

Cub Scout Pack 317

Participant & Family Handbook

Chartered to:

American Legion Leon Burson Post 395
Plano, Illinois

Affiliated with:

Potawatomi District
Three Fires Council
Boy Scouts of America



Second Edition - August 2022



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A Brief Summary of Scouting and the Cub Scout Program

Scouting has been around a long time. The Boy Scouts of America was founded in 1910 and became federally chartered with the United States in 1916. Cub Scouting was created in 1930 to extend the Scouting experience to younger boys (and expanded to girls in 2018). It is a year-round family orientated program for children who are in elementary school (Kindergarten through 5th Grade). Millions of children have worn the uniform, cooked over an open fire at a campsite, earned their Bobcat, raced their Pinewood Derby cars, worked on service projects, and made new friends under the umbrella of Scouting. Flowing underneath all this fun and excitement is a character-building program that encourages making good ethical choices, family strengthening, physical fitness, and citizenship skills in the lives of our youth.

Scouting utilizes an advancement system that requires a child to “Do Their Best” to fulfill and complete the requirements outlined in their handbook so that they may earn their rank badge. After receiving their badge, these Scouts can go on to earn other awards by completing a series of electives. Please keep in mind that although there are lots of awards and recognitions in Scouting, Pack 317 will strive towards the end that these are earned through significant, meaningful methods that your child will remember for a long time.



The Lion program is a family-oriented program that encourages youth to learn and explore through hands-on, high-energy activities. Adult partners take turns leading a den meeting or activity during the year.

At the, Tiger, Wolf, and Bear ranks; Cub Scouting centers around monthly themes that have lots of appeal to children at this age. During den meetings, Scouts will be playing games, building craft projects, etc. relating to each theme. In doing so, these children will be improving on different skills as they learn to get along with others, become more resourceful, and participate in new activities and venues.

At the Webelos level, in lieu of the monthly theme, Scouts are introduced to several diverse Activity Pins. After earning their Webelos badge, Webelos Scouts continue to earn additional activity badges and gain new knowledge and skills in these areas.

For Arrow of Light, though maybe still earning Activity Badges, these Scouts also begin focusing on completing other requirements for their Arrow of Light award and will be conducting activities with various Scout Troops.



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General Information

Who is Pack 317? We are a great group of Cub Scouts and adult leaders dedicated to serving both boys and girls in our community that are in Kindergarten through Fifth Grade. Pack 317 is an experienced Pack, established in 1966, and sponsored by the American Legion Leon Burson Post 395 in Plano, IL. The members of our Pack take great pride in serving our community for 55 years!

Pack 317 is first and above all a "parent-run" organization. What does this mean to us? First, parents are encouraged to participate alongside their Cub Scout: attend our meetings, decide on our activities, handle training, and take care of each other on activities. The adults in our Pack are responsible to ensure that the program adheres to BSA standards, that the atmosphere is safe and constructive, and to coach and mentor the boys as needed. The best Scout program is one in which the adults appear to be doing the least.

Besides Scouting, our Scouts tend to be involved in many diverse activities ranging from sports to music. Most manage extremely busy schedules and our Pack accommodates these other interests as long as the Scout makes a good-faith effort to active and communicate any conflicts.

Pack 317 follows a 'Scout year' that follows the school calendar. Upon nearing the end of the school term, all the Scouts who have completed their adventure trail will 'cross over' into the next rank. During the summer, Den meeting work on achievements may be suspended as the Pack will meet monthly at fun activities such as a bowling derby, fishing derby, kite derby, baseball game, Pack swim, etc. that goes toward the Scouts earning their Summertime Award pin.

There are many, many events offered in Scouting. In addition to the events at Den meetings, Pack 317 will have family camping trips, Space Derby races, Pinewood Derby races, Rain Gutter Regatta Boat races, a Blue and Gold dinner, and much more! In addition to local Pack events, there are Potawatomi District events, which unites us with hundreds of Scouts, and Three Fires Council events that can have thousands of Scouts in attendance. Your participation at these functions will add to your child's Scouting experience.

The mission statement and the objectives of Scouting represent the goals of the Scouting movement. These are important, but children don't join Scouting because they want to develop their character and sense of citizenship. To them, Scouting is fun and adventure. It's ropes, camping, cooking, hiking, climbing, knives, fire, canoeing, wilderness, teamwork, rain and shine, snow and ice, mud and dust, and of course, plenty noisy! A good Scouting program uses the outdoors as a workshop to build the Scouts' self-esteem through mastery of skills, self-reliance, and leadership development. Of course, there is a lot of fun in the process!

