

PACK 55

Bennett Valley Cub Scouts

Since 1930, the Boy Scouts of America has helped younger boys through Cub Scouting. Parents, leaders, and organizations work together towards the aims of scouting:

- Help boys build character
- Develop habits and attitudes of good citizenship
- Encourage good sportsmanship and pride in growing strong in mind and body
- Improve understanding within the family
- Strengthen a boy's ability to get along with others
- Foster a sense of personal achievement by developing new interests and skills
- Provide fun and exciting new things to do
- Show a boy how to be helpful and do his best
- Prepare him to be a Boy Scout

The Twelve Core Values of Scouting Citizenship, Compassion, Cooperation, Courage, Faith, Health and Fitness, Honesty, Perseverance, Positive Attitude, Resourcefulness, Respect, Responsibility

Cub Scout Promise

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.

Cub Scout Motto

DO YOUR BEST

The Law of the Pack

The Cub Scout follows Akela.
The Cub Scout helps the pack go.
The pack helps the Cub Scout grow
The Cub Scout gives goodwill.



CUB SCOUT ORGANIZATION AND PACK 55

- Cub Scouting is for boys grades 1-5. It uses terms and phrases taken from stories in *The Jungle Book* by Rudyard Kipling. The boys themselves are called Cubs. Cub Scout leaders are referred to as “Akela.” Cubs are organized into small grade level units called Dens. Dens make up the Pack. The pack is part of a District. Districts form a council and councils make up the Boy Scouts of America. We are part of the Pomo District of the Redwood Empire Council of the Boy Scouts of America.
- For over 40 years, Pack 55 has served Santa Rosa’s Bennett Valley and specifically, the Bennett Valley Union School District. Any boy is welcome to join us, however, no matter what school he attends or where he resides.
- All Packs operate under a chartered organization (sponsor). The Montgomery Village Lions Club is our chartered organization. Our charter is renewed with them annually.
- Pack 55 is run by our PACK COMMITTEE of adult volunteers-- Den Leaders, Pack Leaders and parents. The committee supports den and pack leaders, plans activities, manages pack finances, keeps records, orders awards, helps train and recognize leaders and more. The committee meets once a month, breaking for the summer. Any and all parents are welcome to attend.
- PACK MEETINGS are held monthly in the Strawberry School Multipurpose Room and are led by our Cubmaster.* Pack meetings are for families, including siblings, not just the Scouts. They provide recognition to individual boys and may include ceremonies, songs, cheer, skits & more. Scouts sit with their dens but families should sit next to or near their scout. Monitoring the behavior of one’s children at these meetings is the parent’s responsibility. This helps the meeting run more smoothly. A sibling activity table is available.

Dens are assigned “Den Duties” for each pack meeting. These rotating responsibilities include raffle, set-up, flag ceremony, skit/song, raffle, and clean-up.

* We have a few exceptions to our regular Tuesday Pack meetings. A Bridging Ceremony where scouts advance to their next rank is held in May at Camp Watam. Our annual BLUE AND GOLD dinner is held on a Friday evening in February in lieu of a Tuesday pack meeting. This annual family dinner honors the anniversary of Scouting.

- PACK ACTIVITIES. A few Pack activity examples include Pinewood Derby, Space Derby, hikes and bike hikes. Some of our past service projects have included creek clean-ups, food drives, caroling at a nursing home and the placement of flags for our veterans the Saturday prior to Memorial Day. Each year we hold at least one Pack overnighter. An overnight on the U.S.S. Hornet, at the San Francisco Zoo, Chabot Space and Science Center and are examples of some of our past overnights. Pack activities are great opportunities but are not required activities.

Pack activities are intended for parent/adult partner and son participation. In most cases, families are welcome. However, they are not a drop-off activity unless an arrangement has been made with another pack parent.

THE PROGRAM

Each rank or level of the Cub Scout program has its own handbook to follow. Handbooks are for parents AND Scouts. Cub scouting truly is a FAMILY program and parents need to be familiar with the handbook in order to help their scout through the program--particularly in the younger years. There is a parent guide at the beginning of each handbook. Each rank’s badge is earned through completing required achievements, specified in the handbook. Many of these will be completed at home and not through a den meeting. After completing these achievements, scouts can work on any number of electives and earn more awards.

