

Welcome to Scouting with Cary Pack 557!

Cub Scouts is a family endeavor! Not only is parent participation required at the younger scout level, but the importance of family, community, and teamwork is at the core of Scouting.

Our goal is to teach our kids that we work together as a pack to succeed, and we need everyone's help to model this mission. There are so many ways to get involved in your Scouts Pack, ranging from Den Leader, Committee Roles, Event Volunteers and Snack Sign up. We are all equally important and are able to impact the lives of our youth.

What do we do in Cub Scouts?

Den Meetings

Den Meetings are the staple of the pack. Scouts learn the most from these meetings. They should be interactive and mostly fun. So, the kids are learning, but don't realize they are learning.

We ask parents to stay and to help out at the den meetings, sometimes working one-on-one with your scout, or helping to run a station, etc. Spending time with your son/daughter to help teach them a skill or play a game is a core foundational concept in Scouting. At the younger level, Lion (K) and Tiger (1st), it is a requirement that a parent or guardian remain at the meeting with their scout. We encourage this same engagement as the scouts move into the older-level dens. We understand schedules are hectic and will work with our families as needed.

The Lion den program also requires that each parent plan and facilitate one den meeting each scouting season, and Pack 557 has implemented this principle at all den levels. That means that each parent will get to choose a meeting that they would like to plan and facilitate. Your den leaders will have a schedule and sign-up sheet, and they will help new parents work through the planning process. There are so many resources available on scouting.org that spell out exactly how to run a meeting, so don't panic! We have found numerous benefits to this idea. The kids love it when it's their parent, and the kids get tired of listening to the same leaders each meeting. It's also a huge help to your den leaders to take the planning of a few meetings off their shoulders. Your den leaders are still at the meeting and will open and close it, as well as assist with resources and materials as needed.

Den meetings should always start with a Flag Ceremony, including the Pledge of Allegiance, Scout Oath, Scout Law, and the Outdoor Code (in older dens). Unless advised by den leaders, scouts should wear their Class A uniforms to den meetings. They are typically held twice a month and are roughly one hour long.

Pack Meetings

Pack Meeting brings our entire pack together, with all den levels attending this monthly meeting. A typical Pack meeting begins with a formal opening ceremony. The highlight of the pack meeting is the formal recognition given to Scouts who have earned badges, adventure loops, or other awards, as well as to leaders who may have earned training awards or deserve special recognition. This is followed by some general announcements and a formal closing ceremony to end the meeting. The Pack then enjoys activities based on a monthly theme, which may include STEM stations, crafts, games, or special visitor presentations.

Each month, dens are assigned duties. They will rotate so all dens will have opportunities to do both.

- Greeters & Setup Dens – Arrive 30 minutes early to help ensure the room is set up and be there to greet everyone who shows up.
- Flag Ceremony Dens – Den leader to advise cubmaster on which two scouts will be callers, the remaining den member will carry the flags.

Awards and Recognition

Any time scouts finish an adventure, they will receive a belt loop to recognize their achievements. Additionally, patches for events, pack activities, and community events for the Brag Vest will be announced at our Pack Meetings

Pack Activities

Pack 557 plans lots of pack activities throughout the year! Some of those events are as follows:

- Hikes: Monthly hikes. Our hiking coordinator is always open to suggestions.
- Campouts: Summer campout organized by Pack 557, plus council sponsored campouts.
- Blue & Gold: Annual ceremony for the graduating AOL den.
- Mother's Day Pancake Breakfast – Scouts spoil their Moms.
- Recruiting Events: Like Summer Movie Night!

- Pinewood Derby: Everyone love the Pinewood Derby! With a workshop ahead of the derby, garage check in the night before and then a day of racing, the Pinewood Derby is one our our favorites!
- Community Service Projects: Community service projects are a key way for the Community to see us. We do various community service projects each year such as
 - Feed My Starving Children: This one is asked for all the time. Kids have a blast doing this.
 - Scouting for Food: A scout favorite and great for the community. Our pack collects donations from Cary neighborhoods and donates to the Cary Food Pantry.
 - Flag Placing at Cemeteries or Field of the Fallen: Memorial Day tradition for Scouts to help put flags at the graves of fall soldiers at Windridge.

