



Pack Handbook

**Pack 577
Oak Grove UMC
Decatur, GA**

2019-2020

INTRODUCTION

Welcome to Cub Scout Pack 577! Pack 577 was formed in 1961 and has a rich history of teaching youth from Kindergarten through fifth grade. We are members of **the Hightower Trail District**, which is part of the **Atlanta Area Council BSA**. Our Chartering Organization is the **Oak Grove United Methodist Church Men's Fellowship**. We draw Scouts from across the Oak Grove area and beyond, with families from more than a dozen local schools, both public and private, including Oak Grove Elementary, Coralwood School, The Globe Academy, Briarlake Elementary, Henderson Mill Elementary, Sagamore Hills, Elementary, and The Cliff Valley School. Our Pack is one of the largest in Atlanta -- each year, more than 150 youth participate in our activities!

As a parent of a Scout, you are setting your son or daughter on the path of Scouting's grand adventure. This is a tremendously rewarding endeavor that you will share with your child(ren) and which will have a lasting impact on their lives. Cub Scouting is truly a family activity - the more engaged you are as a parent, the more you and your Scout will get out of Cub Scouting.

Our primary objective is to ensure that our Cub Scouts have fun while learning valuable skills that will prepare them for Scouts BSA when they crossover to the troop during fifth grade, and which will serve them throughout their lives! We do this by teaching our Scouts outdoor skills, sportsmanship, teamwork, citizenship and much more.

This guide describe the organization of our Pack and the advancement path Scouts will follow during their time in Cub Scouts. It also highlights key activities that happen each year. Reading this handbook will help you understand how your Scout can make the most of his or her time in Cub Scouting. It will also help you understand how you can assist the Pack and enhance your Scout's experience through a variety of volunteer roles.

REGISTERING FOR CUB SCOUTS

To register for Cub Scouting with Pack 577, please visit the [Registration Page](https://www.Pack577.com/Pack-registration) of our Pack website: <https://www.Pack577.com/Pack-registration>.

NEW SCOUTS

Dues for new Scouts are \$105 (which includes National BSA dues and Pack dues). The Pack dues include a Scout handbook, neckerchief, Pack t-shirt, awards/patches and all programming throughout the year.

My.Scouting Registration

- Complete a [BSA Youth Application](#) for each new Scout through the BSA website. Note: This link will require you to create a My.Scouting account and then redirect to the proper online form for Pack 577. Please [contact our Cubmasters](#) with any questions.
- Complete a [BSA Adult Application](#) for any adult leaders new to the Pack.

Pack 577 Registration

- Review the [Parent Participation Agreement](#) to stay fully-involved during Scouting functions.
- Review the [Pack Volunteer Policy](#) and select the required position(s) that you commit to assist the Pack with for the upcoming year.
- Complete the checkout process on the registration page of the Pack website for each new Scout in your family.
- Review the Pack 577 Handbook (this document) for details on Pack policies.
- Print and complete the [Scouting Health Form](#) and bring to your first Den meeting.
- Follow us on Facebook (“Cub Scout Pack 577, Decatur, GA”) and bookmark our website, Pack577.com.
- Stay tuned for future communications to create a Scoutbook account (used for advancement tracking), Pack newsletters and information from your Den leader.

RETURNING SCOUTS

The annual Pack dues are \$105 and include a Scout handbook, neckerchief, awards/patches and all programming throughout the year. The Pack also pays for your National BSA dues.

Pack 577 Registration

- Review the [Parent Participation Agreement](#) to stay fully-involved during Scouting functions.
- Review the [Pack Volunteer Policy](#) and select the required position(s) that you commit to assist the Pack with for the upcoming year.
- Complete the checkout process on the registration page of the Pack website for each returning Scout in your family.
- Review the Pack 577 Handbook (this document) for details on Pack policies.
- Print and complete the [Scouting Health Form](#) and bring to your first Den meeting.

NEW ADULT LEADERS

Each new adult leader will be required to complete and return the following items to the Pack Leadership:

- [BSA Adult Application](#)
- Certificate evidencing completion of Youth Protection Training 2.0 (YPT 2.0) (*see below for more information on YPT*)
- Completion of Position Specific Training course(s), as applicable (online through My.Scouting's ScoutingU or in-person at a district or council training event)

RETURNING ADULT LEADERS

Each returning adult leader needs to verify that his or her YPT is current (and will remain current through the program year; YPT certification is good for two (2) years). If a leader is changing or adding positions, he or she must complete a new BSA Adult Volunteer Application for the new position, and take any additional training, as applicable.

