

# Cub Scout Pack 46 Handbook



## **Cub Scout Pack 46**

BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA  
Chartered By: Matthews Presbyterian Church  
207 West John Street  
Matthews, NC  
<https://cubpack46.wixsite.com/pack46>  
Aug 1, 2018



### Welcome to Cub Scout Pack 46

We're glad that your family has joined Scouting and we hope you and your child will have a great



adventure with Cub Scout Pack 46. Pack 46 has been meeting in Matthews, NC for several years and continues to thrive due to the dedication of its volunteer

leaders and parents like you! We all believe that Scouting is an important part of the physical, mental, and spiritual development of our boys and girls.

Pack 46 is in the Etowah District, one of several districts in Mecklenburg County that are part of the Mecklenburg County Council (MCC), Boy Scouts of America. The MCC serves over 10,000 youth members and 3500 adult volunteers. We are chartered annually by the National Council of the Boy Scouts of America, which is chartered by the Congress of the United States of America!

### About Our Chartered Organization



All Cub Scout Packs are associated with a chartering organization that sponsors them, provides meeting facilities, and approves the selection of leaders. Pack

46 is chartered by Matthews Presbyterian Church, which holds services each Sunday at 10:30 AM as well as Sunday School at 9:15. Matthews Presbyterian Church invites you to visit on Sundays. Children are a very important part of the Church, and the Church provides a pre-school (The Children's Development Center), Sunday School, a Children's Choir, Wednesday night activities program, and other youth-oriented activities. Check out their website for other activities at <http://www.matthewspresbyterian.org/>

Scouting tries to develop a strong moral value system within its membership, including the most important element – a belief in God and a sense of duty and reverence towards Him.

While requiring that its members acknowledge a fundamental belief in a supreme God, the Boy Scouts of America organization does not define the specifics of any particular religion except to say that a higher power must be the center of it. The BSA encourages its members to actively practice their own religious faith in worship of Him. Scouting is a non- denominational religious and educational institution and all faiths are welcome.

You do not have to be a member of Matthews Presbyterian Church to join Pack 46. But if you do not currently have a church home, we encourage you to visit Matthews Presbyterian Church and we invite you to come see us at MPC!

### Pack Organization

A group of approximately 5 to 10 Scouts of the same age who are working on earning the same rank make up a Den. All of the Dens together make up the Pack.

Individual dens have a Den Leader and Assistant Den Leaders. These leaders plan and execute the weekly den meetings.

A Pack Committee consisting of interested parents, leaders, and members of the Chartered Organization are responsible to support the pack in areas such as to plan and implement pack activities, fundraising events, field trips, outings, camping trips, banquets, derbies, etc.

The Pack Committee is headed by the Pack Committee Chair, and includes the following members over the following areas:

- ☐ Treasurer
- ☐ Advancement
- ☐ Membership
- ☐ Outings
- ☐ Communications
- ☐ Service Projects
- ☐ Pack Trainer
- ☐ Quartermaster

The Cubmaster and Assistant Cubmasters plan and execute monthly Pack meetings around monthly themes. The Cubmaster, Assistant Cubmasters, and Pack Trainer work to support the Den Leaders and encourage and provide training relevant to the leader's position.

## Meetings

Most dens in Pack 46 meet for one hour every Monday evening at Matthews Presbyterian Church, 207 W. John St. Some dens may decide to adopt a different meeting schedule or location. Your scout's Den Leader will discuss your den's meeting schedule and location and will inform you of any changes. Please try to arrive at meetings on time.

The Pack Calendar is on the pack web site, <https://cubpack46.wixsite.com/pack46>

Any updates to the calendar will appear in a pack email, as well as communicated via the Facebook group.

❖ **If the CMS Public School System cancels scheduled classes due to inclement weather (or for any other reason), the Den or Pack will not meet that night**

Please pick your scout up promptly at the end of the scheduled meeting time. For the safety of our Scouts, we cannot let them wait for you outside alone. Leaders are required to stay with your Scout until you pick him up. This is a good opportunity for you to take a few minutes and talk to your scout's Den Leader. Your promptness will help keep these volunteers from being inconvenienced!

## Den Meetings

Den Meetings are held weekly and provide your scout with opportunities to enjoy various planned activities, learn new skills, and have great fun. While parental attendance is not required at all Den Meetings (except for Tiger Cubs), it is certainly encouraged! Some Dens will require parent participation at specific meetings. Please keep in touch with your scout's Den Leader so that you will know what activities are taking place and can track the progress your scout is making. Meeting rooms will be assigned when the dens show up for their first meeting.

## Pack Meetings

Once a month all Dens meet together for a "Pack Meeting", which all Cub Scouts and their families are encouraged to attend. The Pack Meeting is a fun time for everyone. Dens show off the projects they have been working on, lead songs, perform skits, and awards are presented to the Scouts. It is a time for the family to get

information on upcoming activities and share in the Scouting spirit. Be sure to attend and join in the excitement while watching your scout advance!

*Awards are a very important part of the Scouting program. They are intended to help build self-esteem by providing recognition for a Scout's hard work. We encourage you to applaud, whistle, and cheer for all of the Scouts as they are presented with their awards at Pack Meetings.*

❖ **It is the responsibility of everyone in the pack to assist with cleanup following the Pack Meeting, especially when refreshments have been served.**

The Pack Meeting is usually at the end of each month but may change due to legal holidays or other events. See the Pack Calendar for exact dates and consult the website. Regardless of the time that your scout's Den meets, Pack meetings will take place from 7:00 PM to 8:00 PM unless stated otherwise.

