

PACK 616

WELCOME TO THE PACK

PARENT/ADULT PARTNER QUICK GUIDE

PACK 616 COMMITTEE

2013 - 2014

The Basics:

Pack 616 consists of many families and our Cubs are in grades 1-5. We are truly a "Neighborhood Pack" as we have many Cubs from Northwood, Clinton Street, Winchester and East Elementary Schools, as well as East & West Middle schools. No matter what school you are from, we would love to have you join us!

The Pack is broken down into smaller groups called "Dens" which meet on a regular basis throughout the year. When school begins, the Dens will be established as follows:

- 1st graders will be in a Tiger Cub Den
- 2nd graders will be in a Wolf Den
- 3rd graders will be in a Bear Den
- 4th and 5th graders will be in Webelos Dens

When:

Our scouting year is officially September 2013 through May 2014. We have an informal, non-mandatory summer meeting to kick things off in late August. Scouts get to know each other and/or just catch up from the summer. This is also when new parents can meet the committee and get acquainted to the way the year will go. This is also when we introduce our only mandatory fundraiser: Trails End Popcorn. This fundraiser is a great way for boys to earn Scout credits, which can be used to pay for monthly dues, uniforms and camping trips. We do offer opt-out options for families that feel they could not sell the minimal amount necessary.

We usually meet as a Pack the last Friday of every month at various locations. We work hard to keep all our members informed of our meeting locations. We have a website (www.pack616cubscouts.org), Facebook page (www.facebook.com/Pack616Cubs) and Den Leaders will be in contact with Scouts frequently by whatever means works for each Scout family. Pack meetings begin and end with a flag ceremony to teach the boys reverence, and include fun activities, like sledding or bowling. Your den will meet more regularly (typically twice per month) and your Den Leader will keep you informed on those dates, times and places. There are some day camps as well as overnight campouts in the spring and fall. In the summer our Cubs and their adult partner will have the opportunity to camp for four days at Southaven. This is a wonderful chance to get together with Scouts from all over Western New York for fun and learning, and a great opportunity for Cubs to earn advancements (awards). I strongly urge all Cubs to attend, however this is not mandatory, and is an additional cost.

Cost:

There is a one-time Registration fee of \$17.50 for new scouts and pack dues are \$64 dollars for the year. Pack dues should be paid to your Den Leader and can be paid monthly, quarterly, or for the whole year. Dues are used to help fund the materials, trips and fun activities that your Den Leader will plan throughout the year, as well as funding Pack activities. Dues will also offset costs associated with advancements and our Blue & Gold Banquet.

Scouts will have the option to participate in several fundraisers throughout the year. It is strongly suggested that we all take part in the fund raisers. Each Scout, as well as the Pack, benefits from fundraising efforts. Portions of proceeds raised are shared between Scouts and the Pack. These funds can be put into an account for your Cub (Scout Credits) and used to fund summer camp, dues, camping trips, uniforms and other costs that may arise through the year. The only mandatory fundraiser is the popcorn sale in the fall. Each Cub is required to sell \$200 in popcorn or pay \$75 dollars to opt-out. For families who may experience financial challenges at any point throughout the year, we have Pack Scouterships available. These are Pack funds that are set aside to help families in situations like this. Please do not let cost deter you from involving your child in our organization; we will work with you. Your privacy is our utmost priority, so please contact our Cubmaster Mark Beehler at 716-289-3456 or by email at pack616cub@hotmail.com with any questions.

Gear:

What items will my Cub need?

A Uniform: The personnel at the Scout Store are awesome! They will help you with sizes and getting the correct patches for the shirt. A Class B (casual) shirt will be given to your Cub when they register. This shirt will be sufficient for the first several months of Scouting. Once you know they are truly interested in continuing, we ask that all Scouts purchase their Class "A" (formal) uniform shirt. It is not necessary to purchase the uniform pants from the Scout Store. We ask that all Scouts wear nice jeans or pants/shorts (no sport attire) with their uniform shirt, which should be tucked in. The Class "A" uniform shirt should be worn at all Pack Nights and any public outing engaged in as a Scouting activity. The Class "A" uniform should also be worn at the Blue & Gold dinner in the spring. The Scout website Events page typically tells you which uniform your Scout should wear at planned events.

A Book: A book for your Scouts level is required to help your Cub develop the skills that will be needed as they progress. Advancements should be worked on at home with help from an adult, as well as within the Den.

Involvement:

The committee for Pack 616 works diligently behind the scenes to create and run this program for our Cubs. The truth is that the more we get involved the more fun we have. We enjoy doing this for the Pack, however, our work is never done and we are always looking for a helping hand. Yes, that means you! Please, your Cub will get more out of this experience and grow to become a better leader of tomorrow if you show interest and stay involved. Even if you feel you don't have a lot of extra time, you can still help. Involvement is as simple as showing up to Den meetings willing to just give an extra hand or can be simply taking roll call. Your level of involvement is up to you. Please stay for meetings and be engaged with your child. This will help the meetings go smoothly and reduce many disruptions.

Rules of Etiquette:

There are some big scary topics that no one wants to talk about, but that are very real. This committee is committed to your Cub's safety, but we need your help. Youth protection training needs to be completed by all adult members of the pack, before your Cub will be allowed to go to any overnight or even day camp event. This training can be easily done on your own time at home. We will also offer as many opportunities as

possible to conduct this training during some Pack meetings. There will always be “two deep” leadership. This means that two adults will always be present when working with the cubs. As the adults work in pairs to ensure the safety of the Cubs so shall the Cubs travel and work in pairs. This is the “buddy” system. The “buddy” system combined with “two deep” leadership will help to ensure your Cub’s safety.

Now that the ugly is out of the way, let’s talk about the rules.

1. Youth Protection for the parent(s) and/or adult partners is **NOT** voluntary. This must be completed. There is a link on our Pack website that will take you to the training. This can be completed on line and takes less than 30 minutes. Once training is completed, print your completion certificate and provide a copy to your Den Leader for the Pack’s records. There will also be classes that will be held in person for those that may not have access to a computer or the internet. The Pack website is: www.pack616cubscouts.org. Under the Links tab at the top of the page you will find the training link to help get you on your way.
2. The buddy system should be used at all times for the Cubs. As an adult partner or parent it is important that you always make sure that your Cub has a “buddy”.
3. The adult leadership of this pack is made up of volunteers that work hard on this program and for the Pack. As a Parent or Adult partner of your Cub you are responsible for them. Not only does this help to keep your child safe, but helps the program run smoothly without disrupting the other Cubs. Again your Cub will get the most out of the program if you are involved.
4. Be respectful to others. This is a foundation of scouting that needs to be strictly adhered to. A person’s ethnic origin, religion, and culture are to be respected.
5. Respect Akeala (the adult partner of a Scout). Again your adult leadership works hard. Not only does your Cub need to respect you, they need to respect, and show that respect, to the Pack leadership. This is a good foundation for any young man to have.
6. This is the most important rule. HAVE FUN. By getting your hands dirty on projects with your Cub, going camping, performing community service, hiking in the woods, or singing around a campfire you will have the opportunity to watch your Cub grow, learn leadership skills and create lifelong memories.

CONTACT US:

For any questions please visit our website at www.pack616cubscouts.org or contact the Cubmaster, Mark Beehler at:

Pack616cub@hotmail.com

716-289-3456 cell