

BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA
Bay Area Council
Coastal District
Christus Victor Lutheran Church

Pack 615
Parent and New Leader Guide

A guide for the Scouts and Parents of
Pack 615

Table of Contents

Section 1	Welcome.....pg. 3
Section 2	Policies.....pg. 5
Section 3	Terms and Abbreviations.....pg. 6
Section 4	Pack Committee Positions.....pg. 7
Section 5	BSA and Pack Uniforms.....pg. 9
Section 6	Advancement.....pg. 9
Section 7	Special Programs.....pg. 11

Section 1 WELCOME

On behalf of the Scouts, Adult Leaders, Pack Committee and Christus Victor Lutheran Church (CVLC), the Charter Organization of Pack 615, we sincerely welcome you to our Pack. For those of you new to Cub Scouting, we hope to provide challenges to help your son grow and earn his Arrow of Light. We hope your son finds the encouragement to grow into the ideals formulated by Lord Robert Baden-Powell, the founder of the Scouting movement, and William D. Boyce, the man who brought the ideals of the Scouting movement to the United States. Those ideals are Duty to God, Duty to Country, and Duty to Family. As a parent, you want your son to grow up to be a person of worth: a self-reliant, dependable, and caring individual. Scouting has these same goals in mind for him. Since 1910, we have been weaving values to live by into fun and educational activities designed to assist parents in strengthening character, developing good citizenship, and enhancing physical and mental fitness in youth. These values will help your son make good decisions throughout his lifetime and give him confidence as he becomes an adult leader of tomorrow. Scouting provides your son with a positive peer group, and a program that is fun and adventurous. It helps him to “be prepared” to shape his own future.

Please take some time to sit down with this guide and review its contents. Keep it in a place where you can refer to it about common questions and answers. This guide is not intended as a be-all and end-all guide to Cub Scouting but rather our attempt to answer the most common questions. **DO NOT** hesitate to ask any Committee member, Assistant Cub Master, or any other individual for assistance. We know you have a world of questions so please feel free to ask for information or help of any kind.

The primary purpose of this guide is to assist you in helping your Cub Scout adhere to the Cub Scout Motto: “DO YOUR BEST”. Cub Scouting is a home and neighborhood centered program designed to support family life for boys in the first through fifth grades. Each Cub Scout learns to respect his home, country, God and other people. The program also helps boys to:

- Develop new skills through sports, crafts and games.

- Learn how to get along with others through group activities.

- Build self esteem.

Your part is to provide the support and encouragement that is needed for him to make it all the way to his Arrow of Light award.

We will furnish Adult Leader membership forms. It is most likely your involvement will help provide that extra push to get your Cub Scout this far and your continued involvement will help him make it the rest of the way.

We hope this guide answers most of your questions and that Pack 615 is the right Pack for you, as we look forward to the many exciting adventures we will be sharing together.