## Facility Guidelines

**Please Show Respect for Our Meeting Place,  
Matthews Presbyterian Church**

We are fortunate to have the support of the church leadership and we are proud to be associated with this church in our community. We have a tradition of respecting property and do not wish to reflect negatively on Scouting or on Matthews Presbyterian Church.

We understand that "kids will be kids" and outbursts of enthusiasm will occur. However, there may be other groups meeting in the building at the same time we are meeting, so please be polite to them, and reasonably quiet so as not to disturb what they are doing. We are guests in this building! Please avoid running and yelling in the halls and do your best to keep everything neat and clean. Please ask your Scout to stay away from the piano, organ, and other musical instruments or church equipment that may be present while we are meeting.

We always provide all of our own materials for our programs, so there should never be any need to use any of the church's materials found in the classrooms. Please leave the classrooms and other facilities set up the way you found them, or even neater than you found it.

Matthews Presbyterian Church understands that upon occasion accidents happen and that things get worn, dirty, and broken. Pack 46 is committed to act responsibly to prevent as much damage as possible and to be good stewards of what we have graciously been given by the church. We will check all of the facilities before and after our meetings, especially the bathrooms and grounds. We will clean, repair, replace, or reimburse as needed. **If you see any problems, please alert the Den Leaders or the Cubmaster right away!**

Note specifically that the church has instructed us that the use of the playground requires ACTIVE parent supervision; we cannot just simply “let them go play”.

You can help by talking frankly with your scout about the importance of respect and stewardship and what their responsibilities are. We want to remain a welcome part of Matthews Presbyterian Church’s ministries!

### Registration

Our Pack’s season runs from August to June each year and the Pack encourages all Scouts to register for the year no later than October. Our annual joining fee is \$85 and is due at the beginning of the Cub Scout Year

A portion of this fee is paid to the BSA national organization and local Council to cover insurance, a national registration fee, and BSA operating expenses. The remainder of the registration fee (combined with proceeds of fundraising activities, dues, and nominal charges for some events) is used by the Pack to pay for Scout awards, leader training, campsite rentals, Den expenses, Pinewood Derby, crafts supplies, facilities rental, Banquet food and decorations, some field trip expenses, etc.

You may optionally choose to subscribe to Boys Life magazine for \$12. This magazine is geared towards scouts, and ties in closely with the monthly scouting program activities and is recommended but not required.

✱*If the annual registration fee places an excessive burden on your family’s finances (especially if you have more than one child in Scouts), please contact*

*the Cubmaster, Pack Committee Chairman, or Pack Committee Treasurer to discuss alternate arrangements. Although the Pack depends upon this fee to fund our many activities, we’d like to see all scouts able to participate in Scouting and we don’t want the registration fee to be an obstacle.*

Cub Scouts are discouraged from joining the Pack from January through April since too little time remains in the year to complete the requirements for advancing in rank.

✱***Because of insurance liability, Scouts who have not made at least a partial payment of the registration fee for the current charter year will not be allowed to participate in Scout activities. Unregistered Scouts are not members of BSA and cannot earn badges or awards of any kind (the Council records system will not accept their entries!)***

Transfers into the Pack (from another Pack) by families moving into the area are welcome at any time throughout the year as space permits.

The Pack provides through the registration fees, the rank appropriate handbook, a boat for the Raingutter Regatta, and a car for the pinewood derby.

### Cub Scout Ranks

Cub Scout Packs are organized into three basic groups: Lion/Tiger Cubs, Cub Scouts (Wolf and Bear ranks), and Webelos Scouts.

The Tiger Cub program is significantly different from the rest of the Cub Scout program in terms of activities, recognition, and level of parent participation. It serves as a good introduction to Scouting for both the scout and their parents.

The Cub Scout and Webelos Scout programs are similar in many respects. The Webelos program places more emphasis on outdoor activities. The focus of the Webelos program is to prepare the youths to enter Scouts, BSA (Troop level).

Tiger, Wolf, and Bear are one-year programs. The Webelos program runs for up to 2 years.

All new Scouts must first earn the Bobcat badge. After earning the Bobcat badge, Scouts work towards the rank of Tiger, Wolf, Bear, or Webelos, depending upon their age. Each of these ranks has its own unique handbook from which the scouts work on their advancement. A new scout will start at a rank determined by their grade level and does not have to earn the earlier ranks.

✱*The pack provides a handbook for each scout to keep track of their progress.*



### Bobcat

The Bobcat badge is the first badge that is earned by all new Cub or Webelos Scouts. This badge is required for all scouts because it involves learning the Cub Scout

Promise and other fundamental aspects of Cub Scouting.

Completion of this badge gives the Scout the right to wear the Bobcat patch on his uniform (in the twelve o'clock position of the front left shirt pocket) and the right to proceed to his next rank (which will vary based upon age.)



### Lions/Tigers (K -1st)



In the Lion/Tiger Cub program, an Adult Partner (a parent, grandparent, or other guardian) always accompanies each scout. The Cub and Adult Partner form a team. The first few Cub meetings are organized and run by the Lion/Tiger Cub Den Leader in order to introduce the Cubs and Adult Partners to Scouting. After that, each Cub/Adult team selects an adventure from the Tiger Cub book and presents the topic to the Tiger Group (one topic per meeting).