PACK DUES

All Scouts, both new and returning, pay yearly dues of \$105 to the Pack at the beginning of each Scout year. When a Scout pays their dues each year, they receive a subscription to *Boy's Life Magazine*; a Scout Handbook for their new rank; and a neckerchief for their new rank, as well as the full privileges of National BSA registration. New Scouts also receive a "Class B" Pack T-shirt when they join the Pack (additional t-shirts may be purchased in subsequent years). At Pack 577, we strive to keep dues as low as possible and to ensure that the programming far exceeds the annual cost. In fact, our dues don't cover our expenses each year (from awards to programming, to camping) and we rely heavily on our popcorn fundraiser to offset these costs (see below for more information).

BSA HEALTH FORMS

All Scouts as well as adults attending overnight events with the Pack are required to complete the [Scouting Health Form](#), Parts A-B. The form should be downloaded, completed, and turned into your Scout's Den leader. The form must be completed each year.

FIRST STEPS AFTER JOINING THE PACK

1. Create your Scout's **Scoutbook** account (see section below)
2. Join the Pack's **Facebook** page ("Cub Scout Pack 577, Deatur, GA")
3. Sign-up to receive Pack **Remind** notifications (Details coming soon)
4. Bookmark the Pack's **website** (www.Pack577.com)
5. Add Pack and Den meeting and activity dates to your **calendar**

YOUR ROLE AS A PARENT IN PACK 577

Our Pack is supported by numerous adult volunteers--mostly parents of our Scouts. However, with older Scouts crossing over to Scouts BSA each year, we always need a new group of volunteer leaders at the start of every year. A successful Pack requires active adult participation. Please consider serving beyond your volunteer commitment and step into a leadership role!

Actively Participating Alongside your Scout

As a parent-child activity, parents are expected to participate with their children. This is especially true during Pack meetings, when we can have more than 200 people in Fellowship Hall! At Pack meetings, Scouts sit by Den and we ask that parents sit behind their Scouts to keep them focused and quiet (signage will be clearly posted at each meeting). Also, we ask that parents (and leaders!) take conversations outside the Fellowship Hall as it is very hard for others to hear and makes it difficult for leaders and guest presenters to hold the Scouts' attention. Lastly, we encourage parents to stay engaged and off their cell phones at Pack meetings. If you are engaged, your Scout and his/her friends will be too!

The same goes for Den meetings. At least one parent is required to attend each Den meeting with their Scout. Unless approved by the Den leader (and only at the Webelos II level), drop-offs are not permitted. This is to ensure the safety of our Scouts and our leaders and to ensure that all Scouts get the most out of their experience. At every Den meeting, ask your Den leader how you can help and get involved. Stay off your phone and stay on your feet! Once the year is underway, Den leaders will assign meetings and adventures to different parents so that the program experience is spread among all Den families. Be prepared to organize and lead some Den meetings! Your Den leader needs help (whether they ask you or not!), and your Scout will love seeing you in that role. Don't worry - materials and guidelines will be provided.

In addition, parents will need to provide transportation to and from Den and Pack meetings, as well as camping trips and other activities.

In order to ensure active parent/guardian participation and a fun and rewarding experience for our Scouts, the Pack has adopted the following policy:

Pack 577's Parent Participation Agreement

Scouts BSA is a family activity. Within Pack 577, it is our policy to have parents participate actively along with their Scout(s). A parent/guardian must be present and an active participant in ALL Den and Pack activities. Unless sibling Scouts are in attendance at the event, we require a one adult to one Scout ratio at all times. This policy is for ALL ranks within the Pack and will ensure that our Scouts are able to learn and grow in a safe and focused environment.

Please be mindful to keep cell phone use to a minimum during Scouting events. We also ask that you do not use laptops or any other electronic devices during

the events for things other than Scouting purposes. Scouting is a family adventure - families will get more out of the lifelong lessons and experiences acquired during Scouting events if everyone is actively participating.

