

# Pack 446

2009-2010 Parent Handbook

Helpful Information for  
New Scouting Families



Chartered by:  
Epiphany Lutheran Church  
Pearland, TX

***WELCOME TO CUB SCOUTING...***

*Bay Area Council, BSA*

As a parent you want your son to grow up to be a person of worth; a self-reliant, dependable, and caring individual. **Scouting** has these same goals in mind for him. Since 1910 we have been weaving lifetime values into fun and educational activities designed to assist parents in strengthening character, developing good citizenship, and enhancing physical fitness in youth.

These values help your son make good decisions throughout his life and give him confidence as he becomes an adult leader of tomorrow. With all the negative influences in today's society, Scouting provides your son with a positive peer group and a fun and adventurous program which helps him to "be prepared" to shape his own future.

## **Scout Basics**

When your son registers as a Scout, he joins a national organization: The *Boy Scouts of America* (BSA). The BSA is divided into regions, councils, and districts. Our Pack is part of the *Northern Star District*, which in turn is part of the *Bay Area Council*.

The Bay Area Council serves the needs of Scouting from Pearland to Galveston. There are four geographic divisions called *Districts*, each with a volunteer structure and full-time professional advisors called *District Executives*. Districts provide training opportunities, host fun activities and events, offer support and assistance to existing packs, troops, crews, teams, and posts, and extend Scouting through the formation of new groups. The Bay Area Council has camping facilities (Camp Karankawa, located near Sweeny) to better serve the outdoor needs of Cubs, Scouts, Varsity Scouts, Venturers, and Explorers.

The council also maintains a service center in Galveston, for the purpose of keeping records, developing programs, and maintaining training materials. The Scout Shop, located in the same building, stocks the uniforms, equipment, and advancement needs for our scouts.

## **Cub Scouting**

Cub Scouting is a **family activity**. In today's hectic world there never seems to be enough time to spend with our families. Cub Scouting is a way we can make that time, help our sons learn something about the world they live in, develop into young men of character, and have fun at the same time. ***You are the most important person in a young man's life, and you are the most important part of Cub Scouting.***

***Help us make your son's Cub Scout experience a positive one. He will only get out of Scouting what you are willing to put into it. A scout with an active parent will almost always succeed. An inactive parent likewise is an omen of things to come. There is no information in this guide that will impact your son's success in scouting to a greater degree than the simple statement that your active involvement as a parent is crucial. Don't sit on the sidelines. Raising boys is a contact sport! There is no activity that we as parents can engage in that is***

***more important than guiding the successful development of our sons and daughters.***

## ***The Values of Cub Scouting***

The activities of Cub Scouting revolve around our 12 Core Values, which are:

1. **Citizenship:** Contributing service and showing responsibility to local, state, and national communities.
2. **Compassion:** Being kind and considerate and showing concern for the well-being of others.
3. **Cooperation:** Being helpful and working together with others towards a common goal.
4. **Courage:** Being brave and doing what is right, regardless of our fears, the difficulties or the consequences.
5. **Faith:** Having inner strength and confidence based on our trust in God.
6. **Health and Fitness:** Being personally committed to keeping our minds and our bodies clean and fit.
7. **Honesty:** Telling the truth and being worthy of trust.
8. **Perseverance:** Sticking with something and not giving up, even if it is difficult.
9. **Positive Attitude:** Being cheerful and setting our minds to look forward and find the best in all situations.
10. **Resourcefulness:** Using human and other resources to their fullest.
11. **Respect:** Showing regard for the worth of something or someone.
12. **Responsibility:** Fulfilling our duty to God, country, other people and ourselves.

## ***PACK HISTORY***

Pack 446 is the sister pack of Pack 414 (which meets at Silverlake Elementary School). In 2004 the size of Pack 414 had grown too large, so it was decided to split and form an additional pack. Epiphany Lutheran Church first sponsored the pack in 2004.

Currently, our Pack has 9 dens (1 Webelos I, 2 Bear and 3 Wolf, 3 Tiger) and approximately 75 scouts. After Rally Night, we will add new Tiger Cub dens.

## **PACK STRUCTURE**

### ***Your Boy Is a Member of a Den***

A den has between 5 and 10 boys of the same age who work together on age-appropriate activities. The Den Leader (Parent volunteer) will work with the den parents to set a meeting time for the den during the early fall. This information will be passed onto all den parents and posted on the Pack's web page.

Den Leaders are responsible for coordinating den activities; however, parents will be called upon to assist as needed. This may mean helping with a den meeting or one of the other den activities, gathering materials for a craft project, or providing snacks. Your den leader will hold a parent meeting to discuss parent participation and support.

