

# The Ins & Outs of Cub Scout Pack 6



## **The Dens:**

The Cub Scout “Den” is a group of boys in the same grade level. The den is run by an adult den leader. Some dens also have an adult assistant and/or a den chief (boy scout helper). Pack 6 currently has 5 dens. Tigers = 1<sup>st</sup> graders, Wolves = 2<sup>nd</sup> graders, Bears = 3<sup>rd</sup> graders, Webelo I’s = 4<sup>th</sup> graders, and Webelo II’s = 5<sup>th</sup> graders. Each den meets twice a month.

## **The Pack:**

All the dens (Tigers through Webelos) make up a “Pack.” Pack 6 meets on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday of each month in the COH Elementary School auditorium from 7-8:30pm. Pack meetings are an opportunity for scouts to share new skills, be recognized for badges they have earned, and have some fun! It is also a time for parents to find out about up-coming events and sign up for our many activities.

## **The Committee:**

The “Committee” is the group of parents who meet to plan the activities for the pack and organize the pack meetings. The committee members are the Cub Master, Committee Chair, Treasurer, Den Leaders, and any other dedicated parent. The Committee meets once a month. (currently the 1<sup>st</sup> Monday of each month)

## **The Parents:**

Pack 6 is run entirely by parent volunteers. All parents are expected to help where they can and share their talents with the pack. There are many responsibilities, both long-term and short-term, that require parent participation. By volunteering in Scouting, you are setting a great example for your scout and giving him the gift of your time. What could be more valuable?

## **Uniforms:**

Pack 6 requires all boys to wear the Official Cub Scout Uniform. The basic uniform consists of a shirt with patches sewn on, a neckerchief, slide, hat, and belt. Optional items are official scout pants and socks. All scout uniforms can be purchased at the HVCBSA store located in Newburgh, NY. Occasionally, hand-me-down uniforms are available.

### **Attendance (Meetings and Activities):**

Scouts are encouraged to attend all den and pack meetings. This enables the scout to reach the ultimate goal of making “rank” (completing all requirements) by the end of the year. Tigers are a Cub/Adult team. No tiger is allowed to attend without a partner. The Tiger program is set up to have parents lead the events of the meeting and the coach to be there to help. As the Cubs progress in rank, the den leader will determine if the parent needs to stay with his/her scout. We generally feel that scouting is an excellent way for parent-son bonding time and we encourage parents to stay and participate. In addition, Pack 6 plans a wide variety of optional activities and events such as bowling, snow tubing, maple sugaring, baseball games, ice skating, camping and of course the Pinewood Derby. These can be enjoyed by the whole family and create a well-rounded experience in scouting.

### **Communication:**

Pack 6 uses e-mail for much of our communication. Please make sure that we have a current e-mail address for your family. If that is not an option in your home, please see your den leader and we will make special care to assign you a “buddy” to receive the information from. We also have a website ([packsix.org](http://packsix.org)) for quick communication, announcements, calendars, and photos. The website is updated regularly, so please check-in often. In addition, Den leaders will pass information directly to parents at den meetings, and a portion of our monthly pack meeting is set aside to discuss scouting activities, projects, and outings.

### **Money:**

This is the part that everyone hates to talk about, but here it is. Pack 6 operates like a business. We must generate money to operate. We collect money the following ways.

1. NEW scouts register in May. The fee is \$30 (½ year) which covers (May- Dec.).
2. ALL scouts re-register every December for the upcoming calendar year (Jan-Dec). The yearly fee is \$65. \$35.00 goes directly to the national council and includes a Boy’s Life magazine subscription and insurance. The balance is used for supplies, awards, patches and items directly given to each boy.
3. We have only ONE fund raiser per year, the BSA Council - sponsored fund raiser of Popcorn. Because this is the only fund raiser we have, we require all registered boys participate. We sell popcorn both individually and as a team. Individual sales require boys to sell popcorn and reach a sales goal. Team sales involve selling popcorn/ requesting donations at a designated location/store. Each boy is rewarded in prizes and awards both on a pack and council level. Popcorn sales run September –October with delivery in November.

### **Camping:**

Pack 6 likes to go camping. If you notice the last 6 letters in “Scouting” spell “outing.” We generally schedule about 6 local camping trips per calendar year, (May – October) with camp-outs usually beginning on Saturday before dinner and ending Sunday after lunch. Camping with Cub Scouts is a family affair. Each family brings their own tent and the family sleeps together (no boys share tents at this age.) We provide the games, entertainment, crafts, etc. with the understanding that we all pitch in to offer help and ideas. Day activities are open to all scouts and their

families even those who didn't sleep over. Meals are planned to together. Fees for camping can vary depending on the arrangements made for each event, but are usually minimal. Each trip is different and signup sheets with information are posted well in advance.

**Big Outing:**

Once a year we try to arrange for a big outing; a once in a lifetime event for the boys. These are normally big ticket items and cost no less that \$50 per person, so we try to arrange these for spring/ early summer to insure we have lots of time to save. We have had the opportunity in the past to sleep aboard the USS Massachusetts, Hershey Park, the Norwalk Aquarium, the Museum of Natural History, the Philadelphia Zoo and others. These trips are always optional and never used as requirements toward rank. They are just one more way of opening the doors to the world for our boys.

**The Big Picture:**

We think that Cub Scout Pack 6 is a great place for the boys to have fun, learn something new, and explore new experiences. There is so much information to pass onto each new scout. Please take some time to read, absorb and get to know. It is a great family to belong to. Cub Scouting = fun. We're glad you have made the commitment to join us. Welcome.