

JOINING CUB SCOUTING:

How old (or young) can a boy be to join Cub Scouting?

Cub Scouting is for boys in the first through fifth grades.

Scouts can Join starting June 1st and will be part of a den arranged by School Grade the following fall.

Boys who are older than 10, or who have completed the fifth grade, can no longer join Cub Scouting, but they may be eligible to join the Boy Scouting or Venturing program.

What Pack should I join?

St. Michael & Albertville has four (4) Packs. Starting in 2007, each Pack will be aligned with one of the Elementary Schools.

For a link to the school borders, go to:

http://www.stma.k12.mn.us/district_information/district_news/elementary_boundaries.php

St. Michael Elementary (STME): Pack 767

Big Woods: Pack 541

Fieldstone: Pack 547

St. Michael Parish School: Pack 548

Since the School borders are designed to evenly distribute the population between the schools, where you live determines what school you attend and therefore what pack you would likely join. Ultimately, a family can make the Pack choice that is best for them.

Are Cub Scouts the same as Boy Scouts?

Cub Scouting is a program of the Boy Scouts of America—so in that sense, Cub Scouts and Boy Scouts are both members of the same organization. However, they are entirely different programs: Cub Scouting is a family-oriented program designed specifically to address the needs of younger boys.

What activities do we do as Cub Scouts?

Cub Scouting is a well rounded program including many diverse activities to help your son grow in their community, church, and family.

Cubs and their families take part in events such as the pinewood derby model car race, rain gutter regatta model boat race, or a space derby model rocket race. Or, there could be a picnic, trip to the ball game, visit a fire station, visit a radio station, swimming, sports activities, fly a radio controlled plane, fly in a single engine plane, plus many more.

There are also many camping opportunities including Day Camp and Resident Camp (overnight). While at camp a scout may be able to shoot bb guns and archery.

THE CUB SCOUT PROGRAM:

What are a Pack and a Den?

A group of Scouts from the same area is considered a Pack (see "What Pack should I join?"). The Pack meets once per month as one large group. **Pack 767 meets on the 3rd Tuesday of each month.**

Within a Pack are several Dens. These Dens are made up of about 8 Scouts from the same School grade. These Scouts and Families select their own Den Leader and plan activities and events as a den.

How often do Cub Scouts meet?

Cub Scouts meet in their dens between once and three times per month (The date, time and frequency of these den meetings is agreed upon by the Den members & families). The BSA program recommends that dens meet each week.

A pack meeting is held for all Cub Scouts and their families once a month. **Pack 767 meets on the 3rd Tuesday of each month.**

Beyond that, it depends on the den and pack: a den may hold a special activity, such as a service project or visit to a local museum in place of one of the weekly meetings or in addition to the weekly meetings. Likewise, a pack may conduct a special event such as a hayride as an additional event, rather than a substitute for its monthly pack meeting.

May parents attend den meetings?

Parent participation is required for all Tiger Cub activities, den meetings and Pack meetings.

For the other Scouts, the BSA program states:

"Cub Scout den meetings are intended to be an activity for the individual boys. They are not a family activity, and the presence of parents can be a distraction."

However, parental involvement is not forbidden and all meetings should be open to your participation. If you would like to be present at a den meeting, ask the den leader in advance so that the leader can plan a way for you to observe or participate in an unobtrusive manner.

Each Den will choose the level of parent and family participation, so check with you den leader.

May parents & families attend Pack meetings?

Absolutely yes!

Families are encouraged to attend and participate in the activities.

Pack meetings are a time for recognition of the Scouts accomplishments, so having the family there to encourage and support the scout is an important part of the experience.

However, BSA stands for Boy Scouts of America, not Baby Sitters of America, so it is expected that parents will take appropriate disciplinary action for both scouts and siblings.

There may be some activities or crafts that will be limited to the Scouts only. This is due to the planning and possible expense of the activity.

COST OF CUB SCOUTS:

What does Cub Scouting Cost?

The true monetary cost of Cub Scouting is difficult to determine because it varies for each family based on participation. There are required expenses, and some optional events that can alter each families scouting expense.

Required expenses include Yearly registration fee and a Scout Uniform. Dens may choose to implement a cost sharing program that each member will be asked to participate in.

Optional expenses include Pack or Den events or tours that have a cost. (see "What else will I have to pay for?")

The pack committee tries hard to limit the quantity and expense of Pack related activities.

What does the Registration fee cover?

