



2025-2026 Cub Scout Parent Orientation Guide



Free When You Join Cub Scouts

Every new Cub Scout will receive a **FREE** 7-in-1 survival whistle—perfect for your next outdoor adventure!

Whether you're hiking, camping, or learning new skills, this whistle is a fun and useful tool every Scout will love.



This 7-in-1 whistle includes a thermometer, magnifier (5x), signaling mirror, LED flashlight, compass and storage tube.

Don't miss out. Adventure starts now!

OCCONEECHEE COUNCIL
Scouting  America



Cub Scout Parent Orientation Checklist

Welcome to the adventure! Here's what to do as you read on and begin planning your Scouting experience.

1. Register and join

- Complete Scouting America youth registration at my.scouting.org
- Pay local and national registration fees (unit leader will provide details)
- Get assigned to a den based on your child's grade/age
- Receive your Pack calendar or meeting schedule

2. Get your uniform & handbook

- Visit the Scout Shop (3231 Atlantic Ave. in Raleigh) or shop online at scoutshop.org
- Purchase the correct uniform pieces (shirt, neckerchief, slide, belt, etc.)
- Get the handbook for your child's rank (Lion, Tiger, Wolf, Bear, Webelos, or Arrow of Light)
- Ask your den leader where to sew on patches or request help from a local volunteer

3. Save the dates

- Add pack and den meeting dates to your calendar
- Mark upcoming events like campouts, Pinewood Derby, and day events
- Ask about Council-wide events (Camp Durant family weekends, etc.)

4. Stay connected

- Join your Pack's communication channel (email, Facebook, GroupMe, Band, Scoutbook, etc.)
- Join the Occonechee Council Scouting Community Facebook group for updates
- Connect to your District and the Council's social media pages (QR code below) for news and events
- Sign up for Council emails and newsletters (also at the QR code)



5. Prepare for participation

- Attend your first Pack meeting or Den meeting
- Plan to participate with your child—Cub Scouting is family-based!
- Ask about adult volunteer opportunities (even small jobs help!)
- Complete Safeguarding Youth Training at my.scouting.org (required for registered adults)

6. Gear up for fun

- Bring a water bottle and wear appropriate clothes for active meetings
- Label all Scout gear and uniforms with your child's name
- Start working on adventures in the handbook with your child
- Ask about camping gear basics and what's typically needed for overnights

Scouting Fun and Values

As a parent, you want your child to grow up to be a self-reliant, dependable and caring leader. And to have memorable fun experiences. Scouting has these same goals in mind for your child.

What is Scouting? Scouting is about positive youth development through programs for all youth. Cub Scouts is for boys and girls in Kindergarten through Fifth Grade. Scouts BSA Troops are for young men and women older than Cub Scout age and through age 17.

Support

Cub Scouts helps to support your family by providing ready-made adventures and activities for you and your child to enjoy **together**.

Better Together

Spending time with peers is important. Scouting offers an emphasis on friendship and **building self-esteem**. As a parent, you know that your child is involved in a group of peers and parent leaders that will teach values of good citizenship, character and leadership in a safe environment.

Family Values

Scouting teaches family values and works to strengthen your relationship with your child. It also provides activities for the **whole family** to enjoy.





Scouting America places the greatest importance on creating the most secure environment possible for our Scouts.

Scouting America’s Commitment to Safety

- True youth protection can be achieved only through the **focused commitment of everyone in Scouting**.
- **Get your Safeguarding Youth Training today!** This is required for all registered volunteers to help keep kids safe.
- The **Guide to Safe Scouting** is the reference guide for Youth Protection and Adult Leadership. You can download your copy at [Scouting.org](https://www.scouting.org).
- **Be aware.** Know the Scouting America’s policies on Safe Scouting and stay up to date on your training.

Barriers to Abuse

Scouting America has adopted several robust policies for the safety and well-being of our members. These policies primarily protect youth members; however, they also serve to protect adult leaders. Parents using these safeguards outside Scouting further increase the safety to all children. Learn more about Scouting America's policies at bit.ly/BSA-Barriers-to-Abuse.



Do Your Part to Ensure a Safe Environment for Every Scout.

Get Youth Protection Trained Today!

1. Go to [My.Scouting.org](https://www.myscouting.org) and create an account profile.
2. Click **“My Dashboard”** in the top left portion of your screen.
3. Select **“Safeguarding Youth Training”** under the SYT tab to take this course.
4. Upon completion, please print the certificate and keep a copy for yourself, give one to your unit and attach one to your Adult Leader Application.



