

PACK 492

HANDBOOK



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

Pack 492 subscribes to this mission

What Are We?

Cub Scout Pack 492 is sponsored by Bellerive Elementary School PTO and is part of the New Horizons District of St. Louis. St. Louis has sixteen districts and has one of the strongest scouting programs in the country. Cub Scouting is a *family* oriented program for boys in second through fifth grades, with an affiliated Tiger Cub program aimed at first graders and their families. Cub Scouting is led by adult volunteers but all parents are expected to donate their time. If unable to help as a leader or committee member, parents assist with various functions and events that occur throughout the year.

Purpose of Cub Scouting

To develop good character, habits and citizenship. To encourage good sportsmanship, courage and self-reliance. To strengthen both a sense of personal achievement and interpersonal skills. To provide fun and exciting things to do. To prepare boys to become Boy Scouts.

Pack 492

*Sponsored by Bellerive
P.T.O.*



Cub Scout Promise

*I . . . promise to DO MY BEST.
To do my DUTY to GOD and my
Country. To HELP other people,
and to OBEY the LAW of the
Pack.*

Structure of Cub Scouting

The Cub Scout Pack consists of all boys and leader. The Pack is guided by the Pack Committee Members. The Pack is divided into Dens by age (and therefore rank). Each den has two (or more) adult leaders and typically 4 to 8 boys. Pack meetings occur once a month. There are also a variety of special events throughout the year planned for the

Pack, such as picnics, service projects and the Pinewood Derby.

Rank

Boys in first grade are Tiger Cubs. This is a very family oriented program and an introduction to scouting.

Boys in second grade work on Wolf badges; in third grade, Bear badges; in fourth grade, Webelos badges; and fifth grade, The Arrow of Light Award. All boys, when first joining Cub Scouts, work on the Bobcat badge, a simple yet important requirement. If a boy joins after second grade, he will need to earn his Bobcat badge before working on his grade-appropriate badge. Each rank has a handbook available to help boys and parents complete their requirement. Once a badge is earned, it is presented to the boy (and parents) at the next monthly Pack meeting. After a grade-related badge is earned, boys can then earn Arrow Points (Wolf and Bear), or complete Activity Badges ("compass points"- Webelos) leading to the top honor, The Arrow of Light.

You cannot flunk Cub Scouts. Even if a boy does not earn a particular badge or points, he will still graduate to the next level.



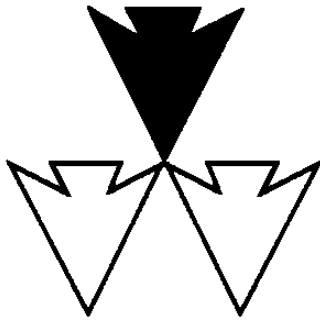
Uniforms



Uniforms help to promote pride in appearance. Tiger cubs and Cub Scouts wear the appropriate blue (Wolf and Bear) or khaki (Webelos) Cub Scout shirt with related insignia, neckerchiefs, and slide. Cub Scout caps and pants are optional. Dark blue (or khaki) pants, blue jeans or shorts are acceptable, but bright, colored shorts are discouraged. Uniforms are worn at all Den and Pack activities. Special recognition and promotions will be held to recognize scouts who wear proper uniforms. An insignia guide is on the inside front cover of all Cub Scout handbooks. Approximate cost of the uniform, shirt, associated patches and a scout handbook is \$40.00. Uniforms and related items are available at Scout shops located at:

Scout Shop
11481 Page Industrial Dr.
Maryland Heights, MO

ARROW POINTS



Den and Pack Meetings

Den meetings are held at adult leaders' homes, school or other special areas on occasion. Den leaders spend much time planning meetings and attending training sessions in order to provide great experiences for the boys. The time, location, and schedule are up to each den. Meetings last from 1 to 1 ½ hours and usually are planned around monthly themes provided by the national Cub Scout organization. Topics and agendas are in the Den Leaders guide which all may see and use. Parents are encouraged to help or host meetings with the Den leader. Parents are responsible for transportation; boys should be picked up at the agreed times. ***If a boy misbehaves at den meetings, a parent will have to attend future meetings.***

Pack Meetings are held each month, most often in the Multi-Purpose Room at Bellerive School. A schedule with locations is included. Meetings start promptly at 7:00 P.M. Summer months have special pack activities in place of meetings.

A parent/guardian must attend the Pack Meetings with the Cub Scout!

While fun is encouraged, no rough or obnoxious behavior is allowed. Siblings are welcome to Pack meetings but are expected to be well behaved. Every meeting has an opening and closing ceremony, presentation of awards, and announcements of upcoming events. We try to plan a special event that is fun for the boys and families at every meeting. In the past we have had live animal presentations, scavenger hunts, boomerang demonstrations, and bonfires, to name a few. Service projects, our yearly Blue and Gold Banquet, and the Pinewood Derby are also held at monthly meetings. The boys often do games and skits. A raffle is held at the end of each Pack meeting.



