

# PACK 895

## Welcomes You to

### Cub Scouts!



# Table of Contents

What is Cub Scouting. . . . .	3
How to Join Pack 895. . . . .	3
Pack 895 Program Features. . . . .	4
The Structure of Cub Scouting . . . . .	6
Activities . . . . .	9
Parent Involvement . . . . .	10
Rules of Conduct . . . . .	12
Safety Guidelines . . . . .	13
Cub Closet . . . . .	15
Pack 895 Contact Information . . . . .	16

# CUB SCOUTS

Cub Scouts is a year-round program offering fun activities that promote character and leadership development. Parents are encouraged to play an active role in our programs. Whole families can now participate in Cub Scouts. Pack 895 offers programs for boys and girls in Kindergarten through 5th grade.

Cub Scouts embraces the outdoors through camping, hiking and water fun. We also focus on helping our communities through service projects, STEM development, and building confident kids through a wide range of activities. Our Cub Scout program is designed to develop physical (well-tuned and healthy), mental (able to think and solve problems) and emotional (self-control, courage, empathy and respect for self and others) fitness.

## **How to join Pack 895**

Joining is EASY! Applications can be obtained from any Key 3 Leader (Cubmaster, Pack Committee Chair or Charter Organization Representative). You may also register online at <https://beascout.scouting.org>. Search up your zip code and look for Pack 895. Fill out the online application. You are now a proud member of Pack 895!!

### **Registration Fees:**

The fall registration fees for **new members** of Pack 895 are \$95. This fee covers:

- Registration with the Boy Scouts of America
- Annual Subscription to Boys' Life magazine
- Advancement Awards
- Pinewood Derby
- Raingutter Regatta

Annual registration fees for **returning Cub Scouts** are \$95 as of last year. Fees subject to go up yearly.

Fees are turned in with your application(s). **Should fees become an issue for your family, please contact the Cubmaster or Committee Chair.**

## **Program Features**

Boys, families, leaders, and chartered organizations all work together to achieve the ten purposes of Cub Scouting:

1. To influence the development of character.
2. To encourage spiritual growth.
3. To help boys develop habits and attitudes of good citizenship.
4. To encourage good sportsmanship and pride in growing strong in mind and body.
5. To improve understanding within the family.
6. To strengthen the ability of boys to get along with others, and respect other people.
7. To foster a sense of personal achievement in boys by helping them develop new interests and skills.
8. To show boys how to be helpful and to do one's best.
9. To provide fun and exciting activities and experiences.
10. To prepare boys to become Scouts in the Scouts BSA program (for 11-17 year olds).

There are two main ways we achieve these goals:

### **Den Meetings:**

Den meetings are held 2 - 3 times a month, ordinarily on Mondays. The Scouts meet under the direction of a Den Leader who plans activities to help the cubs through their adventures, and the goal of completing their rank requirements. Den meetings are usually held at the Gateway

Church in Spring, at 2930 Rayford Rd, from 7:00 - 8:00pm. Ultimately, the Den Leaders make the schedule for their dens, so times and days subject to change.

### **Pack Meetings:**

Pack Meetings are held monthly, on the third Monday of every month - same time and place as Den meetings, unless you are told otherwise.

We also hold many other activities through the year to make sure we have as much fun as possible! Campouts, service projects, field trips, and even District and Council events where several different packs come together to do something on a grand scale.



# The Structure of Cub Scouting

Like every effective organization, Cub Scouting has a structure. Understanding this structure and how it works will increase your child's enjoyment of the program and leave you, the parent, far less confused.



The Bobcat rank is earned prior to all other ranks (except for Lions). If a child joins Cub Scouting as a Tiger, Wolf, Bear, or Webelos, he/she must earn the Bobcat badge first before receiving any other award or rank.

Lion through Bear rank Cub Scouts complete **adventures** to earn **belt loops** to mark their progress to rank completion. Webelos and AOL Scouts' **adventures** are represented with **pins** to mark their progress.

Kindergarten children are **Lion Cubs** who, with an adult partner, participate in 5 adventures. Lion Dens meet 1 - 2 times a month.

First Grade children are **Tigers** who, with an adult partner, participate in six adventures and \*one elective, each consisting of a Family Activity, a Den Activity, and a Go See It.

Second grade children work toward their **Wolf** rank. There are six adventures and \*one elective to complete to earn the Wolf rank.

Third grade children work toward their **Bear** rank. There are six adventures and \*one elective to complete to earn the Bear rank.