The Cub makes steady progress towards their Tiger Cub badge by completing adventures. Completion of a set number of adventures earns the right for the scout to wear the Tiger or Lion patch on their uniform (in the six o'clock position of the front left shirt pocket,

directly beneath the Bobcat patch for Tiger or on the T-Shirt of the Lion).

At the end of the Scout year (in May), Lions graduate to a Tiger Den and Tigers graduate into a Wolf den.



### Wolves and Bears (2<sup>nd</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup>)



Parents are vital to the Cub Scout dens, both in the role of home support and to help the den leader. At this age they are beginning to be more independent, and not every scout needs a parent at every meeting. In the Wolf/Bear program, completion of adventures in the handbook leads to earning the Wolf/Bear badge. The Wolf/Bear handbook includes many activities that are family oriented. Your scout will need your assistance to earn this rank.

Completion of the Wolf badge earns the right for the Scout to wear the Wolf patch on their uniform (in the nine o'clock position of the front left shirt pocket) At the end of the Scout year (in May), Wolves graduate into a Bear den.

Completion of the Bear badge earns the right for the Scout to wear the Bear patch on their uniform (in the three o'clock position of the front left shirt pocket) At the end of the Scout year (in May), Bears graduate into a Webelos den.

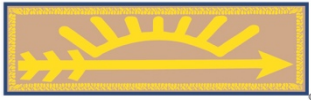


### Webelos (4th Graders)

The Webelos program (and yes there is always an S at the end of Webelos) is designed to transition the scouts from Cub Scouts to Scouts, BSA. In the Webelos program, scouts continue their adventures on a higher level. As such it's really broken into two phases, based upon the rank badge being earned.

In the First-Year Webelos program, the scouts work on their Webelos badge. The focus of the Webelos den is to work together as a team, much like a Scout Patrol. This includes Webelos den camping.





## Arrow of Light (5th Graders)

The Second-Year Webelos work on the Arrow of Light award. You may find some literature that refers to the Second-Year Webelos as an Arrow of Light den.

✱*The Arrow of Light is the highest award that a Cub Scout can earn and one of the few Cub Scout emblems that may be worn on the Scout BSA uniform.*

In many packs, the 2<sup>nd</sup> year Webelos scouts are awarded the Arrow of Light at the Blue and Gold banquet in Feb. They will then Crossover to Scouts BSA in Apr.

## Scouts, BSA and Crossover

As previously stated, the goal of the Webelos program is to prepare scouts to succeed in a Scouts, BSA program. As such, and in line with the standard Scout, BSA troop program, our pack “Crosses Over” the Cub Scouts to their new troop as part of the annual Crossover Ceremony hosted by the Troop in Early April. This is the appropriate time to bring the new scouts into the troop, as the troop program at that time expects incoming scouts, and can integrate them into the troop with their peers in time to get them ready for summer camp.

## About Advancement

In our Pack, Den Leaders and Parents use Scoutbook (<https://www.scoutbook.com>) to electronically track attendance, advancement and awards. Each parent or guardian is able to monitor and track their scouts progress towards their next rank. This will be explained in more detail at the Parent Meeting. If you need assistance, check with your den leader. All rank advancement must be completed in Scoutbook at least one week before a Pack meeting. The leaders must sign off on any advancements before that date in order to get the awards in time for the Pack Meeting. If your scout has worked on their advancement, make sure they bring their book (signed by you where applicable) to the meetings to be added on Scoutbook. The Den Leader is required to do the final sign-off for all advancement.

If the advancement is not fully completed at least one week before the Pack meeting, the award cannot be presented to the Scout until the next Pack Meeting, which will certainly be a big disappointment to your scout. Scouting is a family adventure and your assistance and cooperation is essential to your scout's success in earning their rank.

✱*Our Council offers a weeklong, summer day camp that is highly recommended. Besides having a lot of fun, your*

*Scout will be able to complete requirements for some of the achievements needed for their next rank advancement. You'll receive more information on the day camp from your Scout Leaders in the spring.*

***Your Den Leader will try to let you know what the Den will be doing each week in advance. If you are unable to attend a Den meeting, consider doing the same activity with your scout on some other night so that they will not feel as though they are dropping behind the other Scouts in their Den.***

*Cub Scouting is a very family-oriented program. As such, responsibility for promoting rank advancement lies with the parents, the scout, and their family. Although there will be activities organized by the Den and the Pack which count towards rank advancement, most of the activities should be done at home under your guidance. There is no substitute for active family involvement.*

The standard to apply when determining if your scout has accomplished an adventure is simply “did he or she do their best?” While that is somewhat subjective, and obviously not the same from scout to scout, it is the standard used in Cub Scouts. As such, that is why advancement is something to be done under the parent’s guidance, where he/she signs off in the handbook as the leader.

Advancement is a good indicator of how much a Scout is participating in the program and how successful they have been in learning the new things that the program offers. As a parent, you will see ups and downs over your scout’s career with an occasional lack of interest. This is normal, especially with all of the activities kids are involved with these days, such as sports programs and video games. Please encourage your scout and help motivate them to hang in there and earn their advancement.

*Don't let a sports season end a Scouting career.* We realize how important sports and other seasonal or short-term activities are to the scouts and their families. Please try to participate as often as you can, even if you have to show up late and in your soccer uniform! And plan to get back into the swing of things as soon as you can. Our leaders will be happy to help your scout get caught up with the rest of the den.

