

**FAQs**

**Wilmette Pack 5**

**What is the goal of Cub Scouts?**

Since its beginning, the Cub Scout program has been a fun and educational experience focused on values. Besides providing a positive place where boys can enjoy safe, wholesome activities, Cub Scouting focuses on building character, improving physical fitness, teaching practical skills, and developing a spirit of community service.

The Cub Scout program is designed to promote 12 core values: Citizenship; Compassion; Cooperation; Courage; Faith; Health & Fitness; Honesty; Perseverance; Positive Attitude; Resourcefulness; Respect; and Responsibility.

Every Cub Scouting activity should help promote one of these values. But the activities are also fun! Silly songs, energetic games, and yummy snacks all have their place in the program.

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

Cub Scouting is for boys in the 1st-5th grades, or 7 to 10 years of age. 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 depending on their age and grade level.

**Are Cub Scouts the same as Boy Scouts?**

No. 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.

**How is cub scouts organized & what is the time commitment?**

Cub Scouts work in small groups called Dens of approximately 6-8 boys to complete age appropriate achievements to earn rank badges: Grade 1 (Tiger); Grade 2 (Wolf); Grade 3 (Bear), and Grades 4 & 5 (Webelos). Dens meet for about an hour once a month from September through May and are led by a Den Leader who is a parent of one of the boys.

All of the Dens collectively form the Pack, and the Pack meets once a month at a Pack

meeting. We place special emphasis on making our Pack meetings fun and meaningful.

*Note: If in 1st Grade, at least one of the Cub Scout’s parents must accompany the Cub Scout to*

*all scouting events.*

**What kind of activities do the Cub Scouts participate in?**

Past Pack and Den meeting activities have included preparing care packages for the troops serving in Iraq, Pinewood Derbies featuring race cars made by scouts, Space Derbies featuring rubber band propelled rockets also made by scouts, a fitness skills fair, catapult construction, magic shows, bowling parties, family picnics, summer bike rallies and miniature golf outings.

Pack 5 goes tent camping in the Fall and in the Spring. Our campouts are family events; entire families are invited and encouraged to attend. The scouts and their parents and siblings who attend our campouts form many great memories that will last their lifetimes.

**Who runs the Pack?**

The Pack is run by parent volunteers. While not mandatory, it is strongly encouraged that all parents volunteer in some capacity to help the Pack. BSA provides access to training, if desired.

**Can family members attend scouting functions?**

Cub Scouts is for the entire family! Moms, dads and siblings are all welcome to attend

Cub Scouting events. Many moms are actively involved so not just for fathers and sons!

**Can my son join Cub Scouts anytime between the Grades 1-5? Is there a specific time of year**

**during which he must join?**

Yes, all boys Grades 1-5 are welcome to join Cub Scouts. There is no restriction as to when boys can join Cub Scouts, although most boys join at the spring recruiting event or in the fall at the beginning of the school year.

**Does my son have to go to Central School to join Pack 5?**

No. Pack 5 draws their cub scouts primarily but not exclusively from Central School.

**Does my son have to be Christian to join Cub Scouts or Pack 5?**

No. Pack 5 is open to boys of all faiths. While our Den and Pack meetings take place at

The First Presbyterian Church of Wilmette, membership in FPCW or adherence to the

Presbyterian faith is not a prerequisite to joining Pack 5.

**How is the Pack funded?**

The Pack charges annual dues, ranging from $50-$75. Additionally there is a popcorn fundraiser in the Fall. The popcorn fundraiser not only raises money to fund Pack activities such as camping, awards, activities and service projects but also helps the boys with their social and presentation skills and comfort in meeting new people.

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

At minimum, each boy in Cub Scouting will need a uniform and a handbook. Each year, the handbook changes, as does the cap and neckerchief, but other uniform parts remain the same for at least the first three years. Additional supplies and equipment may be needed for certain activities such as camping trips or field days. Den and pack leaders should provide parents with information about any supplies that will be required at the beginning of each program year.

**How can I save money on the cost of uniforms and equipment?**

Pack 5 operates a uniform exchange, which typically happens each Fall. Please contact the Cub Master if interested in participating in this.