There are also many things that Cub Scouting is not. There is no hazing, bullying, intimidation or fighting in Scouting. These behaviors will not be tolerated. No active Scout will be excluded unless they violate the Scout Oath. More information can be found in the Behavior and Conduct section.



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Cub Scouting and Parents

A successful Pack involves many ingredients – a responsive chartered organization, a challenging and rewarding program, dedicated and knowledgeable adult leaders, adequate resources, supportive program, but most importantly it involves interested and motivated Cub Scouts.

The quality of our program, and your child's Scouting experience, is dependent on the active participation of a significant number of our parents. **Our adult volunteers have other career and family responsibilities in addition to their Scouting roles and relying on only a few to maintain our program is unrealistic.** Being directly involved in our Pack gives every parent a great opportunity to spend time with their child, who may start the program as a five-year-old child but finish it as an eleven-year-old preteen.

General Information

There are many ways for you to assist your child in Scouting. There are a variety of roles for adults within our Pack. (In this booklet, "parent" signifies both parents and legal guardians.) Parents may wish to become trained Scouting volunteers ("Scouters"), who work directly with the children, especially on their advancement activities. Scouters assist in training and accompany the Scouts on their activities. Other parents who are interested in the outdoors may wish to become involved in driving or participating in activities. Parents less interested in the outdoors may serve on our Pack Committee. Pack Committee Members provide support necessary for the smooth operation of our Pack program. Of course, the most important way to help your child is to foster their interest and participation in Scouting and encourage their rank advancement.

Scouter Opportunities

A Scouter is any adult who is registered with BSA, wears the tan BSA shirt, gets fully trained for their position, and becomes directly involved with helping the Scouts complete their program. Adults are responsible for making sure a safe and constructive environment is maintained. Scouters are not just men - women are encouraged to become involved in our Pack program. In addition to Youth Protection Training, all Scouters should complete required Leader Specific Training, BALOO/Outdoor Leader Skills Training, and are encouraged to complete further Scouting training through Training Academy, Wood Badge, and other classes. Here are brief role descriptions for adult positions within our Pack:

CUBMASTER

The Cubmaster is the guiding hand behind the work of the other pack leaders and serves as the program advisor to the pack committee. He or she is a recruiter, supervisor, director, planner, and motivator of other leaders.

ASSISTANT CUBMASTER(S)

These assistants work to assist the Cubmaster in preparing and carrying-out the Pack's activities.



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CHARTERED ORGANIZATION REPRESENTATIVE

Maintains the relationship with the Plano American Legion to ensure needs of chartering organization are understood and met by our Pack.

PACK COMMITTEE

Our Pack Committee supports the operation of our Pack and supports the Cubmaster. They make important Pack policy decisions and provide necessary resources to our Pack. Scouters perform some of these roles, but most are filled by other adults. Here are some brief descriptions:

PACK COMMITTEE CHAIR

Leads our Pack Committee, coordinates their activities, and recruits new adult volunteers. The Chair is the primary liaison between the Potawatomi District, Three Fires Council, and Pack 317. They ensure Pack representation at monthly roundtables and arrange for the annual charter review.

COMMITTEE MEMBER – TREASURER

Handles Pack finances and keeps the books. Maintains the Scout accounts. Issues regular reports on Pack finances. Issues reimbursement checks for Pack expenses.

COMMITTEE MEMBER – SECRETARY

Takes notes at the committee meetings and issues minutes to Committee Members.

COMMITTEE MEMBER – TRAINING COORDINATOR

Maintains Pack training records and follows up with adults who need to update/renew their training. Works to ensure that all Pack training needs are met and logged accurately to facilitate safe activities and timely tour plan filing. Presents qualified candidates to district/council for recognition.

COMMITTEE MEMBER – ADVANCEMENT COORDINATOR

Maintains our Pack's advancement records. Works with Den Leaders to ensure Scout advancement is on track for annual completion and crossing over to the next rank.

COMMITTEE MEMBER – RECRUITMENT COORDINATOR

Maintains communication between our Pack and local schools to ensure smooth communication from the Pack to area families and stimulate year-round membership flow into our Pack. Plans Pack open houses in the fall. Provides new families with a copy of our Pack Handbook as well as contact information for Pack leadership.

