



Pack 867

Den 5

Alexandria, Virginia

2012 – 2013

Parent's Welcome Guide



Figure 1: Lord Baden-Powell

“The sport in Scouting is to find the good in every boy and develop it.”

Lord Robert Baden-Powell
Founder of Scouting

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Akela's Introduction

Thank you for allowing your scout to be a member of Pack 867 and Den 5. As we continue your scout's journey in the program, we will strive to build character, learn citizenship, and develop personal fitness. The path we will take will be one filled with fun and adventure. Remember, scouting is "Fun with a purpose!"



**Figure 2: Akela
(Cub Scout Leader)**

Please take a moment to read this guide. It will help describe the program you and your scout will be a part of this year. This year will be filled with plenty of opportunities for your scout to experience new things, learn valuable lessons, and make solid relationships with his fellow scouts.

I am always here to lend a hand in any way possible to ensure your scout has a great experience. Please don't hesitate to contact me directly with any questions, concerns, or suggestions you might have about the program.

Thank you again for what you are about to do this year to support your scout as a Wolf scout. You will truly make a difference!

Best wishes for a great year.

Jeff Carter
(Den Leader, Den 5)

Chapter 1



The Wolf Den Program

“Can we not interpret our adult wisdom into the language of boyhood?”

... Lord Robert Baden-Powell

Den Meeting Specifics:

Den meetings are held on Monday evenings beginning at 7:00PM and ending at 8:00PM. They are held in a classroom at St. John’s Lutheran Church on Franconia Road. The den meetings follow the Boy Scouts of America recommended format. Each meeting will consist of a gathering activity, opening ceremony, business discussion, activities, and a closing. Here is a brief description of each portion of the meeting:

Gathering Activity: Beginning at 6:45PM, the room will be open for your scout to arrive. I encourage you to have them show before 7:00PM so we can start the meeting on time and so they can have some fun! I will have puzzles, games, crafts, stories, and a variety of other fun activities available for them to enjoy with their fellow scouts.

Opening Ceremony: Each den meeting will begin with a flag ceremony, Pledge of Allegiance, and a Cub Scout opening such as the Pack Law or Cub Scout Oath. Each scout will have the opportunity to play different roles in the



**Figure 3:
Opening
Ceremony**

opening ceremony. The opening ceremony at the den meeting will be the same as opening ceremonies in events such as pack meetings. This will help the scouts practice and build confidence in their abilities so when it is our den's turn to perform an opening ceremony for the pack, we will be prepared.

Business Discussion: This portion of the meeting is where I will tell the scouts what events are coming up in the near future. If you are in the den meeting, please listen to what I tell them, because they will be sure to ask you about it when you least expect it. In addition to passing information to the scouts, this is the opportunity for the scouts to share with the den. You and your scout should be working on various electives or sports and academic belt loops. Many of those achievements require the scout to share what he learned or did with the den. This serves a couple of purposes. The first is it builds confidence in your scout when talking in front of other people. Another purpose is your scout's presentation could interest other scouts in the achievement your scout is doing and spur them to want to do the same thing. Please help your scout determine what he wants to say to the den so the experience is a positive one.

Activities: The bulk of the meeting is the activity portion. During this time, we will complete various advancement achievements, electives, play games, and have fun. Some of these activities will require your assistance. Please take a look at the agenda I provide in advance of the den meeting and look



Figure 4: Fun with a Purpose

for the “Help Wanted” sign in the margin (Figure 6). That sign is next to the activities I would like you to assist your scout with.

Closing: Once we clean up our area after the activities, the meeting is starting to come to an end. If there are beads, belt loops, patches, or pins to give out, I will give them out then. I will end the meeting with a den leader’s minute. This is simply a quick thought about something of interest to the scouts to send them away to think about. We will finish with a living circle and the meeting will adjourn.



**Figure 5: Pack 37
"Living Circle"**

Den Meeting Agenda:

I am a firm believer that an informed parent is a happy parent. Toward this goal, I will send you a one page den meeting agenda / activity agenda at least one week before an event. You will see at the top of the agenda what uniform your scout needs to wear and also what items he should bring. This agenda is structured to follow the flow of the den meeting. It identifies what achievement we will be working on. Some of the achievements will have a “Help Wanted” sign in the left margin. This symbol indicates your scout will need your assistance with this task or event. Please be prepared to provide that help so your scout has a positive experience and feels success. Another useful aspect of the agenda is you will know exactly what requirements the two



**Figure 6:
Agenda Help
Wanted
Symbol**

of you need to makeup should your scout happen to miss a den meeting.