Robert Hester
Cub Master

Gene Hughes
Pack Committee Chairman

Ruby Hinton
Charter Organization Representative
Christus Victor Lutheran Church

September 15, 2009

Section 2 POLICIES

1. **Joining:** In order to participate in anything other than a visitor, your child must be a registered member of BSA Pack 615, either as (1) a Tiger Cub and his registered adult partner, (2) a Wolf, Bear, or Webelos rank scout, (3) a Cub Scout transferring to a new Pack. Membership is accomplished by submitting a Cub Scout application (for those boys under 11 years of age) or an Adult Leader application (for those over 18 years of age) and the payment of the appropriate funds to our membership chairman. The Scout and Adult must register annually at the re-charting each January. These costs vary from year to year and according to the status of the individual Scout that is joining.
2. **Medical:** The next step at registration is to obtain an Annual Health and Medical form and complete Parts A and C. Part A of the form is basic health and health care information needed for local campouts and activities, Part B is a physical examination form for long term camps (more than 72 hrs) which are not done at the cub scout level. Part C also includes the parental informed consent and hold harmless/release agreement (with an area for notarization if required by your state) as well as a talent release statement. The Boy Scouts of America provides basic (supplemental) insurance coverage but charge a fee of \$1.00, which covers registered scouts with completed medical forms at scouting activities. The medical form (Parts A & C) is to be completed at registration and is updated annually at re-charter time.
3. **Child Protection:** When you bring home your new handbook for your sons rank, please take a few minutes to sit with your son and go through the pullout section in the front. It is a parent's guide on protecting your child from child abuse and drug abuse.
4. **Training:** With a Pack our size we must depend on the organization that the **PROVEN** Scouting program offers. Our adults will be registered as Den Leaders, Assistant Den Leaders, and Committee Members. Our registered adults must attend Youth Protection Training, and FAST-START training which both are available online at www.bacbsa.org. Cub Scout "Leader Specific Training" is offered by the District several times a year. Training opportunities are available through the Pack, District, and Council offices. **NOTE:** This high level of adult participation does not mean that you can consistently drop off your Scout and leave the meetings. Do not assume that he is fully taken care of for his entire scouting career. **PLEASE** stay with your child at the meetings, so you can watch him grow in scouting and provide assistance in helping him meet his advancement goals. We notice considerably more advancement and growth from boys whose parents are active leaders. The Scouts whose parents seem to be merely monitoring from the back of the room closely follow this progress. The controlling factor is the increased presence and interest of the Parent or Guardian.

5. **Uniforms:** A Scout should attend all meetings in appropriate uniform. (See Uniforms Section 5)
6. **Meetings:** Den meetings are set by the Den Leader of your Den that you are assigned. The meeting place is also at the discretion of the Den Leader. Most Den Leaders hold their Den meetings at CVLC.
7. **Pack Meeting:** These are held once a month at CVLC usually on the fourth Friday of the month at 7:00 pm. This meeting is where advancement awards and other awards earned by the Scouts are awarded.
8. **Parental Attendance:** Parents are welcome at all meetings and events.
9. **Pack Committee:** The Pack Committee meets once a month at 4:00 pm. This meeting is usually held the Sunday before the Pack Meeting at CVLC. This Committee approves the annual scheduling of campouts, schedules fundraisers, authorizes expenditures, elects Pack officials and conducts many other activities. The meeting is conducted using "Parliamentary Procedure". Though all are welcome to attend and provide input, but you must be a BSA registered adult to vote. (See Pack Committee positions for further information.
10. **Safety Requirements:** The Pack, District, and Council are highly concerned for the safety of your child. You will hear terms such as "Two Deep Leadership" (the policy that states at no time will one leader be alone with one Scout!) and "Safe Swim Defense" and Safety Afloat" (the policy that gives us specific requirements to fulfill before a water or swimming event can occur).
11. **Re-chartering Process:** The re-chartering is the responsibility of the Membership Chairman. The re-charter package is usually distributed in November, usually at a Coastal District Roundtable.
12. **Expenditure of Funds:** The Pack Committee will operate by an approved Pack annual budget. Specific fund categories have been established and funds set aside to support key functions. Approval and expenditure of Pack funds is normally accomplished at Pack Committee meetings.

Section 3

TERMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

ACM- Assistant Cub Master

ADL- Assistant Den Leader

BAC- Bay Area Council The "Headquarters" for all Scouting units located in the geographical region which includes most of Galveston and some of Brazoria Counties.

BSA- Boy Scouts of America

CM- Cub Master

Coastal District- is the next level of organization for our Scouting unit in Bay Area Council. Packs, Troops, and Venture units report to and gain assistance from a District, which is the Coastal District. The Coastal District reports to the Bay Area Council.

Chartered Organization (Charter Partner)- the group that has a charter agreement with the Boy Scouts of America to provide a safe building for meetings and approval of registered adults working with the Pack. Our Charter Organization is Christus Victor Lutheran Church (CVLC).

COR- Charter Organizational Representative – see Pack Committee positions.

CVLC- Christus Victor Lutheran Church

DENS- typically consist of four to eight boys. They meet once a week for an hour in a home, school, church or other central location. Each meeting is led by a Den Leader (usually a parent) and other helpers. Sometimes a Den Leader is assisted by a Den Chief (an older Boy Scout,) and or a Denner (a Cub Scout elected by den members.)