Fourth grade children work toward their **Webelos** rank. (Webelos means "WE'll BE Loyal Scouts".) There are five adventures and \*one elective designed to prepare the cubs for Scouts BSA.

Fifth grade children work toward Cub Scouting's highest award, the **Arrow of Light** (AOL). This is the highest award a child can earn in Cub Scouting and is also the only non-religious award from Cub Scouts that can be worn on a Scouting BSA uniform. There are four required adventures and \*one elective.

The Cyber Chip is required every year for all ranks, except Lion, earned by completing four requirements dealing with internet safety.

\*Although only one elective is required, Pack 895 leaders encourage Cub Scouts to complete as many of the elective adventures as they want.

Dens are led by volunteers, usually parents of the children in that den. There are many ways you can help the Pack/Den. Several are listed later. The Pack is led by a Cubmaster who makes sure the programs are being followed, and everyone is having fun. The Pack is overseen by a Chartered Organization. Gateway Church in Spring is Pack 895's chartered organization.

# ACTIVITIES

## **Camping:**

Pack 895 participates in several camp activities each year. These include Cub Day Camp, Webelo Woods, and 2 - 3 Pack campouts. Older cubs (the Webelos) will have additional camping opportunities as guests of the Scouts BSA troops.

## **Camping Guidelines:**

Pack 895 strives to ensure that several outings each year include camping. The Boy Scouts of America has established guidelines for its members to participate in camping activities. A Cub Scout may participate in overnight camping when supervised by a parent. If a parent cannot attend, the child's family must arrange for another adult to be a substitute for a parent at the campout. It is essential that each Cub Scout be under the supervision of an adult. Cub Scouts are limited to child-parent excursions or program-managed family camping designed for the entire family. A current Health Form, parts A and B only, must be on file for a Cub Scout and the adult partner in order to attend any camp. When staying in tents, no youth will stay in the tent of an adult other than his or her parent/guardian. Webelos Scouts, at certain approved outings may stay in a tent with other members of their Den without a parent, but still may not stay in the tent of an adult that is not his/her parent or guardian.

## **Fundraising:**

While Pack 895 charges an annual fee, that fee primarily covers the cost of registering your child with the Boy Scouts of America, unit insurance, an annual subscription to Boys Life, and other costs directly related to advancements. Fundraising teaches boys the value of hard work. When you are fundraising, you are depositing a percentage into your sales into your scout account. Throughout your scout's time at Pack 895, you can use this money for fees, overnight events, neckerchiefs for



graduation, day camp fees, etc. Our pack chooses to sell popcorn and sell Scout coupon books.

### **Scouting for Food:**

Scouting for Food is our annual food drive organized by the Boy Scouts of America. Our Pack distributes fliers and collects food donations. This usually occurs in Jan/Feb and is one of several service projects we participate in.

### **Pinewood Derby:**

The Pinewood Derby is one of the most popular and memorable events in Cub Scouting. Pack 895 holds its Pinewood Derby in January. The Cub Scouts receive their kits at the December pack meeting, and work with their parent to create a car to race. Cub Scouts are expected to do as much of the work as possible by themselves with adult guidance. Lion Cubs may only be able to help sand and paint their car, while Webelos should be able to do most of the work themselves. Troop 895 runs the races for us. The races are electronically scored by computer, and Cub Scouts race in heats to provide competition and excitement. Competitive activities help our Scouts learn good sportsmanship by cheering on their fellow Scouts. This event is incredibly fun and gets better every year.

### **Blue & Gold Banquet:**

The Blue & Gold Banquet is Cub Scouting's birthday party. Held each year in February, the Blue & Gold Banquet is a chance for Pack 895 to come together for an evening of food, family, and fun.

### **Raingutter Regatta:**

The Raingutter Regatta is an event similar to the Pinewood Derby that we frequently hold in November. It encourages families to work with their Cub Scouts to build a sailboat that they then race against other members of the Pack.

### **Special Events:**

Pack 895 plans a variety of other special events throughout the year that help the children with advancement, teach new skills, and provide an opportunity for a good time. These events may include going on hikes or tours, attending athletic events, or performing service projects.

## **Parent Involvement**

### **Parent Responsibilities:**

When joining Pack 895, each parent or adult family member agrees to support their Cub Scout in the following ways:

1. See that he has the proper uniform and Handbook\*.
2. Assist him in attending weekly Den meetings and monthly Pack meetings.
3. Work with him to complete the achievements for his rank award.
4. Return information forms and permission slips as required.
5. Support his Den Leader as a resource person or substitute as asked.
6. Provide input to the Den Leader or Pack leadership with regard to Den or Pack programming.
7. Register as an Adult leader and participate in Youth Protection Training\*\*.

