

Pack 8 New Family FAQ

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What paperwork do I need to fill out?

The BSA application must be filled out in full and signed before we can submit it to the Scout Office and have your scout registered. Adult volunteers must complete Youth Protection Training before their application will be processed. We have carbon copy forms available or you can find printable forms on our website: pack8isgreat.org under the "Resources" section. Applications are turned in to our Secretary who will take them to the Scout Office.

Medical forms must be on file for EVERY PARTICIPANT at an activity – this includes the scout, parents, and siblings!! These forms are only valid for one year, so you'll be hearing from the Secretary when yours have expired. You can find fillable PDF versions on our website: pack8isgreat.org under the "Resources" section.

What are the dues and fees?

Yearly dues: \$70 per scout
Optional Fees: Boys Life subscription - \$12
Class B uniform (t-shirt) - \$10

Additional Costs: Class A uniform, some activities (Winter Camp-In, Blue & Gold Banquet, campouts)

What do the dues cover?

The \$70 that you pay for each scout, along with fundraising, covers the following:

- Enrollment in the BSA organization
- All awards (badges, pins, belt loops, etc.) earned during the course of the year
- Pack activities:
 - Fall Cookout, Monte Sano Campout, Christmas Party, Christmas Parade, Pinewood Derby, Pack costs at Blue & Gold Banquet, Spring Campout, Rank Up Celebration
- Operating costs for the Pack
 - Storage locker, website and domains, Scoutbook, Pack equipment, leader incidentals

How much fundraising do you do?

Pack 8 hosts two fundraisers each year: popcorn in the fall and snack sticks in the spring. During each fundraiser, scouts have the option to sell popcorn or snack sticks to earn money towards their involvement: popcorn sales help the scout pay for their winter camp-in (or other activities) and snack stick sales help the scout pay their dues for the next year in scouting. Additionally, we ask each scout to participate in group sales. All proceeds from group sales go into the Pack's general budget.

What do I need to buy?

The Class A uniform:

- Uniform Shirt - \$24.99
- Scarf - \$9.99
- Slide - \$5.99
- Hat - \$14.99
- Belt - \$9.99

The Patches:

- Council Patch - \$3.29
- Pack 8 Numeral - \$1.49
- Veteran Unit Bar (40) - \$1.29
- Den Numeral or Emblem (see your Den Leader) - \$1.49
- World Crest - \$2.29
- World Crest Ring (optional) - \$1.99

*prices as of August 2018

Pack 8 does not require uniform pants or socks. Cub Scouts will wear the blue shirt while Webelos and Arrow of Light Scouts and all Leaders wear the brown shirt. Female leaders may opt to wear the yellow leader shirt.

The Lion uniform consists of the Lion tshirt (\$9.99) and hat (\$12.99); no patches are necessary. Families may opt to not purchase a Pack tshirt and so the Class A and Class B uniforms would be the same thing for Lion Scouts.

The Class B uniform is a Pack tshirt that we wear to activities and casual events (it's usually noted in Scoutbook whether an activity is a Class A or Class B event). They are \$10 each. Many parents purchase one for themselves as well but that is completely optional.

If you are new to Scouting you do not need to purchase a Scout Handbook. The Greater Alabama Council will be giving a handbook to all new scouts with the submission of their completed application.

How can I save money on the cost of uniforms?

Pack 8 maintains a uniform closet that will be available at the meetings in August. Whether you take advantage of this closet or not, please consider contributing to it when your child's tenure in Pack is finished.

If you are new to Scouting you do not need to purchase a Scout Handbook. The Greater Alabama Council will be giving a handbook to all new scouts with the submission of their completed application.

Where is the Scout Shop?

2211 Drake Ave SW, Huntsville, AL 35805; 256-880-1488

Hours: 9am-6pm M-F; 10am-4pm Sat.

The staff are extremely friendly and knowledgeable; just let them know what you need and they'll take care of you! Purchases can also be made online at scoutstuff.org

What Den will my child be in?

Please note that all dens must be single gender per BSA requirements. Den Leaders and Assistant Den Leaders may be male or female and must have Youth Protection Training.

Girls will be in Den 8. This will be a den of mixed ranks.

Boys in...

will be in... (Den Leader)

Kindergarten or age 6

Lion Den 7 (Tom Billig, Sr.)

1st Grade or age 7

Tiger Den 6 (Mark Kearney)

2nd Grade or age 8

Wolf Den 3 (Scott Ross)

3rd Grade or age 9

Bear Den 2 (Thomas Clunan)

4th Grade or age 10

Webelos Den 5 (John Bell)

5th Grade or age 11

Fiery Eagles (Curtis Humphrey)

How do I get on the mailing list?