Dues and Fundraising

Pack Dues

Pro-rated pack dues are collected in September for new scouts who join at School Night for Scouting. Our Pack's rechartering occurs at the January Pack Meeting and that is when all scouts pay annual dues. Pack dues cover badges, pack meetings and some activity expenses. Costs for one year are as followed:

\$10.00	National and St. Louis Area Council
\$10.80	Subscription of Boys Life magazine.
<u>\$39.20</u>	Pack 492 Activity Fee
\$60.00	Total

Registration/Dues Refund Policy

There will be **no** refund of registration fees/dues beyond 30 days after registration.

The St. Louis Area Council portion of the registration fee cannot and will not be refunded by the Bellerive Elementary Pack 492. The Cub Scout is welcome to request that portion of the refund directly from the St. Louis Area Council New Horizons District. Any St. Louis Area Council New Horizons District's refund policies would then be applicable for that portion of the refund.

A 20% penalty fee of the total registration fee applies to all refunds requested prior to 30 days after registration.

Den Dues

Dens have their own dues payable to the Den leader in September. They range typically from \$20 to \$25 and support the activities and supplies needed for the den meetings.

Fundraising

Our primary fund-raiser is CANS FOR CUBS, where

Families drop off aluminum cans at the Cans for Cubs trailer parked in the lower school parking lot.

Leader Meetings and Training

Leader meetings typically occur on the Thursday after the first Tuesday of each month at 7:30 P.M. and involve den representatives and committee members. Upcoming Pack functions, suggestions for den activities, and input on improving the Pack are discussed. Parents are always invited to participate in these meetings, especially those considering leadership roles.

All den leaders and pack committee members are encouraged to go through leadership training (one hour in training saves 5 hours of anguish!). The St. Louis Council offers several weekend and weeknight training sessions.



Parent Responsibilities

All parents are asked to participate in at least one project committee: Scouting for Food, Staff Appreciation, Service Project, Pinewood Derby, Creve Coeur Parade, Pack Picnic, Pack Overnight Campout, Camp Coordinator, Pack Raffle, Cans for Cubs, Pool Party, Summer Activity, Pack Photographer and School Beautification. More detailed descriptions of the above projects are in the following pages.

Nobody should feel overwhelmed with these jobs. We want these to be enjoyable experiences for all and will help advise and supervise.

Awards Chairperson

This position entails keeping track of the awards each boy earns and having them ready for presentation at the next pack meeting. Den leaders report to the chairperson the Friday before the pack meeting. The chairperson then informs the Cubmaster of awards to be presented. The chairperson also picks up the awards from the scout shop and completes the accompanying cards.

Camp Coordination

Two to three volunteers are needed to promote and coordinate the registration of scouts for various camp programs. This job requires paperwork and can be done from the home. This is a good job for people who can give small amounts of time throughout the year.



Pack Communication

Newsletters and reminders need to be produced on a monthly basis. There is a website available to access information about the Pack, your Den, and calendar for upcoming events. The website is <http://www.geocities.com/stlpack492/>.

At the beginning of the year this committee person prepares the Pack Handbook and the Pack's Roster. This is a job for a computer savvy individual who can work a couple hours a month.

Pack Raffle

At the end of each pack meeting a raffle is held. Volunteers sell tickets prior to the meeting, and help collect/or purchase items to be raffled. The actual raffle is done by the Webelos. Time required is a couple of hours each month during the school year.

Cans for Cubs

Aluminum cans are delivered to our trailer and then taken for recycling. This is our major fundraiser. Volunteers are needed to move the trailer (requires a car with a hitch) and help with delivery for recycling twice a month (trip takes about 2 hours total).

School & Spring Beautification

Three volunteers are needed to help organize and track these projects. The objective is to teach the boys the importance of treating property with respect and with everyone pitching in a community is better place to live. Each month one of the dens will perform a small project that enhances the school ground or surrounding community. Then in the spring a project for the whole pack to participate in will be coordinated. This committee will work with the dens and help coordinate the monthly project as well as organize the spring beautification project.

Photographer

Take candid shots at Pack Meetings and events. Then build a display board to share with our pack families. The pack will pick up expenses

Staff Appreciation

At a Pack meeting, scouts and their families work on gifts to show their appreciation to the teachers and staff of Bellerive School. Volunteers are needed to purchase and prepare the materials needed for this project. Time involved 4-8 hours.

