



## WELCOME TO CUB SCOUT PACK 33

### **Introduction:**

Cub Scout Pack 33 is sponsored by the Tam Valley Community Services District, TCSD, and has been active since its chartering in 1956. The Pack has been a positive presence in our community and had earned many citations for its service projects.

Our Cub Scouts attend Tam Valley Elementary, Edna Maguire, Strawberry Point, Willow Creek Academy and other area elementary schools.

### **Organization:**

Each Cub Scout is a member of a "Den" usually consisting of 4-8 boys in the same school grade. All the Dens together form the Pack. We usually have between 4-6 Dens in our Pack, and from 30-45 Cub Scouts. Pack 33 belongs to the Redwood District of the Boy Scouts of America's Marin Council. The BSA Marin website (<http://www.boyscouts-marin.org/>) includes information on training and local Cub Scout and Boy Scout opportunities. They also have a free electronic newsletter, *The Dispatch*.

### **The Cub Scout Program: Learning with a Purpose**

Cub Scouting is a program for boys from ages 6-10, or who are in grades 1-5. Boys may join Cub Scouts during any one of the five Cub Scout years. The program is very much family orientation and parent participation is required or encouraged for most activities. When possible and appropriate, siblings are welcome to come along. The Pack 33 program has two main features: Pack and Den activities and individual advancement

#### Activities

The Pack organizes a number of fun outdoor activities throughout the year including camping trips and hikes. These are the highlights of the Scouting year and participation is highly encouraged. Each monthly Pack meeting will also have special activities planned and are a great way for the Scouts of all ages to get together. Den meetings will have activities that are more age specific and more connected to the programs of the individual levels.

#### Individual Advancement

At each level, the Scouts learn new skills related to the development of various skills and their development as community members and as Scouts in particular. The program is fun and is not overly demanding of time. However the boys get a lot of satisfaction out of mastering the skills and earning their advancement. As discussed below, much of this program is designed to be done by the Scout with his parents, not as part of the Pack or Den activities. Your help is key to

giving your boy the full fun and benefit of Scouting. Take the time to look through your Scout's handbook to see what the program includes.

- **Tiger Cub** is the first level of Cub Scouting. Boys must be 6 years old or be in the first grade. They join with an adult partner (usually a parent) and meet as a "Den" of @ 8 boys and partners, once a month. They learn about "17 big ideas," having fun, discovering and sharing.
- **Wolf Cub** Scouts must be seven years old or in the second grade. They work on activities contained in the Wolf Handbook.
- **Bear Cub** Scouts must be eight years old or in the third grade. They work on the Bear Handbook.
- **Webelos** Scouts are in the fourth and fifth grades and are Webelos for two years. They wear plaid scarves and purchase a different cap and scarf slide to distinguish them from the younger boys.

### **Parent Participation:**

**Cub Scouting means family involvement.** Scouting aims to foster interaction between parents and their sons. **It is the job of parents,** not the Den Leaders, to bring the Scout through the various requirements in the handbook so that he can move to the next level. Tiger, Wolf, and Bear Cubs, particularly, will need adult assistance at home to achieve their goals.

A common misconception is that the Den meetings will handle all of the tasks required for advancement. While much of the material will be covered in Den Meeting activities, the primary obligation belongs to the parents. The Den and Pack meetings are geared toward encouragement of their efforts, recognition of their accomplishments, and development of comradeship. Meetings can be instructional and will cover some of the advancement requirements, but many of the learning tasks are detailed in the Cub Scout's handbooks for work at home.

### ***What about Meetings?***

- Den meetings are held once a month with an additional activity sometimes planned. Den parents set the time and place for Den meetings. There must be two adults (or more) at these meetings. However, we consider these meetings to be parent/son events and parent attendance and help is the norm.
- Pack meetings are held once a month, on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday, at 6:30 pm at Scout Hall at 177 East Blithedale in Mill Valley. A parent or responsible adult must attend the Pack meeting with the Cub. You are his best audience.

### ***How can I help?***

- Our activities are a lot of fun but often take a lot of work to organize. The Cubmaster and Pack Committee cannot do everything. Help is always needed. We can always

use den leaders or others helping out the Den Leader. We will be asking for everyone to help out at least a little or to take on a small task so that the work is shared. Cub families are usually self-selecting for a pretty fun bunch so the work is pretty fun itself.

