



# CUB SCOUT PACK 91

THE AMERICAN LEGION, POST 534, ORCUTT, CALIFORNIA

## Welcome Packet 2019-2020

Welcome to Pack 91. We ask that you review this packet to ensure the best experience with our Pack and sign the last page. Turn in the signed sheet to one of our adult leaders, and keep this packet for future reference. If you have any questions, please ask.

### A Very, Very Brief History of Scouting

Scouting began in England in 1908. The Boy Scouts of America (BSA) was founded on February 8, 1910. The first activities developed by The BSA were designed to build character, physical fitness, practical skills, and service. These elements continue to be a part of Cub Scouting today. The BSA serves our Scouts on a national level and provides structure, policy guidance and adult leader training.

### Scouting Structure

We are Pack 91. Our Pack is part of the Pacific Coast District, which is one of several districts within the Los Padres Council. Pack 91 is Chartered by The American Legion Post 534. Within each Pack, Scouts are divided into Dens. A Den is a group of youths who are the same age and gender. Dens are overseen by parents who have volunteered to be Den Leaders. Den Meetings typically take place multiple times per month. These meetings are where your Scout will meet with their small group to work on skills defined in the Scouting Book for their rank. Dens are typically divided by rank as noted below. Once a month we'll meet as a Pack. Pack meetings are where all Scouts from all Dens meet together, awards are presented, and Scouts are recognized for their accomplishments.

### Ranks

A youth may join Cub Scouts at any point they are eligible. Cub Scouts work on their rank during the school year and earn their rank upon completion of required tasks at the end of the school year.

**Lion:** Kindergarten-aged youth.

**Tiger:** Tiger rank is for first grade youth.

**Wolf:** Wolf rank is for second grade youth.

**Bear:** Bear rank is for third grade youth. A Scouting milestone occurs at this rank where Scouts are offered the opportunity to carry a pocket knife by earning their whittling chip.

**Webelos:** Webelos stands for "**WE'll BE LOyal Scouts**". Webelos are Cub Scouts preparing to be Boy Scouts. Webelos rank extends over a period of two years (fourth and fifth grades), referred to as Webelos 1, with the second year referred to as Webelos 2. Upon successful completion of this rank the Cub Scout will earn the Arrow of Light award.

### Pack Structure

As noted earlier, every Pack is chartered by an organization separate from, but approved by, the BSA. Pack 91 is chartered by The American Legion Post 534. The Chartering Organization designates an individual to serve as a liaison between that organization and its Pack. This person is referred to as a Chartered Organization

Representative (COR). Each Pack is overseen by a Committee Chair, who is responsible for Pack Operations. The Committee Chair is supported by a Committee of individuals who share the tasks of managing the operation and direction of the pack. The Cubmaster and Assistant Cubmaster work closely with the Committee and dens to help execute the Scouting Program and are responsible for monthly Pack Meetings. Den Leaders and Assistant Den Leaders oversee individual dens. They are responsible for delivering the Scouting program to our youth by developing and leading den meetings.

### **Who Runs Pack 91?**

The families who choose to join Pack 91 run Pack 91. Like all Scouting programs, Pack 91 relies on dedicated volunteers. Without parental involvement, Scouting doesn't happen, and Pack 91 is no exception. We work hard to be sure there are opportunities for all families to be involved in their child's Scouting experience. All parents will be provided the opportunity to help select areas they would like to be involved in. The goal is for all families to be involved in a meaningful way. All adult leaders must go through a background check process by the BSA and are required to complete Youth Protection Training. This training is available to all through the <https://my.scouting.org/> website.

Parental input is welcome and encouraged at Committee Meetings. Pack and Den meetings are focused on our scouts. Therefore, we ask that comments, questions, and criticisms be addressed at monthly Pack 91 Committee Meetings, not during general Pack or Den Meetings. In this way, family input and concerns can be appropriately addressed, discussed, and managed in a constructive setting that doesn't interfere with the experience of our Scouts.

### **Uniform Requirements**

Pack 91 believes that every Scout should have a uniform and wear it proudly. Most Pack events and events visible to the public will require Class A uniforms as described below. Less formal events will often require only the Pack t-shirt, also known as the Class B uniform. We'll list the expected uniform on our events calendar.

Scouts will not be punished for not being in uniform, but it is strongly encouraged. Parents will be asked to help their child by reminding them to wear their uniform properly to Den Meetings, Pack Meetings, and Pack Activities.

Class A - The minimum Class A uniform in our Pack is the BSA uniform shirt with all patches, appropriate neckerchief, a BSA belt, and either shorts or pants with belt loops to accommodate their belt. **Neckerchiefs are provided by our Pack**, so don't purchase a neckerchief. Neckerchief slides are not provided but Scouts are encouraged to use their creativity to make their own. Class A uniforms can be purchased new from our local Scout Shop on the second level of the Santa Maria Town Center East mall.