Your Den

What is a den? When do we meet?

- A den is six to ten youth, ideally in the same grade, who meet with adult leaders (usually parents) to do Scouting “Adventures”, play games, learn skills, perform skits and songs, and take field trips.
- Dens meet at the convenience of leaders and families often twice a month.
- A den is led by a volunteer Den Leader or co-leaders, assisted by all other parents in the den. Most leaders are parents of Cub Scouts, and every parent is a leader to their Scout!

Your Den’s Pack

- You and your Scout and the den are members of a pack.
- Each pack is made up of one or more dens.
- The pack can host activities, usually once a month, that all Cub Scout families are invited to attend, like campouts, hikes, field trips, Pinewood Derbies and much more!
- Pack activities are led by a volunteer Cubmaster or other parent leaders, with help from other parents.

Your Chartered Organization

- Your pack is sponsored by a Chartered Organization, such as a school, religious or service club.
- Chartered Organizations are organizations with permission - a “charter” - to own and operate a Scouting program.
- Your Chartered Organization approves leadership, helps secure meeting places and keeps the pack within both their guidelines and policies of the Scouting America.



The Advancement Plan

All Scouts should have their own Cub Scout Handbook and work on their age-appropriate “Rank Badge”. Handbook adventures can be den group activities and/or family-led activities.

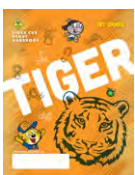


The first step for every new Cub Scout, regardless of age/grade, is to learn the Scout Oath and Law, the Cub Scout handshake, salute, sign and motto to earn the **Bobcat Badge**. Lion Scouts can receive the Bobcat Badge right after they earn the Lion Badge.



Lion // Kindergarten

As a Lion, your kindergartner will make friends, laugh loud, gain confidence, discover nature and most of all... **have fun!** They'll experience the Scouting concepts of character development, leadership, citizenship and personal fitness through engaging and exciting adventures!



Tiger // First Grade

The Tiger badge is earned after completing six required adventures and one elective adventure, plus a parent/child safety exercise. After completing the Tiger rank, Scouts may do more Cub Scout elective adventures. Adventure loops are worn on the Cub Scout belt.



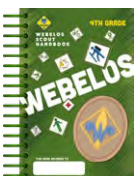
Wolf // Second Grade

The Wolf badge is earned after completing six required adventures and one elective adventure, plus a parent/child safety exercise. After completing the Wolf rank, Scouts may do more Cub Scout elective adventures. Adventure loops are worn on the Cub Scout belt.



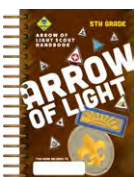
Bear // Third Grade

The Bear badge is earned after completing six required adventures and one elective adventure, plus a parent/child safety exercise. After completing the Bear rank, Scouts may do more Cub Scout elective adventures. Adventure loops are worn on the Cub Scout belt.



Webelos // Fourth Grade - “Webelos” meaning “We’ll Be Loyal Scouts”

The Webelos badge is earned after completing five required adventures and one elective adventure found in the Webelos Handbook. Plus a parent/child safety exercise. Scouts earn adventure pins to be worn on the uniform.



Arrow of Light // Fifth Grade

When a Scout completes fourth grade, they will work on requirements for the “Arrow of Light” badge, also found in the Webelos Handbook. This badge is earned after completing four required adventures and one elective adventure. In late winter or spring of the fifth grade, they graduate from Cub Scouts to a Scouts BSA Troop at a ceremony called a Crossover.

Learn More
About Advancement



Cub Scout Resources



My Scouting Council is:

Occoneetchee Council, #421
3231 Atlantic Avenue
Raleigh, NC 27604

-  ocscouts.org
-  919.872.4884
-  facebook.com/OcconeetcheeCouncil/

Scouting America
Scouting.org

Training and Data
My.Scouting.org

Den Meeting Resources
Scouting.org/programs/cub-scouts/den-meeting-resources/








On Scouting [Daily Blog]
Blog.ScoutingMagazine.org

Scouting America Online Store
ScoutShop.org

Scouting Magazine
ScoutingMagazine.org



The Cub Scout program provides a variety of ways to engage and recognize youth. Below are a few additional awards that can be earned while your child is a Cub Scout.

