



8th Ajax Cub Scouts

P A R E N T S ' G U I D E



It starts with Scouts.

www.8thAjax.ca/cubs ◇ cubs@8thAjax.ca

Welcome to 8th Ajax's Cub Scout Program! Scouting is the world's largest youth organization, with over 25 million members in almost every country in the world. This guide is a brief overview to Cub Scouts to help everyone become familiar with the terminology, traditions, and opportunities that exist in the 8th Ajax Cub Pack. **At any time, please feel free to email or approach a Scouter with questions, concerns, or ideas.**

Just Starting the World of Scouting?

Boys and girls in Grades 3, 4, and 5 can join Cub Scouts at any time of the year. Regular meetings and outings occur from mid-September until mid-June and are based out of the gymnasium at Westney Heights Public School at 45 Brennan Road in Ajax on Tuesday evenings between 6:30 and 8:00 pm. **Please check the calendar on our website for details and exceptions.**

In order to register, please complete a Participant Enrollment Form, pay the registration fee, and purchase a suitably fitting grey Cub Scout Sweater (online at www.ScoutShop.ca or in Person at Camp Samac – 1711 Simcoe Street North in Oshawa. Additional optional Cub Scout clothing and accessories (grey t-shirt and hat and more) are also available.) The registration fee enables the various groups and councils of Scouts Canada to develop program resources, provide training and support for the Scouters, and provide insurance coverage for all registered members. To help 8th Ajax pay for supplies, badges, and some of the outings, a \$2 per week “dues” will be collected (payable at each meeting or can be prepaid). If an outing costs a lot of money, a supplement for that particular activity may be required.

After a few meetings (which includes learning the Cub Scout law, promise, and motto) the new Cub Scout will be “invested” receive a series of crests for the sweater, along with a neckerchief and woggle (see the diagram at right for the placement of the crests). Earned badges and awards as pictured on the diagram can be attached to the sweater, but note that some badges are keepsakes only and can be attached to a “Scout Blanket” or similar memorabilia collector.



In order to be effective, the Cub Scout program needs adults with a variety of expertise – please approach a current Scouter to indicate your interest in helping out. We will be glad to help you through the volunteer screening process.



Cub Scout Law:

I promise to do my best
To love and serve God, to do my duty to the Queen;
To keep the law of the Wolf Cub pack,
And to do a good turn for somebody every day.

Cub Scout Promise:

The Cub respects the Old Wolf *, The Cub respects himself.
* (an "Old Wolf" refers to a Scouter or any respected adult)

Cub Scout Motto: Do Your Best

The **mission** of Scouting is to contribute to the education of young people, through a value system based on the Scout Promise and Law, to help build a better world where people are self-fulfilled as individuals and play a constructive role in society.

Scouting is based on three broad **principles** which represent its fundamental beliefs:

- **Duty to God:** This is defined as: "Adherence to spiritual principles, loyalty to the religion that expresses them and acceptance of the duties resulting therefrom."
- **Duty to Others:** This is defined as: "loyalty to one's country in harmony with the promotion of local, national and international peace, understanding and cooperation", and, "participation in the development of society, with recognition and respect for the dignity of one's fellow-being and for the integrity of the natural world."
- **Duty to Self:** This is defined as: "responsibility for the development of oneself." This is in harmony with the educational purpose of the Scout Movement whose aim is to assist young people in the full development of their potentials.

In order to fulfill Scouting's principles and mission, the Cub Scout program is geared specifically to meet the developmental needs of most 8-10 year olds. The program emphasizes activities which encourage Cub Scouts to:

- express and respond to God's love in their daily lives,
- do their best,
- keep fit,
- satisfy their curiosity, and need for adventure and new experiences,
- be creative and develop a sense of accomplishment,
- make choices,
- develop a sense of fair play, trust and caring,
- work together in small groups, and experience being a Scouter,
- participate in outdoor activities, and
- learn about the natural world and their part in it.

"Do Your Best" nicely sums up the approach to activities described in *The Cub Book*. Cub Scouts need adult support and approval as they play, learn and discover. Children need this for building self-esteem and self-confidence. It is critical for them to feel a sense of accomplishment for what they did, rather than being taught that only winning counts. Scouting believes that Cub Scouts who "do their best" in any activity deserve equal recognition and praise.

How Packs are Organized

The Wolf Cub theme is based on Rudyard Kipling's *The Jungle Book*. It provides a sense of outdoor adventure and fantasy that appeals to a Cub Scout's imaginative mind. The "pack" refers to all members in your child's Cub Scout program. Within the pack, Cub Scouts are broken into small groups called "lairs".

The primary adult Scouter of the pack is referred to as "Akela" - the name of the old wolf and leader of the pack in *The Jungle Book*. Other Scouters take a "jungle name" such as Baloo (the bear), or Bagheera (the panther). Your pack may also have a Scout who works with the Cub Scouts. Older Cub Scouts are sometimes invited to work with a Beaver colony.

