

# Boy Scouts of America

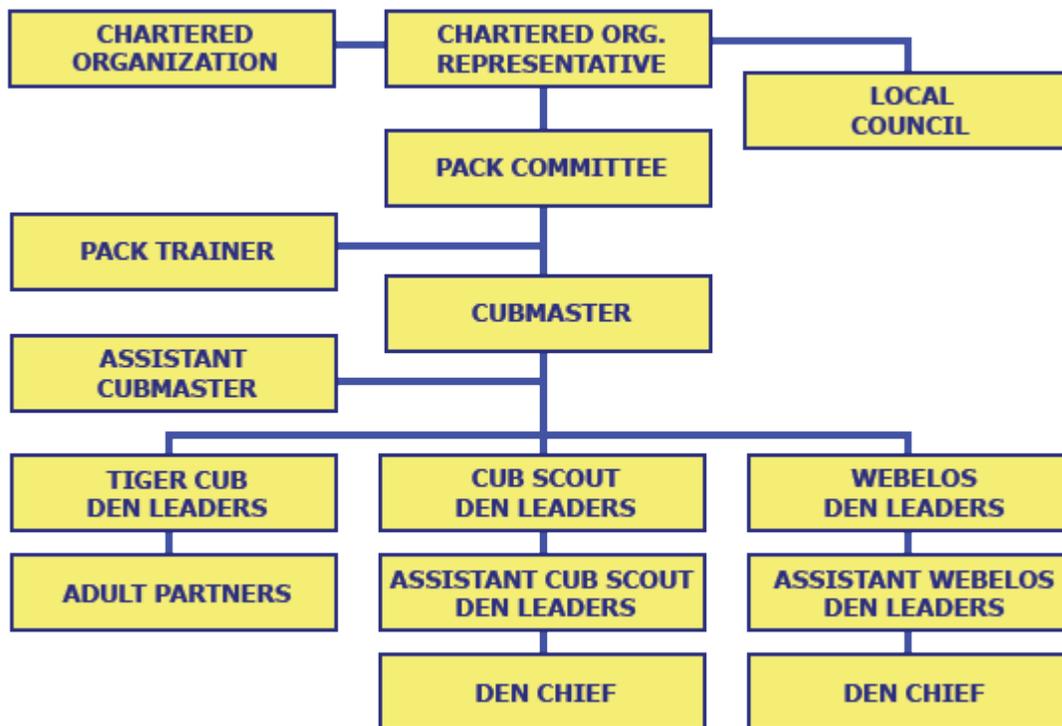
The Boy Scouts of America is one of the nation's largest and most prominent values-based youth development organizations. The BSA provides a program for young people that builds character, trains them in the responsibilities of participating citizenship, and develops personal fitness.

For nearly a century, the BSA has helped build the future leaders of this country by combining educational activities and lifelong values with fun. The Boy Scouts of America believes — and, through nearly a century of experience, knows — that helping youth is a key to building a more conscientious, responsible, and productive society.

There are four program areas within the Boy Scouts of America: Cub Scouts, for boys in first grade through fifth grade (or seven through 10 years of age); Boy Scouts, for boys who are 11 through 17 years of age, or have earned the Cub Scouting Arrow of Light award and are at least 10 years old, or have completed the fifth grade and are at least 10 years old; Varsity Scouts, for young men 14 through 17 years of age; and Venturing, for young men and women 14 (and have completed the eighth grade) through 20 years of age.

## The Cub Scout Pack

Below is an organization chart for a Cub Scout pack.



## The Chartered Organization

Every Cub Scout pack, Boy Scout troop, Varsity Scout team, and Venturing crew belongs to an organization with interests similar to those of the BSA. This organization, which might be a church, school, community organization, or group of interested citizens, receives a charter from the BSA to use the Scouting program. This chartered organization provides a suitable meeting place, adult leadership, supervision, and opportunities for a healthy Scouting life for the boys under its care.

The chartered organization helps the pack by:

- Providing the Scouting program as an integral part of its program for youth and families
- Ensuring that the Scouting program is conducted according to the policies and regulations of the organization and the Boy Scouts of America
- Selecting a chartered organization representative to serve as liaison with the pack
- Appointing a pack committee
- Providing adequate and safe facilities for the monthly pack meeting
- Providing opportunities for boys to recognize responsibility to God, to country, to other people, and to self
- Cooperating with the council in fund-raising through Friends of Scouting (FOS) and the United Way so the Scouting program can operate

## Chartered Organization Representative

---

The chartered organization representative is the direct contact between the pack and the chartered organization. This individual is also the organization's contact with the district committee and the local council. The chartered organization representative may become a member of the district committee and is a voting member of the council. If the chartered organization has more than one unit, one representative serves them all.

**Qualifications:** Is at least 21 years old, subscribes to the Declaration of Religious Principle, and agrees to abide by the Scout Oath or Promise and the Scout Law. Possesses the moral, educational, and emotional qualities that the Boy Scouts of America deems necessary to afford positive leadership to youth. Is a member of the chartered organization other than the unit leader or assistant unit leader. Is appointed by the chartered organization to serve as its official Scouting representative and is registered as an adult leader of the BSA.

