**Welcome to Cub Scouts!**

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***St. Michael Parish***

**Parents’ Guide to Cub Scouts – Pack 381**

INTRODUCTION TO CUB SCOUTS

* + What is Cub Scouting
  + Purpose of Cub Scouts
  + Twelve Core Values
  + Cub Scouting Ideals

HOW IT WORKS

* + Organization
  + Dens and Pack Meetings
  + Advancement
  + Activities
  + Cub Scout Ten Commandments

WHAT YOU NEED FOR SCOUTING

WHAT WE NEED FROM YOU

WHAT YOU CAN EXPECT FROM US

VOLUNTEER

**Cub Scout Pack 381 - Parent Guide Book**



**INTRODUCTION TO CUB SCOUTS**

***What Is Cub Scouting?***

**Cub Scouts Have FUN!**

At Saint Michael’s, Cub Scouts is for boys in 1st thru 5th grade. It is the first and biggest of the three scouting programs (Cub Scouts, Boy Scouts and Venturing) from the Boy Scouts of America (BSA). Cub Scouts provides a safe and comfortable environment where the boys have fun, make friends, develop character, learn and grow.

Cub Scouting means "doing." You have lots to do as a Cub Scout—crafts, games, sports, songs, skits, stories, and puzzles, to name a few things. Much of the fun happens right in the den and pack meetings. Cub Scouts participate in a variety of activities for fun and learning. We do not yet invite girls or Kindergarteners into our Pack. Saint Michael’s also has a thriving Girl Scout troop and sisters of cub scouts are welcome to join all of our pack events.

**Achievement**

While boys are having fun, they’ll also be earning badges and awards. Working on projects with parents or other adults as well as at den meetings, everyone will feel good about what Cub Scouts accomplish.

When boys earn an award in Cub Scouting, they learn new skills. Cub Scouts also get to use their new skills and knowledge in projects and demonstrations. Boys show what they have learned as a Cub Scout.

**Cub Scouting Has a Purpose**

*The official purposes of Cub Scouting are to:*



* Positively influence character development and encourage spiritual growth
* Help boys develop habits and attitudes of good citizenship
* Encourage good sportsmanship and pride in growing strong in mind and body
* Improve understanding within the family
* Strengthen boys' ability to get along with other boys and respect other people
* Foster a sense of personal achievement by helping boys develop new interests and skills
* Show how to be helpful and do one's best
* Provide fun and exciting new things to do
* Prepare boys to become Boy Scouts

***The Twelve Core Values of Cub Scouting***

**Character Development**

Since its origin, the Scouting program has been an educational experience concerned with values. In 1910, the first activities for Scouts were designed to build character, physical fitness, practical skills, and service. These elements were part of the original Cub Scout program and continue to be part of Cub Scouting today. Character can be defined as the collection of core values possessed by an individual that leads to moral commitment and action. Core values are the basis of good character development. In helping boys develop character, Cub Scouting promotes the following 12 core values.

***Cub Scouts’ 12 Core Values***

1. Citizenship
2. Compassion
3. Cooperation

***Cub Scout Hand Shake***

1. Courage
2. Faith
3. Health and Fitness
4. Honesty
5. Perseverance
6. Positive attitude
7. Resourcefulness
8. Respect
9. Responsibility

**Cub Scouting Ideals**

*Apart from the fun and excitement of Cub Scout activities, the Cub Scout Promise, the Law of the Pack, and the Cub Scout sign, handshake, motto, and salute all teach good citizenship and contribute to a boy's sense of belonging.*

The Cub Scout sign is made with the right arm held high and straight up above the shoulder, with the index and middle fingers forming a V.

The other fingers are held with the thumb.

The two extended fingers stand for the parts of the Cub Scout Promise, "to help other people" and "to obey." They also stand for the two alert ears of a wolf. This is the sign of Cub Scouts all over the world.

The Cub Scout sign should be given when repeating the Scout Promise or Scout Law. It is also used in ceremonies.

**Scout Promise**

On my honor, I will do my best.

To do my duty to God and my country

and to obey the Scout Law;

To help other people at all times;

To keep myself physically strong,

mentally awake and morally straight.

**Cub Scout Motto**

Do Your Best.

**Tiger Cub Motto**

Search, Discover, Share.

