



Welcome to the Adventure of Cub Scouting with Pack 251 - Vicksburg, Michigan!

Tonight, you and your son begin an adventure—an adventure of learning, sharing, and having fun together. This guide will help you make the most of your Scouting experience.



Cub Scouting is fun with a purpose. It's a home and neighborhood-centered program for boys in grades one through five. ***It teaches values and life skills in an environment of fun and adventure.***

How Cub Scouting is Organized

Here's a brief overview of the organization you're joining. Pack 251 is made up of four main parts...

THE DEN. Your son is a member of a den. A den typically consists of several boys in the same grade. The den meets twice monthly and is led by a parent called a den leader and one or more assistants (also parents). Den meetings consist of games, crafts, skits, ceremonies, and lots of fun.

THE PACK. A pack is made up of several dens. The pack meets once a month under the leadership of the Cubmaster. These pack meetings, which all Cub Scout families attend, let the boys show off the skills they've learned in their den meetings. Pack Meetings are when scouts will receive their awards and advancements.

THE PACK COMMITTEE. Pre-planning and Policy setting. This group of Vounteer Adult Leaders plans pack meetings and other activities, manages the pack's money, orders badges and supplies, and takes care of other behind-the-scenes tasks.

THE CHARTERED ORGANIZATION. Vicksburg United Methodist Church.

Pack 251 is "owned and operated" by Vicksburg United Methodist Church. This chartered organization provides space, approves volunteer adult leaders, and makes sure the pack follows the guidelines of the Boy Scouts of America.



Your Son's Cub Scout Rank



Bobcat When boys in grades 1 through 5 first join Cub Scouting, they earn the Bobcat badge, which teaches them the basics of the program. After receiving the Bobcat badge, boys move on to the Tiger, Wolf, Bear, or Webelos program, depending on their age.



Tiger Cubs. Tiger Cubs are 1st graders. They work directly with an adult partner and are part of a den. They earn five achievements dealing with family, home, outdoors, communication, and safety. As they progress, Tiger Cubs earn the Tiger Badge and belt totems.



Wolf. Wolf Cub Scouts are in 2nd grade. To earn their Wolf badge, these boys complete 12 achievements, like "Feats of Skill", "Family Fun", and "Your Flag". Wolf Cub Scouts can also earn arrow points for completing extra projects.



Bear. Bear Cub Scouts are in 3rd grade. Their program is similar to the Wolf program, although the activities are more advanced.



Webelos Scouts. Webelos Scouts are 4th & 5th graders. Boys usually work on the Webelos badge in fourth grade and the *Arrow of Light* (Cub Scouting's highest award) in fifth grade. The Webelos program helps prepare boys to become Boy Scouts at the end of fifth grade. ("Webelos" means "We'll be loyal Scouts.")

In addition to all the badges described above, boys can earn other awards, including belt loops and pins in 33 areas of sports and academics and awards for activity participation.

Special Activities and Outings

Everything in Cub Scouting is designed to be fun, but the real highlights of the program are activities like Cub Scout Day Camp and the Pinewood Derby. Each pack offers its own calendar of events, but here are some highlights:

Pinewood Derby. You and your son work together to build a miniature gravity-powered race car. Usually held in the winter.

Blue and Gold Banquet.

Often held in place of the February pack meeting, this banquet is a special birthday party for Scouting. It may be a seated dinner or a covered-dish supper.

Cub Scout Day Camp. A week of outdoor fun for Cub Scouts from your area. Activities include archery, nature hikes, sports, crafts, and much more.

Cub Scout & Webelos Summer Camp. 3 days & 2 nights or 4 days & 3 nights (for Webelos) of Scouting fun at Rota-Kiwan Scout Reservation.

District Activities. Many packs are grouped together geographically to form districts. District activities such as Cub Fun Day, Hikes, Webelos Transition, and many other larger events for your son to enjoy.



Help Wanted: Plenty of Opportunities to Get Involved

Cub Scouting is a family program. With few exceptions, all the leaders of Pack 251 have children in the pack. So what role should you take? That depends on your time, abilities, and interests. If your son is a Tiger Cub, you or another family member will be his adult partner and work with him on all of his activities. If your son is a Wolf or Bear Cub Scout, you will work with him on advancement requirements and sign off on his achievements. But please plan to do more. There's a job for everyone in Cub Scouting. This is a partial list of other jobs you might take on. (By the way, all these positions can be filled by either men or women.)