Awards	
<p>Internet Safety Your Cub Scout will learn to safely navigate the Internet with your guidance. Each level has its own version of this required recognition.</p>	
<p>Cub Scout Recruiter This award recognizes a Scout who recruits a friend into Scouting. Any Scout can recruit a friend and earn this badge.</p>	
<p>Religious Emblems These awards encourage members to grow stronger in their faith. Many religious groups have programs for young people to earn a religious emblem.</p>	
<p>Champions of Nature Each level has its own version of this award, which ensures your Cub Scout knows how to be a good steward of the outdoors, its resources and wildlife.</p>	
<p>Knife Safety To promote safe use of pocket knives by Cub Scouts, Scouts (3rd through 5th Grade) can earn this award.</p>	
<p>Messengers of Peace To recognize individuals who participate in a Messengers of Peace project (service project) – youth and adults. A global service project program carried out by Scouts throughout the world.</p>	
<p>Shooting Sports To learn about shooting sports – slingshots, archery and BBs – Cub Scouts from Kindergarten and up can earn shooting sports awards, first covering safety, then covering shooting sports skills.</p>	



One of the promises of Scouting is being able to experience all of the amazing programs Cub Scouts has to offer in the beautiful outdoors. It helps them learn to rely on themselves - on their own skills and knowledge. Occoneechee Council operates three premier camping properties for your Scout and family!

Camp Durant, OSR

4637 Old Carthage Road | Carthage, NC 28327



Camp Durant is known for its home-away-from-home feel with modern amenities like an air-conditioned dining hall and permanent platform tents. Camp Durant serves thousands of weekend campers in addition to Scouts at Summer Camp and Cub Scouts for Cuboree events.

CampDurant.com



Camp Reeves

Reeves Road | Carthage, NC 28327

Want to really get back to nature? Camp Reeves is less developed than neighboring Camp Durant and provides a more primitive camping experience. You can sharpen your skills and enjoy the peaceful setting that surrounds you.



Camp Campbell

498 Mill Creek Road, Clarksville VA 23927

With 400 acres of lakefront property leased from the Army Corps of Engineers, this nearby camp is used throughout the year for weekend camping, age-appropriate aquatic activities including canoeing, rowing, sailing, skiing, swimming, motor boating and lifesaving.



Make a reservation at any of our camps: go.ocscouts.org/reservations

Questions? Email program@ocscouts.org.



Cub Scouts is about hands-on learning. Your den and pack create a full schedule of fun activities and the Occoneechee Council has many activities you can attend with your pack or on your own.

Spookoree, Open Program + More: Cub Scout Adventures

Get ready for a frightfully fun adventure at Spookoree! This fall-themed camping weekend at Camp Durant is packed with thrilling activities like hands-on STEM experiments, creative arts and crafts, Scout skills challenges, action-packed games, shooting sports, and so much more. Cubs are invited to wear their favorite costumes and brave our not-so-scary Spooky Trail—full of surprises and fun!

Choose Your Own Adventure!

Experience fun, friends, family, games, and family camping at Camp Durant.

Spookoree | Oct. 24-26, 2025

Cub Scout Open Program Fall | Nov. 8, 2025

Cub Scout Open Program Spring | March 7, 2026

Spring Cuboree | April 24-26, 2026

See the entire lineup of Cub Scout Programs:
go.ocscouts.org/cub-scout-camping

Scout Days

Year-round opportunities for Scouts at sporting venues

Scout Days are opportunities for Scouts, friends and family to watch the North Carolina Courage, Durham Bulls, Holly Springs Salamanders, Fayetteville Marksmen and other professional sports games. Check out ocscouts.org/scoutdays for upcoming dates and ticket options.



Cub Scout Uniform

You can purchase all of your Scout's needs at the Scouting America Outfitters located at the Council Service Center. Here you will find helpful team members to help you get the right sizes, patches and everything else your Scout may need.

Note: To reduce financial barriers to participation, your pack may not require that all uniform elements be bought, but Scouts will want to work toward the "full uniform" look.

Scouting America Outfitters

Address:

3231 Atlantic Avenue Raleigh, NC 27604

Contact:

919.850.0301

occoneecheescoutshop@scouting.org

ocscouts.org/shop

Hours:

Monday-Friday | 9 AM - 5 PM

Saturday | 10 AM - 4 PM

Closed on Sunday

Be sure to visit ocscouts.org/shop for the most updated hours, special events or holiday closures. You can also find us on Facebook: Occoneechee Scout Shop - Scouting America.

