

# **Cub Scout Pack 224**

[WWW.Pack224lakeworth.com](http://WWW.Pack224lakeworth.com)

**Lake Worth, Florida**

**Tradewinds District**

**Gulf Coast Council**

**Boy Scouts of America**



# Parent Handbook

# Cub Scouts Pack 224

Hi, and welcome to Cub Scouts Pack 224! Here's hoping the information and guidelines presented to you in the next few pages will help you get off to a good start for the coming year. Please keep this packet as a handy reference for future information needs regarding Pack policy and uniform information.

To begin with, your son is a member of Pack 224, which is in the Tradewinds District, belonging to the Gulf Stream Council, which encompasses Palm Beach County. The Pack is made up of Dens, which is a group of boys usually in the same grade as that of your son. Each Den has a specific numeral attached to it. Collectively, we are Cub Scouts, and are members of the National organization, the Boy Scouts of America.

The Pack is run by the registered BSA Adult Leaders of the Pack who make up the Pack Committee, which includes a Committee Chair, Secretary, Treasurer, Event Coordinators, Awards Coordinators, Den Leaders, Assistant Den Leaders, and others. All parents of a Cub Scout in Pack 224 are needed and encouraged to become a Committee Member. Den meetings are generally held *weekly* on Tuesdays at Manatee Elementary at 6:30 p.m. Unless previously announced, our Pack meetings are always held on the *fourth* Tuesday of every month at Manatee Elementary.

## Den Meetings

Lots of Cub Scouting happens in the den. Please remember that your son's Den Leader is a *volunteer* putting forth his or her time and effort to help your boy 'do his best' to earn his badges, participate in the fun, and gain all the positive values that the Cub Scout program offers. Please assist them in the following ways.

- Please have your son arrive to den meetings on time. Your Den Leaders have lots of activities planned and it is important to have the whole group together to begin the evening's fun and projects. Meetings start promptly at 6:30 p.m.  
Tiger Cubs must have an Adult Partner with them at all meetings, trips, etc. Enjoy the time together!
- Please pay your den dues promptly. Your Den Leader or other parents will be purchasing various items for craft projects, supplies, snacks, etc., and it sure helps to have the money 'on hand'. Also, please make sure your son has his handbook, and anything else he needs for the meeting before leaving the house.
- Be an active parent. *Everybody* has some special abilities and 'know how' that can be of great help in matters relating to Cub Scouts. We need each parent to step up and volunteer to assist in one of the many activities we have planned this year. In addition to the boys learning new skills from *you*, I promise that you will have a good time helping *them*.

## Pack Meetings

Whereas at weekly Den meetings the boys might do activities towards earning rank badges and awards, the monthly Pack meeting is *where* these awards are presented. It is an **important** part of the program, as it allows the boys to receive their recognition in front of the group as a whole, inspires the younger scouts to strive towards achieving future ranks, and brings everybody together for the big night!

At Pack meetings, the Cubmaster will 'do their best' to make sure that each Den has a chance to display that special craft they made, song they learned, skit they've rehearsed, or interesting place they visited. In addition, there might be a drawing, advancement ceremony, or other themed event planned for the evening.

Please observe the following guidelines in regards to Pack meetings.

- Please accompany your son to his Pack meeting. Pack meetings are a *family* event - brothers, sisters, grandparents, but most of all, **YOU!** We require your participation not only to help keep order at the meeting (things *can* get a bit rowdy), but also because in Scouting many awards are presented to the parent who then presents it to the Scout. Cub Scouts is a family program.

- Please arrive to Pack meetings on time. Plan on arriving at least ten minutes early to confer with your son's Den leader about upcoming things, chat with friends, etc., as the meeting needs to begin on time. If your son is helping out as a member of a flag ceremony, or assisting with other Pack meeting activities, it is imperative to have him there on time. The meetings start promptly at 6:30 p.m.
- Uniforms should be worn for all Pack meetings  
Class A - Shirts tucked in - looking sharp!

Most of all, we hope to make Pack meetings entertaining, enriching, and FUN!!!

### **\$\$\$ Pack 224 Dues \$\$\$**

Throughout the Scout year, your Den leader or Pack Treasurer will collect money for various Pack functions and activities.