The Scouters in your Cub Scout's pack are supported by a group committee. The committee is responsible for ensuring the programs offered meet Scouts Canada's guidelines and that the pack has enough resources to operate effectively. The group committee represents a sponsor which is the overall partner with Scouts Canada. Sponsors are typically community centres, clubs, religious institutions, or parent groups. The sponsor works closely with Scouts Canada to ensure Scouting programs and resources are meeting the needs of all its youth and adult members.

After learning a bit about Cub Scouts, your child will be ready to become "invested", or formally welcomed, into the pack. You will be invited to attend the "investiture ceremony" to help welcome your child into the Cub pack.

Your Role in Cubbing

Scouting is a family-based organization. Activities we offer, plus the values and skills we provide, are aimed at supporting your efforts to teach your child what is needed to become a well-rounded person. Your personal involvement is important to help reinforce the lessons your Cub Scout learns. Here are some suggestions to help you become involved:

- Sit down with your child and login to Scouts Tracker together. What activities do you find interesting or appealing? How could you work on these activities as a family?
- Find out what activities Scouters plan to run in your child's pack. Most Scouters set aside time at the first meeting to ask Cub Scouts what they would like to do. They draw up program plans from the children's input.
- Get to know Scouters by their real names. Too often parents only know Scouters by their "jungle" names. Scouters are truly interested in your child's welfare. Tell them what your child likes to do. This will help them plan fun activities.
- If your Cub Scout is interested in working on an activity outside of the meeting, or you want to make it a family project, talk over your plans with the Scouters. They can provide useful tips and tell you how well it fits into the weekly programs.
- Your talents, hobbies and interests are great program assets worth sharing with children. Find out how you can become a resource for the pack's programs. This will let you spend valuable time with your child and share experience. Cub Scouts really enjoy showing off for an adult family member who attends a meeting. This sense of pride helps strengthen

adult-child relations. When your child joins Cub Scouts, you become part of the pack's support team.

- Become a Scouter. Scouts Canada offers up-to-date training and resource materials. Leadership is fun and exciting. You will be with your Cub Scout during a special time and see him (or her) develop and grow before your eyes. As well, the friendship and camaraderie you'll share with other parents can lead to long-lasting relationships and memories.

Helping Cub Scouts Stay Safe and Healthy

A child's health and safety are the most important issues facing any parent. The world is quickly changing and the stress on today's Cub Scout is growing daily. The Wolf Cub program has specific activities which help a child explore important social issues, such as alcohol and drug abuse, smoking and personal safety. Take the opportunity to discuss these issues openly. It is a perfect chance to share your insights, values and experience with your child.

Investiture

When a child joins Cub Scouts, he/she is a Tenderpad, the term used to describe a young wolf cub. Tenderpads are placed in a lair when they attend their first Cub Scout meeting. They may wear the Cub Scout sweater right away, but not the neckerchief as it will be presented to them when they are invested. To become a full-fledged Cub Scout, a Tenderpad must know the Cub Scout Promise, Law, and Salute, and the opening and closing ceremonies. Parents/Guardians are invited to participate in the investiture ceremony. This is an important event in the life of a Cub Scout – it is even more special if the Cub Scout's parents/guardians are present to witness the ceremony.

Program Badges

Scouts Tracker will introduce your child participation within the different activity areas. While your Cub Scout will only see the fun and excitement the activities present, each area focuses on a clear purpose and goal. The purpose and goals for each activity area set out how the activities are relevant to today's child while meeting developmental needs.

Outdoor Adventure Skill badges, which are earned in stages and continue with youth from one section to the next. These mark progress in gaining specific competencies within the Outdoor Adventure Skill areas. Only the highest stage achieved in any particular skill area is worn on the uniform.



Paddling



Aquatics



Emergency Aid



Winter Skills



Camping



Trail



Vertical Skills



Sailing



Scoutcraft

Personal Achievement badges, which are earned individually by youth who choose to make this part of their Canadian Path journey in Beaver Scouts, Cub Scouts, and Scouts.



Personal Progression badges, which fit with the section framework and are presented following the year-end review with the youth.



The **Seeonee Award** is the Top Section Award for a Cub Scout. It marks the culmination and completion of a successful Cub Scout journey. At the end of Cub Scouts, youth will have an opportunity to reflect on their personal journey and Outdoor Adventure Skills attained. They will volunteer hours of service and develop a project that serves their community.

Canadian Path Link Badges - Youth who have participated in a section, and are ready to move up to the next section, will receive a Canadian Path Link badge to wear on the next section's uniform.



Cub Scout Terminology

Grand Howl - The ceremony most commonly used in Cub Scouts to begin and end a meeting. The Grand Howl represents wolves gathered around the council rock to howl a welcome to Akela, the old wolf.

Group - Encompasses all sections, the group committee and partner covered by its charter.

Group Committee - The administrative body acting on behalf of the partner who holds the charter for your group.

Group Commissioner - The volunteer responsible for the operation of the group.

Lair - A subdivision of the pack made up of five or six Cub Scouts.

