Pack 591 Cub Scout Parent Handbook

Welcome to Cub Scout Pack 591 of Redmond, Washington! Our pack brings together boys from Horace Mann, Norman Rockwell, Redmond and Einstein Elementary schools, as well as several private schools in the Lake Washington School District. Our Charter Organization is First Baptist Church of Redmond, located at 16700 NE 95th Street, Redmond (98052). Pack 591 has been continuously chartered since 1984 and averages a roster of 35 to 70 boys per year in 1st through 5th grades. Cub Pack 591 is a member of Sammamish Trails District in the Chief Seattle Council of Washington State.

Cub Scouting is a character-building institution that embraces the values of citizenship, compassion, cooperation, courage, faith, health and fitness, honesty, perseverance, positive attitude, resourcefulness, respect and responsibility. These are known as the "12 Core Values of Scouting". Cub Scouting as a program is a year-round, family oriented part of Boy Scouts for boys who are in 1st through 5th grades, or have reached the ages of 7 through 11 years old.

We teach citizenship, good relationship skills and respect for himself and others through the Scouting Ideals with mottos, promises and salutes. Being a member of a team or group is also another way to build relationship skills. Advancement is important to us all, so we try to give the scout as many possible ways to achieve recognition and support – by friendly competition, civic service and by working with their family and friends to reach their goals.

Our purpose is to provide "Fun with a Purpose" for all boys, regardless of race, religion or family structure and we hold to the rules and regulations of the Boy Scouts of American national organization. http://www.scouting.org/ can provide detailed information about the national organization.

If you are new to scouting, or it's been awhile since you've been involved in a scout group, you'll probably have some questions. Hopefully this handbook and any of our leaders or experienced parents will be able to ease your fears and answer those questions.

What is a Pack?

A Cub Scout Pack is a group of boys ages 7 to 11 or in grades 1st through 5th that observe the Scout Oath and Motto while working on the "10 Purposes of Cub Scouting":

1) Character Development
2) Spiritual Growth
3) Good Citizenship
4) Sportsmanship and Fitness
5) Family Understanding
6) Respectful Relationship
7) Personal Achievement
8) Friendly Service
9) Fun and Adventure
10) Preparation for Boy Scouts

What is a Den?

Cub Scouts are separated into smaller groups of age-appropriate boys, usually by age or school grade. Each den is assigned a number and works in a workbook specifically designed for their age and abilities. Boys work towards Rank advancement by completing a defined number of achievements in their workbook. They work together with their Den, Leaders, parents, family and other people to complete these achievements.

Tiger Cub	7 years old or in 1st Grade	Webelos Yr. 1	10 years old or in 4th Grade
Wolf Cub	8 years old or in 2nd Grade	Webelos yr. 2	11 years old or in 5th Grade
Bear Cub	9 years old or in 3rd Grade		

Dens meet twice a month (or as needed as determined by the group of den families and leaders) to work on advancements, play games and have fun.

Who is in charge?

A Pack is made up of several leaders in the organization, all working together to make the program fun, exciting and structured. All positions are carried out by volunteers who believe that Scouting is part of a balanced life for boys.

All leaders **must** complete Youth Protection Training, New Leader's Essential and Leader Specific Training Courses to be a certified Leader (Committee Members need not take Leader's courses, but must have Youth Protection Training – available online http://www.seattlebsa.org/sbsa_training).

Cub Master:	Seen as the "Leader" of the Pack, the Cub Master performs several duties in the pack such as being the Master of Ceremonies at Pack Meetings, being present at Open House events, and planning the monthly Pack meetings.
Assistant Cub Master:	Helps with Pack Meetings; assists with training new and existing leaders; works with scouts on Flag Ceremonies. There may be more than one Assistant Cub Masters, depending on need.
Committee Chair:	Plans and organizes monthly Pack meetings with assistance of Committee members; may assist in any other relevant positions in the pack, as needed.
Den Leader:	Leads a group of 5 to 8 (sometimes more) boys in a den of Tiger, Wolf, Bear or Webelos group; usually a parent of one of the boys in the den.
Assistant Den Leader:	Assists the Den Leader and parents in the den.
Committee Member:	Any adult who has completed an "Adult Leader Registration" through BSA; usually a parent or adult who does not have another Leader position.
Treasurer/Finance:	Manages Pack Checking account; works with Advancement, Activity and Camping committees to disburse funds as needed.