Den Leader. Leads the den meeting. Coordinates the den's participation in monthly pack meetings. Attends monthly pack leaders meeting and roundtable meetings.

Assistant Den Leader. Assists den leader and fills in as necessary.

Cubmaster. Helps plan and carry out the pack program. Emcees the monthly pack meeting. Attends monthly pack leaders' meeting and roundtable meetings.

Assistant Cubmaster. Assists Cubmaster and fills in as necessary. Takes responsibility for specific area of program.

Committee Chair. Chairs monthly committee meeting. Ensures enough parents are recruited to do behind-the-scenes work.

Pack Committee. Meets monthly. Positions include secretary, treasurer, advancement chair, and outings coordinator.

Pack Trainer. Coordinates and promotes the training opportunities for all pack leaders.

Other Jobs. Throughout the year, parents are needed to serve on sub-committees for events like the Blue and Gold Banquet, Popcorn Sale, Pinewood Derby, etc. The help you provide is so important to a successful event. ***Please consider getting involved.***

Pack 251 truly needs and appreciates our Volunteer Adult Leaders.

The Dollars and Cents of Cub Scouting

Compared to other youth programs, Cub Scouting is a bargain, but it's not free. It takes a lot of money to run your son's den and pack. Expenses include awards and recognitions, outings, program materials, equipment, and leader training. These expenses are generally met in three ways: dues, money-earning projects, and activity fees.

Dues: Dens may collect weekly dues to help cover the cost of many program materials and supplies. Paying dues teaches boys responsibility and the importance of paying their own way.

Income-earning Projects: The main source of money for your pack is money-earning projects. One of the best is the Trail's End popcorn sale in the fall, provided by the Southwest Michigan Council. This no-risk fundraiser lets boys earn prizes while supporting their pack.

Activity Fees: Programs like Cub Scout Day Camp are designed to be self-supporting, so boys are charged an activity fee.

Handbooks and Uniforms

As your son gets involved in Scouting, you'll want to buy him a few things. You don't have to spend a great deal of money for your son to enjoy Scouting and, you don't have to buy all these things at once. All you will need to get started is a **Handbook** and a **uniform**. The (class A) blue Cub Scout uniform is worn by first-third graders. Fourth- and fifth-graders may wear either the blue Cub Scout uniform or the khaki-and-green Boy Scout uniform. Please consult with your Den Leader as to the correct uniform for your son. *At certain Pack events, Scouts are allowed to wear an approved T-Shirt (class B uniform), these are only available through Pack 251.* **Handbooks and uniforms are available from the Scout Shop which is located at 1035 W. Maple St. in Kalamazoo. Contact the Scout Shop at (269) 343-4687.** (see map on back page)



Bobcat Requirements

1. Learn and say the **CUB SCOUT PROMISE** and complete the Honesty Character Connection. *"I(name).... promise to do my best To do my duty to God and my country, To help other people, and To obey the Law of the Pack."*
 2. Say the **LAW OF THE PACK**. Tell what it means. *"The Cub Scout follows Akela. The Cub Scout helps the pack go. The pack helps the Cub Scout Grow. The Cub Scout gives goodwill."*
 3. Tell what **WEBELOS** means: "WE'll BE LOyal Scouts"
 4. Show the **CUB SCOUT SIGN**. Tell what it means.
 5. Show the **CUB SCOUT HANDSHAKE**. Tell what it means.
 6. Say the **CUB SCOUT MOTTO**. A motto is a guiding principle. *"Do Your Best"*
 7. Give the **CUB SCOUT SALUTE**. Tell what it means.
 8. With your parent or guardian, complete the exercises in the booklet. **How to Protect Your Children from Child Abuse**
- The above items are the basic information that ALL Cub Scouts must learn, which is why **EVERY** boy who enters into Cub Scouting **MUST** earn the Bobcat Badge before further advancement.

Key Pack Information

Fill this out and keep for your information

Cub Scout Rank _____

Den Leader _____

Den Leader Phone # _____

Cubmaster: _____

Cubmaster Phone # _____

- Den meetings and Pack meetings generally take place at the Vicksburg United Methodist Church, unless otherwise specified.