Scouting Structure and Pack Roles

The structure Scouting - our Unit to Nationals is as follows

- Den – Individual groups by grade level within the larger pack. Lions (K), Tigers (1st), Wolves (2nd), Bears (3rd), Webelos (4th), Arrow of Light (5th). Are contained inside of the pack.
- Pack - The local unit. Includes all the scouts participating from Kindergarten through 5th Grade
- District - Our district is the Sycamore District. All the units that are in McHenry County are in this district. Even though we are only 1 county (other districts are much larger), we have more scouts and volunteers in our district than any other district in our Council.
- Council - Our council is the Blackhawk Area Council, comprised of all units pretty much from Fox River Grove to the Iowa Border, parts of SW Wisconsin, and counties North of I-80 and West of I-39.
- Council Service Territories report up to Nationals. In the typical operations of a Pack, we mostly work with the council.

Pack Roles

There are various Roles within the pack. Some are required, while others are optional based on pack size and needs. The Key 3 Positions are required and are: Chartered Org Rep, Committee Chair, and Cubmaster. Other required positions include Secretary and Treasurer. See our roles and leaders below. We typically have open positions and are always looking to train back up leadership for all roles. Reach out to our Cubmaster or Committee Chair if something is of interest to you!

Key Three:

Chartered Organization Rep - Mike Espinos - Masonic Lodge 1157 A.F. and A.M.

- Represents the Chartered Organization, helps facilitate good communication between the Pack and the Chartering Organization, and facilitates approval of leadership.

Committee Chair – Sarah Hanlon

- Committee Chair is the chief organizer, responsible for proactively monitoring the details of Pack operations. The Committee Chair is the primary advocate for the program and does most everything behind the scenes.

Cubmaster – Matt Cane

- The Cubmaster is the Unit Leader and the face of the unit. They are responsible for ensuring that the scouts have a full year-round program. They are part of the committee; however, in the event of a committee vote they do not get a vote. The Cubmaster runs the monthly Pack meetings and supports the Den Leaders in their efforts with their Dens.

Additional Positions:

Assistant Cubmaster – Tom Cooper

- The Cubmaster's visible companion and backup, filling in as the point person for the Pack when the Cubmaster is not available. The Assistant Cubmaster is usually someone who is early on in their Cub Scout career that will take over when the Cubmaster steps down.

Secretary – Natalie Mazza

- Responsible for recording the minutes and Committee Meetings.

Treasurer - Jen Cane

- Responsible for the Pack's budget and the expenses. They are responsible for putting the budget together with the help of the Committee Chair, Cubmaster and others. They are responsible for keeping the Bank Account up to date. The treasurer is also responsible for collecting any outstanding dues from our scout families as well as setting up any payment arrangements.

Awards / Advancements Chair – Matt Monson

- This chair is responsible for making sure the Den Leaders are putting in their advancements so the scouts can receive their awards. They are also responsible for going to the Scout Store and purchasing any awards, and such for the pack, with the support of the Treasurer.

Fundraising Chair - Jen Cane (New leader needed!)

- Responsible for planning and coordinating our Wreath sale in the Fall and the Flower Power fundraiser in the Spring. They will keep records of all earnings that each scout has earned.

Popcorn Kernel - Jen Cane (New leader needed!)

- The Popcorn Kernel works with the Fundraising chair to get the Popcorn program up and running each year. They will work with the Committee Chair and Cubmaster to decide how much to purchase for storefront sales, as well as setting up said storefront sales. They do all the paperwork that tracks scout sales and sets up scout profiles on the vendors website.

Community Service Chair - Emily Erbach

- Responsible for setting up Community Service Projects. There's no set amount that we have to do, but we usually do 2 Feed My Starving Children events (Jan and July), Scouting For Food (November), and Flag Placing on Memorial Day (May). Beyond that, this person it's this person's discretion what they think we could do and bring to the Committee for discussion.

Communications Chair - Heather Heuck

- Responsible for sending out our weekly newsletter the Cubby Hole, as well as responsible for the Social Media pages that we have.

Membership/Recruitment Chair – Aaron Grassel

- This person sets up the recruiting events, and works the leads that we get that haven't signed up yet.

Activities Chair – Tony Bednarz

- Works closely with the Cubmaster and helps plan all the pack activities that are on the calendar. This doesn't mean that this person is in charge of every event (although there may be some they want to be), but they make sure we have volunteers for events as well as chairs for events. They are responsible for making sure themselves or any of their chairs adhere to any budget expenses that the Treasurer has approved.

