

Pack 401

Parent Handbook

2008-2009

Helpful Information for
New Scouting Families



Pack 401
Chartered by Mary Immaculate Church

Welcome to Cub Scouting...

In Great Rivers 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 lifetime 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 program that is fun and adventurous and 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 a part of the *Thousand Hills District*, which in turn is a part of the *Great Rivers Council*.

The Great Rivers Council serves the needs of Scouting in 33 counties in central and northern Missouri. There are nine 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 Great Rivers Council has two outstanding camping facilities to better serve the outdoor needs of Cubs, Scouts, Varsity Scouts, Venturers, and Explorers. Camp Thunderbird, located north of Moberly, and Hohn Scout Reservation, located near Laurie, Missouri. The council maintains a service center in Columbia, Missouri, 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 our more the 10,000 members.

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 through which 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 the experience that your son has in Cub Scouts a positive one.

HISTORY OF PACK 401

Mary Immaculate Church has sponsored a Cub Scout pack off and on for many years. The current Pack 401 was chartered to Mary Immaculate Church in 2002. Since that time, Pack 401 has continued to provide a quality Scouting experience to its Scouts and their families.

PACK STRUCTURE

Your Boy Is a Member of a Den

A den has between 5 and 10 boys (8 is usually the maximum) of the same age who work together on age-appropriate activities. The Den Leader will work with the den parents to set a meeting time for the den during the early fall. This information will be passed on to 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 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, like Pack 401, may have only one den at each rank, while larger packs may have several dens at each rank.

All of the dens will gather on the last Monday of the 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 that the boys earned that month. The award ceremonies are an important part of Pack 401 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. We do request that each Scout have 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 to: plan Den and Pack Meetings around the monthly theme, select leaders, perform record keeping, and 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 401's Chartered Organization is Mary Immaculate 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 6 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. All boys must first complete the Bobcat badge requirements before they can be awarded on any other rank (they can work on other rank requirements at the same time as they complete their Bobcat).



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 3rd 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 4th grade year. Scouts are called "Webleos" until their graduation from the pack in their fifth grade year.



ARROW OF LIGHT

This is the highest rank in Cub Scouting. It is earned by completing achievements over and above those required for the Webelos rank. This badge is awarded at the Blue and Gold Banquet in February.

Scouts may work on their rank badge starting June 1, or as soon as they join the Pack, until May 31 of the following year when they start on the next rank. Webelos may work

toward the Webelos rank and the Arrow of Light any time during their year and a half in the program.

As Scouts work toward each of their ranks they will wear different insignia to show their progress. Tiger Cubs wear a tiger paw totem with a white bead for each required family activity, an orange bead for each required den activity, and a black bead for each required *Go See It* he completes. Wolves and Bears wear a *Progress Toward Rank* totem with a bead signifying three achievements completed toward the rank. Webelos earn Activity Pins for their Webelos badge and for the Arrow of Light. These are worn on a special totem called the Webelos colors on the right sleeve of their uniform.

After a Tiger, Wolf or Bear Cub has earned his rank, he can work on special activities called electives. Tigers earn yellow beads for their totem by earning electives, while Wolves and Bears earn *Arrow Points*. When a Wolf or a Bear has completed 10 electives, he gets a Gold Arrow Point. When he completes a second set of 10 electives, he receives a Silver Arrow Point, and he can earn as many Silver Arrow Points as he is able. Webelos do not have Arrow Points, but if they earn 7 Activity Pins they receive the Compass Point Emblem and for each 4 Activity Pins they earn after that they receive a Compass Point to attach to their Compass Point Emblem.

REGISTRATION

The national BSA registration fee of \$10.00 is due in December for currently registered Scouts. Cubs who registered for the first time at School Night pay a prorated fee of \$13.40 for sixteen months. At the present time the Pack does not charge additional dues (all of our operating expenses come from our Popcorn Sale). Pack dues are reviewed on an annual basis by the pack committee. It is the policy of the Boy Scouts that no boy be excluded from the program because he can't pay the registration fee. If this is an issue for your family or for someone you know who would like to join, please see the Cubmaster.