If you are concerned about the quality of any aspect of the program or about your scout’s loss of interest in the program, please talk with their Den Leader or the Cubmaster right away. Scouting is the best youth program anywhere, but like anything worthwhile, it takes commitment from everyone involved. You only get out of the program what you are willing to put in. Your scout cannot benefit at all from Scouting if he or she drops out!

Each scout has until the last meeting in April to earn their current rank badge. If there are extenuating circumstances, please contact the Cubmaster as soon as possible.

## Uniforms

The Boy Scouts of America is a uniformed organization. We encourage you to acquire a uniform for your scout at least by the time of the October Pack meeting so that they may proudly wear their Bobcat badge and other awards on it.

BSA has many reasons for requiring uniforms. Among them are quick identification of the group, providing a place to display emblems representing hard work by the Scouts, and to foster a sense of community and pride.

We realize that uniforms can be expensive, so in our Pack we utilize a uniform format called **“Belt up & Tucked -In”**. Cub Scouts are only required to be uniformed from the belt -up and regardless of the bottoms their shirt always needs to be tucked in. Webelos Scouts are in transition from Cub Scouts to Boy Scouts. They may also be at an age where they are outgrowing their Cub Scout uniform and need a new one, even though they’ll crossover to Scouts, BSA soon.

*For this reason, BSA provides the option that Webelos Scouts may wear the blue Cub Scout uniform until they outgrow it.*

However, All Webelos scouts should be wearing the tan and green uniform by the time that they earn the Arrow of Light and crossover into the Troop.

Pack 46’s uniform is the official uniform designated by the Boy Scouts of America. An official uniform (including the BSA shirt, hat (optional), neckerchief, emblems, and



so on) is known as a **“Class A” uniform** (i.e., a dress uniform). Occasionally, it is appropriate that Scouts do not wear their **“Class A” uniform**, but still be quickly recognizable as Scouts. (For example, while playing outdoor games or while on a hike). In these cases, Scouts may wear an optional **“Class B” uniform** consisting of blue jeans or shorts, and a printed T-shirt (often with a Scout theme). Please refer to the uniform guide included in this handbook for details information

**❖If not otherwise indicated scouts should wear their “Class A uniform.”**

The uniforms also sport an assortment of emblems that identify the Scout’s council, pack, rank, and certain accomplishments. Many of these emblems are described on the inside covers of the book for each rank.

*Our Pack is in the beginning stages of sponsoring a ‘uniform exchange’ where used uniforms, which a Scout has outgrown, can be exchanged. Your Pack Leaders will inform you of this availability as we become ready.*

Cub Scouts will find that the adventure belt loops fit on the blue Scout belt easier than other belts and may wish to include this belt as part of their uniform.

Uniform items that are easily removable (such as hats, neckerchiefs, and neckerchief slides) should be marked permanently with the scout’s initials so that lost items can be returned to their owner.

*Pack 46 will provide an opportunity for parents to pre-order their new neckerchief and slide of the appropriate rank when Scouts join and also when they advance to their new den at the end of the scouting calendar. If a scout loses these items, it is not the pack’s responsibility to replace them.*

Uniforms and accessories can be purchased at the Scout Shop (<http://scoutstuff.org>) at 1410 E 7th St, Charlotte, NC 28204. You can call the Scout Shop directly at (704) 333-5471.

*Council Scout Shop Hours:  
Monday-Thursday 8:45 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.  
Friday 8:45 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.  
Saturday (STORE Only) 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.*

## Books

Owning a copy of the handbook for their rank is important. The book provides the requirements for each activity and a place to record progress. Each Scout is expected to own a copy of the handbook appropriate for their rank and to bring the handbook to each Den meeting. Scouts should write their names in permanent ink on the title page (inside the book) in the space provided for this purpose.

The pack provides a copy of the handbook as part of the registration fees. If you lose your handbook, replacements can be purchased at the Scout Shop.

## Awards

The pack pays for all awards, and presents them to the uniformed scout at pack and den meetings. The pack does not cover the cost of replacement awards. Additionally, in some cases a scout may repeatedly earn an award (for example, belt loops); however only a single award is presented by the pack.

Check your handbook and the pack web site for information on various awards your scout can earn. Not all awards can be worn on the uniform shirt. For information on where these items belong on the shirt, see the Cub Scout and Webelos Scout page online.

If a badge is not shown on the uniform, then it is not appropriate to wear on the shirt. Examples of these patches would include patches from hiking, fundraising, camping, and other outings. These patches can be worn on a red scout vest that can be purchased at the Scout Shop but are very popular on sleeping bag covers or hanging fabric displays.

## Religious Emblem Awards

Part of scouting is the idea of "duty to God". While Scouting makes no preference, selection or distinction in this regard, there is a set of religious emblems for various faiths, available for scouts to earn to help them in fulfilling their duty to God. For more information, see <http://www.praypub.org>

In the Spring after our regular meetings have concluded, we sometimes offer the God and Me program for scouts who will be Bears in the fall, and the God and Family program for scouts who will be Webelos 1 or 2 in the fall. This is not required but offered to help enrich the scouts' experience.

All scouts who earn a religious emblem as listed at <http://www.praypub.org> will be recognized and awards a

special BSA youth religious emblem award that can be worn on their uniform, even when they become an adult leader.

## Activities

Aside from normal Den activities and occasional field trips, there are a number of activities that are worth mentioning in this parent handbook.