**Scout Law**

A Scout is trustworthy, loyal, helpful, friendly, courteous,

kind, obedient, cheerful, thrifty, brave, clean, and reverent. **HOW IT WORKS**

***Organization***

Cub Scout **Pack 381** is sponsored by St. Michael Parish, and is located in Orland Park, IL. We belong to the **Nishnabec District** of the **Pathway to Adventure Council**. Nishnabec headquarters is in Munster, Indiana. All Cub Scout groups are identified as PACKS and all Boy Scout groups are called TROOPS. Cub Scouts is for boys from 1st to 5th grade. Boy Scouts is for boys from 10 (having completed the Arrow of Light) until their 18th birthday.

The pack is run by the PACK COMMITTEE. ***This committee consists of all volunteer leaders, generally parents or grandparents of current Cub Scouts.*** Included on this committee are the Committee Chair, the Cubmaster and all Assistant Cubmasters, all of the Den Leaders, the Secretary, Treasurer and sometimes other volunteer leaders. The committee meets once a month, and meetings are open for all Cub Scout parents and guardians.

**CHARTERED ORGANIZATION St. Michael Parish**

**Chartered Organization Representative Fr. Frank Kurucz**

**COMMITTEE CHAIR TBD**

**CUBMASTER Matt Highfill**

**ASSISTANT CUBMASTER TBD**

**TREASURER TBD**

**DEN LEADERS:**

**Webelos II Shanin Karsky**

**Webelos I Brad Tarras, Bill Skog**

**Bears Shanin Karsky, Tracey Keenan**

**Wolves Joe Knytych, Nick Katsoulakis, Ralph Gasior**

**Tigers ????**

**COMMITTEE CHAIRS**

**Advancements TBD**

**Patches TBD**

**Website Matt Highfill**

**Derby Dads TBD**

**Family Camp Overnighter Matt Highfill**

**Mom & Me Overnighter Tracey Keenan**

**Popcorn Sarah Highfill**

**Recruiting Shanin Karsky**

***Dens and the Pack***

**Meetings**

Den meetings are like stepping-stones: each week a boy progresses a little further toward the next rank, learning skills as he goes. The monthly pack meetings are like milestones that mark achievements along the Cub Scout trail and celebrate accomplishments along the way.

**The Den**

The den is the place where boys learn new skills and develop interests in new things. A den usually consists of a smaller group of boys (3-10) that are all of the same rank and grade in school. While the meetings include games and other activities that are fun for the boys, program delivery is the main goal. Boys participate in activities and work on projects that are related to a monthly theme and that help them learn the skills they need to progress in rank. The boys also prepare to do their part in the monthly pack meeting.

Den meetings are once or twice a month and are run by a den leader and an assistant den leader. These leaders are parents or guardians of a scout in the den. Parents are expected to take turns helping with den meetings. Everyone has special skills to offer that can enhance the Cub Scout program. This will be coordinated by the den leaders. The den may meet at the home of one of the leaders or at another suitable location (library, fire house, etc). Tiger Cubs attend their den meetings with their adult partners.

**The Pack**

The pack consists of all of the Scouts, parents and guardians, and the pack volunteer leaders. Pack meetings are once a month and provide the opportunity for scouts in all of the dens to interact. The pack meeting is led by the Cubmaster. Families are encouraged to join us at pack meetings, and your attendance and participation are important. Pack meetings often have a theme and include ceremonies such as ***Presentation of Colors*** and ***Recognitions***, which are given to the scouts who have earned badges, Arrow Points, beads, or other awards. There may also be games, crafts, stories, songs or skits. Cub Scout Advancement

Advancement is the process by which a boy progresses from badge to badge, learning new skills as he goes. Each of the ranks and awards in Cub Scouting has its own requirements. As a boy advances through the ranks, requirements are progressively more challenging, matching the increased skills and abilities of a boy as he grows older.

Advancement is one of the methods used to achieve Scouting's aims—character development, citizenship training, and personal fitness. Everything a Cub Scout does to advance is designed to achieve these aims and aid in his personal growth. These badges are a means to an end—not an end in themselves.