SAVE 10%
On Matching Uniform Bottoms
with Purchase of a Uniform Top



HEADGEAR

Lion, Tiger, Wolf, Bear, or Webelos, according to rank.
\$22.99 + tax

SHIRT

Official long- or short-sleeve, navy blue. Wear with either pants or shorts
\$32.99 + tax

NECKERCHIEF AND SLIDE

Lion, Tiger, Wolf, Bear, or Webelos, according to rank.
\$12.99 + tax (neckerchief)
\$7.99 + tax (slide)

PATCHES

[Council Shoulder patch, Pack numerals, world crest, rank appropriate patches]

BELT

Official navy blue web belt cut to proper length with Tiger or Cub Scouting insignia on buckle
\$14.99 + tax

PANTS/SHORTS/SKORT

Official navy blue pants or shorts, no cuffs. To be worn with official long- or short-sleeve navy blue shirt
Prices vary according to style.

Visit Scouting.org/Programs/Cub-Scouts/Cub-Scout-Uniform for more information.

Cub Scout Handbooks

Cub Scout handbooks are the guides parents want for developing skills, leadership and character. The books for Cub Scouts are related to age and contain the program Adventures for the coming year, especially the requirements for their advancement awards.





Join Your Scout!

In this section you will learn how to get involved as a parent and a leader and what training you will need to make it easy. Every parent must be a leader to their own Scout children – and Cub Scouting works best when parents share in leading all the Scouts in a den and pack. Many Cub Scout Adventures can be completely earned at home – and every family will have access to tips about how they can lead in person and in den gatherings.

Did You Know?

71%
of Cub Scouts joined
“to go camping.”

Join the Journey with Your Scout

Scouting operates through volunteer leadership. Volunteer leaders are an example of Scouting’s principle of service to others. Naturally, parents are the primary source of leaders the Scouting. You volunteer not only to fill a role in Scouting, but also to help your Scout and their friends and to have the chance to be a positive influence on the youth in your community.



It’s a Family Program

Being a leader is fun and rewarding. Leaders find that their experiences help them to become better parents. The following are some of the many dividends that will enrich your life as you dedicate your time, talents and enthusiasm to Scouting.

- Fun and fellowship with other families and sharing your pride with your Scouts on their accomplishments.
- The opportunity to share ideas with other parents about how we can lead, help and nurture our Scouts in our den and pack, and create stronger families through Scouting.
- A chance to help our children learn good citizenship and to help shape them into young people who have strength of character and are sensitive to the needs of others.



Your Scout's Pack 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 in your family to participate in a leadership role. Here are some examples on how you can get involved today!

Den Leader/Assistants

Leads the den at den adventures and pack activities — guides parents about how to lead their Scouts. Den Leaders will need help from Assistants and helpers, and dens can be led by a “co-leader” team of 2, 3 or more.

Pack Committee

Pack committee members (some positions listed below) perform administrative functions of the pack to support the delivery of the program by Den Leaders and the Cubmaster - all coordinate in regular pack leader meetings.

Committee Chair

Overall coordination of pack plan and volunteers. Presides at all pack committee meetings. Helps recruit adult volunteers.

Secretary/Treasurer

Keeps records of pack funds (collections and expenses) and reports to the Committee. Handles applications and recharter paperwork.

Advancement Chair

Maintains advancement records for Scouts. Orders and obtains all badges and insignia for den and pack recognition.

Cubmaster/Assistants

Helps plan and carry out the pack program with the help of others. Emcees the monthly pack activity or meeting. Also helps guide parents about how to lead their Scouts.



Pack Trainer

Guides leaders and parents to training resources and classes (online and in person).

Parent Helpers/Committee Members

Involved in program jobs of short duration including coordinating pack participation in sales events, Scouting for Food, Pinewood Derby, Blue and Gold Banquet, Day Camp, weekend activities, etc.

New Member Coordinators

A “Welcome” team to help welcome families to pack events and guide families on how to get the most out of Scouting.



TRAINING PARENT LEADERS



Did You Know?

86%

of Volunteers Say Their Time Invested with Scouts Helps Them Be Better Parents.*

*Source Volunteer Outcomes Survey

Getting Trained to Lead Your Scouts

Leading your Scout's Cub Scout den or pack is a great journey where you will share many lifelong memories. The first step is to complete training for your specific leadership role, providing you with the tools you need to put on a quality program for the Scouts and to help you have a fun time leading them. Trained leaders have more fun!

FIRST STEP | Safeguarding Youth Training (SYT)

Safeguarding Youth Training outlines the policies all Scouting adults must follow in order to protect our Scouts. This training is required for all Scouting America registered volunteers and must be every year. If a volunteer's SYT expired, their registration will be expired.