Volunteering with the Pack

As one of the largest Packs in Georgia, we have the opportunity to reach a large number of kids through our Scouting program. However, a large Pack requires LOTS of parent volunteers. We are all busy, but we make time for what's important to us. Scouting must be important to you, because you joined this Pack and you serve as your Scout's adult partner. Scouting isn't like soccer or baseball where we're on the sidelines cheering our sons and daughters on. Cub Scouting is hands-on! Whether you're helping Scouts learn how to tie knots as a Den leader, working with the local Kroger to setup a popcorn Show-n-Sell, checking in cars at the Pinewood Derby, helping to build the campfire on a camping trip, or serving food at the Blue and Gold banquet, we need you.

In order to have enough volunteers to assist with these duties, each family will be required to complete one volunteer role per Scout they have in the Pack. Note: Den leaders and leadership staff are not required to hold additional volunteer positions.

For more information, and to sign-up for a volunteer position, please visit: <https://www.Pack577.com/Pack-policies>.

Serving as a Registered Adult Leader with the Pack

Looking to take your participation to the next level? A successful Pack requires active adult leadership! We are always in need of adults who will answer the call to put on the uniform and serve in a Pack leadership role.

The following is a list of key Pack leaders:

- **Chartered Organization Representative** - Each Pack is required to be chartered by a nonprofit organization. Our Pack is extremely fortunate to be chartered by the Oak Grove United Methodist Church Men's Fellowship. The church is unwavering in its support of the Pack and of the aims and ideals of Scouting. The Chartered Organization Representative serves as the liaison between the Chartered Organization and the Pack.
- **Cubmaster(s)** - The Cubmaster is the adult leader responsible for the program of the Pack. The Cubmaster(s) and Assistant Cubmaster(s) work with the Pack Committee, Den Leaders, and other registered Pack leaders and volunteers to ensure the Pack's Scouts experience a meaningful.
- **Assistant Cubmaster(s)** - The Assistant Cubmaster(s) assist the Cubmaster(s) and Committee Chair in planning and implementing the Pack program. Assistant Cubmasters may perform specific tasks based on skill set or may more generally assist in operations.
- **Pack Committee Chair** - The Pack Committee Chair is responsible for running the monthly Pack Committee meetings and handling the Pack's annual recharter with the National BSA.

- **Den Leaders** - The Pack's Den leaders are key to the success of the Pack and to the Scouts' experience - they lead each of the Dens across all of our ranks -- Lion through Webelos II - planning, preparing for, and leading (with the help of the other parents in the Den) the Den's annual programming - from which adventures to work on, to what activities and outings to undertake, etc.
- **Assistant Den Leaders** - Each Den needs at least one registered Assistant Den Leader to ensure two-deep leadership at all Den gatherings, and to facilitate fun, organized events for the Scouts.
- **Pack Committee Member** - The Pack Committee is comprised of all of the Pack's registered adult leadership serving in programming capacities (e.g., Cubmasters, Den Leaders, etc.), as well as other adults who wish to participate in the planning and execution of the Cub Scout program at Pack 577.
- **Advancement Chair** - The Advancement Chair is responsible for ensuring that Scouts promptly receive the recognitions they've earned through the use of Scoutbook and other advancement tools. The Advancement Chair purchases the necessary patches, belt loops and other awards from the Scout Shop.
- **Treasurer(s)** - The Pack Treasurers plan the annual Pack budget, oversee the payment of annual dues, ensure Pack and Den leaders are timely reimbursed for approved Scouting expenses.
- **Camping Coordinator** - The Camping Coordinator spearheads the Pack's fall and spring camping trips - reserves sites, makes payments, creates signups, organizes volunteers, distributes wristbands, helps with the campfire program, and otherwise generally oversee our camping trips.
- **Big Trip Coordinator** - The Big Trip Coordinator is the logistics planner for our Big Trip. The Big Trip Coordinator decides on a location, makes timely payment, runs registration and serves as the main "point" on trip.
- **Blue & Gold Banquet Coordinator** - The Blue & Gold Banquet Coordinator is the chief planner for our annual Blue and Gold banquet (February) and determines the budget available, decides on a theme, decor, and food for the event, culminating in day-of decoration and set-up with the help of the banquet committee.
- **Pack Trainer** - The Pack Trainer is responsible for ensuring that ALL Pack leaders are fully-trained for their position(s) and coordinates and communicates district and council training opportunities to the Pack.
- **New Member / Recruitment Coordinator** - The New Member / Recruitment Coordinator runs point on the Pack's fall recruitment efforts and ensures that all new families are welcomed into the Pack, receive all the information they need, etc.
- **Pack STEM/NOVA Coordinator** - This coordinator completes Nova Counselor training with the council and offers STEM opportunities for Dens and Packs. The STEM/NOVA Coordinator also lets families know about local STEM opportunities.
- **Pinewood Derby Pit Crew Chief** - The Pinewood Derby Crew Chief oversees the PWD events from car distribution to lining up and manning build days, to setting up track/software and running races on practice and race weekends.
- **Popcorn Kernel** - The Popcorn Kernel is responsible for heading the Pack's annual popcorn fundraiser.