✂*To receive proper credit for all of the activities which your Scout participates in, please make sure that he signs up in advance, and checks in with their Den leader.*

## Pinewood Derby

Once a year, around November, the Pack has a Pinewood Derby race. The Pack provides each Scout with a Pinewood Derby kit at least one month before the Derby. Each Scout (with the help of their parents) designs and builds their car from a block of pine and wheels included in the kit. Each car must meet very specific rules (including weight and size requirements) and must be built from the official BSA Pinewood Derby kit. The cars are judged for speed in different age groups and for appearance. Guidelines will be provided closer to the event.

The Pack champions can go on to compete with all the other Packs in our Council Pinewood Derby. The official rules for the Pack 46 Derby are distributed to each scout with the kit. *If you are interested in assisting with the pinewood derby, please contact the Pack Committee Chair.*

## Blue and Gold Banquet

Each year the Cub Scouts celebrate the anniversary of the founding of Scouting in the U.S. by having a Blue and Gold Banquet. This is traditionally a supper (either catered or potluck) where the entire family is encouraged to attend. It is usually held in February and it takes the place of the Pack Meeting for that month. *If you are interested in assisting with the banquet, please contact the Pack Committee Chairman.*

## Popcorn Sales

As needed, the Pack participates in the Boy Scout Popcorn sale. The sale usually occurs in October and is a major fundraising activity of our Pack. Scouts who participate in this event receive a 'fundraiser' patch and other recognition.



## Matthews Alive

Every year the Pack adults come together to support the local festival called Matthews Alive by participating in a parade and working a game booth or bounce-house. (youth under 12 are not allowed to work the booths).

## Fall Family Campout

The Pack will arrange to have a one or two night campout at a local campground in the fall.

## District Family Camping Weekend

Attendance by scouting families is encouraged at events held by our district and council such as Camporees and Family Camping Weekends. At most of these events, the scouts have a chance to work on their advancements and enjoy the company of scouts from other packs.

## Pack Hiking Program

The pack has implemented its own hiking awards program. The awards plan is based on participation accumulated for pack-sponsored hikes only. More information can be found in the Pack 46 Camping Guide.

## Graduation Ceremony

For the 2<sup>nd</sup> year Webelos, the final night of being a Cub Scout is at our Blue and Gold Banquet. In addition to a memorable “Crossover” ceremony hosted by the Troop for those scouts who are continuing the scouting adventure, we also provide the Arrow of Light scouts the kit to make their own arrow to be examined by the Troop at the crossover ceremony. This can be made into a wonderful display to remember their time in Pack 46.



## Pack Family Campout

Pack 46 traditionally ends the regular Scout year in May with a den promotion ceremony. As scheduling, weather, and facilities allow this may be combined with an opportunity to go camping.

## Annual ‘SUPER TRIP’

Our Pack has set a goal of having one ‘big trip’ each Scout year. The big trip is planned for the April or May timeframe. More details will be provided later in the year.

Past ‘big trips’ have included the USS Yorktown at Patriot’s Point (Charlestown, SC), and Overnights at the Asheboro and River Banks Zoo.

*If you are interested in assisting with the Big Trip, please contact the Pack Committee Chair.*

## Council and District Sponsored Activities

Throughout the year the council coordinates events for scouts from all packs to participate in. This includes events such as Trailblazer and Belk Scout Camp, Cub o’Ree, and Weblo’ree as well as Day Camps. We encourage everyone to take advantage of these opportunities. These events will be publicized via the pack web site, and emails.

## Summer Activities

The Pack will schedule activities during the summer months. All summer activities will be publicized using email and the Pack website. Pool Parties, Movie Night and Flag Retirement ceremonies are example of past events.

Scouts who attend at least one Pack activity per month during the months of June, July, and August can earn a special ‘summertime activity’ award.

## BSA Health & Safety

All scouting activities are in accordance with national BSA health and safety standards, as dictated by the Guide to Safe Scouting. All event participants (scouts, siblings, parents) must complete a BSA medical form (parts A and B) each year. The form can be found on our website.

## Camping

Scouting is an outdoor-based program. Camping is permitted by Cub Scouts only in an age-appropriate context. Scouts must have an adult family member with them at all times when camping. If your Scout wishes to attend only the daytime activities of a Family Campout you must make prior arrangements with another adult to take responsibility for your scout if you cannot stay with them. You will need to fill out a permission slip for your scout with all of the necessary emergency information included.

✳️ *Please do not ask the Den Leader or Cubmaster to take responsibility for your scout. It is not possible for the leaders to conduct the program, watch their own children, and be responsible for your child.*

All camping is in accordance with BSA policy, as spelled out in the Guide to Safe Scouting, which can be viewed at <http://www.scouting.org/pubs/gss/>. Part of this policy includes two-deep leadership. In addition, for pack camping (which is open to all family members) at least one leader must have completed Basic Adult Leader Outdoor Orientation (BALOO). For Webelos den camping (which is open to just Webelos Scouts and parents) at least one leader must have completed Introduction to Outdoor Webelos Leader Skills (IOWLS).

BSA has specific rules and prohibitions with respect to camping, which will be reviewed by your leader prior to each event.

## Liability Insurance

Part of every Scout's fees in Mecklenburg County Council pays for accident insurance that supplements your family's accident insurance policy to help cover the medical expenses should your Scout become injured while participating in a Scouting activity.