There are a variety of other positions available that help the pack flow smoothly and create energy and fun for the scouts and families. These positions include (but are certainly not limited to):

Webelos to Scout Coordinator
Camping Coordinator
Awards/Advancements
Popcorn Kernel
Blue & Gold Banquet
Derby Days Parade
Pack Activities
News & Information
Recruitment
New Scout/Family Information
Website
Scouting for Food
Photographer
Adopt-a-family
Community Service
Pinewood Derby

If you are interested in helping in any way, please see the Cub Master or Committee Chair and we'll find a spot perfect for you!

What is expected of the boys?

We expect the boys to maintain 'scout-like' behavior at all times as explained in our Code of Conduct. In general, we expect each boy to "Do Their Best" in the following areas:

- Respect the Pack Leadership and all adults
- Respect fellow scouts
- Follow the rules and instructions of leaders and adults in the Pack.

Scout-like behavior is NOT reflected in:

- Threats of physical aggression or violence (verbal or otherwise)
- Hurtful or malicious teasing or bullying
- Destruction or abuse of property or possessions
- Foul Language
- Intentionally creating situations that endanger self or others

What is expected of Parents and Adults?

We live in a fast-paced and electronic world. Many of our families have hectic work schedules; in addition to busy family lives. We ask that all adults be prepared to:

- Leave all electronic devices at home that may distract from your involvement with your son in scouting activities. Cell Phones are allowed (they've become almost a necessity in case of emergency!) as long as they are not abused. Game systems (yes it is actually in the *Adult* section) are not acceptable at any meeting.

- Be prepared to stay at meetings and interact with your scout. In the event that you cannot stay with your scout, please make sure there is two-deep leadership at any meeting -- **NEVER** leave your scout with only one adult in attendance.

- Work with your scout on advancements and electives during your regular family activities. Many of the activities in the scouting books revolve around things your family probably already does. Other things your scout may need to experience in a group event; such as fundraisers or civic service.
- Help your den leader(s) and other pack parents by arriving on time with your scout prepared to participate in meetings.

We may also ask that you help with refreshments for a meeting or transportation to a specific event. There are many opportunities that are available for you to help in scouting that will not require you to be a "Leader". However, there are many activities that must be completed to run a scouting program of 40 plus boys.

Communication

Email is the fastest form of communication for a pack of this size, but may not always be the most convenient. We do not post personal phone numbers on the Pack website; however you may always contact your Den Leader, the Cub Master or Committee Chair if you need to contact another pack member by telephone.

Our website, www.pack591.org lists upcoming activities for several weeks, as well as links to photos, web sites and information you might find helpful and a calendar.

Our complete calendar is available in a Word document, or may be sent to you via Outlook Calendar format if you prefer. Den Meetings and Pack Meetings are listed on the Website calendar; training opportunities can be found at http://members.doubleknot.com/Sammamish_Trails_District/Training/Training%20Sched%20-%20Cub%20Sct%20Ldr.pdf.

We are also building a newsletter that will be available in several formats – to be available soon!

Where and when will meetings be held?

Den meetings will be scheduled by the Den leader and parents in the den to reflect the best time for all families. It is understood that your family may not be able to make all meetings due to conflicts; we ask that you let your den leader know if you cannot attend so they can let you know what activities your scout will need to catch up on. Den meetings may be held at our Charter Organization (First Baptist Church) building, in private home(s) or any public meeting place including schools, churches or libraries. It is recommended that you locate a place for meetings that is at little or no cost, although the Pack can reimburse you for meeting expenses if the need arises.

The Den meeting is an opportunity to complete achievements in the work book that need group participation, learn a skill, have fun and be with friends

Pack meetings are held the third Monday of every month, with few exceptions for holidays and weather cancellations. Pack Meetings are held at the First Baptist Church of Redmond. The pack meetings gets all the boys and their families together to recognize awards and accomplishments, play games and learn a skill.

We ask that your scout wear his uniform to all meetings and events that represent him as a Cub Scout.

Leader's Meetings (Committee Meetings) are held as needed, usually after a planned Pack Meeting. Leader's meetings are held to discuss Pack issues that need to be resolved, plan upcoming Pack Meetings and discuss other challenges or events that need planning. Parents are always encouraged and welcome to attend!