Pack- consists of several Dens. The Pack meets once a month and all Cub Scout families attend. All dens attend the Pack Meeting. The monthly Pack Meeting is led by the Cub Master. Pack Meetings consist of games, skits, songs, ceremonies, and presentation of badges the boys have earned.

Pack Committee- is made up of a group of qualified adults approved by the charter organization to administer the program of the pack. Usually the committee members, as well as other Pack leaders, are parents of boys in the Pack. The committee meets once a month. The committee is led by the Committee Chairman. The committee works with the Cub Master and Den Leaders to conduct den and pack meetings around the monthly theme. The committee selects leaders, performs record keeping, manages pack finances, orders badges, maintains Pack equipment, and helps train and recognize leaders.

Rank- is the level of achievement by which a Cub Scout progresses in skills and learning, and is promoted on the path to the Arrow of Light.

Re-charter- is done annually; we pay dues every January and continue registration with the Pack, District, Council and National BSA. This is handled by the Membership Chairman.

Section 4

PACK COMMITTEE/LEADER POSITIONS

Cub Master- plans the monthly Pack Meeting and works with the Pack Committee Chair in planning monthly leader's meeting. Coordinates Den activity with Den Leaders and Tiger Cub Coordinator in preparation for Pack Meetings, and acts a master of ceremonies during Pack Meetings.

Tiger Cub Den Leader- plans and carries out a year round program of activities for the Tiger Cub Den and gives continuity to the program. Each month however, the Den Leader also works with a different adult partner team to plan monthly Den meetings, the Go See It, and the Den's part in the Pack Meeting.

Den Leaders- plan and conduct the weekly Den meeting in accordance with the Pack program. He/she establishes a good working relationship with all Den parents to foster a support team and works with support team to plan Den activities and meetings.

Committee Members- meet as a group once a month to plan upcoming activities and meetings. Recruits and selects adult leadership when necessary and is made up of the following positions:

Committee Chair- conducts monthly committee meeting by preparing the agenda with the Cub Master. He/she works with the chartered organization representative to approve adult leadership for the Pack. He/she works closely with commissioner and district executive to communicate with the District and Council. Recruits a committee and assigns the positions below in addition to temporary tasks such as Friends of Scouting, re-chartering, and other needs.

Secretary- Keeps notes of committee assignments, sends notices, maintains records of the pack, and keeps the minutes of the Pack Committee Meetings.

Advancement- is responsible for advancement records, obtaining advancement list from Den Leaders, securing awards, assisting in award ceremonies, and urging parents to work at home with boys on advancement.

Activities- works closely with Den Leaders and Cub Master to coordinate and stage field trips and other activities such as the Blue and Gold Banquet, derbies, summer activities, and district events.

Treasurer- operates the Pack on a budget plan, receives all funds, pays bills as authorized by the committee and maintains the pack financial record book.

Pack Trainer- keeps track of all trained leaders and committee members. Advises all leaders and committee members of training dates and locations of training they may need to be trained.

Section 5

B.S.A. and PACK UNIFORMS

1. The **ONLY** official uniform approved by the Boy Scouts of America for Cub Scouting is the navy blue scout shirt with navy blue Scout pants or shorts. If wearing shorts they must wear the navy blue socks with the orange stripe at the top for Tiger Cubs or with the yellow/gold stripe at the top for Wolf or Bear scouts. They must also have the neckerchief of their rank they are registered in (i.e. Tiger, Wolf, or Bear). Our Pack By-Laws allow for the use of dark blue denim jeans or shorts in place of the official uniform pants/shorts, but they still have to use the official Scout socks while wearing shorts. They also need the blue web belt with the buckle for their rank. For Webelos our Pack uses the khaki beige Scout shirt, blue epaulet tabs, olive green pants or shorts, olive green scout belt, and the plaid Webelos neckerchief with slide. Also required, is the olive and red striped socks to wear while they are in shorts. Closed toe shoes of your choice are required to prevent injuries. BSA policy does not allow open toed shoes at any Scout function. To ensure proper placement of badges and patches that are on the uniform you can look in the front and back inside covers of you scout handbook. This uniform described above is called our “Class A” uniforms. There are two places you can purchase uniforms. The Bay Area Council Scout Shop is located on 53rd St. in Galveston about 1 and 1 ½ blocks off of Seawall Blvd. The other is located at the corner of Bay Area Blvd. and Saturn in the United Way building on the first floor.
2. Many units have adopted a “Class B” uniform which consists of a Pack t-shirt. Ours is an ash gray shirt with our Pack Logo. This shirt can be ordered through the Pack.
3. In general, the Pack dresses in Class A for:
 - (a) traveling to and from outings
 - (b) Pack meeting
 - (c) Den meetings
 - (d) And other events designated by the Pack Committee.