Campout Chair – Calvin Bustos

- We have 2 campouts a year. One in June and one in Aug/Sept. June is typically at the Hollows where we crossover our Lions - Webelos to the next rank. They work with the Cubmaster, Committee Chair, Activities Chair, and Treasurer to ensure proper planning and communication of the event.

Hiking Chair - Joe Smoot

- Responsible for scheduling the monthly hikes the pack does. They work with the Activities chair and decide on locations (or solicit from families). They track the miles for each scout and award them their beads/patches/hiking stick.

Blue and Gold Chair – Abby Bolz and Jill Tomasello-Wolter

- Works with the Arrow of Light families to plan out their Blue and Gold Celebration. They are responsible for making sure all planning is communicated to the pack. Work with the Treasurer on approve purchases and budget.

Den Leaders

- Den Leaders are the primary adult contact with the scouts. They are responsible for coordinating the den meetings each month. Putting in the advancements of the scouts in their dens. And communicating any pack announcements that the scout families need to know.
- Each den will have a minimum of 2 Den Leaders. If we ever do drop below 2, other leaders like the Cubmaster, Asst Cubmaster, or Den Leaders from other dens can fill in and help as needed.

Our Den Leaders

- Lions – Cubmaster begins the year as the leader, helping guide the new parents
- Tigers – Matt Cane
- Wolves – Sarah Hanlon, Tom Cooper, John Kline
- Bears – Abby Bolz and Jill Wolter
- Webelos – Matt Cane and Jen Cane
- Arrow of Light - Sean Canaday and Mike Walker

All registered leaders are required to do Youth Protection Training and pass a background check to be an active leader or committee member.

We ask all parents to do Youth Protection Training (YPT). It's an hour and a half online training module that talks about ways to keep scouts safe. Scouting America has guidelines on how many YPT trained leaders are needed on site, so the more parents we have trained, the easier it is to be compliant and more importantly – keep our Scouts safe.

- Simply login to <https://my.scouting.org>. Click on the menu, select My Training, and then you'll see "Youth Protection Training" at the top. Once you receive your certificate, please email it to the Committee Chair or Cubmaster.

PALs Meetings

PALs meetings, held once a month via google meets, are for all Parents And Leaders. Any parent can join, you don't have to have a role in the pack to attend. Just ideas and voice to help us talk thru what we're working on. We meet on the 1st Tuesday of every month.

We discuss upcoming events, openings in leadership, ideas for pack meetings, Pack budget and more. We encourage participation to all who are interested in how the pack works or has ideas to share.

Uniform Requirements

There are 2 types of uniforms for Cub Scouts - Class A and Class B. Class A is the formal uniform, the blue or tan shirt. The tan shirt will be worn by Arrow of Light scouts and Leaders. However, if scouts in Webelos outgrow their blue shirt, they can get the tan if they want.

Class A Uniform Requirements:

Lion - Kindergarten

The Lion Cub Scout uniform has the following parts:

Required:

1. Shirt: The official Lion t-shirt.

Encouraged:

2. Red Brag Vest

Optional:

3. Belt: Official navy-blue web belt with metal buckle.
4. Cap: Official navy-blue Lion cap.
5. Neckerchief: Optional Lion neckerchief. The Lion den decides if they will wear the neckerchief.
6. Neckerchief Slide: Optional Lion neckerchief slide.
7. Official uniform pants, shorts, or skorts, and Cub Scout socks are optional.

Tiger - First Grade

The Tiger Cub Scout uniform has the following parts;

Required:

1. Shirt: The official blue uniform shirt is available with long or short sleeves and has button-flap pockets.
2. Neckerchief: Orange triangular neckerchief with Tiger logo. Official Scouting America neckerchiefs are the only neckerchiefs that are part of the uniform.
3. Neckerchief slide: Official gold-tone metal slide with orange Tiger emblem. Cub Scouts may wear handmade neckerchief slides.

Encouraged:

4. Belt: Official navy-blue web belt with metal buckle.
5. Red Brag Vest: Felt vest for patches

Optional:

6. Pants: Shorts, long pants, skorts, and roll-up pants are all in official blue.
7. Socks: Official socks are available in three lengths: ankle, crew, and knee. Tiger socks have an orange band on the top.
8. Hat: Official blue hat with orange front and Tiger emblem.