BSA Youth Protection Guidelines state that ***no den meeting may take place without two-deep adult leadership***. This means one registered Scout volunteer and at least one other adult must be present at any den activity. ***There are absolutely no exceptions to this rule.***

The Den Leader is usually assisted by an *Assistant Den Leader*, a *Den Chief* (an older Boy Scout), and sometimes a *Denner* (a Cub Scout selected by the den to help out for a month of meetings).

### ***Your Boy Is a Member of a Pack***

The Pack is made up of several dens. Smaller packs may have only one den at each rank, while larger packs may have several dens at each rank. All dens gather one evening each month for a *Pack Meeting* (the exact schedule will be handed out early in the year and published on the Pack's web page). The Pack Meeting is the climax of the month's den meetings and activities. There will be games, skits, stunts, songs, ceremonies, and presentations of badges the boys earned that month.

The award ceremonies are an important part of Pack 446 meetings. Pack leaders strive to make rank ceremonies as meaningful as possible. Please make every effort to ensure your son's attendance at these meetings. Family attendance is encouraged at Pack Meetings, with at least one parent, or other relative, in attendance.

### ***The Pack Is Run by the Pack Committee***

The Pack Committee is made up of a group of qualified adults appointed by the Chartered Organization to administer the program of the pack. Usually the committee members, as well as other pack leaders, are parents of boys in the pack. The committee meets once a month and is led by a Committee Chairman and the Cubmaster. The Pack Committee's responsibilities are: 1) Plan Den and Pack Meetings around the monthly theme; 2) select leaders; 3) perform record keeping; and 4) manage the Pack's finances.

## ***The Pack Is Owned by the Chartered Organization***

The BSA does not directly own or run any of its member units. Instead, the units are run by *Chartered Organizations*, such as schools' parent-school associations, religious organizations, service clubs, and other groups interested in youth. Pack 446's Chartered Organization is Epiphany Lutheran Church.

The Chartered Organization approves leaders, provides a meeting place, and operates the pack within the guidelines and policies of the chartered organization and the BSA. The Chartered Organization selects a *Chartered Organization Representative* who serves as a liaison between the pack and organization.

## ***RANKS IN CUB SCOUTS***

Any boy, who is 7 years old, or in the first grade, may join Cub Scouts. The ranks are as follows:

### ***BOBCAT***

This is the first rank achieved by all new Cub Scouts. Any boy who joins, even as a Second to Fifth grader, must first complete the Bobcat badge requirements.

### ***TIGER CUBS***

First grade boys get their first taste of Scouting in this adult-child partnership.

### ***WOLF***

Second grade boys must complete the achievements outlined in the Wolf Book.

### ***BEAR***

This rank is for Third graders and is earned by completing Bear Book requirements.

### ***WEBELOS***

"**WE'll BE LOyal Scouts**" – Fourth and fifth grade Scouts work toward the Webelos badge. The rank is usually earned during the fourth grade year. Scouts are called "Webelos" until graduation in their fifth grade year.

### ***ARROW OF LIGHT***

This is the highest award in Cub Scouting. It is earned by completing achievements over and above those required for the Webelos rank. This badge is awarded at a special Arrow of Light Awards Ceremony, which is held in early

January. These scouts are now ready for their transition into Boy Scouts, and they will begin activities in their new troop by the end of January.

## **UNIFORM**

The Cub Scout uniform gives your son group identity and a place to display his award patches. Tigers wear the “Class B” Pack T-Shirt. Wolves and Bears wear the blue Cub Scout shirt. Webelos usually wear the blue shirt during their first year and then switch to the khaki shirt or may wear the khaki shirt for both years. The khaki shirt is the same that they will take with them into Boy Scouts. One bit of advice: **BUY BIG**. Your son will be wearing his Scout shirt for at least two years (and will grow a lot!). There are several patches which should be affixed to your son’s shirt and instructions are provided when you buy it (these can also be found on the inside back cover of the book for each rank).

Along with the Scout shirt, the boy’s uniform should include a rank neckerchief and slide, belt and Pack hat (this is different than the rank caps sold at the Scout shop). The uniform should be worn to all official Scout functions: Den meetings, pack meetings, fieldtrips, *etc.*, except for particularly messy den meetings or field trips. Scouts may also wear their uniform to school on pack meeting day.

A uniform inspection takes place at the November Pack Meeting, so all patches should be sewn on by that time. All uniform essentials and Scout books are available at the Council’s Scout Shop. Most uniform parts and other Scout items may also be purchased in the Clear Lake Scout Shop. Uniform parts (especially shirts) can often be found at the Salvation Army and garage sales, or by simply asking around.