Send an email to Jennifer Humphrey: jennifer@humphreyonline.us (be sure to include your scout's name!) Our mailing list is managed through Scoutbook, so after you've been added you'll receive an email from Scoutbook asking you to connect. After that you don't need to do any more with Scoutbook than you want to.

What is Scoutbook?

Scoutbook is the BSA's online resource we use to communicate with the Pack and track each Scout's progress. Your Scout's profile will be set up by our Secretary and you'll receive an email from Scoutbook inviting you to connect.

What's this I hear about a Secret Facebook Group?

We have both a public Facebook page "Pack 8 is Great" and a secret Facebook group "Cub Scouts Pack 8 Madison, AL". The public page is a recruitment and advertising tool; the secret group is for posting pictures and sharing information with our Pack family. Anyone currently in the group should be able to add you. As it's a secret group, you will not be able to find it by searching, and only those who are in it can see anything that's posted, so it's a safe place to share photos of our kiddos.

How long has Pack 8 been established?

Pack 8 was first chartered by the Optimist Club of Madison in 1974. It is the oldest operating Cub Scout Pack in Madison County.

What is a Chartering Organization?

Every unit in the BSA (Cub Scout Packs, Scout Troops, Varsity Scout Teams, Venturing Crews, and Sea Scouts) belongs to an organization, whether a church, school, community organization or group of interested citizens. This organization receives a charter from the BSA to use the Scouting program. Pack 8's chartering organization is the Optimist Club of Madison.

Why do you have two Pack numbers?

Long Answer: Once upon a time, there were many small Councils in Alabama. Pack 8 was first chartered in 1974 by the Optimist Club of Madison in the Tennessee Valley Council, which formed in 1924. By the 1990s, several Council merges had taken place, and the councils of central and north Alabama had been reduced to 3: Central Alabama, Choccolocco, and Tennessee Valley. On January 1, 1998, these councils were merged into one *supercouncil*, which was appropriately named the Greater Alabama Council. To prevent confusion, Packs with the same designation were given additional digits. Those from the Tennessee Valley Council added "70" to the beginning of their number; thus, Pack 8 became Pack 7008. But, having been Pack 8 for almost 45 years (and as we're the oldest Pack in Madison County) we only use the 7008 designation for official business.

Short Answer: Our official designation is Pack 7008 but adding the extra syllables of seven-zero-zero ruins our rhyme: **Pack 8 is Great!**

What happens at Den Meetings?

Pack 8 meets the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of the month, but check our Pack calendar as school holidays sometimes cause changes to our schedule. The evening begins with the Opening Ceremony and Announcements. Dens are then dismissed to work on their requirements – this is usually the noisy part

of the evening! Parents are asked to remain with their child's den during this time. Once a month the Scouts will participate in a Pack-wide activity. When all activities are finished the Pack gathers for the Cubmaster's Minute and Closing Ceremony. Scouts and Leaders should wear their Class A uniform to all meetings.

What happens at Pack Meetings?

The Pack Meeting portion of the evening consists of the Opening and Closing Ceremonies, Announcements, Cubmaster's Minute, and a Pack-wide activity once a month. Scouts and Leaders should wear their Class A uniform to all meetings.

Do I have to stay for these meetings?

In a word, yes. Cub Scouts is not baby-sitting and we must have a responsible parent or guardian present at all times. That being said, you may choose to designate another adult on your child's medical form and ensure that your Den Leader and Cub Master are aware of the situation.

What activities are on your calendar?

Please visit the Resources section of our website to download our full calendar: pack8isgreat.org.

- Fall Cookout/Campout (September)
- Flag Retirement Ceremony with Troop 8 (October)
- Cub Haunted (October)
- Scout Fest (November)
- Madison Christmas Parade (December)
- Pack Christmas Party (December)
- Winter Camp In (January)
- Pinewood Derby and Dirty Derby Lock In (February)
- Blue & Gold Banquet (March)
- Wildflower Hike (March)
- Spring Campout (April)
- Rank Ups and End of Year Party (May)
- Cub Scout Day Camp (June)

Do I have to go to the activities?

In a word, yes. Cub Scouts is not baby-sitting and we must have a responsible parent or guardian present at all times. That being said, you may choose to designate another adult on your child's medical form and ensure that your Den Leader and Cub Master are aware of the situation.

Can parents and siblings attend meetings and activities?