If you are transporting other Scouts to an activity, your liability coverage only covers the Scouts if they are injured while being transported by you to or from the activity, not for any injury occurring while at the event destination. All local and state traffic laws must be followed at all times, and all passengers in any vehicle must wear a properly fitted seatbelt while the vehicle is in motion. Riding in the back of pickup trucks, flatbed trucks, or trailers is not allowed.

✳️ *To assist in the planning of activities that require the transportation of Scouts, the Pack may need help in transporting gear in a pull behind trailer. Let us know if you can help with this.*

## Drug, Alcohol & Tobacco Use

Illegal drugs and alcohol are not allowed at any Scouting activity and persons under the influence of drugs or alcohol are not allowed to participate or be present at any Scouting functions. Any violation of this rule will result in immediate dismissal from the event and possible intervention by law enforcement agents.

Scouting provides a tobacco-free environment for the scouts and smoking is not allowed in the presence of the Scouts. If you must smoke or use tobacco products, please do so outside and out-of-sight of the scouts and always remember to keep the area free of cigarette butts and trash.

## Knives & Firearms

No fixed-blade sheath knives are allowed on any Scout activity. A Cub Scout can only carry a pocket knife once he has learned the safety rules for using a knife and earns their Whittlin' Chip card in the Bear Den or Webelos Den. Knives can then only be used under direct adult supervision. If a Scout is found handling their knife improperly, it will be taken away from them and given to the parents. Each time this happens a corner of the Whittlin' Chip card is to be snipped off. If all corners are removed the Scout no longer is allowed this privilege. In addition, any adult who sees a Scout with a knife can ask them to produce their Whittlin' Chip. If they cannot do so, the knife will be taken away from them and given to parents.

Archery equipment, air rifles and B-B guns are not allowed in the Cub Scout program except under stringent supervision by a trained adult on a safe firing range **at a council or district-sponsored event**. Pistols are not allowed. Firearms are not allowed except under certain demonstration conditions and can only be handled by qualified adults. Use of firearms by Cubs is not allowed. See national BSA Health and Safety standards for details. Contact the Cubmaster before planning any den meetings that involve firearms. Except for police officers *in their jurisdiction*, there are to be no firearms at any of our activities.

## Aquatic Activities

All aquatic activities must be supervised by trained, qualified adults while strictly following the BSA's Safe Swim Defense Plan for swimming activities and Safety Afloat Plan for boating. There are no exceptions. See national BSA Health and Safety standards for details. Contact the Cubmaster before planning any den meetings that involve aquatic activities.

## Safe Scouting

The Guide to Safe Scouting can be found at <http://www.scouting.org/pubs/gss/>. Den Leaders are expected to become familiar with the contents of the Guide and **to follow it strictly**. Den Leaders having questions related to the interpretation of any safety guidelines or questions related to a planned activity which they believe could pose an increased risk of harm to Scouts must discuss planned den activities with the Cubmaster prior to the activity.

**✱Non-adherence to the Guide to Safe Scouting puts leaders at personal liability risk, and that's no small matter in this day and age!**

## Adult Leadership

All Dens must maintain two-deep leadership at all times. If for some reason a Den is not be able to have two registered leaders present, the Den Leader will have to cancel the meeting or activity. Please do your part to help us provide a quality program signing up to be an Assistant Den Leader. Our pack is entirely dependent upon volunteers to operate. None of our leaders are paid scouters. Many other packs require a certain level of involvement by the parent(s) in order for the scout to participate. Pack 46 may have to adopt that policy in the future.

*Many parents are reluctant to volunteer to be a Cub Scout leader because they have never been in Scouting and are unfamiliar with the program. Many of our current leaders also lacked prior experience with the Scout program, but they volunteered anyhow and now they're having as much fun as the scouts! BSA provides a number of excellent tools to help you come up to speed as a new leader, including online training, one day training sessions, monthly roundtable meetings, and annual "Scouters Success Training" or University of Scouting events, etc. Remember that you have other experienced Den Leaders in our Scouting family to draw upon. In addition, there are many, many ways to volunteer with the Pack other than being a leader.*

**✱** *If you have any time to give, please contact the Pack Leadership and we will find a way to use your talents!*

Scout Leaders receive no pay for their time but any expense for required training that leads to being "trained to position" will be covered by the pack. Leaders may also be reimbursed for actual expenses for their den activities that are approved in advance and documented by receipts. In addition, registered leaders may be able to claim certain deductions on their taxes, such as mileage. Please consult your tax specialist for details.

**✱Every volunteer who directly holds an official BSA position must take Youth Protection Training (YPT). The training must be renewed every TWO years. In addition to YPT volunteers should also take any training that is directly specified by BSA for the position they hold to be considered trained to position.**

The leadership of the Pack is as follows:

**Cubmaster(s)** - responsible for all the leaders and keeps up-to-date on Den activities. He or she is responsible for the running of the Pack Meeting.

**Den Leaders and Webelos Den Leaders** - work directly with the Scouts at the Den level. They have direct responsibility for the scouts and their rank advancement.

**Pack Committee Chair** – Responsible for the overall planning of the Pack activities and maintaining an open communication between the District, Council and the Church.

**Chartered Organization Representative** – This person is the liaison between the church and the Cub Scout Pack. They are responsible for representing the Pack to the church and relaying information to the Pack Committee.