We also have a Class B pack t-shirt. This is the t-shirt you will receive when you register and pay your dues. The Class B is an alternative shirt that your scout may wear to certain organized scout events in lieu of their official uniform. Events such as camping, USS Lexington, Clean Pearland, *etc.* are typically designated as Class B acceptable.

## **SPECIAL PACK ACTIVITIES**

As part of our mission to build community-minded, responsible young men, Pack 446 sponsors several special events. Some of these are service oriented; however, most are just plain fun.

Check the pack calendar for specific dates for the following events:

- Cub-O-Ree
- Rocket Launch
- Fall Campout(s) – Huntsville State Park and Brazos Bend State Park
- Popcorn Sales (our major fundraiser)
- Blue and Gold Banquet – 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Scouting
- Pinewood Derby

Overnight Trip to USS Lexington in Corpus Christi  
Spring Campout(s)  
Community Service project  
Summertime events (including Twilight Camp, Pack Picnic)

## **AWARDS AND RECOGNITION**

While pack and den leaders focus on the big picture (character building, citizenship, personal fitness, etc.), the boys focus on something else: AWARDS.

Parents should assist the den leader in tracking their son's advancement toward earning each rank. The den leader has the responsibility of reporting all awards to the pack advancement chair. **IT IS THE PARENT'S RESPONSIBILITY TO REPORT ADVANCEMENT CREDIT TO THE DEN LEADER.** The Den Leader should track (or appoint another parent) all awards achieved by their scouts. This will help prevent a scout from earning an award more than once. Please make sure your Scout receives all the awards he has worked so hard to earn. All awards are on the honor system; there is no test given.

Cub Scouts may earn awards and recognition in several special areas. Awards such as the World Conservation Award, Good Turn Award, and Summertime Den Award are usually done as den projects.

The Sports and Academic Program allows the scouts to earn belt loops and pins in various subjects. These belt loops are like all awards are earned in the present. To earn an award you should discuss with your son the requirements of the award and then complete the requirements. A guide of all the belt loop and pin requirements is available from the pack, as well the link above which is also on the Pack's website. *Using past experience is not fulfilling the requirements.*

The BSA Religious Award program may be completed as a den activity or individually. The award requires a special workbook (available at the Scout Shop) and a church mentor (usually a minister or priest) to monitor the Scout's progress. The requirements are different for each religion, so please consult the workbook for your faith for more details. Upon completion the religious award can be presented either during a Pack meeting, or during a church service of the Scout's faith.

## **PACK VOLUNTEER STRUCTURE**

Cub Scouting is an ***adult volunteer driven enterprise. Every scouting activity, whether it involves your den or the entire pack, requires planning, oversight, and effort by our staff of adult volunteers.***

**PACK COMMITTEE:** Pack committee members are responsible for the administrative functions of the Cub Scout pack.

**Committee Chairman:** Presides at all pack leader meetings; helps recruit adult leaders; also attends pack meetings and the District's monthly roundtable meetings.

**Secretary/Treasurer:** Keeps all records for the pack, including pack bank account, financial records, etc.; attends pack meetings and pack committee meetings.

**Advancement/Awards Chair:** Maintains advancement records; orders and obtains all badges and insignia; attends pack meetings and pack committee meetings.

**Tiger Cub Den Leader:** Helps the Pack's Tiger Cub den(s) stay active and participate in the pack. Since Tiger Cubs is very family-centered, the role of the Tiger Cub Den Leader is to coordinate activities and to schedule parents to run meetings, according to their talents.

**Den Leader:** Leads the den at weekly den meetings and monthly pack meeting; attends the monthly pack leaders' meeting and the District's monthly roundtable meeting.

**Cubmaster:** Helps plan and carry out the pack program with the help of the Pack Committee; emcees the monthly Pack Meeting and attends the pack leaders' meeting and the District's monthly roundtable meeting.

**Pack Trainer:** Meets with the Den Leaders to plan pack program with the help of the Pack Committee; ensures that pack leaders are trained in their positions; attends pack meetings, pack committee meetings, and roundtable meetings.

**Parent Helpers:** Parents may also act as a "function chairman." These positions are auxiliary to the pack committee and are "one shot" performances or jobs such as coordinating pack participation in sales events; Scouting for Food; Pack Good Turn; Pinewood Derby; Blue and Gold Banquet; pack graduation and Day Camp. These are jobs of short duration.

