

CUB SCOUT PACK 687



PARENT'S HANDBOOK 2010-2011 PROGRAM YEAR

Resources:

Pack Web Site, Updated Pack Information- www.orgsites.com/or/pack687/

Update your Scouts achievements online- www.scouttrack.com/ScoutTrack/

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Introduction to Pack 687

Welcome to the 2010-2011 Scouting year. Whether you and your son are new members or returning members of Pack 687, we want this year of your son's Scouting experience to be a quality one. We have created this handbook in order to help your family get the most of our Scouting experience.

Our Cub Scout Pack, like most others, is made up of several dens (small groups of boys who meet weekly). The pack itself meets once a month, usually at Hermiston First United Methodist Church (HFUMC), on the third Tuesday of each month @ 6:30 pm (this will vary depending on our activities and the HFUMC calendar). All families (including brothers and sisters) attend the pack gathering. Grandparents and other guests are always welcome, too.

Each den is led by one or more parent(s) who serve as den leader(s). Other parents help in the den as assistant den leaders, activity leaders, and chaperones. All parents are encouraged to help in their son's den and in the pack. You will find your family's experience of Scouting is greatly enhanced when you make it a truly family activity.

In addition to den and pack gatherings, we hold special activities throughout the year to give your son opportunities for fun, fellowship, and advancement. These are also family activities and the whole family is welcome to participate.

We participate in activities such as Cub Mobile Race, Scouting for Food, Pack Pinewood Derby Race (we even have a special race for family members), District Pinewood Derby Race, and Cub Scout Day Camp, Webelos Woods, Snow Day, and a Family Camp out in the summer. District Pinewood Derby Race and Day Camp are sponsored by our Scout council (Blue Mountain Council) and district (Oregon Trail District). Some activities involve the whole family others are designed for just the Scout and his parent(s).

The Hermiston First United Methodist Church (HFUMC) is the Pack 687 Chartered Organization (Pack Sponsor) located at 191 E. Gladys Avenue, Hermiston, Oregon 97838, 541-567-3002.

Pack 687 is administered by a committee comprised of committed Adults/Cub Parents. All parents of registered Scouts are encouraged to attend Pack Committee meetings.

Our goals for the 2010-2011 Scouting program year are:

- To have a full staff of Trained Leaders
- To plan and execute a great program for our boys and their families
- To provide ongoing service to our community and to our chartered organization
- To advance every boy into the next rank
- To graduate all of our 5th grade Webelos into Boy Scouting

...and most importantly: **TO HAVE FUN**

You will find the Pack budget later in this booklet, with information on fundraising.

Privacy

Privacy issues: For communications purposes, we collect phone numbers and e-mail addresses from our families. This information is gathered from the application you have completed for our son or yourself. We will not publish this information unless you authorize us to do so. If phone numbers and/or e-mail addresses come into your possession as a Leader or Parent in this pack, we ask that you respect the privacy of the families. This information is to be used only for communication regarding Scouting. Please do not use any pack information for commercial purposes. Thank you in advance for this.

On occasion, pictures of your Scout may be taken at pack or den meetings or activities as a method of preserving memories for our Scouts and their families. We have a Picture Release form that needs to be filled out for every Scout to give permission to use photos on our Pack website and in newspaper press releases.

The Pack leadership makes an effort to communicate with parents in a variety of ways. Each month, a newsletter is published and distributed at the Pack gathering; it is also published on the Website. This publication lists upcoming events, recaps den activities, and alerts about schedule changes. The newsletter is also available at the packs website, www.orgsites.com/or/pack687/ The website also includes the pack's calendar, this parent handbook, and links to Scouting websites.

Questions or concerns about pack operations or procedures should be presented to the pack committee. Please contact the Committee Chair or a Committee Member (listed on p.10 under Pack Leadership) if you have questions. Your den leader can help you with questions about advancement and awards, uniforms, and your role in your son's Scouting experience. If he or she doesn't know the answer, they know the proper resources to consult to help you.

The Pack 687 Leadership is with you and your son every step of the way through Cub Scouting, and we prepare you and your son for Boy Scouting.

Cub Scout Program Features



What is Cub Scout advancement and rank?