\*Uniforms are an essential component of Cub Scouting. Cub Scouts are made to feel part of a group and have a place to display their awards when they wear their uniforms. The uniform for Cub Scouts in Pack 895 consists of a blue uniform shirt (Webelos wear tan shirts with blue shoulder tabs) with all patches (Council, Pack number, World Scouting insignia, and rank), belt, appropriate neckerchief and a neckerchief slide. Official Scout Uniform pants, socks and hats are **optional** parts of the Pack 895 uniform. Scouts also need to purchase the handbook for their rank. This handbook serves as their guide to Cub Scouting for the requirements to reach the next rank. Uniforms and other Cub Scout supplies and equipment may be purchased at: 1188 W. Dallas St.

Conroe, Texas 77301, from the Strake Scout Shop, or you are welcome to find used items online.

**\*\*Boy Scouts of America now states that “All adults accompanying a Scouting unit who are present at the activity for 72 total hours or more must be registered as leaders. The 72 hours need not be consecutive.”** True youth protection can be achieved only through the focused commitment of everyone in Scouting. The Boy Scouts of America - and Pack 895 - places the greatest importance on creating the most secure environment possible for our youth members.

## Volunteering

Parent volunteers are always needed. The Pack has an active leadership training program where you will learn everything you need to know to be a successful leader. We strongly encourage all leaders to attend, and complete, Wood Badge training.

If you'd like to help in any capacity, please contact the Cubmaster, Pack Committee Chairman, or your child's Den Leader (listed later in this handbook). All types of help are needed—driving on trips, helping organize events, assisting in a Den Leader's absence, etc. Remember, Cub Scout Packs do not exist without volunteer leadership. Please do your part when asked.

The Cub Scouting program is designed to include parents. The purpose is to increase communication in your family, and to give your Scout the valuable experience of spending one-on-one time with you. As parents you are Akela (Ah-kay-la) - the good leader and share this responsibility with his/her Den Leader. As your child progresses from Lion Cub to Scout, your involvement in his/her Scouting career evolves just as he/she does.

When your child is a **Lion Cub** and **Tiger**, parents attend all meetings with their Cub Scout, and participate in all activities. Parents sign the requirements in his/her handbook. Parents and the Lion/Tiger Den leader plan one month's meetings and outings. You and your

Lion/Tiger may be asked to host the meetings (not necessarily in your home) and direct the meetings you have planned - with the assistance of the Den Leader.

The parents of Cub Scouts in **Wolf** and **Bear** Dens are also primarily responsible for assuring that their child completes the requirements for their rank and sign the requirements in the Scouts' handbooks. Parents are encouraged to attend den meetings and to assist den leaders with activities, chaperoning field trips and arranging special events.

The parents of **Webelos** and **Arrow of Light** (AOL) Cub Scouts become the support system for the Webelos Den Leader. As Webelos and AOL Scouts work on individual adventures, parents serve as resources to help the Den Leader teach skills the Cub Scout learns in order to earn the pin. For instance, a parent who has construction experience could be the adventure counselor for the Build It pin. Webelos and AOL Cub Scouts are preparing to become Scouts. They become more independent in their scouting experiences as they progress through the Webelos and AOL years.

In addition to assisting with Den activities, parents have a great role to play in the success of the pack. Parents serve on the Pack Committee, as Den Leaders, and on committees for special events and activities. None of these functions would succeed without the participation of parents, who after all, are the "owners" of the Pack. Successful Cub Scouting experiences are directly tied to the participation of parents in the life of the Pack. While not every parent feels he or she is patient-enough to be a Den Leader or organized enough to be the Treasurer, there is a role for every parent in Pack 895's activities. Your child will appreciate the fact that you care enough about their Cub Scouting experience to become involved in a committee or Pack position.

# Rules of Conduct

1. All Cub Scouts must be escorted to and from the Den's meeting place (room). There will be no dropping off or picking up in front of the building. This is a safety rule and will be closely enforced. Also, please be prompt when bringing and picking up your Cub Scout from the meeting.
2. Respect the meeting place and follow the "Leave No Trace" guidelines. Cub Scouts should not use the equipment (toys/schools supplies, etc.) or other items in the meeting place unless authorized by the Den Leader. Every Cub Scout will work with the other Cub Scouts in their Den to leave the meeting place as clean as, or cleaner than, when they arrived.
3. Cub Scouts must follow the Buddy System at all times. Cub Scouts must remain in their meeting place for the duration of the meeting. Do not leave your Cub Scout when only one adult is present.
4. No electronic games or devices are allowed at Cub Scouting events. The purpose of the program is to encourage the Cub Scouts to interact with others. Electronic games and devices are counterproductive to that goal. Parents are expected to participate in Pack Meetings and assist in Den meetings, so we ask that you do not use electronics either.