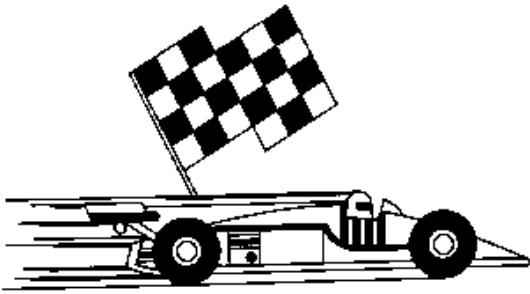
Service Project

The exact service project varies from year to year. Past events have involved making simple games and rag dolls for orphans or collecting gifts for the USMC Toys for Tots program. Assembly is done at a Pack meeting, but collection, preparation, and distribution requires 4 to 6 volunteers. Time involvement is approximately 6 hours. The Pack Committee will provide guidance.



Scouting for Food

A district wide project, Scouting for Food occurs in November on two (2) weekends. Bags to collect food are dropped off on the first weekend and then bags containing food are picked up on the second weekend. Parents (and their cars) are recruited from the dens to drive scouts to various neighborhoods. 2 to 4 volunteers are needed to provide food and drinks for each weekend and distribute bags to families and deliver cans to the fire station.



Pinewood Derby

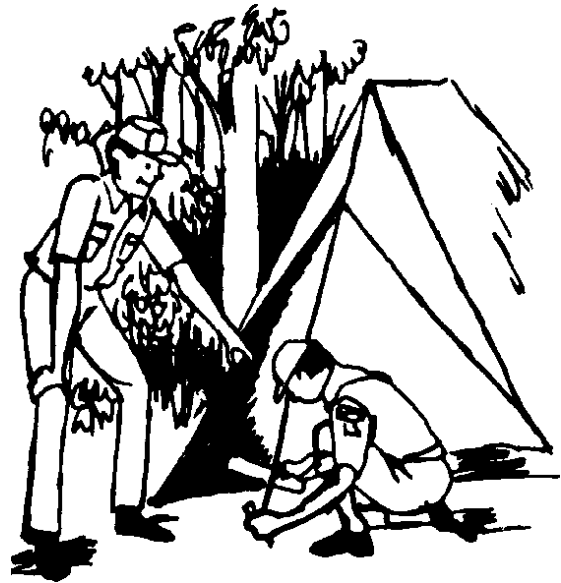
Our Pack holds its Pinewood Derby in January. Responsibilities involve promoting the event, making sure cars meet regulations, setting up the track, arranging running order, timing and scoring the races, getting prizes and cleaning up. Time involved is 4 to 10 hours depending on the level of involvement. Approximately 6 volunteers are needed for this event. A chairman will coordinate this well organized event.

Blue and Gold Banquet

Each year, a traditional banquet is held to provide special awards, honor Webelos graduating to Boy Scouts, and in general having a good time. Eight volunteers are needed to sell tickets, arrange seating, decorate the facility, help plan the program, and help with set up/clean up. The food is catered but must be coordinated. Pack 492 generally holds its Blue and Gold banquet at Parkway North High School or Parkway Northeast Middle School (location subject to change) in mid-February; planning starts at the beginning of January. Time requirements are about 6 to 8 hours total. An experienced chairman coordinates the project.

Pack Overnight Campout

One night campout at Beaumont Cub World on a Saturday in the Spring. Pack Meeting will be held by campfire. Overnight is optional. Several volunteers are needed for planning, shopping and camp set up.



Creve Coeur Parade

Our Pack puts together a float for this event in May. All scouts and families may ride or walk with the float (including newly graduated Tigers). In past years our Pack has won top awards for our float entries. Advanced planning and actual construction of the float is coordinated, a trailer needs to be rented, material, coordination of cubs and families for decorating and refreshments are provided after the event. This event requires 3 volunteers. The time involved is about 8 hours. A chairman is needed to coordinate the event.



Pack Picnic

In June our first summer activity is a Pack picnic at Beirne Park.

Responsibilities include reserving an area, taking family reservations, buying food and drinks, setting up tables, cooking hotdogs at Beirne Park, and arranging games afterwards. This event requires 4 volunteers and about 6 hours of time. The Pack Committee will advise as needed.

July Summer Activity

The Pack continues to meet in the summer. In the past we have gone to Baseball games and Comedy Clubs for families. Responsibilities include determining and making arrangements for the Pack to do the activity as well as transportation. Total time 6 to 8 hours.

August Summer Activity

Our last summer activity is held in August. Traditionally, it has been a pool party but may change from year to year. The pool needs to be reserved. Phone calls are made to promote the event. Food is bought and set up and clean up is needed. Time involvement is about 5 hours and 3 volunteers are needed. The Pack Committee will advise as needed.

Please see Pack 492's website for updated schedule of Pack's Dates of activities:

<http://www.geocities.com/stlpack492/>