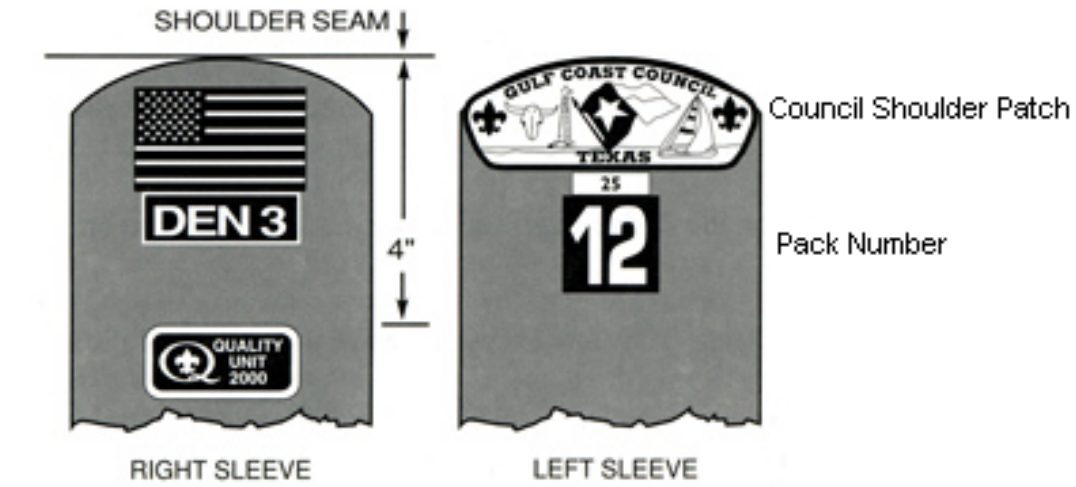
UNIFORM

The Cub Scout uniform gives your son group identity and a place to display his award patches. Tigers, Wolves and Bears wear the blue Cub Scout shirt. Webelos may wear usually wear the blue shirt during their first year and then switch to the khaki shirt. One bit of advice: **BUY BIG**. Your son will be wearing his Scout shirt for at least two years (and will grow a lot!). Along with the Scout shirt, the boy may include these options: a rank neckerchief and slide, cap, belt and uniform pants.

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 Kirksville at Farm and Home. Uniform parts (especially shirts) can often be found at the Salvation Army and garage sales, or by simply asking around. Our Pack has an unofficial uniform exchange; where you can borrow a shirt for as long as you need it, and then pass it on.

The basic patches that you will need will be a council shoulder patch, the world crest and the pack number either as individual patches ("4", "0", "1") or the all-in-one version

("401"). Note that all uniforms come with the American flag on the right shoulder. The placement of these patches (along with the other insignia your boy will wear) is shown below. If you have any questions about patches, please feel free to ask the Cubmaster, your Den Leader, or another parent whose son has been in Scouts for a while.



World Crest



RIGHT POCKET



LEFT POCKET

Modified from <http://www.anthempack432.net/>.

The uniform should be worn to all official Scout functions: den meetings, pack meetings, field trips, etc., except for particularly messy den meetings or field trips. Scouts may also wear their uniform to school on the day of a pack or den meeting.

SPECIAL PACK ACTIVITIES

As part of our mission to build community-minded, responsible young men, Pack 401 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:

- Scouting for Food (food drive)
- Popcorn Sales (our major fundraiser)
- Holiday Party
- Blue and Gold Banquet
- Pinewood Derby (see the special note later in this packet about the Pinewood)
- Community Service projects
- Summertime events (including Cub Day Camp and Cub Resident Camp)

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 PARENTS' RESPONSIBILITY TO REPORT ADVANCEMENT CREDIT TO THE DEN LEADER.** Please make sure that your Scout receives all the awards that he has worked so hard to earn.

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

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

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 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 what activities are done 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 monthly to plan pack program with the help of the Pack Committee. Insures that pack leaders are trained in their positions. Attends pack meetings, pack committee meetings and roundtable meetings. The Cubmaster may perform this function in small packs, and does in Pack 401.

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, Pine-wood Derby, Blue and Gold Banquet, pack graduation and Day Camp. These are jobs of short duration.

These are all the volunteer positions and we strive in Pack 401 to fill each of them in order to maintain a high quality program for our boys. The Cubmaster can't 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.

LEADER TRAINING

If you decide to be a Pack Leader, the first step is to review the Fast Start training. Cub Scout Leader Fast Start is located on the council's web page (<http://www.bsa-grc.org/>) under the *Online Training* heading. 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, which covers how to conduct den and pack meetings, program planning and administration. Training for all scout leaders is available online at <http://www.olc.scouting.org/> (note that you will need to create a username and password to complete the online training at this site) and it is also scheduled for locations within the District early in the fall and throughout the year.