Yes! Scouting is a family affair and all family members are welcome and encouraged to attend! Just be sure that we have a valid medical form on file for ALL PARTICIPANTS. You can find fillable PDF versions on our website: pack8isgreat.org under the "Resources" section.

What do you mean by Dens and Ranks?

Cub Scouts are organized into dens by grade/age. All scouts in a den work toward the same rank or badge: those in the Lion den work towards earning the Lion rank, Tigers are working towards their Tiger

rank, etc. (Note: If there are not enough scouts to form rank-specific dens, scouts may be in a den of mixed ranks; however, the following questions and answers still apply.)

The ranks are:

- Lion
 - 2018 is the first year that the Lion program will be available in all Packs across the nation. Pack 8 is proud to have been a part of the pilot Lion program in 2017. (Lion used to be a higher rank, but was dropped in 1967)
- Tiger
 - Tiger Cubs were added to Cub Scouting in 1982. In 2016 the rank changed from Tiger Cub to Tiger (most likely in anticipation of the addition of Lions...)
- Wolf
 - When Boy Scouts was founded in the United States in 1910, Wolf was the first rank a boy achieved.
- Bear
- Webelos
 - This stands for “We’ll Be Loyal Scouts”. It used to stand for “Wolf Bear Lion Scout” because those used to be the Cub Scout ranks, but times change!
- Arrow of Light
 - This is the highest rank achievable in Cub Scouting and is the only Cub Scout badge which may be worn on the Boy Scout uniform.

Does my child have to catch up if he/she is older?

No. For example, if a child joins Cub Scouting as a 9-year-old or in the 3rd grade, they must earn the Bobcat badge (all Cub Scouts except Lions earn this badge), and then they will begin working on the Bear badge with their fellow Cub Scouts. They are not required to have earned Tiger or Wolf badges. Since those badges are for younger scouts (first grade or age 7 and second grade or age 8), the requirements for those badges are below a third grade or 9-year-old’s current level of ability, so “going back” to pick up those badges is not permitted.

Can my child begin working on the next badge if he/she completes their rank early?

If a child completes a badge early, they may continue working on electives to earn additional belt loops or pins, Nova awards, or the religious emblem of their faith. They may not begin working on the requirements for the next badge.

What happens at leader meetings?

Once a month, the pack leadership meets to discuss previous events, upcoming events, and the direction of the pack.

On the first Thursday of the month, Talakto District hosts a Round Table Discussion for all BSA leaders and volunteers to share information about upcoming leader trainings and events organized by the district or council level leadership.

Can parents attend leader meetings and Round Table Discussions?

Absolutely! Leaders meetings are not exclusive to registered leaders. Anyone who is interested in what's going on in the pack is welcome to attend. Pack 8 leader meetings typically take place the first Tuesday of the month.

How can I become a leader or get involved?

Pack 8 has many opportunities for adults to get involved! Throughout the year we'll invite parents/guardians to help with various activities, so watch for those emails. If you'd like to do a little more, check out our org chart under the "Resources" section of our website: Pack8isGreat.com. Talk to any leader about how you'd like to help, and make plans to attend the next leaders meeting.

Do I need a Scouting background to be a leader?

Nope! To be eligible for registration, an adult leader must agree to: subscribe to the Scout Oath; fulfill the obligations of his or her position; and perform his or her duties in accordance with the Rules and Regulations, policies, and guidelines of the Boy Scouts of America. No previous background in scouting is required.

Are the Leaders trained?

Youth Protection: Current Youth Protection Training is required for all leaders, and all adult participants are encouraged to follow Youth Protection policies. These policies primarily protect youth members; however, they also serve to protect adult leaders. All parents and caregivers should understand that our leaders are to abide by these safeguards. Parents and youth are strongly encouraged to use these safeguards outside the Scouting program. Registered leaders must follow these guidelines with all Scouting youth outside of Scouting activities. A person does not have to be a registered volunteer to take Youth Protection training. To take the training, access <http://my.scouting.org> and click on the "Create Account" button. After you have confirmed your new my.scouting account username and password, log into my.scouting.org and click on the "Youth Protection Begins With You" logo on the right side of the page to access the Youth Protection training page.

Two-Deep Leadership: A minimum of two registered adult leaders — or one registered leader and a participating Scout's parent or another adult — is required for all trips and outings. One of these adults must be 21 years of age or older.

No one-on-one contact: One-on-one contact between adults and youth members is prohibited (the only exception would be a leader with their own family member). This also applies to digital communication: leaders may not have one-on-one private online communications or engage one-on-one in other digital activities (games, social media, etc.) with youth members.