COMMITTEE MEMBER – FUNDRAISING COORDINATOR

Coordinate the fall Trails End popcorn sale, winter Treasure Bread sale, and other fundraising events.

COMMITTEE MEMBER – AT-LARGE

Attends monthly committee meetings and participates in the planning of activities and addressing of the Packs' needs.



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Family Participation in Pack 317 Activities

We are a family Pack. We welcome all members of your family to participate in our activities. Some activities may require an additional per-person fee to participate, however most of our activities are free-for-all.

Adult Training Requirements

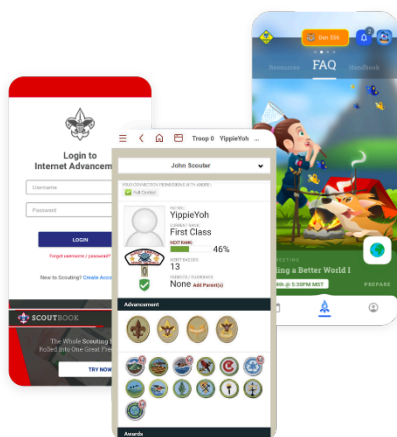
All adults attending an activity or driving Scouts to or from an activity must have Youth Protection Training (YPT). The Youth Protection program is a set of standards, guidelines, and training developed by the Boy Scouts of America to eliminate opportunities for the abuse of youth members.

Parent Expectations

When a family joins the Cub Scouts, they are frequently not aware of the obligations and responsibilities they must accept which are vital to a successful Scouting experience. Listed below for your information are the main expectations for parents in our Pack. While the Scouts are constantly reminded of these responsibilities during Pack meetings and other activities, your assistance in assuring that these expectations are understood by your child would be appreciated.

Online Resources

We utilize Scoutbook to track your child's progress through Scouting. This database can be accessed at <https://scoutbook.scouting.org>.



SCOUT BOOK

Scoutbook Parent Tutorial Site:

<https://help.scoutbook.scouting.org/knowledge-base/scoutbook-tutorial-for-parents/>

To keep current with what is happening in the Pack, frequently check our online resources:

- o Scoutbook – <https://scoutbook.scouting.org/>
- o Facebook – <https://www.facebook.com/Pack317PlanoLL>
- o Website – <http://www.pack317plano.org>



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- We ask that all parents and their Scouts attend all Pack meetings. In Cub Scouts, the expectation is that parents will always supervise their children and be on time. It is not fair to the others who are participating in your Pack meetings, den meetings, and other events if you are late. In some cases, your tardiness may be holding up an entire group.
- Show respect to your fellow Scouts (youth) and Scouters (adults).
- Wear the designated uniform at meetings and designated activities in a neat well-groomed manner. See the Cub Scout Handbook for uniform requirements.
 - Camouflage clothing and fatigues are not appropriate.
 - If special clothing is appropriate for an activity, Scouts will be informed in advance.
- Keep your child's handbook up-to-date and bring it to all meetings.
- Return permission slips and registration fees for Pack activities on time.
- Treat all meeting facilities with care and respect.
 - Many of these facilities offer their space for free and we need to leave the areas better than we found them.
 - **DAMAGE BY OUR SCOUTS IS COMPLETELY UNACCEPTABLE!** This means no climbing in trees, playing with microphones, playing in the restrooms, etc.
- Scouts should not bring electronic devices or other items that are hazardous or distracting to any meeting or activity.
 - Knives are permitted for Bears, Webelos, and AOL who have earned their Whittling Chip. They should be only brought to events as requested by den leaders.
 - Lions, Tigers, and Wolves should **NEVER** have a knife.
- Use the Buddy System at all meetings or activities and conduct oneself as a best example of the fine Scouts in Pack 317.



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Uniforms, Patches, and Accessories

Scouts in uniform are more conscious of their role in Cub Scouting and feel a sense of pride and belonging when wearing one. A uniform provides a proper place for the display of the badges earned and a way for them to showcase to others what has been rewarded for their achievements. In addition, Scouts in uniform create a strong, positive, visible image in the community that helps to strengthen the important ties between the public and the SC activity organization.

