

# Pack 414

## New Parent Handbook

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### Helpful Information for New Scouting Families

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***For the most up to date information, please visit  
[www.pack414.com](http://www.pack414.com)***

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# **PACK 414**

*Chartered by Pearland Pediatrics*

## **WELCOME TO CUB SCOUTING!**



As a parent you want your son to develop into a person of strong character who will be respectful of other people, physically fit, strive for personal achievement, enjoy fun activities, be a good citizen, and express strong faith. The Boy Scouts of America (BSA) Cub Scouting Program has these same goals in mind for him. Since 1910 the Boy Scouts of America 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 life 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 fun and adventurous program which helps him to "be prepared" to shape his own future.

### **Scout Basics**

When your joins our organization, he becomes part of a Cub Scout Pack (Pack 414), which is part of the Northern Star District in the Bay Area Council (BAC). BAC is part of the larger national Boy Scouts of America organization.

The Bay Area Council serves the needs of Scouting from Pearland to Galveston. There are four 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 Bay Area Council has camping facilities (Camp Karankawa, located near Sweeny) to better serve the outdoor needs of Cubs, Scouts, Varsity Scouts, Venturers, and Explorers.

The council also maintains a service center in Galveston, 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 for our scouts.

## ***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 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.

Cub Scouting professes 12 core values that each scout should aspire to hold true in each and every part of their lives:



Help us make your son's Cub Scout experience a positive one. He will only get out of Scouting what you are willing to put into it. A scout with an active parent will almost always succeed.

## **History of Pack 414**

Cub Scout Pack 414 was founded in the summer of 1998 by Saul Pontifes, Debby Amick and Phil Amick and is chartered through Pearland Pediatrics. In 2004, our pack had grown to a rather large size, so the decision was made to split the pack, which formed our sister pack, [Pack 446](#) chartered at Epiphany Lutheran Church.

## **PACK STRUCTURE**

### **DENS**

Your scout is a member of a Den. A den has between 5 and 10 boys 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 onto 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. This is for the safety of your child, as well as the other children in the scouting organization.

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).

Den meetings usually occur once or twice a month, and often are held at various locations. It is recommended that each family in the Den host a meeting so that the Den Leader does not have to hold all of the meetings at his or her house.

### **PACKS**

The Pack is made up of several dens. Smaller packs may have only one den at each rank, while larger packs may have several dens at each rank. All dens gather one evening each 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 an opportunity for all dens to gather and share in the awards and accomplishments that the scouts have earned. Additionally, pack meetings are often made up of additional activities such as games, skits, stunts, songs, ceremonies, and formal award presentations of badges the boys earned that month.

The award ceremonies are an important part of Pack 414 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, with at least one parent, or other relative, in attendance.

### **Pack Committee**

The Pack Committee is made up of a group of volunteer adults appointed by the Chartered Organization to administer the program of the pack. Usually the committee members, as well as other pack leaders, are volunteer 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:

- 1. Plan Den and Pack Meetings around the monthly theme*
- 2. Select leaders*
- 3. Perform record keeping*
- 4. Manage the Pack's finances*

### **Chartered Organization**

The BSA does not directly sponsor or run any of its member units. Instead, the units are run by Chartered Organizations, such as schools' parent-teacher associations, religious organizations, service clubs, and other groups interested in youth. Pack 414's Chartered Organization is Pearland Pediatrics.

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:



### **TIGER CUBS**

Boys who have reached 6 years old or are entering the first grade boys get their introduction to Cub Scouting in this adult-child program. Activities at this rank require that a parent or adult leader participate along side of the Tiger Scout.



### **BOBCAT**

This is the first rank achieved by all new Cub Scouts. Tigers will work toward this badge, and will be required to earn this prior to receiving their Tiger Rank. All cub scouts are required to hold this rank prior to receiving their age-appropriate rank, regardless of where they start in the Cub Scout program.



### **WOLF**

Boys entering the second grade must complete the achievements outlined in the Wolf Handbook.



### **BEAR**

Boys entering the third grade will work on the requirements for the Bear rank as outlined in the Bear Handbook.



## WEBELOS

Webelos (pronounced **WEE**-buh-lows) stands for **"WE'll BE LOyal Scouts"**. Fourth and fifth grade Scouts work toward the Webelos badge and ultimately the Arrow of Light, which is the highest award given in Cub Scouts. The Webelos rank is usually earned during the fourth grade year, and the Arrow of Light is typically earned during their graduation ceremony in their fifth grade year. The Arrow of Light is an honorable award that prepares the Cub Scout for the journey into Boy Scouts. This award is the **ONLY** Cub Scout award that can be worn on the Boy Scout Uniform.