Wolf - Second Grade

The Wolf Cub Scout uniform has the following parts:

Required:

1. Shirt: The official blue uniform shirt is available with long or short sleeves and has button-flap pockets.
2. Neckerchief: Red triangular neckerchief with Wolf logo. Official Scouting America neckerchiefs are the only neckerchiefs that are part of the uniform.
3. Neckerchief slide: Official gold-tone metal slide with red Wolf emblem. Cub Scouts may wear handmade neckerchief slides.
4. Hat: Official hat front and Wolf emblem.

Encouraged:

4. Belt: Official navy-blue web belt with metal buckle.
5. Red Brag Vest: Felt vest for patches

Optional:

6. Pants: Shorts, long pants, skorts, and roll-up pants are all in official blue.
7. Socks: Official socks are available in three lengths: ankle, crew, and knee. Wolf socks have a yellow band on the top.

Bear - Third Grade

The Bear Cub Scout uniform has the following parts:

Required:

1. Shirt: The official blue uniform shirt is available with long or short sleeves and has button-flap pockets.
2. Neckerchief: Light blue triangular neckerchief with Bear logo. Official Scouting America neckerchiefs are the only neckerchiefs that are part of the uniform.
3. Neckerchief Slide: Official gold-tone metal slide with light blue Bear emblem. Cub Scouts may wear handmade neckerchief slides.
4. Official blue hat with light blue front and Bear emblem.

Encouraged:

5. Belt: Official navy-blue web belt with metal buckle.
6. Red Brag Vest:

Optional:

7. Pants: Shorts, long pants, skorts, and roll-up pants are all in official blue.
8. Socks: Official socks are available in three lengths: ankle, crew, and knee. Wolf socks have a yellow band on the top.

Webelos - Fourth Grade

The Webelos Cub Scout uniform has the following parts:

Required:

1. Shirt: The official blue uniform shirt is available with long or short sleeves and has button-flap pockets.
2. Neckerchief: Webelos plaid triangular neckerchief with Webelos logo.
3. Neckerchief Slide: Official gold-tone metal slide with Webelos emblem.
4. Adventure Colors: The Adventure Colors are worn on the right sleeve to display the Webelos Adventure Pins that have been earned.
5. Hat: Official green hat with Webelos plaid front and Webelos emblem.

Encouraged:

6. Belt: Official navy-blue web belt with metal buckle.
7. Red Brag Vest:

Optional:

8. Pants: Shorts, long pants, skorts, and roll up pants all are in official blue.
9. Socks: Official socks are available in three lengths: ankle, crew, and knee. Bear socks have a yellow band on the top.

Arrow of Light- Fifth Grade

The Arrow of Light Cub Scout uniform has the following parts:

Required:

1. Shirt: The official tan uniform shirt is available with long or short sleeves and has button-flap pockets.
2. Hat: Optional – Arrow of Light Scouts may wear any official Scouting America hat.
3. Neckerchief: Optional – Arrow of Light Scouts may wear any official Scouting America neckerchief.
4. Neckerchief Slide: Official Scouts BSA slide with Scouting America emblem.
5. Adventure Colors: The Adventure Colors are worn on the right sleeve to display the Arrow of Light Adventure Pins that have been earned.
6. Loops: Official Cub Scouts blue loops are worn on the shoulders of the shirt.

Encouraged:

7. Belt: Official green web belt with Scouting America buckle.
8. Red Brag Vest:
9. Hat: Optional – Arrow of Light Scouts may wear any official Scouting America hat.

Optional:

10. Pants: The official green shorts, long pants, skorts, and roll up pants.
11. Socks: Official green socks are available in three lengths: ankle, crew, and knee.

Patches

When you first get your uniform, the pack will give you a patch with the pack numbers on it, as well as a den number patch. Any other patches that will be needed, you will have to purchase. In most cases, that's just the Blackhawk Area Council shoulder patch.

What uniform to wear

Scouts and leaders are to wear Class A's to any formal meeting like Pack and Den Meetings. They should also wear them for reverent events like Scout Sunday and flag placing for Memorial Day.

Class B's are considered uniform, but are not as formal. They are any scout t-shirt that is either made by the pack or that the scouts have received when doing a district or council event. Each year, our pack designs a new shirt that each scout will receive as part of their dues. Families will be able to purchase more as they see fit.