## Bobcat

No matter what age or grade a boy joins Cub Scouts; he must earn his Bobcat badge before he can advance to the rank of Tiger Cub, Wolf, Bear, or Webelos. A boy must complete the Bobcat requirements, which include demonstrating his understanding of Scouts core values. He must be able to recite the Cub Scout Promise, Law of the Pack, and motto and demonstrate the Cub Scout sign, handshake, and salute. He must also explain what each of these ideals means, in addition to demonstrating his understanding of the core values of honesty and trustworthiness, and explaining their importance.

## Tiger Cub

To begin his path to the Tiger Cub rank, the Tiger Cub (1st grade) must learn the Cub Scout promise, the Cub Scout sign, and the Cub Scout salute. When he has accomplished these tasks, he will be awarded his Tiger Cub immediate recognition emblem. This is a tiger paw with four strands for beads that he wears on the right pocket.

As a boy completes each part of the achievements, he will be awarded either an orange (den activities), white (family activities), or black ("Go See It") bead. When the boy has earned five beads of each color, he is eligible to receive his Tiger Cub badge. The Tiger Cub badge is presented to the adult partner at a pack meeting. In our ceremony, the adult partner in turn presents the badge to the boy.

## *Cub Scout Advancement (continued)*

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## Wolf

The Wolf rank is for boys in second grade.

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## Bear

The Bear rank is for boys in the 3rd grade.

## Webelos

Webelos dens are for boys in the 4th and 5th grade. The Webelos den program is different from the Cub Scout den program: Instead of being based on a monthly theme, the Webelos den program is based on one of many Webelos activities that are required to achieve their Arrow of Light.

## *Arrow of Light*

The pinnacle of Cub Scouting is the Arrow of Light Award. The requirements for this badge include developing outdoor skills, gaining an understanding of the values of Scouting, and preparing to become a Boy Scout.

This recognition is the only Cub Scout badge that can be worn on the Boy Scout uniform when a boy graduates into a troop. Adult leaders who earned the Arrow of Light as a youth may also wear the appropriate square knot on their adult uniform. Webelos Scouts who have earned the Arrow of Light Award have also completed all requirements for the Boy Scout badge. ***Activities***

To keep the FUN in Cub Scouting, there are many activities available to the boys. Our pack meetings include the Kick-Off Bonfire, Halloween party, Raingutter Regatta (sailboat races), Christmas party, Pinewood Derby, Blue and Gold Banquet, Rocket Launch, Fishing Derby and Picnic.

The ***Blue and Gold Banquet*** is a special pack meeting. Blue and Gold celebrates the anniversary of Scouting, which was founded in 1907 by Lord Baden-Powell, a retired officer in the British Army. The Boy Scouts of America was incorporated on February 8, 1910. The Cub Scout program was formally launched in 1930. At Blue & Gold, we recognize the boys for their efforts, present advancement in rank awards, present the Arrow of Light award to those Webelos that have completed the requirements, and have a Crossover Ceremony for the Webelos II den, who are ready to graduate from the pack and move on to Boy Scouts.

In addition to these pack activities, there are a variety of other options the boys have to participate in Cub Scouts. Here a few examples:

* **Family Camping**: Overnight campout at Camp Betz, in Michigan. Many activities, a bonfire, skits, canoeing, archery and more.
* **Mom & Me**: The mom’s version of overnight camping – IN CABINS! A fun overnight at Camp Tecumseh in Indiana. There are many fun activities that you participate in at your own pace.
* **Yukon**: A fun winter outing with sled races, snowball throwing contests, and much more. A fun way to shake that winter cabin fever.
* **Sports Outings**: Our Council often offers special rates on tickets to some Chicago sporting events that our dens may choose to attend.



Keep a look out as the leaders pass out information regarding available activities – or suggest an activity that would be fun for the entire pack!

**WHAT YOU NEED FOR SCOUTING**

##### Supplies & Uniform

Your son will need to be prepared by having his appropriate ***Scout Handbook***. There is a handbook for each level (Tiger, Wolf, Bear and Webelos).

Pack 381 requires a Scout shirt that is decorated with the basic identification patches. This includes the Calumet Council patch, scout emblem, the numbers **3 8 1** and the Den number to which he has been assigned. The shirt will come with an American flag already on it. See the attached *Uniform Inspection Sheet* to see where the patches should be placed on the shirt. He will also need a slide and neckerchief, which is orange with navy-blue trim for Tiger Cubs, gold with navy-blue trim for Wolf Cub Scouts, light blue with navy-blue trim for Bear Cub Scouts, and plaid for Webelos Scouts. Official BSA neckerchiefs are the only neckerchiefs boys should wear.