DENS: Dens are groups of about 4-8 boys of the same age or grade. Each den decides its own schedule, meeting place, activities and ways to share any costs. Den meetings generally last about an hour. Dens are led by Den leaders and Den Assistants who are den parents. Some dens choose to share leadership amongst parents and/or use a “Denner” system where a scout or family adopts meetings or activities. Dens in Pack 55 generally hold 2 den meetings a month, one of these may be an outing.

BOBCAT: This is the first rank badge earned by Cub Scouts, no matter which age/grade they begin scouting. The requirements for this badge can be found in every handbook. They include parent/son child protection exercises. After receiving the Bobcat Badge, scouts work on rank requirements based on his grade and/or age.

TIGER CUB PROGRAM

- FIRST GRADE BOYS are TIGER CUBS and earn their Tiger Cub Badge.
- They are paired with their adult partner who must be present at all den meetings and activities.
- Tiger Cub dens are facilitated by a Tiger Cub Den Leader(s), usually a parent or team of parents. They coordinate shared leadership among the Tiger Cub adult partners, ensuring that den meetings and outings are planned, prepared for, and conducted by ALL adult partners on a rotating basis, and that the den activities provide advancement opportunities.

CUB SCOUT PROGRAM

- SECOND GRADE BOYS are WOLVES and earn their Wolf badge from the Wolf Handbook.
- THIRD GRADE BOYS are BEARS and earn their Bear badge from the Bear Handbook.

WEBELOS SCOUT PROGRAM: “We’ll Be Loyal Scouts”

- FOURTH AND FIFTH GRADE BOYS are WEBELOS and work on their WEBELOS badge, activity badges and the Arrow of Light Award, the highest rank in Cub Scouting.
- Den meetings are designed to meet the needs of older boys and prepare them for Boy Scouts.

CROSSING OVER TO BOY SCOUTS: Boys wishing to continue in Scouts may “bridge” over to a Boy Scout troop after they earn the Arrow of Light Award (winter/spring of 5th grade year), turn 11 years old or complete 5th grade. There are many Boy Scout troops to choose from in our area. Each troop will have a different leadership style and feel to it so several should be visited before joining one.

NOTE: The amount of time needed to work on achievements and electives and other awards is up to the scout and parent in the early years and more up to the scout than the parent at the Webelos level. There are certain achievements required to earn one’s rank badge but if it is not earned, a scout will still advance to the next rank at the end of the year.

YOUTH PROTECTION

BSA has adopted strict policies, known as the Guide to Safe Scouting, to provide safety and security of its youth members. These policies are primarily for the protection of our youth members; however, many of them also serve to protect our adult leaders from false accusations of abuse. Den Leaders and Pack leaders are required to take “Youth Protection” training.

In the front of each grade level handbook is a tear-out pamphlet entitled “How to Protect your Children from Child Abuse—A Parent’s Guide.” The reading of this tear-out pamphlet is a required part of your son’s advancement in Cub Scouting.

CUB SCOUT JOINING REQUIREMENTS

To join Pack 55, a youth candidate must: (1) be a boy; (2) in the first through fifth grade and between 6 and 10 years old, (3) part of a den with a den leader forming to receive him and other boys, or part of an existing den which is willing to add him as a member 4) submit a official BSA youth application form as well as National BSA and Pack 55 dues.

PARENT JOINING REQUIREMENTS

One basic rule is that if you son joins Pack 55, so do you! Without solid parental participation, dens cannot form and Pack 55 cannot provide a quality program to the youth. It is in large part due to parental support and encouragement that our youth member advance in Scouting and realize their potential.

Parents are expected to help at both the Den and Pack level. At the Pack level we are asking for at least 10 hours a program year. This time can be divided up amongst several events, activities or positions. Parents with talents or expertise in certain areas are welcome to share them with the Pack!

Adult volunteer opportunities:

Cubmaster	Assistant Cubmaster	Charter/Registration	CUBmobile Rally
Treasurer	Committee Chair	Email communications	Camping/Outdoor Committee
Newsletter	Advancement Chair: Awards	Popcorn Sales	Copy Clerk
Recruitment	Overnighter coordinator	Class B uniform orders	Friends of Scouting Contact
Den leaders	Blue & Gold Dinner Committee	Pinewood Derby	Scouting for Food
eScrip	Committee member (no title)	Space derby	Summer Activity Coordinator
Webmaster	Service Projects	Pack Trainer	And more, including your ideas.....