**Other positions:** *Web Master, Public Relations, Photographer, Activities, etc.*

***These are all the volunteer positions, and we strive in Pack 446 to fill all of them to maintain a high quality program for our boys. The Cubmaster cannot do it all. If you would like to help with an event or activity, contact your son's den leader, the Pack Committee Chair, or the Cubmaster. Many hands make light work, especially in Cub Scouting. If you are asked to volunteer, say "yes", and then follow through on your commitment.***

***If you participate in a scouting activity and you think, "Gee, that could have been organized better", then you have just experienced a "volunteer opportunity." Please remember that the Pack Leaders are volunteers and they have a million other things that they could be doing with their time, but they are giving their time in an effort to produce a quality scouting program for your son. When things don't go perfectly (and sometimes they won't), be patient and offer to step in and help.***

## ***LEADER TRAINING***

If you decide to become a Pack Leader, the first step is to review the Fast Start training located at <http://www.scouting.org/cubscouts/faststart>. This interactive slideshow will give you an easy and quick look at your job and an overview of Cub Scouting. The next step is to take Cub Scout Leader Basic Training, scheduled at locations within the District early in the fall. Basic training covers how to conduct den and pack meetings, program planning, and administration.

In addition to Cub Scout Leader Basic Training, the Sam Houston Area Council also offers two other training opportunities for new leaders. The University of Scouting is an all-day training opportunity that covers items such as crafts, skits and puppets, the Blue and Gold Banquet, pack administration, games, Webelos activities, Cub Scout sports, and special pack activities. The Den Leader Retreat is a weekend program in September designed to enhance the den program.

## ***HOW SCOUTING IS FINANCED***

### ***REGISTRATION & DUES***

Pack 446 has elected to collect dues for each scout in order to pay for events throughout the year (i.e. rockets, pinewood derby cars, Advancement books, campsites, Pack Meeting activities, etc.). Bay Area Council charges a chartering fee for each scout that is enrolled. The Council fee includes a subscription to Boys Life magazine.

**Dues** (Registered Scout): \$60 Dues (payable in fall) + \$55 dues (payable in the Spring). The Spring dues will be waived if your scout is able to sell \$200 or more in popcorn during the annual fundraiser in the fall.

**The Pack does not use the \$60 dues to pay the Council fee. The Scout “earns” this money through an annual fundraiser.**

The dues payments are used to finance the activities of the Pack – paying for awards, rockets, campsites at state parks, etc. The intent is to have parents pay a single dues payment, so that we don't have “nickel and dime” you throughout the scouting year. All money is reinvested in the boys.

The Pack is financially transparent – our Treasurer produces a monthly report that provides details regarding pack revenues, expenditures, and planned financial obligations.

NOTE: Pack 446 pays the registration fees for its adult leaders.

## **POPCORN SALES**

Every fall the Bay Area Council organizes a council-wide fundraiser: The sale of Trails End popcorn. This is a great way for packs, and the boys in them, to earn some money. In past years 35% of the popcorn sales have been returned to local units. Of the money returned to our Pack, the Pack keeps 15% to cover the costs of re-charter. *Each boy who sells \$200 worth of popcorn has his re-charter fee paid by the pack and does not owe dues for the Spring semester.*

## **FRIENDS OF SCOUTING**

The Council, just like its units, needs money to operate. Although it gets some from the national Council, some from the United Way, and some from the Popcorn Sale, the majority of the money the Council needs to operate comes from the Friends of Scouting appeal. Every year during the spring, a volunteer from the District will ask for people in the community who think Scouting is worthwhile (parents of Scouts, business and community leaders, businesses and other organizations) to help support its program. Contributions are totally voluntary, and a donation in any amount is welcome and greatly appreciated.

## **THE UNITED WAY**

The Bay Area Council is a United Way sponsored agency. Each year the Council receives a significant amount of funding from the United Way, and the Council aids the United Way during its fall appeal. The Council's employees support and give to their campaign, and we encourage you to do so too. If you wish, you can designate all, or a portion, of your United Way contribution for the Boy Scouts.

## **EMERGENCY POLICIES**

Our Pack follows Boy Scout guidelines in all safety and emergency matters as outlined in the *Guide to Safe Scouting*. Our first priority is always the safety of our scouts and leaders, and we will endeavor to remove everyone from harm's way as much as the situation permits.

## **INCLEMENT WEATHER**

The general policy for inclement weather (flood, snow, *etc.*) is if the Pearland schools close then all Scout activities are also cancelled. If the Scouts must be cancelled after schools normally let out, we will email the pack. Your Den leader may also decide to cancel a den activity. Each den will have its own procedure to communicate among den members. If you do not hear from your Den Leader, and you think it is too dangerous to travel, please stay home. We do not want people on the roads during bad weather.

## **CONTACT INFORMATION**

*Pack Web Page*

<http://www.pack446.com>

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