Boys wear their uniforms to all den and pack meetings. See our website for suggested locations.

*Wearing uniforms has been a method of the Scouting movement from the beginning. Decades of experience show wearing uniforms to have many benefits, including these:*

* **Equality**. The uniform represents a democratic ideal of equality. Boys from various cultures and different economic levels wear the same uniform and cooperate as equals. 
* **Identification**. The uniform identifies a boy as a member of the Cub Scouts. Badges on the uniform tell other members that he belongs to their den, pack, and council. The uniform itself identifies a good citizen to the entire community.
* **Achievement**. The uniform displays badges and other awards so the accomplishments of each Cub Scout can be immediately recognized.
* **Commitment**. Wearing a uniform is a constant reminder to each Cub Scout of his commitment to the ideals and purposes of Cub Scouting: duty to God, loyalty to country, and helpfulness to others.

For these reasons, among others, all parents should emphasize to their Scouts the importance of wearing the correct and complete uniform on all suitable occasions.

**WHAT WE NEED FROM YOU**

**Expected Behavior**

Den leaders and all other pack leaders are volunteers. It is expected that they will be shown the respect that they deserve. Your son should understand that he needs to show respect to these volunteer leaders, to listen and follow their instructions. When you are at a scouting event with your son, we don’t expect the volunteer leaders to have to discipline poor behavior. It is quite awkward to discipline your child in your presence.

###### Special Needs

Cub Scouts is open to boys with special needs. However, please understand that we are all volunteers, and are not equipped or trained for every circumstance. While we welcome you and your son, please understand that your presence is necessary in order for this to be a positive experience for all of the boys.

We also expect that if your son is in the presence of anyone with special needs, be it another scout, a child or an adult, that they will act appropriately.

**Enthusiasm – DO YOUR BEST!**

We hope to see a lot of enthusiasm from your son! We want him to be excited about being a Cub Scout. Scouts are engaged in many activities, some that the boys may not otherwise have a chance to experience. The only expectations we have of ours boys is that they DO THEIR BEST! We want them to measure themselves only by their own progress, not by comparison to any other boys.

***Parents / Guardians***

**Cost**

Annual membership is $120, which includes registration with BSA. Make checks payable to “Cub Scout Pack 381.” We also run a fundraiser each fall, selling popcorn. We ask that each family sell a minimum of $300 of popcorn. We rely on popcorn sales not only to raise money for the pack, but also to help support Pathway to Adventure Council, who in turn, supports us with training, roundtables, re-chartering, and other help. If your son(s) sell $300 or more, $25 of the registration fee will be refunded.

**Cooperation**

Remembering that all of our leaders are volunteers, we ask that you fully cooperate with them in the implementation of the Cub Scout program. This includes:

* + - Getting your son to all scouting events on time and appropriately dressed.
    - Keeping good communication with your den leader.
  + Call / email when you will not make a meeting or event, or when you will be late.
  + Discuss concerns you have BEFORE they become a major problem. Please do not discuss any issues you have in front of the boys.
    - Volunteer at pack meetings.
    - Den Meetings
  + Help plan and run 1 or 2 den meetings, coordinating your efforts with the den leader.
  + The den leader will run 1 meeting each month and work with a parent to help them plan and run 1 meeting a month. This keeps you involved in the program, and makes it easier for the den leader to manage all of their tasks (you want them to stay as den leader – *don’t you?!)*
  + Assist at meetings whenever you can, and help with transportation when needed.

##### Support

Help your son complete his achievements at home. There is not time to complete all of the achievements at the den meetings, and some of them require that they be completed at home. Show your enthusiasm! This applies at home and at meetings. Be involved in the meetings activities, play along with the corny jokes and the stories. Have fun with it and watch how much more your son gets out of it! Let him know how proud you are of his efforts, and work with him on his projects. Make it fun, not a chore.

##### Family Involvement

Family involvement is an essential part of Cub Scouting. When we speak of parents or families, we are not referring to any particular family structure. Some boys live with two parents, some live with one parent, some have foster parents, and some live with other relatives or guardians. Whoever a boy calls his family is his family in Cub Scouting.

