

New Scout Parent Frequently Asked Questions

How big is the Pack? Our Pack ranges in size from about 60-80 scouts throughout the year as new scouts join and others graduate. There are 2-3 Dens at each “rank” (i.e. age group). Cub Scouts are in 1st thru 5th grade. The Pack meets throughout the school year typically on the third Friday of each month at Van Holten Primary School @ 7:00 p.m.

How often do scouts have meetings? About 2-3 times per month; one of these meetings is with the entire Pack (which ranges from 9-12 Dens). The other meetings are with your Den of 4-9 scouts of the same age or grade, either in a parent’s home as a Den Meeting or to go on a trip, such as a hike in the park.

What do scouts do at Den meetings? Den meetings usually follow a structure and involve: crafts or fun activities; working toward achievements; visiting a fun or educational destination; prepare for Pack events; taking a hike, and/or many other things that Den Leaders and parents want to do. There are many suggestions for Den activities in the handbooks and from the Pack.

Who goes to the Den meetings? A parent or guardian must attend each meeting with first-grade scouts (Tigers). Older scouts may attend meetings with or without a parent, at the Den Leader’s discretion. Most scouts attend most meetings and events with a parent. Some events like Pack meetings and dinners are family events. Scouting is a great opportunity to spend time with your son in a fun and activity-based environment where your assistance is always welcome.

Who picks the time and place of the Den Meetings? The Den Leader, with input from the Assistant Den Leader and parents within the Den, decides what days/times/locations work best.

What else do cub scouts do? Pack 96 meetings and events include these themes each year:

- Fall Family Camping - overnight tent camping in NJ, usually at a Scouting Reservation
- Sept/Oct Popcorn Sale – our one and only fundraiser
- Scouting for Food (food drive) - food collected/donated to the Somerset Food Bank
- December Holiday Party – cupcakes and crafts
- January Pinewood Derby- race wooden model cars that the scouts built with their parents help
- February Blue and Gold Banquet – awards and dinner to celebrate the Anniversary of Scouting
- Spring Town Cleanup – Community Service. Pick up garbage along some streets in the town
- Spring Family Camping- overnight tent or cabin camping in NJ
- May Memorial Day Parade – march in one of the nearby town parades
- June Pack Picnic – potluck cookout at Duke Island Park with games and fun activities
- July Somerset Patriots - baseball game, we usually go out on the field for the opening ceremony
- August Pool Party and Raingutter Regatta - swim at the Juniper Lane Pool Club, eat pizza and race small wooden sailboats that the scouts build with their parents help (optional).

Other Pack trips and events throughout the year may include (NOTE: all pack trips are optional):

- Rutgers University basketball games (Piscataway/New Brunswick campus)
- Snow Tubing at a ski resort in PA (usually Blue Mountain)
- Sleepover and Tour of Battleship New Jersey (while at dock in Camden)