Class B - Orange t-shirt worn at non-formal occasions. These casual shirts are customized to our Pack. Pack 91 provides a single shirt when a scout joins the Pack. Any additional shirts throughout your time with the Pack may be purchased through the Pack at cost. Adult sizes are also available and may be purchased at cost anytime we're placing a group order.

### **Cub Scout Patches and Insignia**

The Scout Store in the Town Center East mall will recommend the correct required patches, just tell them you're in Pack 91. Advancement items including patches and activity belt adornments, or "loops" will be provided by Pack 91 once they are earned.

## **Pack Communications**

Scoutbook - A tool used to help manage all aspects of Pack 91. It is used to document and track all advancement, communicate with Scout families and leaders, and serves as our event calendar. All Parents are provided access to Scoutbook via the email address provided upon registration. Be sure to complete parent and Scout profiles.

Website - [pack91orcutt.org](http://pack91orcutt.org)

## **Behavior Guidelines**

In order for Pack 91 to provide an active, quality, and safe program for our youth, it is important for all Scouts and parents to understand and acknowledge the expected Pack standards for Scout and family behavior. Our goal is to help teach Scouts to live by the principles outlined in the Scout Oath and Law.

Scouting should be fun and challenging. Scouts deserve a safe and supportive environment in which to have fun and grow without unnecessary roughness, physical and verbal intimidation, foul and offensive language, or disrespectful behavior that detracts from the experience of well behaved Scouts.

### Members of Pack 91 agree to:

- Conduct themselves according to the Scout Oath and Law.
- Show up for Scouting events promptly and in the appropriate uniform for the event.
- Keep any family disputes or disagreements between adults far away from pack events.
- Exhibit leadership by following rules and asking others to do the same.
- Respect Leaders and follow reasonable directives from Leaders.
- Become quiet when the two-finger "wolf ears" sign goes up.
- Respect others' property.
- Respect the feelings of others.

All parents are asked to help their scout maintain safe and appropriate standards. Please be proactive in managing your Scout's behavior. Please remember that the purpose for our pack is to benefit the kids.

Unresolved, dangerous, or persistent behavior issues by either the scout or their family will result in them being asked to leave Pack 91.

## **Social Media and Photography Guidelines**

Our pack abides by the [BSA's social media guidelines](#). In addition and effective November of 2018, our pack will no longer share photos of our scouts on social media, through our pack website, or in any publication other than the newsletter of our chartered organization, American Legion Post 534. For the safety of our scouts, we ask that photography at any Pack 91 event be limited to only the scout for whom you are a legal guardian. We don't plan to retroactively remove old social media posts at this time, but we're happy to do so by request.

## **Annual Dues, Fundraising, and Expenses**

The annual BSA membership cost is \$33. The annual fees charged by the Pacific Coast District is \$12. These fees are per calendar year and will be prorated if you join in the middle of the calendar year. Continuing Scouts need to pay these annual fees every year during rechartering for the upcoming calendar year. None of the money from BSA dues or district fees goes to our Pack. Therefore it is necessary to either charge dues, fundraise, or both. Our Pack will charge very minimal dues this year, and we limit fundraising as much as possible. We attempt to keep spending down to a minimum. However, there are inevitable expenses. Dues and fundraising will be reassessed at Pack committee meetings each summer.

For the 2020 calendar year we'll be charging \$25 per Scout in dues. We will also complete a single required pancake breakfast fundraiser. Every scout will be expected to sell tickets. There is also an opportunity to help the pack raise money by holding a banner and walking in the Elks Rodeo Parade. This is strongly encouraged and a lot of fun. Additional fundraisers may be offered to help your scout supplement the cost of camps but those are not required and the funds will not benefit the Pack as a whole.

\$33 BSA Membership + \$12 district fees + \$25 Pack dues = **\$70 Total** collected each November for the following calendar year.

The BSA also offers their Boys Life magazine subscription for \$12 per year and that can be purchased at the same time as your BSA membership if you're interested.

All pack expenses and account balances are listed in our committee meeting minutes which are available on our website each month. We strive to be fully transparent. Pack leaders are not monetarily compensated.

Here's an overview of our yearly Pack expenses. This is not comprehensive, but lists the major expenses. For more details see the monthly meeting minutes:

- Neckerchiefs ~\$10+ / scout (reused and passed down when possible)
- Advancement Materials and awards ~ \$700 / year
- Website Domain Name ~ \$20/ year (hosting is donated by Philip Shuman)
- Pack 91 "Class B" T-shirts ~ \$15/ new scout (1 shirt provided for child's entire time in our pack. Additional shirts may be purchased by families at cost)

The above totals **approximately \$1,100 per year**. Additional money raised will allow for more activities for our pack.