Go See It Field Trips:

A fundamental aspect of the Wolf program is to discover new things. This year, we will do our best to have one Go See It per month, beginning in October. These outings are in addition to den meetings and pack meetings. A Go See It will be directly related to either an advancement requirement or an elective achievement. The goal is to expose our scouts to various experiences within their community to help them understand the aspects of the lessons they are learning as they progress through the Cub Scout program.

The scouts are expected to wear their Class A uniform for these outings. Since we are representing St. John's church and Pack 867, we want to show our scout spirit with our uniforms. Additionally, wear of the uniforms assists den leaders in keeping track of where the scouts are during an event.

Go See Its cost is very minimal. Normally, the events will not cost anything; however, on occasion we will have to pay admission for a certain event. In the rare times when there is a cost associated, it is usually \$5 or less. If there are ever any concerns about the cost of any portion of the Cub Scout program, please talk with me. Pack 867 will not let cost prohibit a scout from experiencing the adventures associated with scouting activities.

Chapter 2



Pack 867 Program Overview

“A boy is not a sitting-down animal.”

...Lord Robert Baden-Powell

Pack Meetings:

Pack 867 holds pack meetings on the last Tuesday of each month from September through May, with the exception of December. They occur at St. John’s Lutheran Church in the fellowship hall and begin at 7:00 PM and end at 8:00 PM. Pack meetings are the one time each month where parents for the Wolf, Bear, and Webelo scout attends to see their scout in action. The Cubmaster and Assistant Cubmaster have overall responsibility for planning and executing the pack meeting program. The Cubmaster publishes a matrix detailing responsibilities of each den. Responsibilities include a gathering activity, setup, opening and closing ceremony, a skit/song/joke/story, or teardown/cleanup. The sharing of responsibilities ensures no one den is overloaded with tasks to support the Pack. Also, the matrix gives a den leader ample time to prepare their den for a ceremony or skit. We will practice our part of the pack meetings in our den meetings so our scouts are polished for the big show. It is also helpful if you assist your scout in learning any skit lines, or song verses they might need to know.

The theme for the monthly pack meeting follows the Core Value themes established by Boy Scouts of America. It is important for you to work the monthly core

value into your den meetings and participation in the pack meeting. The Core Value Themes are:

- | | |
|-------------|--------------------|
| ✓ September | Cooperation |
| ✓ October | Responsibility |
| ✓ November | Citizenship |
| ✓ December | Respect |
| ✓ January | Positive Attitude |
| ✓ February | Resourcefulness |
| ✓ March | Compassion |
| ✓ April | Faith |
| ✓ May | Health and Fitness |
| ✓ June | Perseverance |
| ✓ July | Courage |
| ✓ August | Honesty |

Pack 867 Special Activities:

There are numerous opportunities for all of the dens within the pack to come together to participate in activities together. These are great opportunities for your scout to see older friends from their school and to have fun with the other Wolf dens. The following is a list and brief description of some of the more common special activities Pack 867 provides as opportunities for scouts and their families:

Trails End Popcorn Sales: This event is the major fundraising activity for the Pack. The Pack receives approximately 30% of the total sales from individual scouts and Pack group sales. This fundraiser is managed by a "Popcorn Kernal" at the committee level with each den having a subordinate "Popcorn Kernal" to care for the scouts in that den. There are many prizes available to scouts who sell a great deal of popcorn which include free summer camp, gift cards, and patches to name a few. Popcorn kickoff is usually in the middle of August and sales run through the end of October.

Raingutter Regatta: This is an event sanctioned by the Boy Scouts of America (BSA). Scouts are given the opportunity to build small wind-powered boats from kits available from BSA. The boats are placed in an inflatable track that resembles a raingutter. The scout must blow into the sail of his boat and the first scout to blow their boat across the finish line wins. Scouts race against their specific rank and then the finals are the winners from each rank. Siblings are able to build boats and participate. Trophies, medals, and participation patches are awarded.