Pack 224 Dues can be paid 3 different ways. First, if you choose to make one annual payment, the fee will be \$100.00. If you choose two semi annual payments, the fee will be \$60.00 per payment. The last option is to pay on a monthly basis with a payment of \$15.00 per month. This fee goes towards the cost of your son's Pinewood Derby car, raingutter sailboat, and the many awards that will be presented to him throughout the year. It also helps with the cost of some of the outings the scouts will go on. Additionally, pack dues pay for BSA dues.

The Pack maintains a separate bank account at National City with records being kept by a Pack Treasurer.

### **Fund Raisers**

Throughout the year there will be various fund-raisers. Some of these might go to benefit the Pack for a trip, outing, or needed supplies, and some to benefit the Scout, Pack, and the Council. As Cub Scouts, we will always try and make sure to emphasize the *fun* in *fund*raising.

### **Cub Scouting and You**

When your son earns his Bobcat badge he learns the Law of the Pack. One of these laws states "The Cub Scout Helps the Pack Go". Throughout the year there are fund-raisers, Scout shows, parades, derbies, camping trips, and many other activities and functions. Ambitious as they are, a Cub Scout still needs *your* help in implementing the program and thereby giving *us* the chance to keep our promise in the part of the Law that states "The Pack Helps the Cub Scout Grow".

Remember, the Pack is all of us working together... leaders, parents, and Scouts.

Unlike other programs your son might enroll in, Cub Scouting involves the whole family, no matter what size or parental make-up exists in the home. In Tigers, you are your son's Adult Partner. In Wolves and Bears, you are Akela, the wise leader of the tribe and the final judge of your son's efforts. At the Webelos rank, you are the Activity Badge counselors that could help influence a boy's career direction.

**Throughout the year you will be asked to assist on different committees and at different events. Please volunteer freely, and give of yourself when called upon to help. You will find it a rewarding experience, and one in which you and your son will remember that you did together.**

### **Uniforms, Patches, and Accessories**

Scouts in uniform are more conscious of their role in Cub Scouting and feel a sense of pride and belonging when wearing one. A uniform provides a proper place for the display of badges earned and a way for him to 'show the world' that he has been rewarded for his achievements.

In addition, Scouts in uniform create a strong, positive, *visible* image in the community that helps to strengthen the important ties between the public and the Scouting organization.

## Where to Buy

Uniforms, patches and accessories are available at M.E. Rinker Scout shop located at 8335 North Military Trail, Palm Beach Gardens. Their phone number is 561-691-3929, and they will be happy to assist you.

### Shirts and Shorts

The main article of the uniform is the shirt, as it displays the rank of the Scout and identifies him as belonging to a certain Den, Pack and Council. When purchasing a new uniform, remember that your son is growing and if, for example, he is now a newly signed up Wolf Cub, get an extra size or two larger, so he can wear it for his Bear year as well. We will also have a Pack T-shirt for sale for outdoor activities.

Although a complete official uniform for your son is strongly encouraged, if cost is an object, many of the large discount stores sell shorts in colors that closely resemble those of the official uniform.

*\*Note: Blue jeans and other 'unofficial' uniform colored clothing are discouraged.*

### Patches

In addition to the purchasing of a uniform, there will be many patches that need to be sewn on your son's shirt. Please pay close attention as to *where* on the uniform these need to be placed. (refer to uniform insignia placement on the next page). It is important that when your son receives a badge that is to be a part of his uniform, you affix it to his shirt as soon as possible. He earned it, and he deserves to have it displayed.

A uniform is something that a Scout can help pay for himself by assigning him various chores around the house, or helping out with other home projects. Also, keep in mind that uniforms, Scout accessories, camping supplies, and other 'Scout stuff' make *excellent* birthday and holiday presents for your son or the Scouter in your family.

