmosphere conducive to safety, fun and the values of Scouting. Only when necessary will the Committee take fair and balanced action under this Code.

All Scouters of Pack 1540 represent the Boy Scouts of America (“BSA”) when they elect to participate in Pack activities (Den & Pack meetings, Pack events, Pack campouts, summer camp, etc.) and are expected to uphold the principles of Scouting. An indication of this promise and recognition of that responsibility is the Scouter's signature on the code of conduct agreement form as a condition of his or her participation in Pack activities.

Adult Code of Conduct

I agree to abide by this Code of Conduct, as follows:

1. I will conduct myself in accordance with the principles of the Scout Oath and Law.
2. I understand the meaning and importance of the BSA Youth Protection guidelines and agree to conduct myself in accordance with the guidelines. To be a Registered Leader, if I have not done so already, I will complete Youth Protection Training and, as required, every two years.
3. While participating in Pack activities, I will obey the safety rules and instructions of all Scout Leaders and use positive reinforcement and communication with my children and my fellow Scouters and their children.
4. I will not engage in behavior that constitutes discrimination, harassment, hazing, or bullying in any way, including with regard to race, color, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity religion, age, disability, economic status or citizenship of an individual.
5. I understand that the Pack has a zero-tolerance policy with respect to the use of alcoholic beverages and controlled substances at or near Pack activities. I will not possess, distribute, transport, consume, or use alcoholic beverages or controlled substances at encampments or activities on property owned and/or operated by the Boys Scouts of America, or at any activity involving participation of Scouts. I will not attend any Pack activity in an intoxicated state.
6. I will support the BSA and Pack policy that Scouts are better off without tobacco and will not allow the use of tobacco products at any Pack activity involving Scouts. All Scouting functions, meetings, and activities should be conducted in a smoke-free basis, with smoking areas located away from all Scouts.
7. If I am taking prescription medications with the potential of impairing my functioning or judgment, I will not engage in activities that would put Scouts at risk, including driving or operating equipment.
8. I will not bring (or use) firearms, ammunition, weapons, explosives, or fireworks to any Pack activity.
9. I will not gamble in any form at any Pack activity.
10. I will not discuss or engage in any form of sexual conduct while engaged in Scouting activities. I will refer Scouts with questions regarding these topics to talk to their parents or spiritual advisor. I will not possess, distribute, transport, consume, or use pornography or materials containing words or images inconsistent with Scouting values.
11. I will get my son(s) and/or daughter(s) to Pack and Den activities on time. When transporting Scouts, I will obey all laws, comply with Youth Protection guidelines, and follow safe driving practices.
12. I will support my son's and/or daughter's participation in Scouting by being active in his progress toward rank and helping him understand and achieve the various awards that interest him. I will work with my Scout to complete any requirements covered during a missed meeting.

13. I will assist my Den Leader and Pack Leaders by keeping accurate records of my Scout's advancements and will report their progress to my Den Leader in a timely manner.
14. I will ensure my child's uniform is compliant with Cub Scout guidelines and that all patches are appropriately placed on the uniform.
15. I will try to help Pack/Den Leaders whenever possible with the various activities of the Pack/Den.
16. I will ensure all payments for Cub Scout activities/fundraisers are paid in a timely manner.
17. I understand that on Pack/Den activities which require a parent, legal guardian or approved family member accompany my son(s) and/or daughter(s) (i.e. camp outs, all-day events, etc.), that it is my responsibility to make appropriate arrangements in order for my child to participate.
18. In order to have enough volunteers to assist with these duties, a member of our family will fill one volunteer role in the Pack each year, either as a Pack Committee Member, Den Leader/Assistant Leader, or Subcommittee Member.
19. Assist my Scout with annual Popcorn Fundraiser to sale popcorn at a minimum set by the Pack Committee each year to offset the costs to the Pack for their participation in Scouts. If my Scout chooses to not participate in the popcorn sales, we will pay the pt-out fee to cover this cost.
20. I will always have a positive attitude toward Scouting and will always encourage my Scout to live the Cub Scout Motto of "Do Your Best!"
21. I will take steps to prevent or report any violation of this code of conduct by others in connection with Scouting activities.

Consequences for Violation of the Adult Code of Conduct

If an adult's behavior or choices are not in keeping with the BSA youth protection and safety policies or this Code of Conduct, one or more of the following measures may be taken:

- The adult will be asked by a member of the Pack Committee (or other Scout Leader in charge of the activity) to leave the Pack activity and agree to do so without incident and without refund of any fees paid.
- The Pack Committee (or its designee) will review the behavior and take what it determines, in its sole discretion and authority, to be appropriate disciplinary action, which determination will be final and binding.
- The Pack Committee will consider the circumstances of each incident on a case-by-case basis and may take mitigating or exacerbating circumstances into account.
- Adults will understand that they may be suspended from participation in all Pack activities for at least 6 months in the event that they choose to violate the Code of Conduct.
- An adult's behavior may result in other disciplinary action (up to and including expulsion from the Pack). If a Scouter's membership in the Pack is revoked, the Pack Committee will promptly notify the District Council of the action taken and the reason for it.
- Adults understand that the Code of Conduct is the policy of the Pack Committee, and that they may be subject to additional disciplinary action by the National Capital Area Council or the National Council of the Boy Scouts of America.



CATCH the moment



SCOUT ME IN