- **Friends of Scouting Chair** - The Friends of Scouting Chair promotes the Atlanta Area Council's Friends of Scouting contribution campaign at the Pack level.
- **Service Project Coordinator** - The Service Project Coordinator researches and proposes community service projects suitable for the Pack and Dens to be implemented into the annual Pack program.
- **Pack Webmaster** - The Webmaster manages the Pack's website.
- **T-Shirt Coordinator(s)** - The T-shirt Coordinators manages the purchase and distribution of the Pack's Class-B t-shirts.
- **Pack Chaplain** - The Pack Chaplain coordinates our interfaith, non-Denominational Scout's Own Service.
- **Summertime Activity Coordinators** - The Summertime Activity Coordinators plan and execute plans for the Pack's summertime activities in June, July, and August, ensuring that the Pack offers year-round activities for our Scouts. Holding these activities allows the Pack to earn the National Summertime Pack Award each year.

A list of our current Pack leadership can be found on our website, www.Pack577.com.

For positions that require training, please know that this is provided at reduced or no cost to help the volunteer parent with his/her duties in the Pack. There is a wealth of support available not only at our Pack level, but at the Hightower Trail District level and Atlanta Area Council level as well. Many training resources can also be found online. Each month we hold a Pack Leaders Meeting, and all parents are welcome to attend. The district also holds a quarterly roundtable for all leaders, regardless of position.

As a parent, please note that many of these positions (e.g., Popcorn, PWD, Camping, Blue & Gold) function best when supported by a volunteer committee.

YOUTH PROTECTION TRAINING

Protecting the safety of the youth involved in Scouting is of paramount importance and we take the safety and security of our Scouts very seriously.

Scouts BSA has developed materials for use in the Scouting program that provide essential information to Scouts and their families. A detachable booklet in the front of each Cub Scout Handbook" provides information to help families increase self-protection skills. Scouts also complete Cyber Chip training each year designed to help them understand how to safely use the Internet.

Youth Protection Training (YPT)

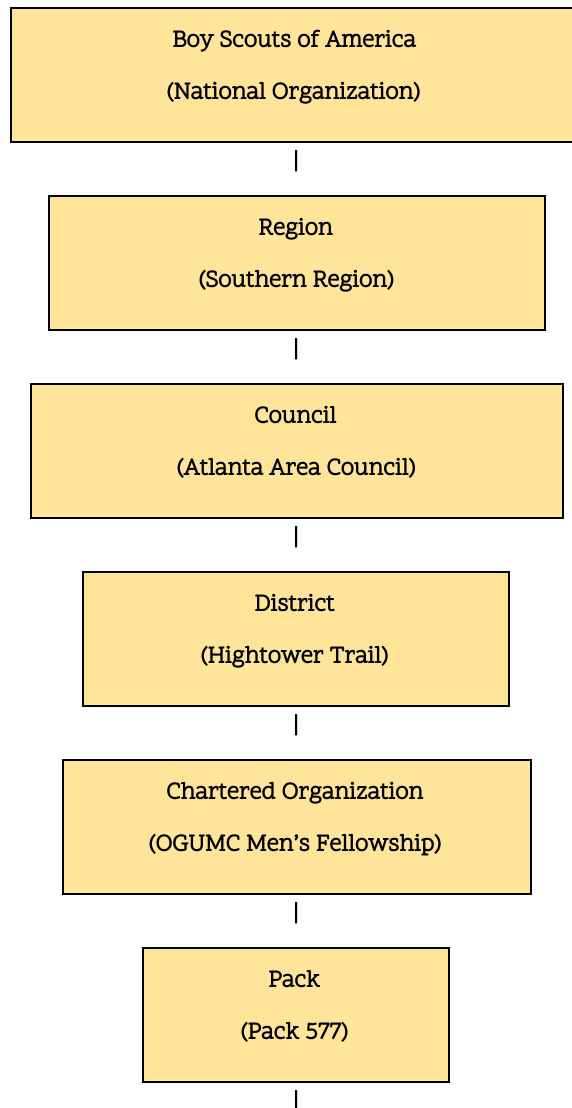
Our Pack is committed to following all guidelines of the BSA's Youth Protection program. "Two deep" leaders and the "buddy" system are always enforced for all Pack and Den activities. Parent attendance and participation at all meetings and outings ensures that these guidelines are met.