Cub Scouting includes a plan of advancement for each boy that emphasizes learning by doing. The boy works on requirements based on his school grade or age. All Scouts begin by earning the Bobcat badge. After Bobcat, the ranks are Tiger, Wolf, Bear, and Webelos. As a 5th Grader (or at age 10) a Cub Scout may earn Cub Scouting's highest award – the Arrow of Light Award. After he has received this award, and is at least 10 ½ years, he is eligible to become a Boy Scout, or he may join a troop at age 11 (or when he completes the 5^h Grade). Sometimes advancement requirements are started in den meetings, and then completed at home with the help of family members. Many requirements are designed to be worked on at home with the family. Adult involvement is a vital part of advancement!

Other advancement recognitions include Tiger Track beads, Wolf and Bears include immediate Recognition beads and Arrow Points, and Webelos include Activity Badges and Compass Points. These are awarded following the completion of the basic rank badge. In addition to the advancement awards the pack also awards activity patches for participation in Pack Lead Activities. Parents of Tiger, Wolf and Bear Cub Scouts are encouraged to report their completion to his den leader, as soon as he finishes each requirement. Parents can also log scout achievements online @ www.scouttrack.com/ScoutTrack/

Cub Scouting incorporates sports and academics!

Physical fitness is encouraged by many advancement requirements. Cub Scouts are also encouraged to participate in the Cub Scouts sports program, which offers more than 20 different sports. By learning a new sport a scout earns a sports belt loop. Further participation earns a sports pin. The dens and pack organize games and activities, such as the Pinewood Derby, in which sportsmanship is emphasized. Academic and career skills are encouraged by many advancement requirements. Cub Scouts are also encouraged to participate in the Cub Scout academic program, which offers over 15 academic subjects. Belt loops and pins can be earned, as in the sports program. Reading and writing programs are sponsored by Boy's Life magazine. The den and pack organize activities that involve understanding scientific principles, nature study, and computers.

How does Cub Scouting support religion?

Pack 687 welcomes families of all religious affiliations. Although Pack 687 does not provide religious training, Scouting activities and rank requirements aim to promote respect for religion and God. Cub Scouts are encouraged to seek religious training at their place of worship and/or in the home. Cub Scouts can earn an optional Religious Emblem that is sponsored and administered through various religious institutions (Christian, Jewish, Hindu, Islamic, Buddhist, and others). We will assist each of the boys in their religious program desires by providing a source for the materials and helping to find the appropriate religious leader.

Pack Gathering Attendance and Behavior



Pack gatherings are the highlight of each month's Scouting activities. At the pack gatherings, Scouts show their families and the rest of the pack what they have been doing during the month. Pack gatherings include games, songs, skits, Webelos den demonstrations, and award ceremonies. As Scouts complete requirements and activities, they receive recognition at the pack gathering.

Your son is proud of what he has worked on at home with you and in his den meetings, and of the awards he has earned. It means a great deal for him to have his family attend pack gatherings and share his participation and recognition. Since parents (especially Tigers, Wolves and Bears) are intimately involved in their son's advancement, we include parents in presenting all rank badges. For this reason, parents need to attend pack gatherings, in order to participate in their sons' recognition.

Since parents are in attendance at pack gatherings, siblings are naturally encouraged to come as well. We ask that non-Scout children sit with their parents, and that parents enforce some general rules of behavior.

* All attendees should show proper respect for the Scouts, Leaders and others involved in the pack gathering, by not talking during award ceremonies, skits or other performances and presentations.

*All attendees should participate in games, songs, audience participation activities, and all the fun that the pack gathering involves.

*The Church has requested that for their safety, children not play on the outdoor playground equipment unsupervised and that children be accompanied whenever they are not in the meeting area (including going to the bathroom).

*During pack gatherings, all attendees should use the Church bathroom, located adjacent to the Nursery.

*For their safety and the enjoyment of all attendees, children should not play tag or other running games, unless they are part of an organized game that is part of the pack gathering.

*Please arrive 10-15 minutes before the Gathering. This will allow Scouts and siblings to participate in the gathering activity, and assure that the pack gathering will start on time. We try hard to keep pack gatherings to 1 hour and need your cooperation order to start on time.