### **PACK REGISTRATION**

Pack 414 dues are required **ANNUALLY**, and are \$55 per scout. Of this \$55, Bay Area Council charges the Pack \$28 per Scout. The Council fee includes a subscription to Boys Life magazine. Any subsequent money needed by the pack is earned through fundraising, which usually consists of Popcorn Sales in October. Other activities may require nominal registration fees (camping, outings to public places).

Pack 414 pays the registration fees for its **GREAT** volunteer adult leaders.

### **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 are required to switch to the khaki shirt (in preparation for Boy Scouts). One bit of advice: **BUY BIG**. Your son will be wearing his Scout shirt for at least two years (and he will grow a lot!). There are several patches which should be affixed to your son's shirt and instructions are provided when you buy it (these can also be found on the inside back cover of the book for each rank).

Along with the Scout shirt, the scout's formal uniform (also called a CLASS A uniform) should include a neckerchief and slide that are specific to his rank, as well as the blue cub scout belt. Hats are optional in our pack. The Class A uniform should be worn to all official Scout functions which includes: Den meetings, Pack meetings, field trips, etc., except for those activities that might cause the uniform to get dirty or damaged. Usually for these types of events the



scout will be asked to wear a Class B uniform, which is our yellow Pack 414 T-Shirt. T-Shirts can be purchased at each Pack Meeting for a nominal fee.

A uniform inspection may take place at a Pack Meeting, so all patches should be sewn on as designated in the rank handbooks. 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 the Clear Lake Scout Shop, or at the National Scout Shop Distribution Center in Houston, located in the Sam Houston Area Council facility. Uniform parts (especially shirts) can often be found at the Salvation Army and garage sales, on Ebay.com, or by simply asking around. More information regarding the uniform for our pack can be found at [http://wiki.pack414.com/doku.php?id=uniform\\_information](http://wiki.pack414.com/doku.php?id=uniform_information)

## **PACK ACTIVITIES**

The goal of Pack 414 is to instill the characteristics of Scouting in our children, but do so while encouraging fun. The Pack offers many activities throughout the year, and even into the Summer. As always, refer to the Pack 414 website ([www.pack414.com](http://www.pack414.com)) for the latest information and calendar of events. Some of the activities that our Pack has participated in include:

**Cub-O-Ree** – an annual weekend camping trip that is designed to provide many rank-specific activities and opportunities to earn belt loops (discussed later). This is generally held in the fall and is great for the entire family. Please note that camping supplies will be required, and will NOT be supplied by the Pack or Council. It is up to each family to bring camping supplies.

**Rocket Launch** – usually held in the Fall – an activity where Scouts build a model rocket and get to launch it

**Camping trips** – usually we plan 2-3 trips per year, aiming for cooler months and trying to avoid the rain. Again, campers will be responsible for their own supplies.

**Popcorn Sales (our major fundraiser)** – selling popcorn is necessary to keeping the Pack financially sound. Pack 414 requires that you sell \$100 worth of popcorn (sorry, there is no BUYOUT option – the supplier does not allow for this). There are many awards and prizes for selling popcorn. Details are provided when the popcorn sales forms are given out in September or October.

**Blue and Gold Banquet** – this is an annual event in January or February that is designed to celebrate the birthday of Cub Scouting. We usually have a celebration with scout families, where we come together and have a sit down

meal and present awards.

**Pinewood Derby** – this is an annual event that is typically held in January in which the Scouts get a piece of pinewood, and get to create a car to race. There are usually a couple of workshops held prior to the race in which the Scouts can use appropriate tools to prepare their cars for racing.

**Community Service project** – Pack 414 does several service projects throughout the year, which includes Keeping Pearland Beautiful by picking up trash along CR90 and in front of Silverlake Elementary. You may not have noticed, but Pack 414 is listed on the “Keep Pearland Beautiful” sign on CR 90 in front of the CVS Pharmacy!

**Summertime events** – includes Twilight Camp (an afternoon day camp loaded with activities), overnight camping, and other interesting activities.

See our Pack website, [www.pack414.com](http://www.pack414.com), for pictures and details on these and other activities.