To take the online Youth Protection course go to my.Scouting.org, create an account, and select E-learning. The YPT course list is at the bottom of the page. Once completed please save the certificate electronically or print off and submit to the Pack Trainer.

Note: Beginning with our 2019-2020 program year, we expect *every* adult who attends a Pack outing (e.g., a camping trip or Big Trip) to take YPT, and we encourage all other adults to complete the training as well.

ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE OF SCOUTS BSA AND PACK 577

For those new to Scouting, the jargon and organizational structure can be a bit daunting. The following diagram shows the organizational structure of Cub Scouting:



Dens
(Lion, Tiger, Wolf, Bear, Webelos, Webelos II)

One key distinction that new families often seek to better understand is the difference between the Den and the Pack. Dens are small groups of approximately 10-12 Scouts grouped together by age/rank. Pack 577 typically has 2-4 Dens for each rank. The Pack is the large group comprised of all of the Dens.

MEETINGS, ACTIVITIES AND OUTINGS

Pack 577 is a very active Pack, and we pride ourselves on offering an exciting annual program that appeals to boys and girls of all Cub Scouting ages. Highlights of our program year are set forth below. Please see the Pack calendar, available at <https://www.Pack577.com/calendar> for the dates for this year’s activities. Updates to the calendar will be posted on the website, shared via Scoutbook emails and/or the Pack newsletter, and posted on the Pack’s Facebook page.

Monthly Pack Meetings

We usually hold our monthly Pack meetings on the third Thursday of each month from 6:30 to 8:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall at Oak Grove United Methodist Church (but this schedule is subject to change based on the Church’s schedule). We will host special activities at our regular Pack meetings, including presentations, guest speakers, etc. In past years, we’ve hosted a DeKalb County Police Narcotics officer and his K-9 officer, Big Thinkers Science Academy, a Native American storyteller, a U.S. Coast Guard veteran, a Scout-led carnival, and various Wildlife presenters including Jason Clark from Southeastern Reptile Rescue. Pack and Den leaders will have more information about these activities as the meetings are announced. Have a great idea for an entertaining and engaging Pack meeting? Let us know!

Den Meetings

Our Dens meet at different times of the month based on the schedule set with each Den leader and the Scouts’ parents (Dens typically meet 1-2 times per month, which may include a “go-see-it” activity, such as a visit to a nature center or fire station).

Fall and Spring Family Camping Trips

The Pack organizes two family camping trips every school year - one in the fall and one in the spring. Camping trips are open to the entire family -- parents, guardians, and siblings are encouraged to come along (no pets allowed, though!). You will receive complete information and directions from your Den leader prior to each trip. All camping trips are at locations with bathroom and shower facilities to ease our families into camping. The fall campout traditionally offers a number of planned activities put on by the Atlanta Area Council, and Pack 577 is just one of numerous Packs participating. The spring campout is a typically less-structured camping experience, providing Dens the ability to catch-up on requirements,

relax, and simply enjoy the outdoors. In recent years, we've primarily camped Bert Adams Scout Reservation in Covington, GA, but have also visited Woodruff Scout Reservation in Blairsville, GA. Both camping trips provide excellent opportunities for fishing, hiking, and getting outdoors! It is only through annual dues and Pack popcorn sales that we are able to offer these camping experiences without registration costs to our Pack families, although families will need to chip-in to cover the cost of food for their Den.

More information about camping will be communicated prior to the trips (packing lists, maps, safe camping guidelines, etc.). We also host a meeting for new families prior to the camping trip to answer any and all questions you may have.