Parent Involvement

Scouting has three aims: Character Development, Citizenship Training, and Personal Fitness. In Cub Scouting we carry out these aims through these methods:

- * The Ideals of Scouting
- * The Den
- * Advancement
- * Family Involvement
- * Activities
- * A Home and Neighborhood Centered Focus
- * The Cub Scout Uniform

The Cub Scouting program is designed to include parents. The purpose is to increase communication in your family, and to give your Scout the valuable experience of spending one-on-one time with you. As parents you are Akela (Ah-day-la) - the good leader, and share this responsibility with his den leader. As your son progresses from Tiger Cub to Boy Scout, your involvement in his Scouting career evolves just as he does.

As Tiger Cubs, parents attend ALL meetings with their Scout, and participate in ALL activities. You sign the requirements in his handbook. You and the Tiger Cub Den Leader plan one month's meetings and outing. You and your Tiger Cub host the meetings (not necessarily in your home) and direct the meetings you have planned—with the assistance of the Den Leader. Tiger Cub parents also assist with Pack activities and represent the den on the pack committee.

The parents of Scouts in Wolf and Bear dens are also primarily responsible for assuring that their sons complete the requirements for their rank, and sign the requirements in the Scouts' handbooks. Parents are encouraged to attend den meetings and to assist den leaders with activities, chaperoning field trips, arranging special events, and representing the den on the pack committee.

The parents of Webelos Scouts become the support system for the Webelos den leader. As Webelos Scouts work on individual activity badges, parents serve as resources to help the den leader teach the skills the Scout learns in order to earn the badge. For instance, a parent who has construction experience would be the activity badge counselor for the Craftsman badge. Webelos parents also accompany the den on camping outings, assist their son in selecting a Boy Scout troop to join, and represent the den on the pack committee.

In addition to assisting with den activities, parents have a great role to play in the success of the pack. You will see other parents serving on the pack committee, as den leaders, and on committees for special events and activities. None of these functions would be a success without the participation of parents, who are, after all, the "owners" of the pack. Your son's successful Scouting experience is directly tied to the participation on his parents in the life of the pack.

While no parent ever feels he or she is patient enough to be a den leader or organized enough to be the Treasurer, there is a role for every parent in pack activities. Your son will appreciate the fact that you care enough about him and his Scouting experience to become involved in a committee, or pack position.

Pack Budget and Finances

Pack 687 is generally a well-funded Pack. We are able to present opportunities for activities, camping and outings because we succeed at fund raising through the participation of Scouts and parents.

You can find our current Pack Budget on our Website under Pack Business.

We have several fund raising events scheduled for the year. You may pick and choose which will better fit your family or you may choose to participate in them all. We encourage you and your Scout to participate in fund raising for several reasons:

- * Knowing he is paying his own way increases a Scout's self esteem
- * It relieves parents from a substantial financial commitment
- * Your Scout is eligible to receive recognition and prizes for success in fund raising
- * The Law of the Pack says "A Cub Scout helps the Pack go" - One way to do this is through fund raising activities

We realize that every family's circumstances are different and that participation may present a hardship for a family. No boy should be denied the Scouting experience for financial reasons. If your family's situation is such that you require assistance with any financial aspect of Scouting, please see your Den Leader, the Committee Chair, or Cubmaster. Your request will be handled in confidence.

Fundraising

We are selling Popcorn in the fall and a Cake Auction in the spring and possibly other fundraising events if needed. More details will be provided about these fund raising activities.

Fund raising events raise money for both the pack and the Scout. Some fund raisers also earn money for the Council, which pays for camp ground up keep and training. The profit the Pack receives from fund raising during the 2010 –2011 Scout year will be split 50/50 with the Scout and the Pack. The profit the pack has earned from fundraising makes the pack budget. Included in the Pack budget are scout awards, services project supplies, dues for pack actives. The money that goes to the Scout will be put into a Scout account for him.

Boy's Accounts

Boy accounts can be used to pay for camping, activities that require a fee, and uniforms and equipment. When your Scout graduates to Boy Scouting, his account is transferred in full to his troop. If your Scout transfers to another pack, his fund will be transferred as well.

If you and your son decide at any point not to continue in Scouting, any funds remaining in your son's account become the property of the pack.

Uniform

The uniform is one of the methods of Cub Scouting mentioned previously. The first thing a new Scout asks his parent is often “How soon can I get my uniform?” It is one of the things that attracts him to Scouting, and he wants the feeling of belonging it gives him.

The uniform makes us all feel part of the group. It erases any differences between us - in uniform we are all Scouts and Scouters, regardless of financial situation, religious persuasion, age, gender or race.