Where to Buy

Uniforms, patches, and accessories are available at both the St. Charles Scout Shop and Naperville Scout Shop.

Norris Scout Center & Scout Shop

415 N 2nd St
St. Charles, IL 60174
(630) 584-9250

National Supply Division Scout Shop

4S100 IL Route 59
Naperville, IL 60563
(630) 791-8342

Occasionally, the Pack might have some 'experienced' uniforms for sale. Please see the Cubmaster for details.

Shirts and Pants (or Shorts)

Lions (Kindergarten) are required to wear the Lion Cub Scout T-Shirt. All other Scouts are required to wear the Official Uniform shirt; as it displays the rank of the Scout, and identifies them as belonging to a certain Den, Pack and Council. When purchasing a new uniform, remember that your child is growing and it may be wise to get an extra size or two larger, so they can wear it for multiple years. Our Pack does not require participants to purchase the official Cub Scout pants or shorts. Scouts are required to wear solid blue pants or shorts (blue jeans are acceptable).

Pack 317 also has an Activity Uniform ("Class B") shirt for sale for many of our outdoor activities.

Official Uniform Shirt



Activity Uniform



Special Note for Webelos Scouts: Webelos Scouts should wear the Scouts BSA tan uniform shirt. To make this transition easier on our families, we allow our 4th grade Scouts to wear either the blue Cub Scout or the tan Scouts BSA shirt. All 5th grade Scouts must wear the tan Scouts BSA shirt.



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What to Buy

Lions (Kindergarten)

- ☐ Lions Handbook (please purchase handbook as soon as possible)
- ☐ Lions Cub Scout Shirt
- ☐ Cub Scout Web Belt and Buckle (These are designed to fit the Belt Loop awards that Scouts can earn)
- ☐ Official Lion Hat (optional)
- ☐ Official Cub Scout Shorts or Pants (optional)

Tigers (1st Grade), Wolves (2nd Grade), and Bears (3rd Grade)

- ☐ Tiger, Wolf or Bear Handbook (please purchase handbook as soon as possible)
- ☐ Blue Cub Scout Official Uniform Shirt with U.S. flag
- ☐ Three Fires Council Patch
- ☐ Pack 317 Unit Numerals with 55-year Veterans Bar (provided by the Pack)
- ☐ World Crest Emblem (purple patch with the fleur-de-lis symbol)
- ☐ Tiger (orange) Wolf (red) or Bear (blue) Cub Scout Neckerchief (provided by the Pack)
- ☐ Cub Scout Neckerchief Slide (provided by the Pack)
- ☐ Cub Scout Web Belt And Buckle (These are designed to fit the Belt Loop awards that Scouts can earn)
- ☐ Official Tiger, Wolf or Bear Hat (optional)
- ☐ Official Cub Scout Shorts or Pants (optional)
- ☐ Official Tiger (orange stripe) or Cub Scout (yellow stripe) Socks (optional)

Webelos (4th Grade) and Arrow of Light (5th Grade)

- ☐ Webelos Handbook (please purchase handbook as soon as possible)
- ☐ Tan Scouts BSA Official Uniform Shirt with U.S. Flag
- ☐ Three Fires Council Patch
- ☐ Pack 317 Unit Numerals with 55-year Veterans Bar (provided by the Pack)
- ☐ World Crest Emblem (purple patch with the fleur-de-lis symbol)
- ☐ Checkered Webelos Neckerchief (provided by the Pack)



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- ☐ Webelos Neckerchief Slide (provided by the Pack)
- ☐ Blue Shoulder Loops for tan shirt
- ☐ Webelos Colors (provided by the Pack)
- ☐ Official Webelos Hat (optional)
- ☐ Official Scouts BSA Socks (optional)
- ☐ Official Scouts BSA Shorts or Pants (optional)

Special Note for Webelos Scouts: Webelos Scouts should wear the Scouts BSA tan uniform shirt. To make this transition easier on our families, we allow our 4th grade Scouts to wear either the blue Cub Scout or the tan Scouts BSA shirt. All 5th grade Scouts must wear the tan Scouts BSA shirt.



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Meetings and Activities

Most meetings occur at the Plano First Baptist Church, 116 N Hale St, Plano, IL 60545, from 7:00pm – 8:00pm.

