

Welcome to the Pack 1862 Family!

FAMILY INFORMATION GUIDE
PACK 1862
Cub Run District
National Capital Area Council



Scouting  America™

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Pack Overview

Welcome to Pack 1862! We are a Family Pack made up of approximately 60 boys and girls in grades K - 5 from Deer Park Elementary, Cub Run Elementary, and the surrounding area.

Our Pack typically meets the first Friday of each month at Cub Run Elementary. We have other activities throughout the year like our pinewood derby, bake off and a fall and spring campout.

Each grade level also has a smaller group called the Den, which is made up of scouts in that grade level. The dens usually meet 1-2 times per month, on the day that works best for their families, plus outings and activities.

Address: Cub Run Elementary School - 5301 Sully Station Dr, Centreville, VA 20120

Our pack's chartering organization: Cub Run PTA

Our unit is part of the Cub Run District of the National Capital Area Council

Council Website: www.ncacbsa.org

Pack 1862 Website: www.pack1862.org

Pack 1862 Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/443440029587357>

Our Leaders	Name	Email
Committee Chair	Kristin Ta	kristinrta@gmail.com
Cubmaster	Nate Amsden	Nate.d.amsden@gmail.com
Assistant Cubmaster	Nate Knotts	nknotts@gmail.com

Cost

Scouting America (National) Dues: \$80

National Capital Area Council (Regional) Dues: \$80

Pack 1862 Dues: \$115, \$95 for each additional scout in the family

Pack 1862 operates on a budget of approximately \$6000 for the year covered by pack dues and limited fundraising. Your pack dues cover campout fees, awards, materials for most pack and den activities, etc. Dues do not cover summer camps. National/Council fees go toward program development, online leader training and resources, administration, and insurance.

\$275 per scout covers one full year of activities.

Why Join Cub Scouting?

The mission of Scouting 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.

Scout Oath

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.

Scout Law

A Scout is:

Trustworthy	Obedient
Loyal	Cheerful
Helpful	Thrifty
Friendly	Brave
Courteous	Clean
Kind	Reverent

If you could give only one gift to the young people who are most important in your life, what would it be? No matter what your family situation is, it is within your power to help these children grow into people with a good feeling about themselves and a genuine concern for others. Cub Scouting can assist you in providing this greatest gift of all.

Cub Scout-age children benefit developmentally from belonging to a small group of peers. Your child will be a part of a den, a small group of Cub Scouts in the same grade level. Through this sense of belonging, children build self-esteem and learn to get along with others.

As a parent, you want to be assured that the groups that your child joins will teach values consistent with good citizenship, character development, personal fitness, and leadership. The values we seek to instill are found in the Scout Oath and Scout Law.

1. **Family Involvement:** Family involvement is an essential part of Cub scouting. Your engagement through their process will give them guidance and motivation while helping them feel more connected to their family and community.
2. **Activities:** In Cub scouting, Scouts participate in a wide variety of den and pack activities such as games, projects, skits, songs, outdoor activities, and trips.
3. **The Outcome:** The Cub Scout motto is "**Do your best**", which means showing effort, regardless of the outcome. It's about the experience, not meeting a set standard. Like our kids, as parents and leaders, we're also encouraged to do our best, which varies daily. Our activities are about exploration, not expertise, laying the groundwork for future growth and learning. What matters is the attempt, not perfection, as each effort builds towards future successes.
4. **The Uniform:** The Cub scout uniform helps build pride, loyalty, and self-respect. Wearing the uniform to all den and pack meetings and activities also encourages a neat appearance, a sense of belonging, and good behavior. See the FAQ for details on our pack's uniform guidelines.



Scouting Year Overview

Pack 1862 scouting activities follow approximately with the school year. The scout year starts about mid-August. The scout year ends with our June Pack Meeting with a bridging ceremony & party where the scouts will get their new rank and any last awards for the year. During the summer there are plenty of scouting opportunities like Day Camp, overnight camps, field trips, etc. but no reoccurring meet ups as a pack. The Cubmaster and Committee Chair will stay in communication throughout the year and keep you posted on the schedule of events.