### **Tigers, Wolves and Bears**

- Tiger, Wolf or Bear Handbook (please purchase handbook as soon as possible)
- Blue Cub Scout Shirt with U.S. flag – (short sleeve / long sleeve)
- Gulf Coast Council Patch
- Pack 224 (red and white numerals)
- Your son's Den Number Strip
- World Crest Emblem (purple patch with the fleur-de-lis symbol)
- Tiger (orange) Wolf (yellow) or Bear (blue) Cub Scout Neckerchief and Cub Scout Slide
- Official Tiger, Wolf or Bear Hat
- Cub Scout Web Belt And Buckle (These are designed to fit the Belt Loop awards that Scouts can earn)
- Official Cub Scout Shorts
- Official Tiger (orange stripe) or Cub Scout (yellow stripe) Socks

### **Webelos**

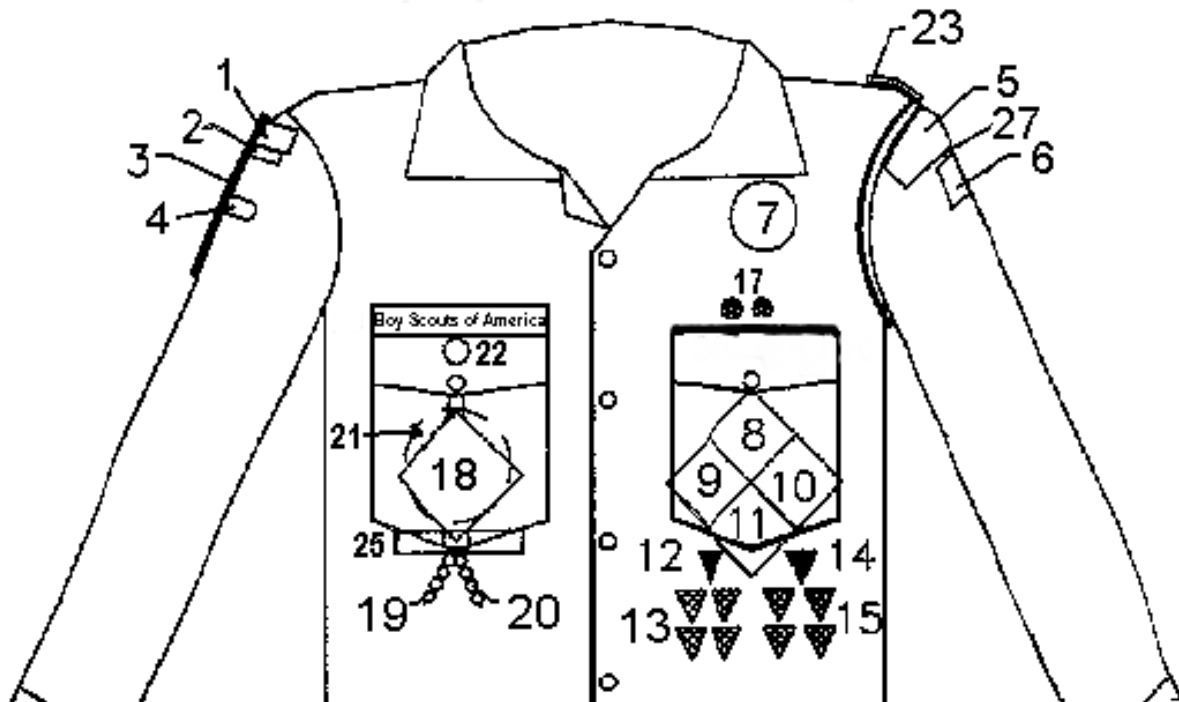
- Webelos Handbook (please purchase handbook as soon as possible)
- \*Tan Boy Scout Shirt with U.S. Flag - (short sleeve / long sleeve)
- Gulf Coast Council Patch
- Pack 224 (red and white numerals)
- Your Den Number Strip
- World Crest Emblem (purple patch with the fleur-de-lis symbol)
- Checkered Webelos Neckerchief and Webelos Slide
- Blue Shoulder Loops for tan shirt
- Official Webelos Hat
- Cub Scout Web Belt and Webelos Buckle (These are designed to fit the Belt Loop awards that Scouts can earn. The Webelos / Boy Scout green belt is wider and Belt Loops must be expanded to fit)
- Webelos Colors (optional) Activity Badge pins may be worn on the Webelos Hat or the Webelos Colors

Official Boy Scout Socks to match shirt worn

Official Boy Scout Shorts

\*Note: A Webelos Scout may wear either the Blue or Tan shirt. If you are just signing on as a Webelos, it is recommended to purchase the Tan uniform.