Den Leader/Pack leader application—Parents of youth members are not required to submit an application to participate in Cub Scout activities with their sons. Den leaders and certain Pack Leader positions do require one. Male and female adults over the age of 18 can become Adult Scouters with the BSA and Pack 55 provided that his or her application is accepted by the Pack Committee and approved by the Boy Scouts of America. The adult leader candidate must provide their social security number and submit to background checks which include searches for criminal convictions. BSA will deny membership to adults with criminal convictions including drugs, sex crimes, or violence. Den Leaders and other Adult Scouters receive Scouting Magazine as part of their registration.

BECOMING A DEN LEADER AND FORMING A DEN

Dens, particularly tiger dens, the entry level into Cub Scouting, can not form unless they have a den leader. Having a parent step forward to lead is critical to the program so let's talk about it.

Duties: The Den leader meets at least twice monthly with a den of Cub Scouts, attends the monthly pack meeting with his/her den and the pack committee meeting (or sends a den parent to the committee meeting in his/her place if unable to attend.) Den meeting activities, outings, time and location are at the den leader's discretion. The Den Leader commitment is for one program year yet many times den leaders want to return and serve from 2-5 years.

Support and Training: Pack 55 is committed to providing den leaders with the necessary training and support to carry out their duties. New Den Leaders are given a den leader kit; a program helps guide and access to online Fast Start Leader Training and Youth Protection. They are also asked to attend a one day leader training course during their first year of service. These are offered in the fall and spring (visit the training page of www.redwoodbsa.org). The District holds monthly Roundtable forums to assist leaders as well. Although these are not required, they are highly recommended to help the Den Leader run a quality program. Attending four Roundtables a year is a requirement for the Cub Scout Leader Award. Other optional training opportunities are also available.

Being a den leader is an enriching experience for both leader and son. The experience with your son is priceless. You will find that the den meeting time passes quickly, and that, if you let yourself, you'll end up having as much fun as the boys...really!

But.....

"I don't have the time." Time is, of course, scarce for everyone. However, Pack 55 believes in den leaders, pack leaders and parents working together can and will share the load. Fellow den leaders and pack leaders will be there to help you when you need it and you will also find help among the other den parents. Currently, all of our den leaders, both male and female, hold down full-time or part-time jobs and/or coach a sports team or volunteer in the community and/or in our schools.

"I don't know how." Unless you were a Cub Scout or Boy Scout, or have some other Scouting experience, it is entirely likely that you don't know anything about how Scouting works. Don't let this dissuade you. In addition to the support and training listed above, Scouting itself, and our District and Council, have all kinds of resources to help you succeed. All you need to bring to the table is a little time and a positive "I can do this attitude."

PACK FINANCES

- Annual dues are \$50, paid each fall. At initial registration and submission of a National BSA youth application, a prorated national BSA fee is applied based on the month of joining.
- Pack 55 *spends* approximately \$65 per scout each year.
- Our pack keeps *only* \$26 of the \$50 dues-- \$10 goes to National BSA and \$12 goes towards Boys Life Magazine. Most of the \$28 we receive goes towards awards for the boys—and they earn A LOT of awards! The pack pays for many things: Pinewood & Space Derby kits, leader registration & training fees, neckerchiefs for advancing scouts, pack equipment, program materials and more. Annual dues are a great value compared to the registration fees for sports! To keep the dues down, we have the following fundraisers:

POPCORN: This is our one and only annual sales fundraiser to help defray pack expenses. All families are expected to participate in some way. Scouts learn life lessons as they learn to speak in front of others and help to pay their own way for their program...and they earn cool prizes and gift cards.

eSCRIP! Pack 55 has only 50-60 families to draw from for eScrip support so each family's participation is needed and expected for it to make a difference. It is safe and free. eScrip provides us a steady income all year long and helps us maintain a great year-round program for the boys. **eScrip also keeps us from having a spring sales fundraiser—the best incentive!** If you must, you can divide your eScrip allocation between Pack 55 and one or two other groups. Sign up or change your current eScrip allocations via www.escrip.com or call 1-800-400-7878 or ask us for a form. Co-workers, relatives, and friends can help us by signing-up, too. Ask them! Our group is named "Cub Scouts-Pack 55. Our ID# 149415337.