In addition to Cub Scout Leader Basic Training, the Great Rivers 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

POPCORN SALES

Every fall the Great Rivers 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 the money for all the great things we do in Cub Scouting. We participate in the prize program, so each boy gets a prize depending on how much popcorn he sells. Approximately 28% of our total sales are returned to us as profit. Of this money, \$10 is reserved for each Scout to cover his registration for the next year. A third to a half of the rest is used to pay for badges and awards, Pinewood Derby cars, the Blue and Gold Banquet and other supplies for the year. Whatever is left in May is used to subsidize Day Camp and Resident Camp for Scouts in our Pack who otherwise could not afford to go. The amount given to a Scout will depend on need, how much popcorn he sold, how much money the Pack has and how much aid the Scout receives from the Council.

PACK AND DEN DUES

Some units request that their members pay additional dues on an annual, monthly or weekly basis to cover the cost of program supplies, advancement, etc. Currently Pack 401 does not ask for dues.

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 that the Council needs to operate comes from the Friends of Scouting (FOS) appeal. Every year during the spring, a volunteer from the District will ask for people in the community who think that 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 Great Rivers 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 be directed to the Boy Scouts.

Great Rivers Council Grant Program

The Great Rivers Council is committed to ensuring that all youth have the opportunity to participate in Scouting. For some families, the additional costs of Scouting can be a

strain on the family budget and the Council has grants available to help families to meet these costs. There is an application form, available from the Council web page, which must be completed and submitted to the Council office. Grant applications are reviewed by a committee on a monthly basis and it takes approximately two weeks after review for an approved grant to be processed. Families are notified by mail of financial assistance allocated and a copy of the letter sent to the scout's leader.

CAMPING

You are encouraged to camp with your son whenever you can so that he can practice what he has learned in Cub Scouts. Dens are also encouraged to have family camping events. A family camp is where your den's families get together for a usually overnight camp out. These are not official Scout events; just families getting together. For a Pack campout we would need an adult who is BALOO (Basic Adult Leader Outdoor Orientation) trained to fulfill the requirements of the *Guide to Safe Scouting*.

For council-sponsored events, such a summer camp, Tiger cubs need to be accompanied by a parent, while Wolves, Bears and Webelos need 1 adult for every 5 boys with a minimum of 2 adult leaders at all times. However, we recommend that parents accompany their sons on campouts; it is simply more fun for the boys when a dad (or mom, or granddad, or any special adult) is there with them. Please see the Pack calendar for camping and other outdoor opportunities in the upcoming year.

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 Kirksville schools close then all Scout activities are also cancelled. If Scouts must be cancelled after schools normally let out, we will activate our telephone tree (Cubmaster calls the Den Leaders and the Den Leaders call their dens). If you do not hear from your Den Leader, and you think that it is too dangerous to travel, please stay home. We do not want people on the roads during bad weather.

PINEWOOD DERBY

Each year we have a Pinewood Derby where the boys make a car from a wood block which we then race. The boys are supposed to do the majority of the work on their car. But we know that dads can't help not assisting. All we ask is that it be your boy's design and that he does as much of the work as he can. Please remember that it is against Boy Scout policy for Cub Scouts to use power tools. So, it is okay for an adult to rough cut the design using a power tool and then for the Scout to do the finish sanding and painting by hand. We usually have a car building night in early January for anyone who doesn't have a shop at home, or who just wants some tips on designing or building their car.

The following Pinewood Derby Rules have been adapted from the Official Cub Scout Pinewood Derby Rules to assure a fair and fun race for everyone.

Car Specifications

- Width: not more than 2 3/4"
- Length: 7" or under
- Weight: not over 5 ounces
- Width between Wheels: 1 3/4"
- Bottom Clearance between Car and Track: 3/8"

Rules

- The Pinewood Derby is open to all Cub Scouts.
- Cars should be built by Cub Scouts with some adult guidance.
- Only official Cub Scout Pinewood Derby wheels and axles are permitted.
- Wheel bearing, washers and bushings are prohibited.
- A car may not ride on springs.
- Only dry lubricant (graphite powder) is permitted.
- Car must be free-wheeling with no starting devices.
- Details must not exceed the maximum dimensions listed under Car Specifications above.
- All cars will be inspected at registration. If a car does not meet specification, the owner will be informed and allowed to correct the problem.
- After registration no further modification may be made unless the car is damaged in a race or by handling.
- The decisions of the judges are final.