Summer events are not required but worthwhile if your schedule allows it. There are many opportunities for awards and achievements for your scout. Additionally, they are wonderful opportunities for your scout to gain new experiences.

Dens

The Lion (Kindergarten) and Tiger (First Grade) Dens

Cub Scouts who join in kindergarten or first grade join with an adult partner who is the parent or legal guardian. An adult is selected to serve as the Lion den leader (usually one of the parents) and coordinates the meetings with help from Pack leadership. Each Tiger adult partner takes a turn assisting or hosting meetings or activities with the den leader. This shared leadership model is a great way to ensure the den leader has the help needed to deliver a quality program.

- Lion and Tiger dens meet once a month or more often if the den leader and families choose to.
- At den meetings, Lions and Tigers work on adventures (activities) that are found in their handbooks.

The Wolf (Second Grade), Bear (Third Grade), and Webelos (Fourth Grade) Dens

Children at this age are becoming more independent and adventures are designed to meet their developmental needs. Emphasis continues to be on fun and adventures progressively become more involved and advanced, commensurate with their age level. There are many adventures to choose from and if there's one that particularly interests your child, speak with your den leader about helping lead the activity!

A Wolf, Bear, or Webelos den consists of a den leader, an assistant den leader (usually parents of some of the den members), and often a den chief (an older Scout who helps the den leader).

They typically meet once a month at a regularly scheduled time and place, and they also attend the pack meeting with their families.

The Arrow of Light Patrol (Fifth Grade)

The Arrow of Light Patrol is much like the Wolf, Bear, and Webelos dens, but there is more emphasis on learning to take leadership roles and preparing to join a Scout Troop. AoL scouts complete the Cub Scouting program and "crossover" into a Scouts BSA Troop in the spring, typically in March. If your cub scout chooses to join a Scouts BSA troop, it is important to visit troops prior to Christmas so your scout can find a troop that is a good fit for his/her needs, personality, goals, and desires.

Pack Meetings

The Cub Scout pack is made up of all the dens and meets monthly at the pack meeting, led by the Cubmaster.

There are games, skits, songs, ceremonies, and presentations of achievements and adventures that Cub Scouts earned during that month. This is where families can see the achievements of their Cub Scout.

The pack, including families, also participates in other special events throughout the year, including:



Pinewood Derby – Your child can build and race a model car.

Raingutter Regatta – Your child can build and race a model sailboat.

Blue and Gold Banquet – Cub Scouting's birthday party and AOL crossover during the March pack meeting.

Camping – Overnight and day camp opportunities introduce your family to the camping experience. Pack 1862 camps twice a year, as allowed by Scouting America rules. The first campout is usually in October. The second campout is usually in May. We typically camp Saturday overnight to Sunday. At least one parent/legal guardian is required to camp with their scout(s) and siblings are welcome!

Service projects – Packs may participate in food drives, conservation projects, or other community activities.

Field trips and special outings – Den outings are a great way to learn more about the people and places in your community.



The Pack Committee

Every Cub Scout parent or guardian is invited to become a member of the pack committee. Pack committee members perform administrative functions of the pack. The committee meets monthly and includes the following responsibilities:

Committee chair. Presides at all pack committee meetings. Helps recruit adult leaders and attends the monthly pack meeting and pack committee meeting.

Advancement chair. Maintains advancement records for the pack. Orders and obtains all badges and insignia. Attends the monthly pack meeting and pack committee meeting.

New member coordinator. Manages the transition of new Scouts into the pack and coordinates orientation for new Scouting families. Responsible for the marketing and recruiting initiatives of the pack as well as the growth and retention of the unit.

Secretary. Keeps records of the pack committee meetings and communicates with families about upcoming pack events and activities.

Treasurer. Keeps all financial records for the pack, including the pack bank account, and gives a monthly financial report to the pack committee. Attends the monthly pack meeting and pack committee meeting.