## **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 PARENT'S RESPONSIBILITY TO REPORT AWARDS TO THE DEN LEADER OR DESIGNATED AWARDS CHAIRMAN.** Please make sure your Scout receives all the awards he has worked so hard to earn. All awards are on the honor system; there is no test given. To make these awards easier to track, there are some Excel spreadsheets called Tiger Trax, Wolf Trax, Bear Trax, and Webelos Trax that can be found through links listed on the Pack 414 website. You are highly encouraged to track your Scout's progress through each rank.

Cub Scouts may earn awards and recognition in several special areas. Awards such as the World Conservation Award, Good Turn Award, and Summertime Den Award are usually done as den projects. Additionally, there are awards for Leave No Trace and the Outdoor Activity Award that can be earned through typical rank achievement activity.

The Sports and Academic Program allows the scouts to earn belt loops and pins in various subjects. These belt loops are like all awards are earned in the



present. To earn an award you should discuss with your son the requirements of the award and then complete the requirements. A guide of all the belt loop and pin requirements is available from the pack, as well a link on the Pack's website. Using past experience is not fulfilling the requirements, and an experience should not be doubled to count for more than one award (with some exceptions such as World Conservation, Leave No Trace, and Outdoor Activity). PLEASE NOTE – Scouts may achieve a belt loop more than once, however, the Pack will only pay for the award once.

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.