The Race

The race will be tournament-style. Every car will race in the preliminary rounds and racing will continue until the fastest four cars have been determined. These will then race against each other to determine the final places. Each car will have the opportunity to race on each lane to make sure there is no "slow lane". Lane assignments and race results are handled by computer and finish order is determined by an electronic finish line.

Prizes

There will be trophies for first, second, third and fourth place overall and for "Coolest Car" (as voted on by the Scouts). Everyone who does not get a trophy will get a participation award. If we have a big enough pack and enough funds to pay for the trophies, we may in addition break the awards down by rank (so, first, second, third for Tigers, and so on).

CONTACT INFORMATION

Pack Web Page

http://www2.truman.edu/~jmccormi/Scouts.htm

Cubmaster

Jim McCormick
Phone: 665-6812 (H), 785-4315 (W)
E-mail: jmccormi@truman.edu

District Executive

Scott Meredith
Phone: 660-341-9068
E-mail: smeredit@bsaemail.org

Great Rivers Council Service Center and Scout Shop

Address: 1203 Fay Street, Columbia, MO 65201
Phone: 573-449-2561 FAX: 573-874-6846
Web page: www.bsa-grc.org

Hours: Monday, Wednesday, Friday 8 AM to 5 PM, Tuesday and Thursday 8 AM to 6 PM, and Saturday 9 AM to 1 PM. During the summer (June through August) the Scout Shop is open only on the second and third Saturdays of the month.

National Council

Web page: <http://www.scouting.org/>

Our Den Leader

Name: _____

Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

Advancement Program

FastTracks Advancement <http://www.bsascripts.com/fasttracks/>

GREAT RIVERS COUNCIL, BSA CHILD ABUSE REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

The Boy Scouts of America is committed to the safety and well-being of its youth members. To that end every Cub Scout rank included child abuse awareness and prevention information for boys and adults. The Great Rivers Council's child abuse reporting requirements are reproduced here as part of the Council's and our pack's commitment to youth safety. More details on youth protection is available as part of the scout leader training program and is available online at <http://www.olc.scouting.org/> (you will need to create a username and password to complete the online training).

CONTACTING THE COUNCIL

The Boy Scouts requires immediate notification of the Scout executive whenever information about possible child abuse in the Boy Scout program is uncovered. The current policy for after-hours notifications is to wait until the next business day and call the Scout office in Columbia, MO at 573-449-2561 x206 or 800-726-8852 x206. The Scout executive will ensure that all state reporting requirements have been met and will also take measures to protect the youth in the Scouting movement.

If an immediate report is to be made due to extreme urgency, a contact to the Division of Family Services should be made: 800-392-3738. The council should be contacted by leaving a message on the voice mail of Scout executive Doug Callahan at extension 206.

REPORTING CHILD ABUSE IN MISSOURI

The law says any person having reasonable cause to believe that a child has been subjected to child abuse or acts of child abuse shall report this information immediately to the Division of Family Services (DFS). This agency accepts all allegations of child abuse and neglect by telephone and in person from all sources, including identified sources, news media, anonymous sources, sources that have incomplete information, and referrals from the child or parent themselves. Upon receiving a report of child abuse or neglect, a DFS caseworker shall investigate the allegations and take such action as is necessary to ensure the safety of the child.

IMMUNITY FROM CIVIL OR CRIMINAL LIABILITY

Any person who, pursuant to the law, reports abuse and neglect or testifies in a child abuse hearing resulting from such a report is immune from any criminal or civil liability as a result of such action.

Mission Statement of the Boy Scouts of America

To prepare young people to make ethical and moral choices over their lifetimes by instilling in them the values of the Scout Oath and Law.

The Aims of the Boy Scouts of America

- Character Development
- Citizenship Training
- Mental and Physical Fitness

Scouting helps young people grow:

- Being confident but not conceited
- Being honest with themselves and others
- Having a positive personal appearance
- Developing special skills and interests
- Taking care of themselves
- Doing their best in difficult situations
- Practicing their religious beliefs
- Showing respect for other people

Scouts are encouraged to:

- Learn about and take pride in their national heritage
- Develop an understanding of our social, economic, and governmental systems
- Be of service to others
- Have knowledge and respect for other cultures and social groups
- Be aware of community organizations and their functions.
- Understand and respect the ethnic and social relationships in their communities
- Appreciate the environment and seek to protect it.

Scouting encourages:

- Exercise and participation in vigorous activities
- Adopting healthy habits
- Keeping weight within a healthy range
- Avoiding use of tobacco, drugs, and alcohol
- Striving to be mentally awake
- Using good judgment
- Being resourceful in solving problems