Other Scouting costs:

- Parents pay for uniforms, handbooks, dues and individual activities (field trips, camp etc.)
- The den supports its own activities. Sometimes a den elects to have scouts pay den dues for each den meeting attended (~ \$2-3). Some dens elect to share costs by rotating responsibilities for activities/snacks with families.

GETTING YOUR CUB SCOUT STARTED

Once your son has submitted an official BSA registration form and dues, he will be placed in an existing den, if he is a wolf rank or above. Or, if he is a Tiger Cub, he will become part of a tiger den after a tiger parent(s) step forth to lead the new den(s). We like to see boys in dens with their friends and to do this, we have tiger parents form the dens themselves at our parent orientation/information night each September. Each Den's meeting schedule is established by the den.

There are several things your son will need right away: a Handbook and Cub Scout uniform for his grade level. Uniforms give boys a sense of belonging, a sense of pride and encourage proper behavior.

- Boys to wear their official Scout (Class A) uniform to pack meetings/activities, den meetings, and most outings.
- Class B uniforms/Pack 55 shirts are acceptable for some pack/den activities and outings when specified. Ask us when you aren't sure which uniform is appropriate.

Official Scout (Class A) uniform: Scout shirt, hat, neckerchief, neckerchief slide and uniform patches: (1) Redwood Empire Council Patch (2) Pack numerals 5 - 5 (3) World emblem (4) Den numeral—this can wait if your den number has not been assigned.)The official uniform pants & shorts are optional at Pack 55. The estimated cost to outfit a new scout is around \$50-60, including the handbook.

CLASS B uniforms: "Pack 55" wear; Navy blue T-shirts and sweatshirts with the Pack 55 emblem. These are worn by scouts and even their families for specified activities. Orders are placed by the Pack each fall. Sometimes we have some in our uniform bank, too. They are not required but they definitely get a lot of use!

Patch Placement: Refer to the insignia placement guide in your scout's handbook for the correct placement of official insignia. Only official insignia can be put placed on the uniform. Patches from some events may be worn on the right shirt pocket below the button on a temporary basis. Patch vests can be purchased and worn to display special patches from past events or places visited. Patches are sewn on or they can be "ironed-on" using an iron-on application purchased at the scout store.

Uniforms and handbooks can be purchased through our local service center (see below) or online at www.scoutstuff.org. Pack 55 has a uniform bank of pre-owned items, too. Some have luck with eBay and craigslist.com.

Santa Rosa Scout Shop:

1000 Apollo Way, Santa Rosa, CA 95407
(707) 546-1013 Fax (707) 546-7837

Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday 9-5pm;
Tuesday 9-6:30pm; Saturday 10-4pm
Closed Sundays

AWARDS

A myriad of awards are available for scouts to earn at all levels. Each rank also has its own version of "immediate recognition" awards as indicated in your scout's grade level handbook. These immediate recognition awards are awarded to scouts in den meetings for achieving certain milestones as they work on their rank badge. Most other awards, such as the ones below, are awarded at a Pack meeting.

These are just a sampling of awards available to scouts:

- Sports and Academic Belt Loops and Pins: 17 academic areas and 23 sports areas. For each sport or academic area, a Belt Loop and a Pin may be earned. The Belt Loop shows a basic understanding and experience with a sport or academic area. The Pin requires more in-depth activity and study. Belt loops and pins for the same area can be earned more than once. Pack 55 will pay for the belt loop or pin the first time it is earned in an area or if where it is required to be earned as a Webelos. Parents can opt to pay for subsequent belt loops (~\$2). For requirements, use the search term "belt loops" at www.usscouts.org
- Quality Unit Award: The pack is eligible for this award if it meets certain criteria. This patch award is worn by each boy on the right sleeve of the uniform underneath the Den number.
- Membership Stars: For each year a Scout is registered with the Pack he receives a membership star.
- The Leave No Trace Award, Cub Scout Outdoor Activity Award, World Conservation Award, Emergency Preparedness Award and many others are available to earn. Requirements for some of these awards become more challenging as scouts advance. Your son's handbook may list the requirements to some of these awards. Those not listed can be found at www.usscouts.org
- Religious Emblem Award: This optional award program offers a partnership between the boy's family, the family's religious leaders, and Scouting, to explore age-appropriate faith issues. Scouting is strictly non-sectarian, so each faith partnering with Scouting has developed a curriculum workbook for its own Religious Emblem Award. Cub Scouts who complete their faith's Religious Emblem program receive a Religious Emblem medal.
- Fun for the Family Award: A program for developing character and strengthening family relationships through adventure learning.