Trail's End Popcorn Fundraiser

Our Pack relies on one fundraising effort to fund the majority of our activities: The annual Popcorn Sales Program. This event gives Scouts a chance to develop important skills that build character like public speaking, supporting a team, and time management. When you and your Scout go out into your neighborhood to raise money for our Pack, it deepens your connection to our organization and our community. And it's fun! Whether you're phoning family about products, selling online, walking door-to-door, or selling outside a retail business with friends, you'll have a great time watching your child sell Scouting! We need all Pack 577 parents to help their Scout succeed so that we all thrive. We have a lot of great incentives to celebrate sales goals and milestones but we ask every Scout to set their sights on \$250 as a starting point. Pack 577 has an impressive track record of popcorn sales. In 2019, the Pack was one of the top sellers in the entire Atlanta Area Council, selling \$43,000 in popcorn! Let's break our 2019 sales record and fund a great year for our Scouts!

Pinewood Derby

The Pack sponsors annual Pinewood Derby races, which will take place one in late January. Each Scout receives a racing kit that consists of a block of wood, wheels and axles. Scouts who wish to participate will craft the block of wood into a rolling Pinewood Derby vehicle, with the help of a parent or guardian. The Pack has a new 4-lane racing track with computerized racing results projected on a large screen for everyone to see. Don't be overwhelmed when you see the kit - there are many resources that can help you prepare your racer, including Pack-sponsored workshops held at Decatur Makers. We encourage Scouts to take the lead on building their vehicle with only minimal help from their parent or guardian.

Scout Sunday

Each February, the Scouts of Pack 577 are invited to attend worship service at Oak Grove United Methodist Church. It's a great way for our Scouts to showcase their "Duty to God" and to support our chartering organization that does so much to support our Pack. Scouts assist in welcoming the congregation to the service, passing out bulletins, and collecting the offering.

Camp Card Sales

During the late winter/early spring, individual Scouts have an opportunity to sell Camp Cards. These cards offer a variety of one-time and multiple use discounts at local retailers

and restaurants. Scouts get to keep 50% of the value of the cards they sell, which can be applied toward Day Camp registration!

Friends of Scouting

Each spring our Pack extends its generosity beyond the Pack level to support the Atlanta Area Council's Friends of Scouting campaign. The annual campaign provides 36% of our Council's budget. It is because of the generosity of our Scouting families and community supporters that the amazing benefits of Scouting are made possible to all interested youth in Atlanta. For more information on how you can support Scouting in Metro Atlanta, visit <http://www.atlantabsa.org/support-bsa/friends-of-Scouting/>.

Blue & Gold Banquet

Held each February, the annual Blue & Gold Banquet serves as a birthday celebration for Cub Scouting, as well as a way to honor Scout achievements and leader contributions. In 2016, our theme was "Star Wars," and Darth Vader and Stormtroopers from the 501st Legion joined us to present the awards. Our 2017 theme was "The Great Outdoors!". In 2018 we featured a space theme, as we celebrated our return from our Big Trip to the U.S. Space and Rocket Center.

Pack 577 "Big Trip"

Each year, Pack leadership plans a reasonably-priced overnight trip for Scouts and their families. One parent or guardian must attend with the Cub Scout. All ranks are encouraged to participate (if age-appropriate) and siblings that meet the activity age requirement are welcome as well. In 2017, we visited Patriots Point in Charleston, SC and spent two nights aboard the USS Yorktown aircraft carrier. We took a boat over to Fort Sumter National Monument, where the Scouts participated in the fort's morning flag raising ceremony. In 2018, we participated in the US Space & Rocket Center's overnight Surveyor Space Camp Program in Huntsville, Alabama. The 2019 Big Trip saw us attend the Nature's Classroom program in Mentone, AL. Note that there is a fee for the annual "Big Trip" and based on the destination, the program may not be open to younger Scouts. Stay tuned for details on this year's Big Trip!

Webelos Crossover and Arrow of Light Ceremony

Typically held in late March, this ceremony recognizes our fifth grade Scouts as they are awarded their Arrow of Light – Cub Scouting's highest rank, and crossover to the Scouts BSA troop. We encourage younger Scouts to attend the Crossover Ceremony to see what they can look forward to one day.