### Uniform Insignia Placement



1. American Flag (comes with uniform)
2. Den Number
3. Webelos Colors (optional)
4. Quality Unit Award (most recent only)
5. Council Emblem
6. Pack Numerals
7. World Crest
8. Bobcat Badge
9. Wolf Badge
10. Bear Badge
11. Tiger Badge (or Webelos badge on blue uniform)
12. Wolf Gold Arrow Point
13. Wolf Silver Arrow Points
14. Bear Gold Arrow Point
15. Bear Silver Arrow Points

16. Tiger Cub Service Star
17. Cub Scout Service Star
18. Immediate Recognition Kit (available for Tigers also)
19. Wolf Beads (Yellow)
20. Bear Beads (Red)
21. Temporary Patch (or Webelos Compass Badge)
22. Summertime Pack Award
23. Denner Cords
24. (Not Shown) Arrow of Light – below left pocket
25. Recruiter Strip
26. (Not Shown). Oval Webelos Badge - Centered on left pocket under flap on tan uniform

## A Brief Summary of Scouting and the Cub Scout Program

Scouting has been around a long time. The Boy Scouts of America was founded in 1910, and became federally chartered with the United States in 1916. Cub Scouts came into being in 1930. Millions of boys have worn the uniform, cooked over an open fire at a campsite, earned their Bobcat, raced their Pinewood Derby cars, worked on service projects, and made new friends under the umbrella of Scouting. Flowing underneath all this fun and excitement is a character-building program that encourages making good ethical choices, family strengthening, physical fitness, and citizenship skills in the lives of our boys.

Scouting utilizes an advancement system that requires a boy to 'do his best' to fulfill and complete the requirements outlined in his handbook so that he may earn his rank badge. After receiving his badge, these Scouts can go on to earn other awards by completing a series of electives. Please keep in mind that although there are lots of awards and recognitions in Scouting, Pack 224 will strive towards the end that these are earned through significant, meaningful methods that your son will remember for a long time.

At the Tiger, Wolf, and Bear ranks, Cub Scouting centers on monthly themes that have lots of appeal to boys at this age. During den meetings, the boys will be playing games, building craft projects, learning songs, etc. relating to this theme. In doing so, these boys will be improving on different skills as they learn to get along with others, become more resourceful, and participate in new activities and venues.

At the Webelos level, in lieu of the monthly theme, the boys are introduced to several diverse Activity Badges and, within the framework of the Webelos den, they work on completing these badges. If you'll notice, there are Webelos 1's (4<sup>th</sup> graders) and Webelos 2's (5<sup>th</sup> graders). At the first level, after earning their Webelos badge, Webelos 1's continue to earn additional activity badges and gain new knowledge and skills in these areas. The Webelos 2's, though maybe still earning Activity Badges, also begin focusing on completing other requirements for their Arrow of Light award and will be conducting activities with various Boy Scout Troops.

Pack 224 follows a 'Scout year' of September to June and upon nearing the end of the school term, all the boys 'cross over' into the next rank. During the summer, Den meeting work on achievements may be suspended as the Pack may meet monthly at fun outings such as a bowling derby, fishing derby, kite derby, baseball game, etc. that goes toward the boys earning their Summertime Award pin.

There are many, many events offered in Scouting. In addition to the events at Den meetings, Pack 224 will have family camping trips, Pinewood Derby races, Raingutter Regatta, and much more that's just for us in Pack 224.

In addition, there are District events, Fall Family Campout, Food for Family, Burning of the Green, which unite us with hundreds of Scouts, and Council events that can have thousands of Scouts in attendance. Your participation at these functions will definitely add to your son's Scouting experience.

Thank you for taking the time to go over this handbook with your new Cub Scout! **With your help and only with your help** will this be an exciting, rewarding experience for you, your son, your family, and you're Pack.

We're glad you've joined us! If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to ask.

Yours in Scouting,

Steven Pepper