

Online Resources:

- www.swflcouncilbsa.org – our council website, where you can link to council information, calendars and register for events.
- www.scouting.org - National BSA website, where you link to National information policies and the gateway to online leader training.
- BeAScout.org – National BSA “map” of units where parents can find a unit near them. It is important to update your pin, because the BSA directs any online inquiries to your Pack through BeAScout.org.

You Are In Pack # _____ Meeting Day/Time _____

Chartered by _____

Location Address: _____

Cubmaster _____ Phone _____

Email _____

Den Leader(s) _____ Phone _____

Email _____

Den Leader(s) _____ Phone _____

Email _____

My child is a _____ Scout
(Lion - Kindergarten, Tiger - 1st, Wolf - 2nd, Bear - 3rd, Webelos - 4th or 5th Grade)

NOTES: _____

Boys' Life Magazine

Boys' Life is full of entertaining stories and valuable information. Parents can always be confident content of the magazine is wholesome, entertaining, and educational.

NEW PARENT GUIDE



BUILD YOUR ADVENTURE TODAY!

SOUTHWEST FLORIDA COUNCIL



Congratulations on becoming a Scouting Family!

Take these first steps to ensure that your family gets the most out of Scouting:

1. Complete a youth application.
2. Know your Cubmaster and his/her contact information
3. Learn about the who, what, when, where of your Pack
4. Learn how to get involved at your meetings.
5. Attend a campout with your Pack as soon as possible.

Why Cub Scouting?

As parents, we all strive to instill in our children:

1. **strong character**
2. **servng others** (family, community and country)
3. **physical and mental fitness**

Everything we do in Scouting revolves around these three things. Of course, we **HAVE FUN**, so the boys keep coming back!

How Cub Scouting Works

The mission of the Boy Scouts of America is *to prepare young people to make ethical and moral choices over their lifetimes by instilling in them the values of the Scout Oath and Law.*

Your child is a member of a **DEN**, consisting of 6 - 10 youth, similar in age or grade, who typically meet once a week with two **Den Leaders**, usually a parent. All of the dens make up the **Cub Scout PACK**.

The typical **PACK** meets once a month with the **Cubmaster**, with all the other **DENS** in attendance. At the **PACK** meeting you will have fun activities, recognition and have the opportunity to engage with other **DENS**.

Your **PACK** is part of the **SOUTHWEST FLORIDA COUNCIL, BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA**, which serves youth and volunteers in Collier, Charlotte, Desoto, Hendry, Lee, Sarasota, and Manatee counties.

What Does Scouting Cost?

Registration Fee and Accident Insurance: \$34.00 per year (Prorated by month)

Boys Life Magazine: \$12.00 per year (Prorated by month) (Optional)

Handbook \$9.99 to \$16.99 (Need ASAP after signing up)

A full uniform cost between \$55 and \$85 depending on grade. Uniforms are used multiple years and can be purchased in increments (shirt first). Most units and the council office maintain a gently used uniform closet which can often help defray costs.

Pack Dues, if any, vary by pack and are used to buy program materials, and awards. The Annual Popcorn sale also helps support unit program needs.

Optional - Summer and weekend campouts have modest fees to cover materials, food, patches and other costs of putting it on. You only pay for the events you attend.

Popcorn & Camp Card Sales - “A Scout is Thrifty”

Our goal is to keep Scouting affordable while offering the highest quality program. The Southwest Florida Council provides funding needed to carry out Scouting and to reduce the cost of many activities for families.

The Annual Popcorn & Camp Card Sales are the official fundraisers of the Council. The annual sale allows your family to participate in Scouting with minimal additional costs. Your child can earn their way to camp or other fun activities the Pack plans to participate in as well as defray pack expenses.

Kindergarten Grade Youth

Lion Den

Youth sign up with an adult partner (an adult is required)

Usually meets twice a month

Works on achievements & activities in the Lion Adventure Book

1st Grade Youth

Tiger Den

Youth sign up with an adult partner (an adult is required)

Usually meet weekly or bi-monthly and go on monthly field trips Achieves awards through the Tiger Handbook

Youth Protection Training is designed to help keep our youth safe. You will learn the Boy Scouts of America's Youth Protection Guidelines, signs of abuse, and how to report suspected abuse. It is required of all adult leaders in the Boy Scouts of America.

How to complete youth protection training? Visit My.Scouting.org. Click “create an account”. Click the home icon and locate Youth Protection training in the My Training Center. You may be prompted to insert a BSA membership ID number. This number is issued after you have completed Youth Protection training and after you have submitted an adult application. Follow the prompts to complete the training. After turning in your completed Adult Application (with Youth Protection Certificate attached) you will be issued an ID Number. Please enter this ID Number in your account information on My.Scouting.org. This will link your completed trainings to your account.

Building Strong Families

Scouting is a family activity that is proven to develop your child's character. By volunteering with the Boy Scouts of America, you are engaging your family by spending meaningful time with your child and your local community. Build your adventure together and watch as your Scout thrives!

When a new parent gets involved with their child's Pack, these are the primary individuals needed to make your child's Pack thrive:

DEN LEADER/ASSISTANT DEN LEADER — Leads the den at weekly den and monthly Pack meetings, attends the monthly Pack leader's meeting.

PACK COMMITTEE — They perform administrative functions of the Pack. These include treasurer, secretary, fundraising, advancement and other behind the scenes support for the Pack,

For the safety of your child, we require all adult leaders to complete an adult application, which includes a background check and to complete online **Youth Protection Training** course on an annual basis.



