

Pack 643 Beginning of Year Guide

Welcome to the 2026-27 Scouting Year with Pack 643! This guide covers everything families need to know to get started and stay on track throughout the year.

Welcome & Overview

We are excited for another year of adventure, growth, and fun. Scouting builds character, teaches life skills, and creates lasting friendships. This guide will walk you through what to expect this year.

Leadership & Contact Information

- Den Leader:
- Pack Committee Chair: Tommy Whited - tommy@whitedfamily.com
- Cubmaster: Robert Pope

Meeting Schedule

Den meetings are held Tuesday from 6:30pm to 7:30pm at First United Methodist Church.

- Meetings follow the Cub Scout den meeting format: gathering, opening, and activities/adventures.
- A full calendar is available on our website, pack643.org, and shared via newsletter.

What to Bring Each Week

- Scout uniform (Class A for pack meetings and den meetings; Class B only on days your Den Leader announces in advance, or for outdoor activities/campouts - see Pack By-Laws Section 13)
- Scout handbook
- Water bottle
- Weather-appropriate gear for outdoor activities

Medical Forms

Every Scout and parent needs a current Annual Health and Medical Record (Parts A and B) on file no later than the start of the school year (August/September). Scouts and parents without a current form on file may be unable to participate in outdoor activities, hikes, or campouts. See Pack By-Laws Section 1 for details.

Dues & Fees

Annual dues are \$187 total, \$100 in local pack dues and \$87 in national BSA registration. The local dues are collected in two installments per the Pack By-Laws: half in September, half in January. This covers:

- BSA national pack charter
- Council fees
- Pack supplies and activities

Dues are non-refundable once paid. If cost is a barrier, financial assistance is available. Please reach out to the Committee Chair or Treasurer confidentially (see Pack By-Laws Section 6).

Additional fees may apply for special events (campouts, day camps, Pinewood Derby kits). These will be communicated in advance.

Communication

GroupMe/text is our primary communication channel, with email used for longer-form announcements. Please make sure you are signed up and checking both regularly.

- Weekly reminders will go out before each meeting.
- Any schedule changes will be communicated at least 48 hours in advance when possible.
- Our website, pack643.org, has links to join our newsletter, view the calendar, find Pack documents, and follow us on Facebook.

Volunteer Expectations

Scouting is a volunteer-run program and we need your help! Parents are expected to:

- Complete Safeguarding Youth Training (SYT) - required for all volunteers and for overnight camping. Free at my.scouting.org.
- Sign up for at least one volunteer commitment each semester — one in the fall, one in the spring (event help, snack rotation, activity lead, etc.), per the Pack By-Laws.
- Attend meetings with your Scout (at minimum, one parent should be present, unless drop-off has been pre-approved in advance — see Pack By-Laws Section 3).

Awards & Advancement

Scouts earn adventure loops and pins by completing requirements in their handbook. Awards are typically presented at pack meetings.

- Parents should track progress in Scoutbook.
- See the Pack By-Laws (Section 11) for details on how awards are ordered and the schedule for purchases.

We are looking forward to a great year! Please reach out with any questions.