- Committee meetings (the Pack's steering committee) are held once a month. Den leaders and/or a Den representative are expected to attend. Any parent who wants to is welcome to attend.
- Roundtable meetings are chaired by the Marin Council once a month (1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday) for parents from different Packs in the county to share helpful hints on Scouting. Pack 33 sends a representative to these meetings and all parents are always welcome.
- Scouting is an excellent learning organization for the parents and leaders as well as the Scouts. The Marin Council provides Den and Pack Leader training courses. This training is open to all parents. We also hope that families will take advantages of the BALOO (Basic Adult Leadership Outdoor Orientation) training. We need trained people to go on our camping trips and it's a great course. If you're not a camper, you will learn. If you're an experienced camper, you will learn how to camp safely and with fun programs for Scout-age kids.

### **Activities:**

Each year, Pack 33 participates in many Pack events, including the following.

- Pinewood Derby
- Spring and Fall campouts
- Hikes
- Popcorn Sales (fundraiser for Pack activities)
- Scouting for Food (benefits the Marin Food Bank)
- Holiday Community outreach projects (Singing at the Redwoods and Troop Mail)
- Service projects (assisting at TCSD events and more)
- Fishing
- Mill Valley Memorial Day Parade
- Flag Ceremony at Presidio Cemetery
- Shipboard overnights
- Field trips and outdoor exploration
- Safety training and demonstrations

### **Insurance:**

Cub Scout activities are covered by BSA insurance. Coverage begins upon receipt of the Cub's application to join the pack and receipt of the Cub's registration fee by the Marin Council. Field trips and outings in private automobiles are covered as long as a Local Tour Permit Application has been filed by the Pack or Den with Marin Council prior to the trip.

### **Uniforms:**

Uniforms may be purchased at the Trading Post at Boy Scout Headquarters, 225 West End Avenue, San Rafael (415-454-1081) or through the JC Penny catalog. The Salvation Army or Goodwill stores may also be good sources for Cub Scout uniforms, caps and scarves.

## **Uniform and Handbook**

You will need:

- **Handbook:** appropriate to your Scout's rank (Tiger Cub Family Activity Book, Wolf, Bear, or Webelos Handbooks).
- **Shirt:** navy blue Cub Scout shirt (short sleeved is most common – get it big enough to fit for a few years to save on sewing!).
- **Scarf:** yellow for Wolves, blue for Bears, plaid for Webelos.
- **Scarf slide:** Bear/Wolf or Webelos.
- **Hat:** orange for Tigers, yellow panel for Wolf and Bear, blue panel for Webelos.
- **Cub Scout belt:** blue webbing belt for sport and academic belt loops.
- You do not need the Cub Scout trousers. Pack 33 Cub Scouts wear blue jeans or navy blue shorts or long pants.
- **"Dinner Plate" or Brag Vest:** These are for showing off the various patches that the Scouts earn for participating in Scout events. Kids love badges.

## **Badges and Patches:**

The Cub Scout shirt comes with the American flag patch already sewn on the right sleeve. You will need to purchase:

- Den number patch (goes below the American flag patch).
- Marin Council circular patch (goes on the dinner plate or brag vest).
- Marin Council oblong patch (goes at the top of the left sleeve, close to the sleeve seam line).
- Pack numbers "33" (goes just below the Marin Council oblong patch of the left sleeve).
- World Crest (is centered above the left pocket). This badge is worn by 28 million Scouts in 160 countries.

When you are at the trading post, get some "Badge Magic" to save on tiresome sewing. It works great. Refer to your handbook or look online for additional badge info.

All other badges, patches, and segments are earned throughout the year and are paid for the by the Pack out of the dues which are collected. Badges indicate the Cub's rank: Bobcat, Wolf, Bear or Webelos. Segments show the Cub's participation in community service or growth-oriented activities. They are small sectional patches which are sewn around the circular Council Patch.

## **Dues:**

Dues are \$75 per year and are prorated for boys entering the Pack after the beginning of the school year. Dues cover the following:

BSA registration fees  
Subscription to *Boys' Life* magazine  
Insurance  
Badges, awards, pins  
Pinewood Derby race car kit  
General Pack expenses

There may be additional activities fees for field trips during the year, depending on the trip (such as campground fees, park entrance fees, and so on).

**For More Information:**

Visit the Pack 33 website: [www.pack33mv.org](http://www.pack33mv.org)

Email us at: [info@pack33mv.org](mailto:info@pack33mv.org)

**To Learn More About Scouting:**

Marin Council BSA website: <http://www.boyscouts-marin.org/>

Boy Scouts of America national website: <http://www.scouting.org/>

World Organization of the Scout Movement: <http://www.scout.org/>