Leadership Team - The group of leaders who deliver the program to your Cub Scouts. It can include adult Scouters, Scouts, Venturer Scouts, Scouters-in-Training, activity leaders and older Cub Scouts

Pack – Cub Scouts and Scouters organized as one unit under a group charter (e.g., a Cub pack or the 8th Ajax Cub Pack).

ScoutsTracker is the easiest way to do Scouts Canada badge and event tracking. It always has the latest versions of the badges and awards, and the requirements for those are automatically calculated and updated. The percentage complete for each badge is shown, so that youth can see in a flash which badges they are close to completing, and which need more work.

Section - One of divisions of Scouting programs – Beaver Scouts (5-7), Cub Scouts (8-10), Scouts (11-14), Venturer Scouts (15-17), and Rover Scouts (18-26). Each section has a separate, but inter-related, program.

Shared Leadership - The style of leadership that shares the responsibilities for developing, delivering, and administering Cubbing's programs.

Totem - A figure of a wolf's head on a stand, usually made from plywood or scrap materials.

The Grand Howl

The Grand Howl is the jungle ceremony that is used most often. Cub Scouts salute their Scouter (Akela or any other invested Scouter) with the Grand Howl at the beginning and end of every meeting. They also welcome new Cub Scouts and Scouters with the Grand Howl and use it to say goodbye to Cub Scouts who are leaving the pack.

1. Akela or another Scouter stands in the centre of the hall and calls out, "Pack!" – the signal for Cub Scouts to freeze.
2. The Scouter then calls out, "Pack, Pack, Pack!" The Cub Scouts respond by shouting a long drawn-out "P-a-a-a-a-ck!" as they run to form a circle in lairs. They stand shoulder-to-shoulder around the Scouter.
3. After the Scouter nods, Cub Scouts take three paces back to form a circle and stand at alert.
4. A Cub Scout is then asked to bring the totem into the centre and places it on a stand to the right of the Scouter.
5. After the Scouter nods again, the Cub Scout who brought the totem to the centre raises hands over his or her head and drops to a squat position with knees wide apart. At the same time the Cub Scout lowers his or her hands to touch the floor in front with the first two fingers of each hand, fingers closed.
6. The other Cub Scouts follow his or her lead and go into the same squat, without first raising their hands over their heads. All Cub Scouts raise their heads and look upwards, as though ready to howl like wolves.
7. All Cub Scouts then howl, "Ah-Kay-Lah, W-e-e-e'll D-o-o-o, O-u-u-u-r BEST!" (where all words are drawn out except the last, putting equal stress on each syllable. "BEST" is a short, sharp bark.)
8. At the word "BEST," the Cub Scouts jump up to stand at alert with the first and second fingers of both hands pointing upward at each side of their head like wolves' ears. While the pack stands in this position, the lead Cub Scout challenges them to Do Your Best by calling a loud, drawn-out "D-Y-Y-Y-B, D-Y-Y-Y-B, D-Y-Y-Y-B, D-Y-Y-Y-B!" (pronounced "DIB", it means "Do Your Best").
9. After the fourth D-Y-Y-Y-B, the Scouter makes the Cub salute, the Cub Scouts drop their left hands, make the Cub salute with the right, and call out, "W-e-e-e'll DOB, DOB, DOB, DOB!" (Do Our Best. The DOBS are four short, sharp barks.)
10. After the fourth DOB, all Cub Scouts drop their right hands to their sides. The Grand Howl is complete.

Announcements, instructions, investitures, etc. can then follow.

Typical Cub Scout Meeting Format

Special guests and certain activities may vary the routine, but a typical pack meeting might look something like this...

6:20 pm Cub Scouts start to arrive, set up lairs, chat with Scouters, join a game. Duty lair sets up pack equipment.

6:30 pm Opening circle: flag break, Grand Howl, announcements, meet in Lairs...

6:45 pm Activity

7:05 pm Game

7:20 pm Activity

7:40 pm Game

7:55 pm Closing circle: award badges, announce coming events, Grand Howl, flag lowering.

Please ensure Cub Scouts arrive properly prepared for the program and activities scheduled for the evening or outing.

- Cub Scouts should arrive and depart from all meetings and outings in full uniform.
- When we are in the gym, indoor running shoes are required. **No outdoor footwear is to enter the gym** – either on Cub Scouts or their parents or guardians.
- When we are outside, appropriate shoes / boots and coat / hat / mitts are required, depending on the weather.

Typical Cub Scout Yearly Overview

While the specific events and activities that occur each year will vary depending on Cub Scout interest, Scouter expertise, and availability of resources, here is a glimpse of some of the activities that happen over the course of the year in Cub Scouts.

Themed Meetings: often arranged around badge work of a particular activity area.

Outings: Santa Claus Parade, Hikes, Campfires, Kub Kars (with many other Cub Scout groups), and Sports (going swimming, skating, etc. *plus watching* hockey, basketball, etc.).

Camps: An All Section Camp, a joint Beaver-Cub Camp, a joint Cub-Scout-Camp, and Cuboree (with many other Cub Scout groups).