Registration fees pay for membership in the Boy Scouts of America through the Northern Star Council. Registration fees also pay for a portion of Boys Life Magazine. In the past, the pack has received a donation from the St. Michael American Legion for the magazine expense.

Does the Northern Star Council provide money to support our Pack?

No. Each Cub Scout pack is self-supporting through fundraising efforts and donations.

What expenses does the Pack have?

In order to provide a quality program, there many expenses that the Pack has.

These include (average costs per Pack 767 2006 Budget):

Handbook & Neckerchief:	\$10.20/scout/year
Advancement & Achievement patches and awards:	\$14.51/scout/year
Leadership training and support materials:	\$19.14/scout/year
Pack meeting room rental, crafts, entertainment, etc:	\$19.53/scout/year
Pizza Fun Night (for the whole family):	\$5.35/scout/year
Blue & Gold Banquet expenses and entertainment:	\$7.81/scout/year
Pinewood Derby cars, awards, etc:	\$9.63/scout/year

Plus much more...

What else will I have to pay for?

Besides the registration fees and uniforms, Scouts and families will pay for optional special events and Camping such as:

- Hay Ride
- Timberwolves Game
- Polar Cubs (winter day camp)
- Twins Game
- Religious award workbooks
- Summer Resident and Day camp
- And more!

Although these activities are optional, all **Camping activities are strongly encouraged** since these activities make up the true "Cub Scout Experience".

There are also expenses incurred at the Den level that you will be asked to participate in. These Den expenses directly benefit your Scout, and include items such as craft supplies, tour costs & support materials. Each den will determine the amount and method that these fees are collected.

How does the Pack earn money (Pack Fundraising)?

Each year Pack 767 does a Wreath Sale to earn money for the Pack so that a quality and meaningful program can be prepared.

Wreath Sales offer our Pack 100% of the profits.

To reach the pack budget, each Scout is asked to sell a minimum of 15 wreath items.

At the Pack Committee option, Popcorn Sales can also be performed.

Can a Scout earn money?

A Scout can earn "Scout Bucks" in one of 2 ways:

1. If a Scout reaches the pack goal of selling 15 wreath items, the scout will receive \$15 of Scout Bucks. For each additional 5-wreath items sold, a scout will receive an additional \$5 of Scout Bucks.
2. If the Pack decides to also do Popcorn Sales, all profits earned will be placed in the individual Scout Bucks account – provided they have FIRST met the Pack Goal of 15 items. If the Pack Goal is not met, all Popcorn Sales profit will benefit the Pack.
 - Individual fundraisers are not allowed

What is "Scout Bucks"?

Simply stated, Scout Bucks is a personal account for each scout. Money earned from fundraisers can be used for any Cub Scout activity. Scout Bucks are not intended to be used for Den activities or purchases at the scout shop without committee approval.

Any un-used Scout Bucks will roll over into the next scouting year, or are transferred with the scout to another pack (if they move) or to a Boy Scout troop. If a scout quits, the money will be held in their account until March 31st of the next year (following re-chartering), where it will be transferred to the Pack account.

Are these our only fundraisers?

Wreath Sales and Popcorn Sales are our only Pack fundraisers.

However, there is one fundraiser in January called "Friends of Scouting" that seeks donations from scout families to benefit the Northern Star Council and its programs.

This fundraiser also seeks matching donations from many businesses in the Twin city areas. No selling is required. Participation is required, but donation amount is determined by each family's financial ability.

What expenses should a Den Leader expect?

Based on the Pack budget (as a result of fundraising efforts) the Pack will pay for (or reimburse) a one Den Leader uniform per den. All Leader Training expenses will be reimbursed for all registered leaders. The Pack will also pay for a portion of the Summer Camp expense for the registered leaders (based on fundraising efforts and committee approval)

Training materials, books, and literature are available from the Pack Library for check-out and Den Leader use.

Expenses that are incurred in each den (crafts, tours, gifts, etc) will not be reimbursed by the Pack.

However, each Den can elect a method by which the expenses are shared among the den members/families. The collection, safekeeping and use of den money are the responsibility of the den.

1. Collect den dues at each den meeting.
2. Request a one time contribution at the beginning of the year to cover these costs.
3. Share the planning duties among the den members, and therefore the cost incurred in each den meeting is the burden of the planning family, but it averages out over the entire season.
4. Any excess at the end of the scouting year can be used for a den party or returned to the den members as agreed by the den members.

Can a Den earn money?

At the option of the den leaders and den members, and with Pack Committee approval, a Den may be allowed to take part in fundraisers to off-set some of the Den expenses.