Den Meetings (Mondays)

The Den Meeting is the primary setting for Cub Scouting. Please remember that your child's Den Leader is a *volunteer* putting forth his or her time and effort to help your child 'do their best' to earn their badges, participate in the fun, and gain all the positive values that the Cub Scout program offers. Please assist them in the following ways:

- Please arrive on time. Your den leaders have lots of activities planned and it is important to have the whole group together on time to begin the evening's fun and projects. This includes picking your child up at the end of a meeting - your den leader has places to go and kids that they need to put to bed too. Better yet, ask your den leader if they could use an extra pair of hands that night and stay.
- ***Lions and Tiger Cubs must have an Adult Partner with them at all meetings, trips, etc. Enjoy the time together!***
- Be an active parent. *Everybody* has some special abilities and 'know how' that can be of great help in matters relating to Cub Scouts. Please make sure you have completed the **Parent Talent Survey Sheet** and return it to your leader. In addition to the children learning new skills from *you*, we promise that you will have a good time helping *them*.

Every Den meeting ends with awards and announcements being distributed in front of the whole Pack. It is an important part of the program to recognize our Scouts in front of the group, as it recognizes their accomplishments in front of their peers and inspires the younger Scouts to strive towards achieving future ranks!

Pack Meetings (Mondays)

The monthly Pack meeting is where the Cubmaster will lead in a large-group themed event planned for the evening. Please observe the followings guidelines regarding Pack meetings:

- Please accompany your child to the Pack meeting. Pack meetings are a *family* event - brothers, sisters, grandparents, but most of all, **YOU!** We require you there not only to help keep order at the meeting (things *can* get a bit rowdy), but also because Cub Scouts is a family program.
- Please arrive to Pack meetings on time. Plan on arriving at least ten minutes early to confer with your child's Den leader about upcoming things, chat with friends, etc., as the meeting needs to begin on time. If your child is helping as a member of a flag ceremony or assisting with other Pack meeting activities, it is important to have them there on time. Thank you.

Committee Meetings (Friday following the second Thursday)

Committee meetings are where the Committee Chair and Committee Members make decisions for the Pack, with the advice of the Packs leaders and any interested parents. Our committee operates on consensus of all in attendance but can move to an official vote of the registered Committee Members when necessary. These meetings are used to plan events and to address any concerns from our Scouting families.

Pack Activities

Our Pack has an activity most months. Our Pack calendar for the following year is planned in the summer by the Pack Committee and posted on Scoutbook so everyone will know when an activity will occur.





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Annual Program Fees (“Dues”)

The Cub Scouting program offers families significant value in preparing young people to make ethical and moral choices over their lifetimes by instilling in them the values of the Scout Oath and Law. As with most community-based organizations, there are fees required to provide this program to your child. Fees are paid for Scouting activities and are non-refundable. The Pack maintains a bank account at First National Bank of Omaha (FNBO) with records being kept by our Pack Treasurer.

2023 Annual Program Fees (11/1/2022 – 10/31/2023) \$165.00

- **\$75.00 Boy Scouts of America National Program Fee**
This fee helps pay for the cost of developing program resources and liability insurance for those participating in approved Scouting activities.
- **\$75.00 Three Fires Council, BSA Program Fee**
This fee covers insurance for all registered Scouting participants, district activity fees, adult volunteer leader training, rank advancement patches, and council volunteer recognition programs.
- **\$15.00 Cub Scout Pack 317 Program Fee**
This fee covers the registration of our adult volunteers, derby kits, activity patches, advancement belt loops, supplies, and other Pack-related expenses.
- **\$15.00 Scout Life Magazine (optional)**
This is an optional fee to subscribe to the Boy Scouts of America publication “Boys’ Life”, which includes special features, adventure stories, entertainment, environmental issues, history, sports, and more.

New Scout Joining Fee (see chart below)

Newly joining Scouts will also pay a \$25 joining fee to the Boy Scouts of America and \$30 in prorated fees for the remainder of the 2022 charter year.



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When compared to the cost of sports and many other activities, there is no doubt that Cub Scouting delivers great value to its members:

- Athletic organizations (i.e. football, cheerleading, baseball, etc) generally charge \$125-\$200 per season.
- Instructional organizations (i.e YMCA, karate, etc) generally charge \$50-\$100 per month.
- Cub Scouting charges \$165 for an entire year of participation (less than \$14 each month).