Cub Scouts relies on family participation. The inclusion of parents / guardians in the Scout’s activities strengthens the messages that Cub Scouts teaches. If you are engaged in the activities and involved in the process, then your son will benefit greatly from your efforts. The more you are involved, the more your son will benefit from Scouting. There is no better way to show your involvement than by being a volunteer.

**Volunteer**

Cub Scouts is a five-year program. Your son will come a long way in those years – but not without help. All Pack 381 Leaders are volunteers. We need your help in order to maintain a quality program for the boys. There are many ways to get involved. Over the span of your son’s time in Cub Scouts, you will be able to find a role to fill where you can help the pack to run smoothly. We need your skills. Please complete the Volunteer sheet at the end of this document, and return it to the Cub Master or your den leader.

##### WHAT YOU CAN EXPECT FROM US

##### Training

Our pack expects all volunteer leaders to receive Youth Protection training from our Council. This includes the Committee Chair, Cubmaster, Assistant Cubmasters, and Den Leaders. We encourage all volunteers to complete training. Training begins with *Fast Start*, then includes *Youth Protection Training*, and *Basic Leader Training*. And, all of our leaders are Virtus compliant.

##### Commitment

We are committed to providing a quality program for the boys. The leaders also work hard to provide a safe and comfortable atmosphere, where the boys can make friends, have fun, develop character, learn and grow.

##### Communication

There are many activities and opportunities in our pack. In order to communicate with parents we use several methods.

* We provide a website and monthly newsletter, listing upcoming events, noting important recent news, and basic pack information.
* We maintain a subscription to a web-based tool called Scouttrack *(scouttrack.com)*. All members have access to this tool which allows you to track as well as record you son’s progress. It also has a calendar and a bulletin board. It has an automated e-mail tool that allows us to remind you of upcoming events.
* Den leaders often use email to keep you up to date on den activities.
* Our Website, www.smscubscouts.weebly.com

##### Enthusiasm

The leaders work hard to make this a fun experience for the boys, while providing them opportunities to learn and grow, and to make new friends. Remember, our sons are in this too, so you can be assured we believe in Scouting, and how it can benefit our boys. We want them to have fun, be safe, and have opportunities that they won’t get with other groups. It is important to us that we have a positive impact on their lives.

Thank you for joining Pack 381. We know that you, and especially your son, will find it to be a very rewarding experience!

**Volunteer Sign-Up Sheet**

Name\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Phone\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Cell \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Volunteer Information**

Since the success of the Pack is directly related to our adult leadership, **we ask each family to participate in some way.**

Please review the positions that our pack has and consider which one you can help with:

\_\_ Den Leader(s) – Organize and run meetings for your den (often a team effort between 2 or more den leaders depending on the size of your den). Meetings are often out in the community, although they can be at your home in rare cases.

\_\_ Asst. Den Leader – Help organize and run meetings for your den.

\_\_ Family Camping Coordinator - Set camp dates with Camp Betz. Communicate camp dates and details to the pack.

\_\_ Mom & Me Coordinator – Set camp dates with Camp Tecumseh. Communicate camp dates and details to the pack. Accept payment from campers in advance and pay the camp.

\_\_ Recruiting Committee – Organize applications and registration fees for the pack. Accept applications at the first two Pack meetings. Join the Cubmaster for Parent Orientation.

\_\_ Photography Committee – Take photos and post them to our website so that parents can download them easily.

\_\_ Pack Committee Chair – Accept feedback for the pack and work to improve the Pack. Help organize and run pack events. Be the liaison between the pack and St. Michael’s.

\_\_ Blue & Gold Banquet Committee – Help with one of the many jobs for the banquet…create and print the programs, purchase decorations, organize catering and/or participate in the meeting.

\_\_ Popcorn Committee – helping with the myriad different jobs required to organize and carry out our popcorn sales.

\_\_ Advancement Coordinator – This person works with the den leaders and cub master to organize achievements for the scouts. This includes going to the scout store (LaGrange and/or Joliet) to purchase trophies, medals, car kits, boat kits, patches, belt loops and blue and gold gifts for the scouts.

\_\_ Day Camp Coordinator – An optional role for the pack if you want to organize a group to join summer day camp.