

Cub Scout Costs

Scouting means *doing things* and some of these activities may have costs associated with them. This document will help you know what to expect:

Den expenses

One of the things that make Cub Scouting so successful is that boys are organized into small groups of six to eight of their peers. These are our Tiger, Wolf, Bear, and Webelos dens. Each den is geared to a specific grade level. Pack 504's dens meet once a month to work on age appropriate projects and activities.

Although den's follow the handbook for their particular kind of den, they have a lot of flexibility with achievements and electives. Parents decide what they want to do as a den. Some of things they may want to do might involve a small out-of-pocket expense, such as purchasing craft supplies. Dens also go to see things. A den field trip to a fire station, visiting the mayor, or going to a wildlife preserve wouldn't cost anything. But visiting some museums and historical sites might require purchasing a ticket.

Pack expenses

Once a month during the school year, we bring the Dens together for a fun and interesting pack meeting in the Steeple Run gym. We have gotten to see coin collections, optical illusions, model aircraft, the insides of computers, and had police officers, fire fighters, scientists, etc. as guest speakers. There is no charge for these meetings.

The one possible exception to this policy is our annual Blue and Gold event in February, which will feature entertainment and a full dinner buffet. But if our fall Popcorn sales fund raiser is successful, we hope to make it a free event. Pack meetings provide a unique and invaluable opportunity for boys to make friends with others at different grade levels.

Annual dues

Our Cub Scout year is keyed to Steeple Run's calendar. At the end of May, our scouts graduate from their current den and we begin our membership drive and dues collection for the following school year.

This is the time that our graduating scouts move to the next level of den. First grade Tigers are now second grade Wolves, second grade Wolves are now third grade Bears, and both fourth and fifth graders are Webelos. A new Tiger Cub den is formed. New scout are assigned to the den that corresponds to the grade they will be entering in the fall.

Pack 504 is a non-profit organization. Our annual dues are currently \$43, and of this amount, \$16 is sent to the national organization and \$27 is retained by the pack to purchase awards for the boys, supplies for events, and subsidize events.

For the 2011–2012 school year, your dues will include awards such as belt loops, badges, patches, and segments, the fall hay ride and cookout, a Rain Gutter Regatta boat, a Pinewood Derby car, rockets and motors, and a subsidized Blue and Gold event.

Optional fun and excitement

Many Chicago area sports teams offer special arrangements for scouts, such as participation in a flag ceremony, performance clinics, going on the field, meeting the players, etc. Discounted packages often include a ball, puck, event patch, or other souvenir. Recent events have included the Chicago Wolves (\$12 and Demolition Derby (\$9) and Du Page Dragons (\$4).

The pack also sponsors an annual “Snoozeum”, a real life “Night at the Museum” where we camp out at one of the major Chicago area museums. A recent event was at the Field Museum and cost \$60. However that included parking, admission, a snack and breakfast the next morning. Meteorites, dinosaurs, tarantulas, a late night flash light tour of the mummies, and more fun than you could imagine.

Finally, there is a popular scouting magazine called Boy’s Life, that is only \$12 per year. It has articles of special interest to boys and allows them to keep up with what is going on in the world of scouting. It is highly recommended.

Uniform costs

For many Cub Scouts a uniform is a one time purchase. Tigers, Wolves, Bears, and Webelos have unique caps, neckerchiefs, and slides, but the rest of the uniform is the same. As scouts progress through the ranks, new badges and emblems are added to their existing uniforms.

Uniforms are available through the two local scout stores and Chalkboard stores. The pack also has a recycling program for unneeded scout supplies. These are made available on a first-come, first-serve basis at pack meetings. A new uniform is estimated to cost approximately \$63. That would include \$23 for a short sleeve shirt, \$16 for pants, \$8 for a web belt, \$6 for a neckerchief, and \$10 for emblems.

You can carve your own neckerchief slide or purchase one for \$4. A recommended but optional cap is an additional \$13.

The bottom line

To figure your first year of scouting, add the \$43 dues and the \$63 one time uniform cost for a total of \$106. Doing all the sports events, the Snoozeum, a Boy's Life subscription, and purchasing the optional uniform items would add \$124 to this for a total of \$230. That would provide your son with an entire year's worth of fun and interesting activities. So figure your first year costs will fall between \$106 and \$230 depending on how many sporting events you want to attend.

Also note that uniform costs would drop to just \$6 for succeeding years, or only \$23 even if you purchased a new cap and slide. That reduces costs to between \$66 and \$190 for an entire year of scouting.

If you scroll through our Events web page we are certain you will agree that scouting is an incredible value. But more importantly, scouting will allow your son to make friends outside of the structure of the classroom environment or the competition of the athletic field. He will be joining an organization with a proven hundred year track record of helping boys achieve the famous Cub Scout motto:

“Be Your Best“