

FAQs about Pack 12 and Cub Scouts

Q: *What will my child(ren) get out of being in scouting?*

A: A lot! They will make a new group of friends and have a lot of fun! Scouting also offers a community where children can learn and grow into kind and productive members of society. They will practice essential life skills like cooking and first aid, learn how to hike and camp outdoors safely, appreciate and respect nature and work on leadership skills and advocating for themselves.

Q: *Does Pack 12 accept boys and girls and at what ages?*

A: Yes, Pack 12 is a “family pack” which means it’s coed with age- and grade-specific dens for Kindergarten through 5th grade. The pack’s motto is, “A Pack for all People”! The Den Levels are Lions (Kindergarten), Tigers (First Grade), Wolves (2nd Grade), Bears (3rd Grade), Webelos (4th Grade) and Arrow of Light (5th Grade). This year, our scouts meet in four den groups; Lions/Tigers, Wolves, Bears, and Webelos/Arrow of Light. Fifth grade scouts finish the cub scout year in the spring, at which time they can join a Scouts BSA Troop for middle- and high school aged-children. The Scouts BSA Troops are based on gender (T451 and T456 at Westminster Presbyterian are local troops for boys and girls, respectively). You can find more information about cub scouting and advancement at <https://www.scouting.org/programs/cub-scouts/>. The Pack website also has useful info and links: <https://pack12durham.org/>

Q: *What is the time commitment like?*

A: The minimal commitment is attending meetings on the first three Tuesdays of the month from 6:30-7:30 pm. At the meetings, kids generally do fun activities with parental support and supervision and also participate in scouting lessons and activities to earn badges. There are also many other (optional) pack activities, events, trips, and service projects for scouts and their families, such as monthly hikes (~2-3 hours), an annual Halloween party and ‘Packsgiving’ potluck, camping trips (3-4x/year, 1-3 days), and special events like Scout Sunday and the Pinewood Derby; (~4x a year: 1-4 hours).

Q: *What is parent involvement in scouting like?*

A: A parent or caregiver must attend meetings and activities with Kindergarten and 1st grade children. Parents are strongly encouraged to attend with children in grades 2-5. There is no other requirement for parents, but the pack is based on volunteer commitment so the more parents are involved, the more the pack can do!

Pack 12 is led by volunteer Cubmaster, Tracey Dissel, and volunteer Committee Chair, Karen Hassett, who strongly encourage parents to get engaged with the pack. Opportunities for parent volunteers are numerous; currently the pack is seeking a Social Media Coordinator (to take pictures and keep up with pictures and posting on Facebook), a Webmaster for the Pack 12 webpage and a Fundraising Coordinator. Parents who are registered with BSA are necessary to help supervise scouts (2 are needed for activities like hiking and camping) and can serve as den leaders. Registering and completing training takes about 2 hrs and costs \$91.

Q: *How much does scouting cost?*

A: Costs include annual BSA membership fees of \$165 for scouts. Adults who want to register cost \$91. These costs may be offset by unit fundraising and other available scholarship funds (please contact Karen and/or Tracey for details). The regular uniform (kids’ blue shirt and patches) costs about \$50. Annual membership fees do not support our pack activities directly. Some pack activities are free, like hiking and Pinewood Derby; others are charged on a cost basis. For example, food for a weekend camping trip is usually \$20-25 per person. The Pack can decide how much fundraising to do during the year if families want to offset these types of costs.