Cub Scouting remains one of the most valuable investments that can be made to support youth. From once-in-a-lifetime adventures to service projects that leave a lasting impact on our communities; Scouting's year-round program expands horizons and provides young people with a safe and welcoming place to learn, grow, and thrive.

We realize that families may need assistance with the cost of participation in the Cub Scouting program. To provide this assistance, there are a couple of options available:

- Three Fires Council Scholarship provides need-based funding to qualifying families.
- Pack 317 Payment Plan can be arranged with the Pack Treasurer (all fees must be paid by 10/31/2021).
- Fundraising provides an opportunity to off-set the cost of participation through a Scout Account.
- Major credit cards are accepted by the Pack for all fees.

Scout Fundraising Opportunities

We encourage every Scout to participate to their fullest ability in each of our fundraising events. This helps our Pack to keep our program fee reduced in our efforts to keep participation in Scouting as affordable as possible.

Trails End Popcorn (*Selling a minimum of \$1375 in popcorn could pay for all of your 2022 Program Fees*)

This is our largest fundraiser and your Scout's single greatest opportunity to offset the cost of participation in Cub Scouts! Our Pack receives approximately 30% of all popcorn sales from our Scouts. In addition to direct-to-family, door-to-door, and online sales, we also offer multiple dates when your Scout can do storefront sales (Walmart, Rural King, Casey's, etc) ... any Scout that works a single shift during the day gets a cut from the total sales for that day!

Treasure Bread

This is a fundraiser we do that offers specialty breads. It is another opportunity for our Scouts to earn additional money to use toward Scouting-related expenses during the year. This is a direct-to-family and door-to-door sales event.

Spaghetti Dinner

This is a Pack fundraiser used to help offset the many additional expenses that the Pack incurs during the year and to allow us to keep our Pack Program Fee as low as possible.



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Scout Accounts

The Pack 317 Committee has established individual fundraising accounts for each registered Scout in our program. All money earned through our fundraising opportunities go directly toward your child's Scouting Adventure. Scout Accounts are a way for our Pack to reward participation in our fundraisers. For each fundraiser, a portion of the profits from that event are rewarded to the Scouts who helped in making that event successful. The Pack Committee has set the current profit split at 60% to the Pack's general fund and 40% to the Scout Account. These funds can then be used for any official Scouting-related expense (registration fees, official uniform expenses, special event fees, summer camp fees, etc).

Example: Johnny Scout sells Trails End popcorn using his special online store link to his family members across the nation. He also works three different storefront shifts in September & October. As a result, Johnny sold \$1000 worth of popcorn. The Pack receives \$300 (30%) in total profit from these sales - - \$180 (60%) is deposited into the Pack's general fund and \$120 (40%) is deposited into Johnny's Scout Account. Johnny can use the \$120 balance in his Scout Account to pay any Scouting-related expenses (such as his remaining program fees) by letting the Pack Treasurer know he wants to use his Scout Account money.

Reimbursement for Scouting-related expenses is an easy process. Simply submit the proof of purchase to the Pack's Treasurer and they will issue a reimbursement check in the amount of your expense, editing your child's Scout Account accordingly. Receipts can also be submitted to the Pack's email address (Pack317plano@gmail.com).

Scout Account funds cannot be transferred to another Pack or Troop and are non-refundable. Should your child decide to end their involvement with Scouting, the funds from their Scout Account will be transferred into the Pack 317 general fund. There are two exceptions to this:

1. Funds can be transferred to a direct family member who is registered with Pack 317.
2. If your child graduates from the Cub Scouting program and registers with the Scouts, BSA program at Troop 71 in Plano, your child's Scout Account balance can be transferred into a similar account with Troop 71.



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Medical and Safety Information

Scouting is not dangerous but there frequently are hazards. We do everything within our power to identify and eliminate hazards. **Safety is never compromised for any reason.** There are several things we do to ensure a safe environment and keep parents informed of the hazards in each activity.

Family Pack 317 requires all Scouts and Scouters to annually update the [Annual Health and Medical Record](#). These forms are turned in to the Cubmaster. For safety reasons, our Pack needs to know about any special medical problem a Scout may have. Important problems include dietary problems, allergies (especially to insect bites), asthma, sleepwalking, behavior disorders, or learning disabilities. The Cubmaster needs to be informed if your child is currently on medication during an activity.

All medical information is held in confidence and our Pack follows the spirit of HIPAA privacy guidelines concerning your family's medical information.