Rank Advancement Ceremony

The "rank jump" ceremony is a special night of celebration, as Pack leaders present badges to all Scouts that achieved rank. This event occurs at the Pack's May meeting.

Hightower Trail District Cub Scout Summer Day Camp

Typically scheduled for the first full week of June, Hightower Trail's Cub Scout Day camp is an affordable, action-packed week of outdoor activity and camaraderie. In any given year, Pack 577 may have as many as 50 Scouts participate in the camp, and they enjoyed games, Scout skills, archery, BBs, crafts, nature, and so much more. During the week, campers

complete a slew of requirements that count toward the next rank. Cub Scout Day Camp has to be one of the best summer camp values in the city!

Summertime Pack Activities

The Pack fun doesn't end in May! For those Scouts in town during the summer months, Pack leaders plan a special activity for each of June, July, and August. In previous summers, we've held a movie night at OGUMC complete with an ice cream sundae bar, taken an evening hike along the South Peachtree Creek PATH Trail at Mason Mill Park, met for a day of fun at Stone Mountain Park, and fished and hiked at the Chattahoochee River National Recreation Area.

Service Projects

The Pack participates in a number of service projects throughout the year. Past projects have included:

- Serving at the Oak Grove Men's Fellowship's Annual BBQ
- Completing school grounds clean-up projects at Oak Grove Elementary
- Packing holiday care packages for the USO and military personnel serving overseas
- Creating welcome mats for patients of the Shepherd Center
- Collecting old cell phones for Gorilla conservation efforts through Zoo Atlanta
- Participating in Therapy Dogs International testing
- Collecting various supplies for local charity organizations in December

Dens will also often complete service projects as part of their advancement requirements each year.

UNIFORMS

How the uniform can help a Scout

Whenever a Scout sees another person in a Scout uniform, he or she recognizes that other Scout as someone who, like them, has committed themselves principles of the Scout Oath and Scout Law. The Scout Oath and Law bind all Scouts around the world together in a common purpose. By wearing the uniform, Scouts give each other strength and support. Beyond accenting the common bond between Scouts, by wearing the uniform Scouts are declaring their faith and commitment to some important beliefs that bind them to all people. It is a way of making visible their belief in God, their loyalty to our country and their commitment to helping other people who need them.

How the uniform can help the Pack

1. When properly worn, the uniform can help build good Pack spirit.
2. The uniform makes the Pack visible as a force for good in the community.
3. Scouts in uniform create a strong, positive, youth image in the neighborhood.

Wearing the "Class A" Uniform

Scouts are expected to wear their Class "A" uniform at all regular Pack and Den meetings and as designated during campout activities or other Pack or Den events (e.g. service projects, such as the OGUMC BBQ).

The Class A uniform consists of:

1. Blue Cub Scout Uniform shirt (Tiger-Bear) or tan Webelos Uniform shirt (Webelos I and II); Lions wear the official Lion t-shirt instead of a uniform shirt
2. Neckerchief and slide (Pack 577 will provide the neckerchief)
3. Scout webbed belt and belt buckle (navy for Cub Scouts; olive green for Webelos)
4. Appropriate patches (council strip, Pack numerals, Den numerals, world crest, etc.)
5. Rank insignia and other awards (provided by Pack 577 when earned)
6. Scout socks (optional, but encouraged)
7. Scout shorts/pants/skort (optional, but encouraged)
8. Scout hat (optional, but encouraged)

More information about the components of the Scout uniform can be found on the following website: <http://bsauniforms.org/>.

To attach patches, you have two options: you can either take the uniform to a local alterations shop and have them sewn on (recommended, as they can be easily removed if needed) or you can use a badge adhesive (Badge Magic, etc. sold at the Scout Shop). Adhesives do leave residue when a patch is removed.

Uniforms and supplies can be purchased at the Atlanta Area Council Boy Scout Service Center which is located at 1800 Circle 75 Parkway just off Windy Hill Road at I-75 (right across the street from SunTrust Park). Gently-used uniforms can also often be found at consignment sales or through online local exchanges. At times, the Pack also has a donation bin with used items.

Note: We will be conducting periodic uniform inspections at Pack meetings this year with the opportunity for Scouts to earn recognition and perhaps a small token, so be sure to have the Scouts looking their best!