DERBIES & RALLIES

SPACE DERBY! In Space Derby, boys make and assemble a wood spaceship that will race on a suspended cord. The kit is provided by the pack. An optional workshop will be held to provide help with making/assembling the spaceship.

PINEWOOD DERBY! In Pinewood Derby, boys design and build small wooden cars from kit that will be raced on an inclined track. The Pack provides a kit and helpful hints for each boy. Check-ins in held on a Friday evening with race day the following morning. Pinewood Derby cars must follow District Pinewood regulations. Siblings and parents can race, too! We have a sibling and parent division.

CAMPING!

Boys LOVE camp! Scouts not only have a great time, but they work on their rank requirements. Camping in Cub Scouts is by the Family Camping Method where each boy is accompanied by his parent or authorized adult partner/guardian. Going to camp with other pack families is particularly fun. Here are a few opportunities you will have to choose from. At the Webelos level, additional camping opportunities are part of the program. For council-run camp information and camp dates, go to the camping page of www.redwoodbsa.org.

- **Redwood Empire Council Family Camp Weekends at Camp Navarro:** Held each May, June and/or July
- **Den & Pack campouts-** Held at the discretion of your den and the pack
- **Cub Scout Summer Resident Camp at Camp Navarro:** Held each June or July
- **Webelos Weekends at Camp Noyo:** Held each July/August for first and second year Webelos
- **Webelos Woods:** Held each October for first and second year Webelos
- **Camporee:** A Webelos I /Boy Scout event held in late April at Warm Springs Dam

POMO DISTRICT PROGRAMS

CUB-O-REE and CAMP-O-REE: A fun day for Cubs and a full weekend for Webelos. This event is full of Scouting skills and competition: BB gun, archery, crafts, obstacle courses and more.

TWILIGHT CAMP: An evening Cub Scout camp in Santa Rosa each summer. Boys get a jump-start on the year as they work on rank requirements, electives and belt loops. Highly recommended! Dens can attend together.

SCOUT-O-RAMA AND RACE TO SCOUTING: Scouting skills from Cub Scout packs to Boy Scout troops from across Sonoma County are highlighted at these annual events. Our pack sponsors a booth and has each den mans the booth for a specified time period.

DISTRICT PINWOOD DERBY: Held each May, we submit each rank's top three finishers for race and show. Cars compete against other Pack top finishers across Sonoma County.

SCOUTING FOR FOOD: Held in March in cooperation with Redwood Empire Food Bank.

LEADER TRAINING: Basic Leader training and Youth Protection Training (required for leaders); Monthly leader roundtable (optional); advanced leader training programs.

FRIENDS OF SCOUTING (FOS): The district's annual fundraising campaign held in February and March. Contributions are voluntary and pay for the district's facilities, insurance, activities and services. A FOS representative will visit our pack at a pack meeting to explain the program and give each family a pledge form. Because 100% participation allows us to purchase our awards at a discount, all families are expected to fill out their Friends of Scouting pledge form whether they contribute \$0--\$1,000,000.

COMMUNICATION

- Our monthly newsletter announces upcoming events, provides current contact information and includes our pack activity calendar. These newsletters are handed out at each Pack meeting and will be posted on our website: www.pack-55.com.
- Email! The best way to keep up to date. We send out last-minute event information and event reminders. Please keep your email address up to date. We will use email for scouting only.

PACK CONTACT LIST

Refer to the contact list section of one of our monthly newsletters for the most current information. Our Pack leaders, Den leaders and Committee members and their contact information are listed by their position.