## Safety Guidelines

### **Use of Knives by Cub Scouts:**

To earn the right to carry a pocketknife at approved Cub Scout functions, Cub Scouts must be in the third grade and have earned the Whittling Chip by completing requirements in the Bear Cub Scout Book. Please do not let your Cub Scout bring a knife until he meets these requirements. Pack 895 encourages this award, as we feel it teaches respect for safety and personal property. In return for the privilege of

carrying a pocket knife at Cub Scout functions, the Cub Scout must understand the rules for safe use of a pocket knife, and handle his/her pocket knife with care. Failure to follow the guidelines will result in suspension of this carrying privilege. BSA guidelines provide that the knife must be a folding knife with a blade shorter than the palm of the child's hand. If you have any concerns about your son or daughter having or using a pocket knife, please talk to his or her den leader.

### **Drug, Alcohol, and Tobacco Use and Abuse:**

The Boy Scouts of America prohibits the use of alcoholic beverages and controlled substances at encampments or activities on property owned and/or operated by the Boy Scouts of America, or at any activity involving participation of youth members. Pack 895 leaders support the attitude that young adults are better off without tobacco and will not allow the use of tobacco products at any BSA activity involving youth participants. All Cub Scouting functions, meetings, and activities are conducted in a smoke-free environment.

### **Guns, Firearms, and Archery:**

Archery and BB gun shooting are not done at the Pack level. These programs are designed to emphasize safety and marksmanship development under the direction of trained range officers using nationally approved instructional methods. Cub Scouts get the opportunity to shoot at Cub Day Camp, Webelos Woods, and District Shooting Sport activities where they can learn shooting skills in a safe environment.

### **Inappropriate Behavior:**

The goal of Pack 895's leaders is to have a safe, fun program for the Cub Scouts and their families. The Packs leaders are very well-trained adult leaders who understand safety and child protection and have the right to intervene in any situation that they deem unsafe. If a Cub Scout is unwilling to abide by the requirements of the adult leaders in charge, leaders may require a parent to come and get the Cub Scout.

### Two-deep Leadership:

As stated above, Pack 895 intends to provide a safe, secure, comfortable environment for everyone involved in our Pack. We require, following BSA guidelines, that **at least** two adults be present with any Cub Scout and that one of those adults must be a registered Adult Leader with the Boy Scouts of America. By participating in the BSA Youth Protection Training, again mentioned above, we can ensure that our Cub Scouts feel safe and secure with anyone involved in Pack 895.

### Youth Leaders:

Pack 895 works closely with Troop 895. The Boy Scouts of America has a training program for youth leadership that is required of any Troop youth members who want to be directly involved with Pack 895. The leaders of Pack 895 encourage the involvement of older youth, as they are role models and examples of what our Cub Scouts can achieve.

## CUB CLOSET

We know that a full Cub Scout uniform is a significant expense, and that, as often as not, we have Cub Scouts with past years' uniform parts hanging around. For those who want them as keepsakes, please do so. For those who would like to see them reused by another Cub Scout, Pack 895 maintains a Cub Closet.



Families can turn in uniform parts to the Cub Closet in good reusable condition:

- Hat
- Neckerchief
- Belt
- Lion T-shirt
- Blue or Tan shirt

Families looking to outfitting their Cub Scout in proper uniform are welcome to these uniform parts from the Cub Closet (when available).

## **CONTACT INFORMATION**

Cubmaster: Ed Barnett, 346-220-7926,  
ebarnett@springisd.org

Pack Committee Chair: Jennifer Zuckero, 281-382-2747  
jzuck@sbcglobal.net

Other Social Media: Facebook Pack 895  
Remind App: Text 81010 and then @pack895

Sam Houston Area Council Office: 2225 N. Loop W. Houston,  
Texas 77008 713 659 8111

Strake Scout Shop: 1188 W. Dallas St. Conroe, Texas 77301  
936 441 4028

Sam Houston Area Council Website:  
<https://www.samhoustonbsa.org>