The Class B uniform is our Pack 577 t-shirt. This is provided by the Pack for all registered Cub Scouts and Pack leaders.

What the Pack Provides:	What the Scout Must Purchase:
Neckerchief	Neckerchief Slide
Scout Handbook	"Class A" uniform shirt with patches
Pack "Class B" T-shirt	Scout Belt and Belt Buckle
Adventure Belt Loops, Rank Patches and other awards earned throughout the program year	Scout Pants / Shorts / Skort (optional, but encouraged)
	Scout Socks (optional, but encouraged)

	Hat (optional, but encouraged)

For more information on the Cub Scout uniform, see your Scout's Handbook, or view the information found here:

<https://www.Scouting.org/programs/cub-Scouts/cub-Scout-uniform/>.

PACK COMMUNICATIONS





Our Pack's website and Facebook page are your primary sources for information about the Pack, contact information for Pack/Den Leaders, upcoming Pack/Den events, and photo galleries of previous events. Our website is www.Pack577.com, and we're on Facebook at "Cub Scout Pack 577, Decatur, GA".

Pack leadership also frequently sends out informational email via Scoutbook and periodic electronic newsletters, so please make sure that your email address is current in our system (see below for more info about Scoutbook).

CUB SCOUT RANKS & REQUIREMENTS

Cub Scout Ranks

Cub Scouting is divided into ranks based on age/grade.

Grade	Rank	Badge
ALL NEW SCOUTS (1-5)*	BOBCAT	
KINDERGARTEN	LION	
1ST	TIGER	
2ND	WOLF	

3RD	BEAR	
4TH	Webelos I	
5TH	Webelos II / Arrow of Light	

**All new Scouts Tigers-Webelos II begin their Cub Scouting adventure by earning their Bobcat award, which focuses on the core values of Scouting, and is typically earned in the first month of Scouting.*

Cub Scout Advancement

Cub Scouts earn their rank badges by completing a certain number of adventures over the course of the year. These include a specified number of required adventures along with one or more elective adventures. For each adventure, a Scout will earn a belt loop (Lions-Bears) or pin (Webelos) designed to provide immediate recognition for the Scout's accomplishment. These loops and pins are typically awarded at the Den level. Once a Scout completes all of the requirements for a rank, the Scout earns the applicable rank patch. Rank patches are awarded at Pack meetings, with most awarded at the Pack's May Pack meeting, when Scouts move up to their next rank. A Scout can continue to work on completing adventures over the summer, but once the Scout starts the next program/school year, he or she may not go back and complete prior requirements / earn prior ranks.

Cub Scouting offers a variety of other awards and recognitions beyond rank advancement, including the following:

- Youth Religious Emblem
- Recruiter Strip
- World Conservation Award
- STEM Nova and Supernova Awards
- Outdoor Activity Award
- Summertime Award
- Whittling Chip
- Emergency Preparedness Award
- Shooting Sports Award

See your Scout Handbook or the official BSA website for details on these and other opportunities to enhance your Scout's experience.

TRACKING YOUR SCOUT'S PROGRESS USING SCOUTBOOK

Scoutbook is a web-based tool for tracking and communicating Pack 577 activities. Each parent will receive log-in credentials when the Cub Scout's registration is complete. The website is: www.Scoutbook.com.

Using Scoutbook, you can:

- Track your Scout's Progress
- Update progress towards an achievement or rank
- Review what's needed to complete an award
- View contact information for all Pack leaders
- Use the group email function to communicate with individual families, Dens, or the entire Pack
- Track adult leader training
- Input camping nights, service hours, and hiking miles

The Pack will be providing additional training/resources to help our Pack families and leaders understand how to most effectively navigate Scoutbook.

THE SCOUT OATH

On my honor I will do my best to do my duty to God and my country and to obey the Scout Law; to help other people at all times; to keep myself physically strong, mentally awake, and morally straight.

THE SCOUT LAW

A Scout is:

Trustworthy

Loyal

Helpful

Friendly

Courteous

Kind

Obedient

Cheerful

Thrifty

Brave

Clean

Reverent

THE OUTDOOR CODE

As an American, I will do my best to --

Be clean in my outdoor manners,

Be careful with fire,

Be considerate in the outdoors,

Be conservation-minded.

SCOUT MOTTO

Be Prepared.

SCOUT SLOGAN

Do A Good Turn Daily.