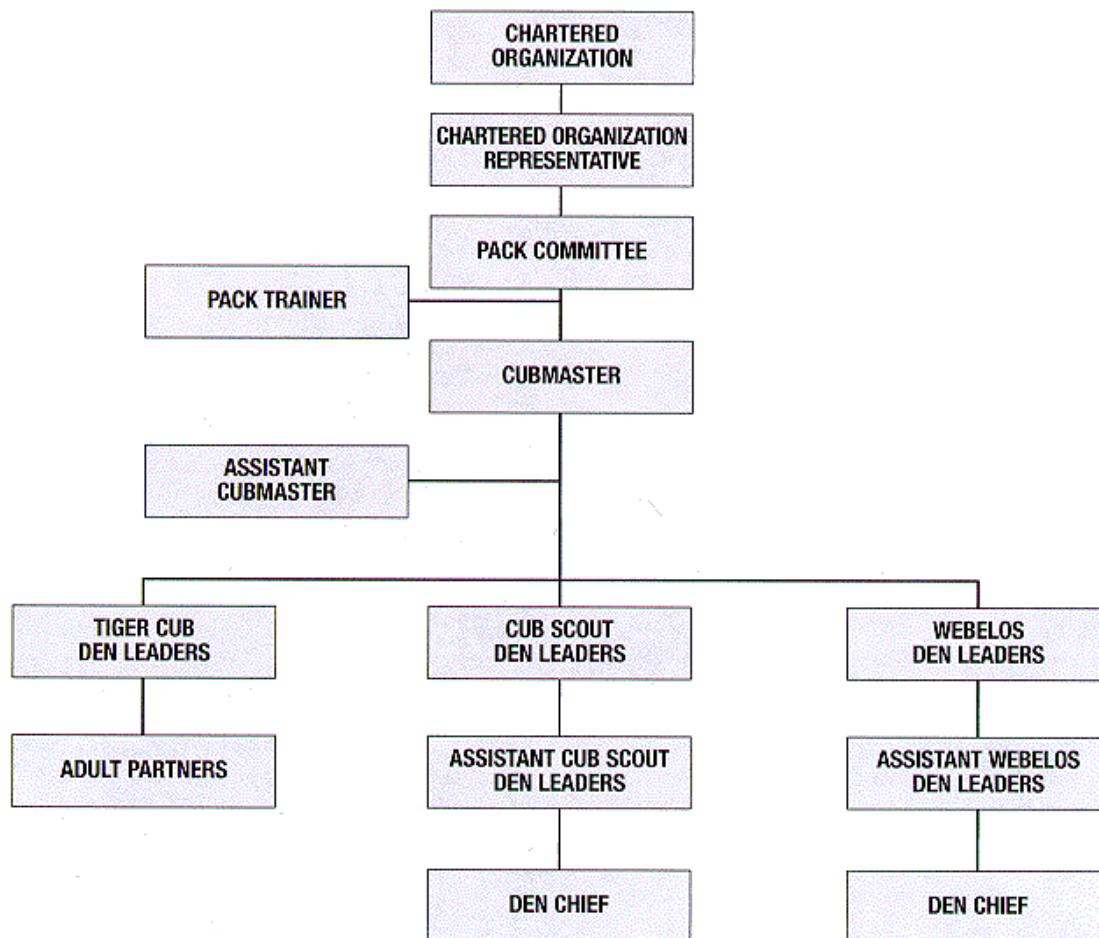
## **PACK VOLUNTEER STRUCTURE**

The Pack is run SOLELY by volunteer parents. None of the following positions are paid positions, and the success of the Pack is completely dependent on high parent participation. The Pack is continuously looking for future volunteer leaders, as the parents that are leaders today will eventually graduate with their child to Boy Scouts. If you are interested in volunteering your time to the Pack, please visit one of the current Pack Committee members. Volunteering gets you involved in the Pack, requires little more than a couple of hours of time per month, and helps ensure the success of the Pack.

### ***Pack Committee:***

Pack committee members are responsible for the administrative functions of the Cub Scout pack. The organizational chart is shown below, and the descriptions of the positions follow.

### **PACK ORGANIZATION CHART**



***Committee Chairman:***

Presides at all pack committee meetings; helps recruit adult leaders; also attends pack meetings and the District's monthly roundtable meetings.

***Cubmaster:***

Helps plan and carry out the pack program with the help of the Pack Committee; organizes and holds the monthly Pack Meeting and attends the pack leaders' meeting and the District's monthly roundtable meeting.

***Assistant Cubmaster:***

Assists the Cubmaster in holding Pack Meetings, at Pack Events, and fills in for the Cubmaster if necessary.

***Secretary:***

Keeps all records for the pack, minutes for the committee, and attends pack meetings and pack committee meetings.

***Treasurer:***

Keeps the finances for the Pack, and is responsible for preparing a financial statement for the Pack Committee. Additionally, the Treasurer maintains the bank account and collect money from the Scout families, as well as writing checks for Pack expenses.

***Awards Chair/Advancement Chair:***

Maintains advancement records, orders and obtains all badges and insignia, and attends pack meetings and pack committee meetings.

***Pack Trainer:***

Meets with the Pack Committee and Den Leaders to plan Pack programs, ensures that pack leaders are trained in their positions, and attends pack meetings, pack committee meetings, and roundtable meetings to learn about district and council training opportunities.

***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.

***Tiger Cub Den Leader:***

Helps the Pack's Tiger Cub den(s) stay active and participate in the pack. Since the Tiger Program is very family-centered, the role of the Tiger Cub Den Leader is to coordinate activities and to schedule parents to run meetings, according to their talents.

### ***Parent Helpers:***

Parents act as floating leaders. These positions are outside of the scope of the Pack Committee, but are essential to the success of the program. These functions are typically one-time jobs such as coordinating pack participation in events; Pinewood Derby; Blue and Gold Banquet; pack graduation and Camp leaders. These are jobs are short in duration and are generally ad hoc in nature.

## **LEADER TRAINING**

Becoming a Pack Leader is relatively simple and requires just a little training. Some of this training has been moved to an online format. Please visit our Pack website for training opportunities, or speak with the Pack Trainer.

## **PACK COMMUNICATION**

Our Pack is one of the larger packs in the District and Council. Therefore, it is essential that we communicate effectively. To do so, Pack 414 has embraced the use of the Internet, specifically our Pack website and email. If you are new to our pack and do not have an email address, we encourage you to look into getting a free email address so that you can receive notification of Pack activities as well as communication at the Den level. You can find free email accounts through Yahoo, MSN, or Google.

Our website is designed to provide Pack families with information about the Pack, the activities, and useful resources to help Scouts make it through their ranks. We encourage you to check the website often, as it is continually being updated. As the robustness of technology improves, we will be taking advantage of the website to do more of our administrative functions such as event sign up, registration, etc.

## **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 make every effort to keep our scouts and their families safe in our programs.

## **INCLEMENT WEATHER**

The general policy for inclement weather (flood, snow, etc.) is if the Pearland

schools close then all Scout activities are also cancelled. If the Scouts must be cancelled after schools normally let out, we will email the pack. Your Den leader may also decide to cancel a den activity. Each den will have its own procedure to communicate among den members.

If you do not hear from your Den Leader, and you think it is too dangerous to travel, please stay home. We do not want people on the roads during bad weather.

## **CONTACT INFORMATION**

### **Pack Web Page**

<http://www.pack414.com>

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