- New Leaders may also want to check into training opportunities. **Pack 251 is a "Quality Unit" which means our leaders have completed training in several different areas.**

Other Notable Information About Pack 251...
We are affiliated with one of the nation's oldest Boy Scout Troops. Troop 251 was founded in 1917 and like Pack 251, is chartered by the Vicksburg United Methodist Church.
Pack 251 has been continuously chartered for more than 55 years.

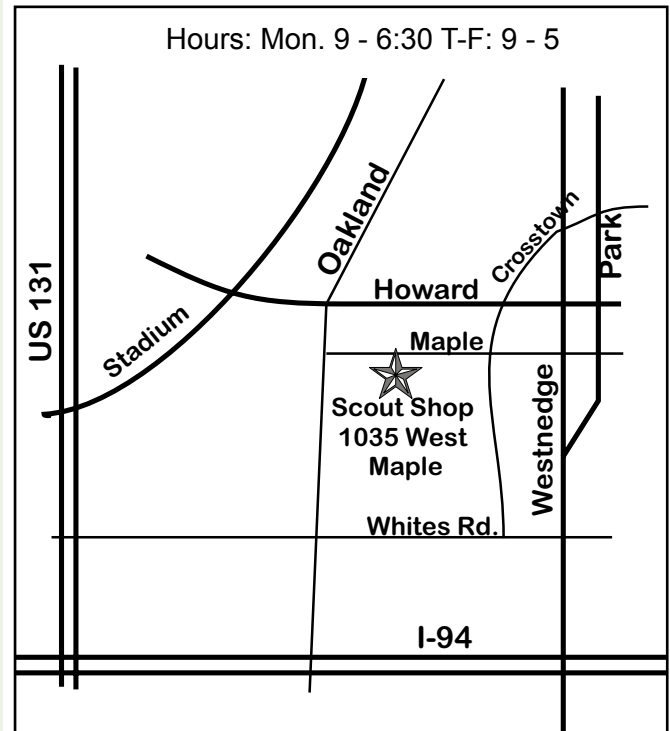
Annual Cub Scout registration fee of \$50 go to fund many Scouting events and projects, but also include, for your boy...

A Subscription to "Boy's Life" Magazine

Supplemental Medical Insurance coverage for all Scouting Events

AND Helps the Pack provide an exciting and enjoyable scouting experience... that will last a lifetime!

Scout Shop Location map



Your Council and You

The Southwest Michigan Council serves northern Berrien, Branch, Calhoun, Kalamazoo, St. Joseph and VanBuren counties. The Council provides program support, camping, and Service Center facilities, the Scout Shop, and professional assistance. The Council is divided into four geographical districts. **Pack 251 is part of Pathfinder District.** Programs such as training and activities are offered at the district level. For more information, write to Southwest Michigan Council, 1035 W. Maple St., Kalamazoo, MI 49008 or call (269) 343-4687, 1-800-272-7962 or e-mail us at swmcbsa@bsaswmc.org. Visit our Web site for the latest Scouting information at www.bsaswmc.org.

Cub Scout Pack 251 - Volunteer Adult Leader Contacts

2010

Matt VanderMeulen	Cubmaster	649-9386	207-6674	m_vanderm@att.net
Kip Young	Asst. Cubmaster	649-2346		kip@kalblue.com
Kevin Borden	Past Cubmaster	329-0689	806-4495	Kborden672@aol.com
vacant	Tiger Den Leader			
vacant	Asst. Tiger Leader			
Clay Conklin	Wolf Den Leader			cbconklin@aol.com
Kip Young	Wolf Den Leader	649-2346		kip@kalblue.com
Ken Akins	Bear Den Leader	649-5630	760-2242	gm@kw-rpg.com
Mark Robertson	Bear Den Leader			markrob12@msn.com
Ron Miller	Bear Den Leader	649-4345	720-1973	Fasthotrod24360@yahoo.com
Steve Warner	Webelos I Den Leader	649-3172	370-5743	swarner@wmubooks.com
Dr. Todd White	Webelos II Den Leader	649-0759	760-7883	whitetttt@aol.com
Bill Zeman	Webelos II Den Leader	649-5519	665-0392	Bzeman2@yahoo.com

Please consider becoming a volunteer leader!

Pack Committee now forming for 2010-2011 program year.