In addition, the Pack Committee includes a number of parents who arrange outings, create newsletters, plan fund raising activities, handle public relations, put on the Blue and Gold Banquet, coordinate membership track advancement, plan the Pinewood Derby race, maintain the website, etc.

## Behavior and Discipline

**✱It is important that proper behavior be demonstrated by scouts at Den and Pack meetings and all scouting events.**

Scouts are expected to address adults by title and surname, for example "Mr. Smith". The use of "pre-school" type names (e.g. "Miss Sue") is not appropriate for scouts of this age.

Behavior is a synonym for a word that has fallen on hard times, and that word is discipline. Often times

discipline is thought of in a negative form (namely punishment). But the word actually means “training” or “a system of rules governing conduct”.

The first form of discipline, which is the most important, is *self-discipline*. Lacking that, the Den Leaders have direct responsibility for maintaining the behavior of the scouts in their Den. Rather than attempt to enumerate a complete list of “do’s and don’ts”, the following principles apply with regards to expectations on behavior:

- ☐ Scouts are expected to act like scouts. The rest of the world has a reasonably accurate concept of how a scout should act, and your scout should have that concept as well.
- ☐ A scout’s conduct should never be something that would bring discredit to themselves, their den, pack, or the Boy Scouts of America.
- ☐ Fighting / bullying or any form of physical or non-physical harassment, including verbal harassment, will not be tolerated.

**❖ *To put it even more simply the Scout Oath and Scout Law are to be followed at all times by everyone.***

Please take the time to discuss with your scout the importance of not disrupting Den and Pack meetings. It’s not fair to the other scouts and the leaders for activities and meetings to be interrupted due to behavior issues.

If a scout becomes a behavior problem that the Den Leader cannot handle, the Cubmaster will be informed, and a parent / leader meeting will be held to discuss the problem and possible action. If the problem cannot be resolved to the satisfaction of all concerned, the Scout may be asked to leave the Pack. Please have your Scout “do their best!”

## Scout Sign

Cub Scouts learn the “Scout Sign” very early. (With your right hand facing away from you, extend your index and middle fingers to form a ‘V’ and curl the remaining fingers into the palm of the hand.) The Scout Sign has a very important use during Den and Pack meetings. Whenever a Leader puts the Scout Sign up, the Scouts, parents, and other Leaders are expected to become quiet and also put the ‘sign up’. This allows the Leaders to bring a room to order very quickly, without having to say a word. Please make sure that your scout understands how to behave when the ‘sign’s up’.

## Financial Records

The cost of running a Cub Scout Pack such as ours exceeds \$3,000 per year. This includes payments that the Pack must make to the BSA national office and local Council, den and pack supplies, awards,

Pinewood derby expenses, Banquet expenses, and much more. A portion of this money comes from the registration

fee that each Scout pays. A significant portion comes from fund raising activities, namely the annual Matthews Alive Festival. Pack 46 will provide access to detailed financial records at any time and hopes that each parent will have at least a high-level awareness of the Pack finances. The treasurer reports all income and expenses at Pack Committee meetings, and summaries of the Pack’s finances will be reported regularly. A Pack budget is updated at least once a year. Parents are encouraged to participate in planning sessions related to the Pack finances. Any questions regarding the pack finances may be directed to the treasurer or pack committee chairman.

## Communications

In this busy society we live in, communication is at the heart of every successful organization. The same is true for Cub Scouts.

We want to avoid using meetings for the purpose of communicating information. **The pack meetings and den meetings are for fun, not announcements.**

Our pack leverages three primary forms of communication:

- ☐ **Email** (Cuppack46@gmail.com)
- ☐ **Pack Website** <https://cubpack46.wixsite.com/pack46>
- ☐ **Facebook Group (Cubpack Forty Six)**

The possibility of phone calls exists as well, though this is rare and impractical for a pack of our size.

## Email

The primary communication mechanism of the pack is via email. If you are unsure if you are on the email list, please contact the Cubmaster immediately.

**❖ *It is essential that you check your email, and if a response is requested, to do so in a timely fashion. If nothing else, it’s respectful to the leaders who are communicating. Not responding only creates additional work for someone.***

If for some reason email does not work out for you, contact the Cubmaster so that an alternate arrangement can be made.

## Pack Web Site

Pack 46 maintains a site as a mechanism to keep parents, Scouts, Leaders, and members of our chartered organization informed of all of our activities, progress, documents for reference, and changes of plan.

Here is the Pack website <https://cubpack46.wixsite.com/pack46>

We encourage parents to bookmark this site and check it often – it’s an excellent tool for us to keep you up to date. The pack calendar is also maintained on this web site.

## Pack 46 Website, Media Coverage, and Privacy Issues

We will occasionally post photographs of den and pack activities on this website or on Facebook. It is also possible that local newspapers and television stations may provide coverage of some of our activities and your scout's name and photograph may appear in a publication or on TV. If you object to having your scout appear on the website or in the media, please let our Pack Leaders know (in writing) as soon as possible.

For maximum protection of your scout, it is our policy that:

- ☐ No Cub Scout will ever be identified on the website by their full name. Scouts will be referred to by initials, such as "B. M." and "T. K. or first name only"
- ☐ No addresses or phone numbers will be posted on the website, except for Adult Leaders who consent to making this information available.