The uniform shirt is the only place on which Tiger Cubs, Cub Scouts and Webelos Scouts may properly display rank advancement. As such, it constitutes the minimum necessary purchase for a Scout uniform. Tiger Cubs, Wolves and Bears wear a blue uniform shirt. Webelos wear either the blue shirt or the khaki shirt, depending on his Den Leader preference. New Webelos should get a khaki shirt. All Scouts wear a neckerchief under the collar. Tigers wear orange, Wolves yellow, Bears a light blue and Webelos a special plaid neckerchief. A neckerchief requires a slide (either official or Scout made) to keep it in place. Most pack gatherings include a uniform inspection. Uniform inspections are scored.

Tigers, Wolves and Bears wear navy blue trousers. If Webelos elect to wear the Khaki shirt, they wear olive trousers. While the official uniform trousers seem expensive, they can be altered, so they last for several years. Dark navy blue jeans are a practical alternative, but are not encouraged. Scouts are strongly discouraged from wearing sweat pants, cotton knit pants or jeans that are not dark blue with their uniform shirt. Other items available, but optional, include belts, hats and patch vests. These items make great birthday and holiday presents and could be suggested to relatives for these occasions.



Pack 2010-2011 Calendar

September

10th @ 6:30 pm **POPCORN KICKOFF!!**
11th- Popcorn Sale Begins
21st - Pack Meeting and Fall Recruiting 6:30pm
21st- Pack Committee Meeting 7:30

October

15th-16th- Webelos Camporee
19th- Pack Meeting 6:30 pm
19th- Pack Committee Meeting 7:30
22nd- Popcorn Sale Ends

November

13th- Popcorn Pizza Party, for all those who sold Popcorn
16th- Pack Meeting @ 6:30 pm
16th- Pack Committee Meeting 7:30

December

11th- Christmas Card Delivery
21st- Pack Meeting and Gift Exchange @ 6:30 pm
21st- Pack Committee Meeting 7:30

January

DTBA- SNOW DAY, Pack over nighter
18th- Pack Meeting @ 6:30 pm
18th- Committee Meeting @ 7:30 pm

February

5th- Scouting For Food Flyer Delivery
12th- Scouting For Food Pick UP
18th- Blue and Gold Banquet, and Webelos 2 Cross Over!

March

5th- Leader Training, Big Horn
15th- Pack Meeting @ 6:30 pm
15th- Committee Meeting @ 7:30 pm
DTBA- Pack OverNighter

April

19th- Pack Meeting @ 6:30 pm
19th- Committee Meeting @ 7:30 pm
DTBA- Pack Pinewood Derby Race
30th-TBA- District Pinewood Derby Race

May

17th- Cake Auction and Scout Graduation Night!
@ 6:30 pm

June

DTBA- Cub Mobile Race, Need someone to
organize this event
DTBA- Cub Scout Day Camp

July

DTBA- Pack Swim Night @ Hermiston Aquatic
Center
DTBA- Pack OverNight Campout

August

16th- Pack Meeting, Family BBQ @ 6:30 pm,
Summer time Awards.

Pack 687 Leadership

Chartered Organization Executive- Pastor Syd Bell 541-289-3131, swbell12@aol.com
Chartered Organization Representative- Andy Bakker 541-567-7843, bleab362@charter.net
Pack Committee Members;
Committee Chair- Lorena Simpson 541-701-8380, rainylm77@gmail.com
Cubmaster- Chris Ramsey, jade@eotnet.net
Assistant Cubmaster OPEN
Treasurer- Salli Ketchersid ketchersid@eotnet.net
Secretary- Jennifer Roberts
Awards Chairman- OPEN
Activities -OPEN
Fundraising- OPEN
Membership/Recruiting-OPEN
Pack Trainer-OPEN
Pinewood Derby-OPEN
Webmaster-Lorena Simpson
Tiger Den Leader- Melissa Doherty, missy_doherty@yahoo.com
Wolf Den Leader- Daphne Henderson, daphneh@charter.net
Bear Ben Leader- Anita Meinke, ameinke@q.com
Webelos I Den Leader- Brian Simpson 541-701-4639, bdlms@eotnet.net
Webelos II Den Leader- Lorena Simpson 541-701-8380, rainylm77@gmail.com