If your child needs medication during an activity, it should be turned in to the Cubmaster or other leader with information on the correct dosage and frequency. We will be sure to keep it in a safe place and make sure your child takes their medicine. **Scouts are not allowed to carry their own medication, with the exception of Scouts with allergies to insect bites who may carry EpiPens and Scouts with asthma who may carry inhalers.** In the event of a medical emergency, the Scouters are authorized by the [Annual Health and Medical Record](#) to take whatever action is necessary to assist your child. You will be notified immediately, if that is possible. Our Pack carries at least one fully equipped first aid kit on all activities and supplements this kit with additional materials that are specific to the setting of an activity.



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Behavior and Conduct

Scout Law and Oath

The general statement about Scout behavior and conduct is found in the Scout Law and Scout Oath. These are the first things we teach a new Cub Scout and are repeated at many of our meetings and activities. Scouting is one of the few organizations that require its members to take an Oath. As a Child Scout, your child is taking on a code of Ethics. It should be taken seriously.

General Behavior

At meetings, we expect our Scouts to act in a courteous manner in keeping with the activity we are involved in. During games and other physical activity, the noise level goes up. During instruction or announcements, children should pay attention and not distract the group. The **raised Scout sign** is our signal that it's time to be quiet and pay attention. "When the sign goes up, the mouth goes shut." We occasionally need to ask a Scout to be quiet and settle down, but this is typically not necessary. A Scout who disregards this will be given a verbal warning. This will be followed either by some type of "time-out," or at a Pack meeting, the Scout may be asked to leave the meeting. Disregarding a verbal warning is serious and violates the Oath and the Law.

At activities, we expect similar behavior. The Scouts are expected to be courteous and respect each other. We use the buddy system to ensure no one gets lost—Scouts should never leave camp alone. Occasionally, specific things will be placed off limits due to safety reasons or to respect private property. These will be explained and we expect these rules to be strictly obeyed. Scouts who don't respect this will either not be allowed on activities or will need to be accompanied by their parent or guardian. Adults in our Pack cannot be responsible for children who do not follow directions and cannot be expected to spend an extraordinary amount of their time with a child who has a behavior problem.

BSA maintains specific rules about adult participation in activities (details in the online Youth Protection Training course required for all and adult volunteers). There must always be **two-deep leadership** in every situation. This means two adults must accompany the Scouts on activities. This will allow one adult to go for help and one to stay with the children in case of an emergency. Scouts should never be alone with a single adult on any Scout activity. This is to protect the children from child abuse and to protect adult leaders from being falsely accused. Several Scouts can accompany one adult and one-on-one discussions are allowed as long as other people are in sight. Drivers must be sure all Scouts riding with them are wearing a seat belt. Adult Scouters are also expected to abide by the Scout Oath and Law and serve as strong positive role models. All adult who wish to participate in an activity must have current Youth Protection Training.





Disciplinary Procedures

Family Pack 317 follows a progressive discipline approach. The first phase is a verbal warning either from the Cubmaster or one of the other adult leaders. In general at this level, we do not bring matters to the parents' attention. It is important that the Scouts realize that they, rather than their parents, are accountable for their actions. If a verbal warning and discussion are not effective, the Scout will either be asked to leave the activity or given a time-out. This will be followed with a Cubmaster conference involving the Cubmaster, the Scout and their parents. At this point, the problem is a concern but not serious. If the problem continues, it is considered serious. The matter will be discussed at a Pack Committee meeting with the involvement of the Scout and their parents. Our Pack Committee will decide on what steps need to be taken. This may include a restriction on the Scout's involvement for a specified period, a written apology from the Scout, a probationary period, or as a last resort, the Scout may be asked to leave our Pack. The committee decisions on these matters are not negotiable. The Cubmaster will maintain a dialogue with the child and their parents on their progress.

Hazing/Harassment/Fighting

Hazing, harassment, and fighting by any Scout will not be tolerated! Any willful attempt by one Scout to hurt or embarrass another Scout is not permitted and will lead to disciplinary action. On a campout or other activity, a Scout who persists in these behaviors after verbal warnings will be asked to leave. If the behavior continues after a Cubmaster conference involving the Scout, the Cubmaster, and the Scout's parents; the Scout may be asked to leave our Pack, subject to approval by our Pack Committee.