✂ *If you determine that any of these policies have been violated or if you have any other concerns about the website or privacy issues, please contact a Scout Leader in our Pack immediately.*

## Boy Scouts

When your son or daughter completes the Cub Scout program in February of their second year as a Webelos Scout, we hope they will continue participating in Scouting and join a Scout Troop. The Webelos den leader and other pack leaders will be delighted to help your scout connect with a Scout Troop. Our own Troop 46 has their own website here. <http://matthewstroop46.org/index.html>

An important part of the Blue and Gold Banquet for 2<sup>nd</sup> year Webelos is the ceremonial 'Crossover' from our Cub Scout Pack into a Scout Troop.

## Parent Responsibilities

Pack 46 simply cannot be successful without your involvement. As a Cub Scout parent, we hope you'll recognize and take seriously the following responsibilities:

- ☐ Understand the requirements for your scout's rank advancement; assist them in fulfilling these requirements; help keep the

record of their achievements (in their book) accurate and up to date and make sure that they bring their book to each Den meeting.

- ☐ Assure that your Scout has a "Class A" uniform (as described elsewhere in this guide) and that they dress appropriately for all Scout functions.

- ☐ Notify your scout's Den leader whenever your scout will be absent or late for a meeting.

- ☐ Volunteer to be a Den Leader, Assistant Den Leader, Den Parent, Assistant Cubmaster, Cubmaster, or member of the Pack Committee. Or volunteer time to help organize and execute one or more specific Scout activities throughout the year (such as banquets, fundraisers, derby races, field trips, etc).

• Support the Pack's financial goals by understanding the Pack budget and participating in fund raising activities. If personal commitments prevent you from sharing your time with the Pack, consider making a monetary donation.

- ☐ Complete the BSA Youth Protection Training, available online at <http://www.myscouting.org> within 30 days of your scout joining the pack. Once you have completed this training, be sure to notify the pack membership chair via email at [cubpack46@gmail.com](mailto:cubpack46@gmail.com)

- ☐ Complete parts A and B of the BSA medical form for EVERY family member (scout, parent, siblings) that will be participating in any of our outings. Turn this and a copy of your insurance card into the membership chair. This form can be found on our website.

## District and Council Information

Pack 46 is part of the Etowah District of the Mecklenburg County Council.

Mecklenburg County Council

<http://www.mccscouting.org/>

1410 East 7th Street Charlotte, NC 28204

Ph: 704.333.5471

District website:

<http://www.mccscouting.org/etowah>



## **The Top 10 Things to Remember for Cub Scout Parents**

### **1. You should be prompt in arrivals and departures--also in turning in monies, forms, or responding to email from leaders.**

Prompt arrival ensures activities get started on time and your scout doesn't miss anything. Picking up your scout on time allows the leaders to pick up their scout and get on with their life. Getting monies and forms on time enables the leaders to make effective use of their time and energy in planning and delivering a quality program that benefits the entire group.

### **2. See that your scout arrives in uniform with appropriate supplies.**

Uniforms are easy enough to remember when you're playing sports, but may get forgotten for those weekly meeting. Uniforms create a sense of belonging to the group and build a sense of pride as your scout shows off her awards and accomplishments.

You wouldn't show up to sports without the right clothing and supporting equipment. Scouts is no different. Be sure they have their handbook every week.

### **3. Do not wait to be called upon to help.**

Plan on staying at meetings to help once in a while. Often times with a pack this size, on any given evening there is a need for additional adult help.

I know we're all busy, but a little help goes a long way. If every parent who's involved puts in a little effort it would go a long way with the volunteers who make your scout's den and pack possible.

### **4. Take time at home to help your scout with his or her achievements.**

Leaders cannot possibly do all achievements at their meetings without boredom soon setting in and lack of time to complete them all. Some achievements must be done at home. The same goes with practice for any sport or requirements for any club. Your child spends a limited time at scouts. To get the most from his experience, he will need to put in some time at home.

### **5. You should accompany your scout to events.**

If you cannot, you should make arrangements with another parent to take responsibility for your scout's transportation and behavior. This other parent is NOT to be the leader.

Cub Scout leaders already put in a lot of time to assure your scout has a quality program. They have a lot to organize for any event they attend. Don't add to that. Finding another parent to help you out allows the leader to concentrate on their own duties.

An important note: be sure the leader knows if your scout will be going home with another parent.

**6. Be respectful of others - Keep your own scout under control when you are present at functions.**

It is awkward for a leader to reprimand a child when her parent is sitting right there! Help reinforce with your child that the rules of the meeting place are to be obeyed.

If you have other children with you, they need to behave, also. Nothing is more disruptive than children running through a meeting and can be dangerous if a little one wanders into a busy area.

**7. Set a good example for all scouts during functions and activities.**

Be a good sport about participating in the fun and games and keeping conversations and phone usage to a minimum during ceremonies and awards.

OK, perhaps grown-up chit-chat during quiet events is even more disruptive than unruly children. It certainly sets a bad example and tells the children that their event isn't important to you.

**8. Remember your scout leaders with TLC.**

A smile and a kind word of gratitude will make up for a lot of noise and rowdiness.

From experience, I can tell you this is so true! Leader, coaches and any volunteer who works with children expects a certain amount of craziness, and that's OK, but it can be tiring. Sometimes simply knowing they're appreciated makes all the difference.

**9. Notify leaders in advance when your scout has to miss a meeting.**

Sickness, vacation, and many other things come up. Please be courteous to your scout's leaders and let them know in advance of any absence.

**10. Above all, remember that the leader's job is the one you didn't want.**

Do whatever you can to make that job easier.