Training meetings are held once a month at the Rose Hill L.D.S. building, 7:30 PM on the first Thursday of each month. Additional trainings can be found at http://members.doubleknot.com/Sammamish_Trails_District/Training.

Uniform

Cub Scout Uniform requirements for Pack 591 are the Blue Cub Scout Shirt (available in short or long-sleeve) and a Cub Scout web belt. The Committee Chair or Advancement Chair can purchase any uniform items you need (see uniform order sheet for pricing). Insignia, Neckerchief and Slide will be provided for each scout with payment of annual dues. We ask that your scout wear his uniform to all meetings and events that represent him as a Cub Scout.

Uniforms may also be worn to school spirit days, the days of Pack and/or Den meetings at on days of special national significance (Veterans Day, etc).

Other uniform accessories are available for purchase, although optional. An online catalog of scout items is available at www.scoutstuff.org. You may order online with your credit card, or pass the item information on to our Committee Chair or Advancement Chair; they will purchase the items and collect funds from you at delivery.

Leaders and Committee Members are not REQUIRED to be in uniform; however it is advisable (you must still be trained to be a leader).

Advancements, Rank and Awards

The scouting program is designed to teach your son a variety of skills through age-appropriate activities and fun. The program covers many aspects of life and includes the "character connection" to each of scouting's core principles. Each workbook focuses on your son's skills and abilities as he matures and grows and allows him to participate fully (with your help, of course) in all activities to "Do His Best".

As scouting is only one part of a balanced life, your son will have opportunities to earn recognition for sports and academics in his every day life through our "Sports & Academics" program; more information available at http://www.usscouts.org/advance/cubscout/a-sindex.asp.

We also offer segments for pack activities such as field trips and special events, as well as opportunities to attend "Scout Nights" with local professional sports teams, Overnight experiences at the Zoo and Pacific Science Center, and discounted tickets to several local events like the Harlem Globetrotters and Ringling Bros. Circus.

Camping and Outdoor Activities

"Outing" is the part of scouting that is the most recognizable theme of the program. Chief Seattle Council offers a variety of camping opportunities from Day Camp to overnight experiences. Each camp offers advancement activities and a assortment of outdoor events designed to teach, encourage and develop skills. Not all camps may be available to all ages due to activities, but there are camps designed for every age group and skill at some time during the year! For more information, check out the Chief Seattle website at http://www.seattlebsa.org/sbsa_CampingDepartment/CampingPages/CubScoutCamping.htm.

Finances

Annual dues are $85 for each scout, excluding Webelos 2 and more than one scout per family:

$85.00/year Tiger, Wolf, Bear and Webelos Yr. 1 scouts
$42.50/year Webelos Yr. 2 scouts
$77.00/year Families with more than one scout in the pack (2nd and subsequent scouts)

Leader's fees are paid by the pack.

Please review our Dues & Registration sheet called "Money Matters". This should explain many of the financial questions you have regarding our Scout program. We collect annual Dues at the September Pack Meeting – the beginning of our Scouting year (*).

Scholarships and financial assistance are available to families that need it; please see the Committee Chair or Cub Master to discuss your assistance needs.

The Boy Scout Law

A Scout is Trustworthy, Loyal, Helpful, Friendly, Courteous, Kind, Obedient, Cheerful, Thrifty, Brave, Clean and Reverent.

Cub Scout Motto

"DO YOUR BEST"

The Law of the Pack

"The Cub Scout follows Akela.
The Cub Scout helps the Pack go,
The pack helps the Cub Scout grow,
The Cub Scout gives goodwill."

The Cub Scout Promise

"I _____ promise to do my best
To do my duty to God and my country,
To help other people, and
To obey the Law of the Pack."

Contact Information

Cub Master	Gareth Jones	gareth.jones@msnbc.com
Asst. Cub Master	Russ Norman	Russell.norman@verizon.net
Committee Chair	Paige Norman	cubpack591@verizon.net
District Executive	Laura Cook	lcook@seattlebsa.org

Chief Seattle Council Scout Shop
3120 Rainier Avenue South
Post Office Box 440408
Seattle, WA 98114

Phone: 206-725-5200
General Fax: 206-721-8985
Tour Permit Fax: 206-725-2862
E-mail: council@seattlebsa.org