Fighting is not uncommon among this age group of children, and nothing will ruin a child's experience faster. Our Pack policy is that fighting is not tolerated among Scouts. This applies universally, not just at Scout activities. Retaliation is not permitted. One Scout assaulting another does not justify a violent reaction. If a fight occurs, both parties will be guilty and subject to discipline. The proper course of action is to walk away and report the behavior immediately.

Scouts should report problems to the Scouters and will be subject to discipline themselves if they fail to do so, especially for serious situations such as fighting or hazing. In any sizable group of people, it's inevitable that some people will not get along. Scouts are not required to like everyone in our Pack but they are required to be Helpful to other people, and to be Friendly, Courteous, and Kind. We try whenever possible to place Scouts who dislike each other in separate groups or teams. Parents who hear of such issues or have concerns should inform one of the Scouters immediately.





A Scout Is Clean

We expect our Scouts to abide by this part of the law. Swearing is not part of Scouting. Explicit magazines or tapes, raunchy jokes, and frank sexual discussions are not allowed. Scouters will correct this if they hear it and confiscate any materials that are found. These will be returned to the parents, not the Scouts. Repeated problems will be brought to the parents' attention. Scouters do not impose themselves on the Scout's private discussions unless there is a significant problem.

Scouts are expected to use proper sanitary procedures on activities. Human waste in the outdoors is a growing problem and leading to the contamination of many wilderness water sources. If bathrooms or outhouses are available, they are to be used. If they are not, proper wilderness sanitary procedures must be used. We tell the Scouts that our camp is our home. Just as you would not use the corner of the living room for a bathroom, our campsite is not a bathroom. In general, we do not monitor the children's personal hygiene practices. This is their responsibility. We try to set a good example.

Knives and Other Sharp Tools

Carrying a pocketknife is one of the things that new Scouts most eagerly anticipate. Once a Scout is in Third Grade, they can work toward earning their *Whittling Chip*. They must carry this card at all times that they are carrying their knife. Breaking the knife rules or careless behavior with the knife will result in disciplinary action or the card may be confiscated. The Scout cannot carry their knife again until they pass the test again at a later date. If a Scout breaks the knife rules and is asked for their Whittling Chip but they do not have it, the knife will be confiscated by the Cubmaster or other Scouter. It will be given to the Scout's parents upon return from the activity.

There are certain rules associated with knife use.

1. Sheath knives and pocketknives with blades over four inches are not permitted.
2. Knives are never thrown, either open or closed.
3. Knives are not passed between people with the blade open.
4. No one is permitted to use a knife if someone is close enough to touch.
5. You must never cut toward yourself.

The child must know these rules, the proper way to use, clean, and sharpen their knife, and pass a test on this administered by one of the adult leaders. When they do this, they will be given a card, their *Whittling Chip*.

The use of a saw, hatchet, or ax is not permitted for Cub Scouts.





SCOUT ME IN™

Cub Scout Pack 317

Participant & Family Handbook

Fires

The Scouts are instructed on campfire preparation and safety. Our Pack never leaves a burning fire unattended. The adults are always placed in charge of the fire. They are responsible to ensure that proper safety precautions are in place. All fires must have a five-gallon bucket of water nearby, or more if the fire is large. Ready access to fireproof gloves and a shovel is recommended. New Scouts are taught that sticks stay in the fire, leaves just make smoke, and Scouts don't play with fire. **There are never flames in tents or under flies.** This includes candle lanterns and lighting of matches or lighters. Any child who violates this policy will be asked to call their parents and will be removed from our activity. Repeat violations will not be tolerated.

Illegal and Restricted Equipment

Some things cannot be taken on Scout activities or must be registered with the Cubmaster. Fireworks are not allowed. They will be confiscated and not returned. Electronic devices are not allowed on campouts for youth participants. This includes cell phones, CD players, radios, video games, televisions, etc. They can be taken on the ride to the activity site but must be left in the car or with a Scouter. Weapons, such as guns or bow and arrow, are not allowed.

Alcohol- & Tobacco-Free Policy

In keeping with the Boy Scouts of America national policy on alcohol and tobacco use, all Pack activities are conducted in an alcohol- & tobacco-free environment. This includes the use of smokeless-tobacco products, such as vapes.



<https://www.Pack317plano.org>

American Legion Post #395 | Potawatomi District | Three Fires Council, BSA