SECOND STEP | Volunteer Training [Position-Specific Leader Training]

Position-specific leader training is designed to present essential and practical information for parents, including Den Leaders and Assistants, Cubmasters and Assistants, Committee Chairs and Committee Members. These instructor-led or online courses are designed to help leaders learn how to effectively carry out their Scouting roles and to deliver a safe, quality program. All Cub Leader Training is available online at [My.Scouting.org](https://my.scouting.org). Some live courses are designed for pack parent leader teams, and cover all roles, to better coordinate among leader teams. See next page for upcoming dates.

NEXT STEP | Cub Scout Camping Training

Be sure to have one or more leaders complete the introductory Outdoor Cub Scout Leader Training, called "BALOO" (for "Basic Adult Leader Outdoor Orientation"), as a BALOO trained leader is required to take a pack camping. BALOO teaches you how to help new camping families have fun and be safe. See next page for upcoming dates.

Funding Your Adventure

In this section you will learn the **opportunities** the Occoneechee Council offers to Scouts to **raise funds** to help pay for their Scouting experience. 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 definitely the best return on your investment. The Scout Law teaches Scouts to be thrifty and earn your own way.

Scouting Costs

National registration fees for national program development, facilities and much more.

To ensure we have the resources to fulfill the promise of Scouting, the membership fee structure is:

- \$165 for Cub Scouts, Scouts BSA, Venturing, and Sea Scouts participants
- \$91 for all adult volunteers (includes cost of background check)
- \$15 for Scout Life magazine (optional)

The membership fee helps cover the cost of essential services: program resources, liability insurance for those participating in approved Scouting activities, criminal background checks, youth protection, and the development of intellectual property for national, council, and unit programs. As we move forward, we will continue to look at the membership fee structure and how we deliver the Scouting program for future generations.

Scout Assistance: We want every youth to be able to join Scouting. Submit a Scout Assistance form if you would like financial assistance with membership fees and/or uniform purchases: go.ocscouts.org/scout-assistance

Pack program costs for other program and activity items, which vary from pack to pack.

Pack program fees (or “dues”) may be collected annually or at monthly or other intervals as costs are incurred by the pack – a few packs don’t charge pack program fees if they are committed to fundraising to pay all pack program costs.

Common items covered in pack budgets include key program items like rank badges and other patches and loops and pins, pack tee shirts, Pinewood Derby kits and awards, Blue and Gold Awards Banquet, youth national Scouting America registration fees for 2025-2026 (\$85), and other program items and kits. Some packs cover adult leader national registration fees through these dues. Often special activity events (like admission costs for field trips or similar event fees) will be paid by those who attend and not out of the pack dues budget.

When do you pay? And how?

When you register online or at a sign-up night, you’ll pay the registration fee of \$165. Membership is effective for 12 months from time of registration. Upon joining, some packs will ask that a portion of the pack program fees be paid to cover initial supplies provided to Scouts. Your pack can confirm how and when pack program fees (or dues) are paid – and what fundraising options Scout families can participate in to pay for Scouting adventures!



FUNDRAISING OPPORTUNITIES

Popcorn

Popcorn is a late summer/early fall fundraiser that helps to pay for camp experiences, registration fees and fun family events! We recognize top-selling Scouts and units with custom patches.

A great benefit of the popcorn sale is that units have the ability to fund their entire year's program through a council supported fundraiser. The Occoneechee Council does all the pre-work to set up the sale, eliminating the need for your unit to research opportunities, as well as creates sales and promotional material, manage a relationship with the storefront, etc. Additionally, purchasing popcorn as a council reduces the price to each unit, yielding greater profits for participating units. Visit ocscouts.org/scout-fundraisers/popcorn-sale/ for more information.

Scout Cards

Scout Cards are discount cards created in partnership with businesses. These cards are sold by Scouts to members of their community. The sale happens every spring. Each year, we partner with local and national businesses to offer discounts for our Scout Cards. The funds a Scout earns can be used towards Summer Camp or other council activities. This fundraiser is designed to help Scouts earn funds to offset the cost of their Scouting experience. Past partners have included Harris Teeter®, Papa John's®, Great Clips®, Dick's Sporting Goods® and more. Take advantage of these partnerships to help your Scouts get to camp!

Other Fundraisers

In addition, some packs hold other fundraisers that are approved in advance by the Occoneechee Council and your Chartered Organization, and reflect Scouting's basic values. Visit ocscouts.org/scout-fundraisers/ for more information.

Scouting  **America**
Occoneechee Council



OCSCOUTS.ORG | 919-872-4884