Council Service Center and Scout Shop

The **Council Service Center** is the customer service hub for Scouting in Southwest Florida. Our friendly staff can answer questions and provide help to you and your Pack leaders.

This is also the location of the **Southwest Florida Scout Shop** where your Scout's books, uniforms and supplies are purchased.

Southwest Florida Council
1801 Boy Scout Drive
Fort Myers, FL 33907
(239) 936-8072
www.swflcouncilbsa.org
Open: 8:30 am - 5:00 pm
Monday - Friday; excluding holidays.

Southwest Florida Scout Shop
1801 Boy Scout Drive
Fort Myers, FL 33907
Phone (239) 418-1603
Open: 9:00 am - 6:00 pm
Monday - Friday
10:00 am - 3:00 pm
Saturday



Training

Scouting is a volunteer led program and the SWFL Council has the training and tools to help you along the way. Training will give you fresh ideas, a place to talk to other Scout parents, and the knowledge and information you need to carry out the Scouting program. All trainings are available online at My.Scouting.org or face to face at designated training courses throughout the year. Den Leaders and Assistant Den Leaders will need to take Youth Protection and Den Leader Position Specific Training, which is available online, or in a classroom setting. Committee Members will complete Youth Protection and Pack Committee Challenge online or in a classroom setting near you.

2nd & 3rd Grade Youth

Wolf & Bear Dens

Weekly meetings; led by the den leader and assistant den leaders .

Den meetings focus on learning new skills using games, crafts, and basic outdoor skills.

4th and 5th Grade Youth

Webelos & Arrow of Light Dens

Prepares youth for Scouts. Led by the den leader and assistant den leaders

Weekly Meetings include advancements, games earning new skills and outdoor activities such as camping

Event and Activities To Look Forward To

Earn Awards and Badges

On the advancement trail, a Cub Scout progresses from rank to rank, learning new skills as a Scout goes. Each of the ranks and awards in Cub Scouting has its own requirements. As a Scout advances through the ranks, the requirements get more challenging, to match the new skills and abilities as the Scout learns and gets older. These are completed as a den, pack and family. All the requirements to earn these awards are in the Scout's handbook. A Scout will receive these awards at Pack meetings and your Pack's Blue and Gold Banquet.



Pinewood Derby

Cub Scouts design and build small wooden cars to race on an inclined track. This is a great opportunity for youth to work with their parents or other adults in the Pack to construct a racer and compete in the race.

Cub Extravaganza

This October, join the Southwest Florida Council for a full weekend of fun! Program will include Carnival Games, BB Shooting, Rock Climbing, Rappelling, Midway Exhibits, 1800's Frontier Village, Fishing, Canoeing, Scout Skills, Bounce Houses, Adventure Rides, Nature Training, BALOO training available for Adults, Friday Night Astronomy demonstration & a Saturday night campfire featuring a 4th of July style fireworks presentation.

Winterfest

December in Southwest Florida is a GREAT time to camp! Parents, bring the kids and the camping gear, but leave the kitchen home because we do the cooking for you. Enjoy a fun filled holiday themed camp weekend including playing in **5 tons of snow** AND a Sunday morning visit from Santa!

Help Your Community

Doing service projects together is one way that Cub Scouts keep their promise "to help other people." While a Scout should do their best to help other people every day, a group service project is a bigger way to help people. While they're giving service, they learn to work together and to do something good for their community. Some of these activities may include: Give a flag ceremony for a school, collect food for food banks, clean litter in park, or any other worthy and age appropriate tasks. February is Scouting Community Service month in the Southwest Florida Council.

Day and Summer Camps

Day Camp: An optional activity for all Cub Scouts which includes crafts, games, nature, sports, songs & skits. Camp usually lasts **1 week**.

Resident Camp: A 4-day long camping adventure at Camp Miles. Experience Cub & Webelos requirement and elective adventures while working on the next badge of rank.



Pack Campouts and Activities

Your family can attend periodic campouts and field trips with your Pack that can vary from a day visit to a neighborhood attraction, to an exciting overnight adventure. Some of these overnight campouts have included sleeping under the Space Shuttle at the Kennedy Space Center, camping out at Fort DeSoto National Park or watching the races at Daytona International Speedway. They are also as simple as staying at Camp Miles, Camp Flying Eagle or one of your local state parks where the families can just hang out and have fun exploring the outdoors.

Your Local Scout Camps

The Southwest Florida Council operates 2 camp properties to support our youth, parents and leaders. These quality camping facilities are the heart of our outdoor program. Both camps host events and activities on a regular basis for the youth and adults. This optional supplemental activities are in addition to the many fun and exciting pack level activities. Scouts can utilize each camp for weekend unit camping at no or minimal cost due to Friends of Scouting and other revenue support like the annual popcorn sale.

Camp Miles—38751 Bermont Rd., Punta Gorda, FL 33982

Camp Miles Consists of 1,200 acres of natural beauty in a diverse preserve setting. Special program areas include a swimming pool, rifle/shotgun/archery ranges, climbing wall, rappelling tower, ropes course, canoes, sailboats, dining hall and many other program assets.

Camp Flying Eagle—16009 Upper Manatee River Rd., Bradenton, FL 34212

The camp is approximately 165 acres of densely wooded area on the Manatee River. The camp is also home to many species of birds, fish and small wildlife. Canoeing are a must at CFE. There is a Boulderling Wall for low climbing experiences.