How Can You Help?

The most important help that you as a parent can give your child is to work with them on their Cub Scouting adventures as they work toward their badge of rank. The Cub Scout handbook is full of age-appropriate activities; some of them you do together at home. Den meetings are designed for Cub Scouts to complete adventures that are required for them to earn their badge of rank. Parents can work

on adventures at home with their scouts! If you complete a requirement at home, make sure your den leader is informed so that they can properly record it and your child can be recognized for their achievements. **Your role as a parent is the secret to a successful Cub Scouting program!**

Volunteer Leadership

Cub Scouting operates through volunteer leadership. The den and the pack rely on parent participation to run a successful program. Volunteer leaders are an example of Scouting's principle of service to others. By volunteering in Scouting, you are also giving your child and family the gift of your time. What could be more valuable? You will have an opportunity to be a positive influence in their life and in the lives of their friends. Here are some of the ways you could volunteer:

Den leader. Uses the Den Leader Guide and den meeting plans to lead the den at den meetings. Attends the monthly pack committee meeting.

Volunteer. Talk to your Pack leadership about opportunities. There's always more that needs to be done helping with the various tasks that keep our pack held together and bringing our scouts new experiences.

Some of the positions we're looking for:

- New Member Coordinator
- Secretary
- Pack Trainer
- Advancement Coordinator
- Pinewood Derby assistants
- Fundraising Coordinator
- One-off event coordinators (fishing, snow tubing, etc.)

Training

Scouting America offers convenient training for parents who volunteer. As a new parent, you can learn all about Cub Scouting and how quality Scouting programs are built. Log on to my.scouting.org and create an account to gain access to all available training content. For more information about training at all levels of the program, go to www.scouting.org/training or speak with your pack leaders.



Youth Protection

Child abuse is a serious problem in our society, and unfortunately, it can occur anywhere, even in Scouting. Youth safety is of paramount importance to Scouting. For that reason, Scouting America continues to create barriers to abuse beyond what previously existed in Scouting.

Scouting America places the greatest importance on providing the most secure environment possible for its youth members. To maintain such an environment, Scouting America has developed numerous

procedural and leadership selection policies and provides parents and leaders with multiple online and print resources for all Scouting programs.

- **All leaders are required to complete Safeguarding Youth Training.**
- **All parents are encouraged to take the training as well.**

To complete the training online, go to my.scouting.org and establish an account using the member number you receive when you register for Scouting America membership. If you take the training online before you obtain a member number, be sure to return to my.scouting.org and enter your number for training record credit. Your local council also provides training on a regular basis if you cannot take it online.

Safeguarding Youth Training must be taken every year. If a volunteer's Safeguarding Youth Training record is not current at the time of recharter, the volunteer will not be registered. For more information about Youth Protection, please see Scouting America's Youth Protection website at www.scouting.org/youthprotection.aspx.



You Are Not Alone!

Your **den** is in a **pack** that belongs to an organization chartered by Cub Run Elementary School's Parent Teacher Association in partnership with Scouting America to operate a Cub Scout pack. The chartered organization approves leadership, helps secure a meeting place, and makes sure that the pack works within the guidelines and policies of their organization as well as those of Scouting America.

Many volunteers and Scouting America professionals are interested in the success of your pack. A special volunteer assigned to help your pack is called a **commissioner**. The commissioner helps the pack provide a successful and high-quality program. The commissioner is also the communication link between your pack and the local council.

There are professional staff at your council service center who can help or will get you in touch with someone who can. Local Council Locator: www.scouting.org/LocalCouncilLocator.aspx

Stay Informed!

Committee meetings are once a month. Parents are not required but are highly encouraged to attend. The committee meets at 7pm on the third Thursday of the month.

Correspondence on upcoming events, what to bring to meetings, etc. will be communicated by Scoutbook emails from our Cubmaster or Committee Chair. Don't hesitate to reach out via phone however if something isn't clear. Additionally, you'll see correspondence from your Scout's Den leader on den specific topics.