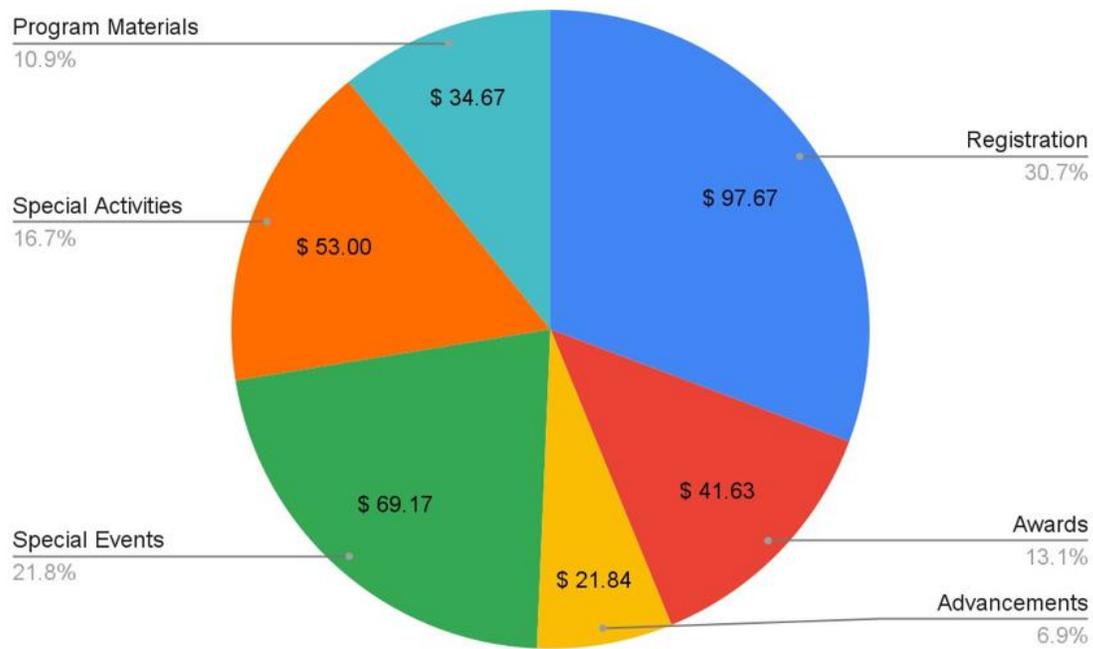
Class B's are typically used when we know the scouts will get sweaty and/or dirty, like on a hike or other casual/fun activity. Class B's being worn is typically decided upon by the Cubmaster.

Dues

Your dues include the National Dues (\$100) and the Pack Dues (\$175). During our main fundraising season in the fall, if you earn enough, your Nationals and Pack Dues will be covered. If you are under the goal, the money earned will start going towards your national dues and then to the pack dues. This is mostly because the National dues are a fixed cost that we have no control over.

If the cost of the dues is a concern for your family and fundraising does cover your dues, please speak with the pack Treasurer to work out payment arrangements.

Here's a breakdown on what is spent on each scout and how it is allocated.



Fundraising

You have multiple opportunities for your scouts to earn their dues and subsequently not cost you anything.

We have three main fundraisers every year. Popcorn, Wreaths, Flower Power, and Cary Dairy Eat Out Night.

- Popcorn and Wreath are in the fall.
- Flower Power is in the spring.
- Cary Dairy, we either do on the last day of school or the last day of summer.

Each year, we set a goal for scouts to fundraise towards; this year, it's \$850. If scouts hit their goal, their National and Pack dues are covered for the next calendar year. So any fundraising that happens in 2025 applies to 2026.

Any monies earned past the scout's goal, will go into the Pack's general funds. Ultimately, that money will be used on the scouts, but not set aside specifically for those scouts.

Annual Medical Forms

Medical Forms are required to be completed **each scouting year** and two copies should be submitted to your den leader. One will be kept by your leader, and one with the cubmaster. Additional forms are required for parents and/or siblings who will be attending Pack 557 events, such as campouts or community events. You can submit the entire family at the beginning of the year, or as needed for additional family members.

We recommend making a digital copy of the med form for each family member, then you can reprint, sign and date it each year. You can find the form on the Parent Resources page our website.