These may include items such as selling hot dogs & pop at Coburn's.

UNIFORM & SUPPLIES:

What supplies and equipment are needed to participate in Cub Scouting?

At minimum, each boy in Cub Scouting will need a Class A uniform and a handbook. Each year, the handbook changes, as does the neckerchief, but other uniform parts remain the same for at least the first four years.

For Pack 767, the Class A uniform consists of the blue Cub Scout uniform with all patches properly affixed. A Cub Scout neckerchief is also a required part of the uniform. Neckerchief slides can be an official Cub Scout slide, or any scout made slide.

Cub Scout hat, belt, pants, etc are optional; however the belt may be needed if optional Sports & Academics belt loops are earned.

With a successful fund raising drive, the Pack 767 committee may decide to purchase the handbook and neckerchief for each scout.

When a boy earns his Webelos rank (near the end of his 4th grade year) they will purchase a new khaki uniform shirt. This khaki uniform is worn their 5th grade year and into Boy Scouts.

Where can I purchase BSA literature, uniforms, and other program materials?

Our uniforms, literature, and other Scouting merchandise are available at the Northern Star Council offices, Scout Shops, and other licensed distributors.

For local locations, visit: <http://www.northernstarbsa.org/Contacts/>

Or the Supply Division Web site at: www.scoutstuff.org

Any purchases from the Scout Shop for use in the Pack or Den will not be reimbursed from the pack without committee approval.

Can I buy a used or discounted uniform?

The Northern Star Council offers a "uniform exchange" on the 1st & 3rd Monday of each month where a family can purchase used uniforms that have been donated. Contact the Northern Star Council at 763-231-7201 or to inquire go to the web site at:

<http://www.northernstarbsa.org/Resources/UniformExchange.asp>

Availability changes regularly. Some Districts or Packs also offer this option, but at this time, Pack 767 does not. Uniforms may also be purchased from on-line sales outlets (such as e-bay), but at the buyers risk. Only official BSA uniforms are acceptable.

ADVANCEMENT and AWARDS:

If a boy joins a Bear den, may he go back and earn the Tiger Cub and Wolf badges?

No. In the Cub Scout program, all boys in a den work toward the same badge. If a boy joins Cub Scouting as a 9-year-old (3rd grade), he must earn the Bobcat badge (all boys in Cub Scouting earn this badge), and then he will begin working on the Bear badge with his fellow Cub Scouts. He is not required to have earned the Tiger Cub or Wolf badges. Since those badges are for younger boys (7- and 8-year-olds), the requirements for those badges are below a 9-year-old's current level of ability, so "going back" to pick up those badges is not permitted.

Being a Cub Scout is not a prerequisite to joining Boy Scouts.

If a boy completes the Wolf badge early, may he begin working on the Bear badge?

No. In the Cub Scout program, all boys in a den work toward a badge that is geared to their level of development. If the Wolf badge is completed before the end of the program year, a boy may work on electives to earn Arrow Points, but he may not begin working on the requirements for the Bear badge. His work on the Bear badge will begin the next program year, when he graduates into a Bear den.

Pack 767 has adopted the policy that the new rank season begins on June 1st. For example, a scout that has earned his Wolf badge at the February Blue and Gold Banquet will continue working on Wolf electives until June 1st. June 1st he can begin working on the requirements of the Bear badge. Same scenario for all ranks except Arrow of Light has the option of joining Boy Scouts upon completion of the Arrow of Light rank.

Are the Religious Awards required?

"A Scout is Reverent". Cub Scouts offer different Religious Awards based on your faith. Completing these awards is not required since there are options for meeting the religious requirements in each rank handbook.

However, Pack 767 encourages the completion of these awards since they are meaningful, helpful and fun. The awards vary by the Scouts age, and can not be earned more than once.

Since these awards are optional, and workbooks vary depending on the Scout & family's faith, Pack 767 has adopted the policy that the appropriate workbooks are to be purchased by the family. Upon completion of the award, signed completed forms must be turned into the Pack Advancement Chairperson, and the Pack will then purchase the appropriate emblems and/or pins, and present them with honor at a Pack meeting. Some religious emblems may take up to one month to obtain following the proper and complete form submission to the Advancement Chair.

For more information, go to: <http://usscouts.org/advance/cubscout/religious.html>

May Cub Scouts earn badges such as the 50-Miler Award or Mile Swim, BSA?

Cub Scouts are not eligible to earn these awards, which are part of the Boy Scout program. All of the awards that Cub Scouts may earn are listed in their handbooks.