For Parents there's both Scoutbook and the Scouting app that can be used to track and record your Scout's progress through the year. While den meetings will generally focus on the achievements your Cub Scout needs to progress, it's alright to work on them with your Scout at home on any adventures for their rank. If for any reason you cannot access those tools, send a note to your den leader and they will record it for you.

Adult leaders use Scoutbook, the online tool found at scoutbook.scouting.org, to track scouts' progress through the year. But it can also be used by parents to record activities done at home or to just check in on their progress.

Download the Scouting app here [Apple App Store](#) or [Google Play](#)

<https://help.scoutbook.scouting.org/knowledge-base/scouting-mobile-app-for-scoutbook/>

Pack 1862 Facebook Page: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/443440029587357>



FAQ

What does my scout wear to meetings?

Scouts generally wear the Class A (blue or khaki button down) uniform for pack and den meetings. Lions, Tigers, Wolves, Bears, and Webelos wear the blue uniform. AoL scouts wear the khaki uniform.

The uniform code for our pack is a request and not mandatory. If it's possible then do but there's no need to add extra stress to your family to purchase or add complexity to your evening to get your scout in uniform. Additionally, for the Class A uniform, we do not require scout uniform pants, however, weather-appropriate comfortable clothes (jeans, shorts, etc.) and close-toed shoes are required.

The uniform and its cost vary for youth and adults. Uniforms may be purchased at your local Scout shop. See www.scoutshop.org for details and current prices. Additionally, online sites like Ebay and Poshmark are great places to find deals on pre-owned uniforms in good condition.

Pack 1862 has a Uniform Exchange – Speak to the Cubmaster or Den Leader if you either have a uniform your scout has outgrown or if you need one. Availability will fluctuate but we will provide one if we have it available.

References for how to wear and setup the uniform

<https://www.scouting.org/programs/cub-scouts/cub-scout-uniform/>

<https://www.scoutshop.org/blog/the-beginners-guide-to-cub-scout-uniform-insignia.html>

<https://cubscoutideas.com/1276/cub-scout-uniform-patch-placement/>

What do I need to bring?

If anything is needed for your scout to have with them for pack or den meetings it will be announced ahead of time. Activities and supplies required for meetings will be provided by the pack unless otherwise noted in advance.

What forms do I need to fill out?

An application and a medical form are required for their scout as well as for any family member participating in scouting activities. Speak with the cubmaster or one of the other leaders. They will guide you through getting the correct paperwork for you and your scout(s).

What do I need to bring to a campout?

Packing lists are sent out in advance of campouts. You are responsible for your own sleeping arrangements (tent, sleeping bag). The pack generally does a potluck dinner and you are responsible for personal snacks and breakfast. If you don't have access to tents or sleeping bags speak to the pack leaders and we can assist.

What is my role as a parent in scouting?

Parent involvement is key to our pack and your scout's journey. This is an amazing opportunity to connect with and watch your scout grow. While many of the core achievements are done as part of the den and pack, some are more about your scout's connection to faith and family. That looks different for everyone so it will be a journey together with your scout to work together on those. At den meetings, you know your child best and can work with the den leader to ensure they have the best experience possible based on their specific needs.

How often do we meet?

The exact schedule will be distributed via email and during meetings for specific times and dates. The schedule below *is typical but may be adjusted dependent on events and weather.*

- Pack Meeting – 1st Friday of the Month **6:30p**
- Committee Meeting (parents are welcome!) – 3rd Thursday of the month **7:00p**
- Den Meetings – Flexible but generally agreed upon early in the year by all parents. Typically 1-2x a month

How can I pay dues and other scouting expenses?

Payment for pack dues can be made by Zelle to treasurer.pack1862@gmail.com (preferred) or by bringing a check to a meeting and giving it to the Treasurer (preferred), Cubmaster, or Committee Chair.

Payment for national and council dues are made online at www.my.scouting.org.



Make memories with your child that will last a lifetime!