Section 6

Advancement

In order to strengthen family bonds, the responsibility for a boy’s advancement in Cub Scouting lies with the family rather than the Pack. Some advancement requirements are done at Den meetings, but most are completed at home with the family. Recognition takes place at the monthly Pack Meetings.



Bobcat: All new Cub and Webelos Scouts, regardless age, earn the Bobcat badge first, by learning the Cub Scout Promise, Law of the Pack, handshake, salute, sign, motto, and the meaning of “Webelos.” After receiving the Bobcat badge, the boy works on requirements based on his grade or age.



Tiger Cubs: The Tiger Cub rank is earned after completing five achievements grouped in three areas: den activity, family activity, and a Go See It. After completing the rank of Tiger Cub, a boy may earn one Tiger Track bead when he has completed 10 electives. There is no limit to the number of Tiger Track beads a boy may earn.



Wolf: A Cub Scout who has finished the first grade (or is 8 years old) works on 12 achievements to earn the Wolf rank. After earning the Wolf rank, boys work on electives and earn “arrow points.” (See Bear section)



Bear: A Cub Scout who has completed second grade (or is 9 years old), completes 12 of 24 achievements to earn the Bear rank. After he earns his Bear rank, a boy may work on electives in different interest areas until he is old enough to begin work on the next rank. For every 10 electives a boy completes, he earns an arrow point. A boy may earn as many arrow points as he wishes.



Webelos Scouts: When a Cub Scout has completed the third grade (or is 10 years old,) he transfers to a Webelos den, led by an adult Webelos leader. The boy works on requirements for the Webelos rank, 20 activity badges, and the Arrow of Light Award (the highest award in Cub Scouting) which prepares him for Boy Scouts.

Section 7 Special Programs

Blue and Gold Banquet:

A birthday party for Cub Scouting held in February. Usually is a dinner, but can be a dessert. A special program or entertainment is customary.

Pinewood Derby:

Is a parent/son project that involves building a downhill model race car. Your Pack may hold a race or compete at a district event.

Cub Scout Day Camp (Twilight Camp):

Is an exciting summertime district level activity that includes archery, BB guns, crafts, games, songs, and skits. The camp is a five day evening camp usually from 4 pm until 9 pm.

Resident Camp (Webelos Adventure Camp):

Is an overnight camping experience for 4 days and 3 nights. Boys learn camping skills, crafts, and more. This camp is for Webelos only.

Boys Life Magazine:

A magazine for boys and adults, that has interesting features on Scouting, sports, hobbies, magic, science, and history and more!

Popcorn Sales:

Trails End popcorn sales will help raise funds for your pack and the Bay Area Council. Your son can earn prizes and money for camp fees or other Scouting costs.

Monthly Family Camping:

Pack 615 attempts to camp at least once a month during the school year which is when Scouting is active for Cub Scouts. Our Pack camps at nearby Texas Parks and Wildlife State Parks.