### **Parent Involvement**

The expectation is that every family will be involved in a meaningful way. This could mean signing up to fill a vacant adult leadership position, but there will also be plenty of other opportunities to help throughout the year including the following for example:

- Blue & Gold banquet
- Pack meeting STEM activities
- Pancake breakfast ticket sales coordination
- Pinewood derby awards

Please mark each opportunity you will volunteer for on the last page of this packet.

### **Camping/Event Guidelines**

Pack 91 participates in multiple camping & event activities each year. At each event, a parent or guardian must be present. For each Pack camping activity, we need an adult who is BALOO (Basic Adult Leader Outdoor Orientation) trained to fulfill the requirements of The Guide to Safe Scouting.

All campouts and events are family style. While siblings are welcome, we ask parents to closely supervise all youth attending campouts/events. Eligible siblings present at Pack and Den meetings are expected to be members of Pack 91.

The Boy Scouts of America prohibits the use of alcoholic beverages and controlled substances at any activity involving participation of youth members. This is a zero-tolerance policy. All Scouting functions, meetings, and activities should be conducted on a smoke-free basis, with smoking areas located away from all youth participants. This includes vaping and chewing tobacco.

### **Annual Health and Medical Record**

The BSA requires every Pack to hold annual health and medical record forms. The forms and additional information are available here:

<https://www.scouting.org/health-and-safety/ahmr/>

BSA Medical forms A and B are required for ALL event participants . Please turn these in as soon as possible and definitely before our Pack campout. These two forms do not require a doctor's visit, must be turned in to our Committee Chair and will not be duplicated or digitized per BSA policy. They would only be shared in an emergency.

Form C does require a pre-participation physical but won't be necessary unless attending Webelos resident camp or another event lasting 72 hours or more. Form C must be turned in at the time of registration for Webelos resident camp.

### **What to buy at the Scout Store**

- Den specific handbook
- Class A Shirt and the required patches (tell the Scout Store employees you're from Pack 91 and they'll set you up)
- Belt
- Neckerchief slide. You're also welcome to make one.
- Den specific hat
- The rest is optional and the neckerchief is provided by the Pack at our first meeting of the year

### **Where is the Scout Store?**

- 228 Town Center E, Santa Maria, CA 93454

### **How much does it cost to join your Pack?**

- \$70 total (\$33 BSA Membership + \$12 district fees + \$25 Pack dues). Collected each November for the following calendar year.

### **Who do I write my check to?**

- Please make checks payable to "American Legion Post 534 c/o Cub Scout Pack 91".

### **What do I do with my Scout's old uniform once they are done with it?**

- Neckerchiefs purchased by the Pack should be passed down to the next year scouts each year.
- You're free to do whatever you like with anything you purchase but if you have no use for an old uniform or scout manual we recommend finding a younger scout who will make use of it, or donate it to the pack and we'll offer it to future scouts to help keep their costs down.

## Why are we doing all this?

- For our kids.

Please return this sheet to our Membership and Reregistration Chair or Pack Committee Chair

To be sure we have received all necessary information, and to be sure all parents have read, understand, and agree to the information contained in this packet, please sign and return this page, with all required information. This will be reviewed and updated annually.

1. BSA Youth Application (unless previously completed)
2. Required Payment - \$70/ scout due by the end of November for the upcoming calendar year.
3. [BSA Medical Form A & B](#) (including a copy of insurance card)

Email(s) to use for Pack communications: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Scout(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Printed Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Reviewed by: \_\_\_\_\_

Please mark each volunteering opportunity below that you're willing to help with this year.  
Please choose at least 1 per family:

- ☐ Membership and Reregistration Chair - Collect applications and payments
- ☐ Assistant Den Leader for \_\_\_\_\_ den
- ☐ Outdoor Activity Chair - Help the Cubmaster plan and arrange for outdoor activities
- ☐ Pack Trainer - Make sure all adult leaders are up to date on training requirements
- ☐ Help plan Blue & Gold Banquet which occurs each year in February. Normally potluck style.  
Coordinate family sign up for dishes, location, and plan some fun activities.
- ☐ Pinewood Derby Awards - Make or purchase awards on a very limited budget
- ☐ Photographer - Take photos at each pack event and update our social media pages
- ☐ Fall Recruitment Committee - plan and coordinate a recruitment event in Fall
- ☐ Fundraising - Coordinate and disperse tickets for our pancake breakfast fundraiser
- ☐ Sunshine Committee - Recognize each Scout's birthday in some way
- ☐ Amateur radio operator to coordinate Jamboree on the air the 3rd full weekend in October
- ☐ Plan and Lead a 10 minute activity or game at one Pack meeting
- ☐ Coordinate camp card sales. This is an optional fundraiser to give scout's the opportunity to offset the cost of summer camps.
- ☐ Choose your own adventure. I'm really good at \_\_\_\_\_ and would like to help by \_\_\_\_\_.