**Responsibilities:** The chartered organization representative's responsibilities are to

- Help select the right leadership for the unit.
- Encourage unit leaders and committee members to take training.
- Promote well-planned unit programs.
- Serve as a liaison between the units and the organization.
- Organize enough units.
- Promote the recruiting of new members.
- See that boys transition from unit to unit.
- Help with the charter renewal.
- Suggest Good Turns for the organization.
- Encourage the unit committee to hold meetings.
- Cultivate organization leaders.
- Encourage outdoor program activities.
- Emphasize advancement and recognition.
- Utilize district help and promote the use of district personnel and materials.
- Use approved unit finance policies.
- Encourage recognition of leaders.
- Cultivate resources to support the organization.
- Represent the organization at the council level.

## The Local Council

---

Each Cub Scout pack is supported by a BSA local council, a nonprofit corporation whose voting membership may include active members at large and the chartered organization representatives of the units it serves. The council does not provide service directly to individual boys. Rather, it offers a program to chartered organizations that operate Cub Scout packs, providing a number of common resources for all packs in a specific geographic area. In some areas, councils divide their territory into districts, which provide direct-to-unit service to a smaller number of units.

Your local council and its districts support your pack by:

- Providing a support team of volunteer commissioners and professional Scouters to see that packs get the advice and help they need for pack operation
- Making council facilities and camps available
- Making program materials, literature, planning tools, and other program aids available
- Providing, through the local council service center, all required badges and insignia that packs can purchase
- Raising funds for the operation of the Scouting program
- Keeping records of pack leaders' training and pack members' advancement
- Working with the chartered organizations to offer Scouting to the greatest possible number of youth and families
- Providing training opportunities for Cub Scout leaders, including Basic Leader Training, Youth Protection training, roundtables, and other supplemental training opportunities
- Providing information on and help with membership and recruiting programs
- Providing large council activities to enhance the pack program, such as Scouting shows, Cub Scout/Webelos Scout day camp, and Cub Scout/Webelos Scout resident camp
- Providing local Scouting distributors that stock uniforms, equipment, literature, and other materials for purchase by packs and Cub Scout families
- Providing recognition and awards for leaders
- Informing packs of new resources, program materials, and policies developed by the National Council
- Representing the interests of units in the council's area by selecting representatives to serve as voting members of the National Council

## The Pack Committee

---

Every pack is under the supervision of a pack committee. This committee consists of a minimum of three members.

**Qualifications:** Is at least 21 years old, subscribes to the Declaration of Religious Principle, and agrees to abide by the Scout Oath or Promise and the Scout Law. Possesses the moral, educational, and emotional qualities that the Boy Scouts of America deems necessary to afford positive leadership to youth. Is selected by the chartered organization, and is registered as an adult leader of the BSA. One of these members is designated as pack committee chair.

Obviously, with a committee of three, members must assume responsibility for more areas of service than with a committee of seven or more, where the responsibilities can be divided among the members. Although packs can and do operate with a minimum of three committee members, experience has shown that a larger committee generally ensures a stronger, more stable pack and is better able to perform all the required functions to ensure a successful pack program. It is also a way of involving more pack families in meaningful service to the pack.

**Responsibilities:** Regardless of the size of the pack committee, these responsibilities must be performed:

- Make recommendations to the chartered organization for final approval of pack leadership.
- Recruit the Cubmaster and one or more assistant Cubmasters, with the chartered organization's approval.
- Provide adequate and safe facilities for pack meetings.
- Coordinate the pack's program and the chartered organization's program through the chartered organization representative.
- Help with pack charter renewal.
- Help stimulate the interest of adult family members through proper programming.
- Supervise finances and equipment.
- Work closely with the Cubmaster.
- Ensure that all Tiger Cubs, Cub Scouts, and Webelos Scouts receive a year-round, quality program.
- Complete pack committee Fast Start Training and Basic Leader Training for the position.
- Conduct, with the help of the Cubmaster, periodic training for parents and guardians.
- Cooperate with other Scouting units.

A strong pack committee will have individual members assigned to such areas as record keeping and correspondence, finances, advancement, training, public relations, and membership and reregistration. The pack committee chair decides how the responsibilities should be divided and gives committee members assignments.

## Helpful websites:

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <a href="http://www.scouting.org">www.scouting.org</a> | Boy Scout National website  |
| <a href="http://www.nccs-bsa.org">www.nccs-bsa.org</a> | National Catholic Committee on Scouting                                   |
| <a href="http://www.ccsala.org">www.ccsala.org</a>     | Catholic Committee on Scouting, Archdiocese of LA                         |
| <a href="http://www.vccbsa.org">www.vccbsa.org</a>     | Ventura County Council, Boy Scouts of America                             |
| <a href="http://www.praypub.org">www.praypub.org</a>   | P.R.A.Y. Publishing (site for most of the non-Catholic Religious Emblems) |