Leader Training Schedule

9/19/09	Cub Scout Leader Specific	Cradle of Texas
9/26/09	Cub Scout Leader Specific	Thunderbird
9/26/09	Cub Scout Leader Specific	Northern Star
October 2009		
10/3/09	Basic Adult Leader Outdoor Orientation	Thunderbird
10/3/09	Range Master	Thunderbird
10/3/09	Scoutmaster & Asst. Leader Specific	Northern Star
10/6/09	Cub Scout Leader Specific	Coastal
10/10/09	Basic Adult Leader Outdoor Orientation	Northern Star
10/13/09	Cub Scout Leader Specific	Northern Star
10/14/09	Scoutmaster & Asst. Leader Specific (part #1)	Coastal
10/15/09	Scoutmaster & Asst. Leader Specific (part #2)	Coastal
10/17-18/09	Introduction to Outdoor Leader Skills	Northern Star
10/17-18/09	Outdoor Webelos Leader Skills	Northern Star
10/24/09	Basic Adult Leader Outdoor Orientation	Coastal
10/24/09	Range Master	Coastal
10/26/09	Cub Scout Leader Specific	Cradle of Texas
November 2009		
11/8/09	Introduction to Outdoor Leader Skills (part #1)	Coastal
11/8/09	Outdoor Webelos Leader Skills (part #1)	Coastal
11/15/09	Introduction to Outdoor Leader Skills (part #2)	Coastal
11/15/09	Outdoor Webelos Leader Skills (part #2)	Coastal
December 2009		
12/5/09	Trainer Development Conference	Council
2010		
January 2010		

1/9/10	Scouter Success Seminar	Council
1/16/10	Cub Scout Leader Specific	Northern Star
1/16/10	Scoutmaster & Asst. Leader Specific	Northern Star
1/23/10	Basic Adult Leader Outdoor Orientation	Northern Star
1/23/10	Range Master	Northern Star
1/29-30/10	Introduction to Outdoor Leader Skills	Northern Star
1/29-30/10	Outdoor Webelos Leader Skills	Northern Star
February 2010		
2/13/10	Cub Scout Leader Specific	Coastal
March 2010		
3/6/10	Basic Adult Leader Outdoor Orientation	Northern Star
3/6/10	Range Master	Northern Star
April 2010		
4/10/10	Scoutmaster & Asst. Leader Specific	Northern Star
4/10/10	Scoutmaster & Asst. Leader Specific	Thunderbird
4/13/10	Cub Scout Leader Specific	Northern Star
4/17-18/10	Introduction to Outdoor Leader Skills	Thunderbird
4/17-18/10	Outdoor Webelos Leader Skills	Thunderbird
May 2010		
5/8/10	Basic Adult Leader Outdoor Orientation	Northern Star
5/8/10	Range Master	Northern Star
5/12/10	Scoutmaster & Asst. Leader Specific (part #1)	Coastal
5/13/10	Scoutmaster & Asst. Leader Specific (part #2)	Coastal
5/22/10	Cub Scout Leader Specific	Thunderbird
5/22/10	Cub Scout Leader Specific	Coastal
6/5/10	Range Master	Northern Star
September 2010		
9/11/10	Scoutmaster & Asst. Leader Specific	Northern Star

9/25/10	Cub Scout Leader Specific	Thunderbird
9/25/10	Cub Scout Leader Specific	Northern Star
October 2010		
10/5/10	Cub Scout Leader Specific	Coastal
10/9/09	Basic Adult Leader Outdoor Orientation	Thunderbird
10/9/09	Range Master	Thunderbird
10/16-17/10	Introduction to Outdoor Leader Skills	Northern Star
10/16-17/10	Outdoor Webelos Leader Skills	Northern Star
10/23/10	Basic Adult Leader Outdoor Orientation	Coastal
10/23/10	Range Master	Coastal
10/27/10	Scoutmaster & Asst. Leader Specific (part #1)	Coastal
10/28/10	Scoutmaster & Asst. Leader Specific (part #2)	Coastal
November 2010		
11/7/10	Introduction to Outdoor Leader Skills (part #1)	Coastal
11/7/10	Outdoor Webelos Leader Skills (part #1)	Coastal
11/14/10	Introduction to Outdoor Leader Skills (part #2)	Coastal
11/14/10	Outdoor Webelos Leader Skills (part #2)	Coastal
December 2010		
12/4/10	Trainer Development Conference	Council