Pinewood Derby: This is an event sanctioned by the BSA. Scouts construct cars from kits available from BSA. The construction of a pinewood derby car exceeds the general skill level of a Tiger scout and adult participation will be needed. The cars are raced, six at a time, on an aluminum track that uses gravity to propel the cars. Scouts race against their specific rank and then the finals are the winners from each rank. Siblings and parents are able to build cars and participate. Trophies, medals, and participation patches are awarded. Once the Pack derby is complete, scouts may opt to enter the District-level pinewood derby and compete against other packs.

Space Derby: This is an event sanctioned by the BSA. Scouts build small propeller based rockets from kits available from BSA. Once the rocket is constructed, it is raced on a track that uses fishing line to hold the rockets in a straight line. Scouts race against their specific rank and then the finals are the winners from each rank. Siblings are able to build rockets and participate. Trophies, medals, and participation patches are awarded.

Family Campouts: The Pack holds two overnight campouts. The first is in the fall usually in October. The second is late spring usually around May or June. Scouts and parents are invited to camp overnight at a council-approved campground. Activities such as sports belt loops, hikes, or games are held. Other events consist of a campfire program and an inter-faith religious service depending on the days of the campout. Food can be planned for either at a pack level or as a den.

Bicycle Rodeo: This is an event where the scouts are able to bring their bicycles out and have them inspected, participate in an obstacle course, and possibly see demonstrations by teams such as the Fairfax County Police Department bicycle patrol. This event is normally only a few hours.

Heritage Event: The Heritage Event is an annual event Pack 867 started in 2010. This event celebrates the diversity of our Pack and allows the scouts to experience different cultures of their friends and the families involved in Pack 867. Tables are hosted by families from different regions around the world. Examples of clothing, games, food, and history are presented to the scouts. The scouts have the chance to earn the Culture and Language as well as the Heritage belt loops.

Blue and Gold Banquet: This banquet is to celebrate the birthday of scouting in America. The event is held in late February each year. Scouts and their families are invited to share a meal and enjoy a show based on the selected theme of the year. This event is also where the Cubmaster formally recognizes the promotion of scouts to the next rank. This recognition is the driver behind working to have your Tiger scouts through the rank advancement requirements so they can be presented their Tiger rank in front of the entire pack and their families.

Pack Hike: Pack 867 hosts a nature hike in the spring of each year. This event can be held in conjunction with a cook-out as an end of year event. Each den will participate in an age and skill appropriate.

Scout Sunday: St. John's Lutheran Church holds Scout Sunday on the second Sunday of February. This Sunday, all scouts are encouraged to attend the morning service where the Pack and the Boy Scout Troop are recognized for their service to the church. Additionally, the Pack is presented its new charter for the new scout year at this church service. Scouts also are allowed to serve as greeters in an effort to do a good deed.

Scouting for Food: This is a BSA sanctioned service project where Pack 867 leaves plastic bags on the doorsteps of homes in the neighborhood assigned to the Pack. On the following weekend, the Pack returns to collect the bags which hopefully will be filled with canned goods. The filled bags are collected and distributed to an area food bank.

George Washington Parade: Old Town Alexandria hosts a George Washington Parade on President's Day each year. Pack 867 has an opportunity to march in the parade. The scouts really enjoy the chance to be part of a parade.

Summertime Activities: Pack 867 sponsors two events during each month of the summer in an effort to allow scouts an opportunity to earn the Summertime Activity pin. Those events include, but are not limited to: Bowling, Roller-skating, Golf, Potomac Nationals Game and Campout, Washington Nationals Scout Day Game

Chapter 3



The Wolf Scout Year and Your Child

“When a boy finds someone who takes an interest in him, he responds and follows.”

... Lord Robert Baden-Powell

Cub Scout Responsibilities:

Cub Scouts is an interactive program to help grow and develop our youth. In the Wolf year, the program begins to allow your scout to take more responsibility for himself and within the den. The basics your scout will be asked to do is to attend meetings in uniform, bring his handbook, participate in the activities, and display good behavior. I will encourage your scout to “do his best” at all times, whatever his particular best is. Each scout is different. These expectations are the same as what your scout was expected to do during the Tiger year. New for the Wolf year is an opportunity for your scout to serve as a “Denner”. The “Denner” position will be rotated on a monthly basis. To signify which scout is serving in the “Denner” position, he will be authorized to wear a gold double-strand shoulder cord on the left shoulder with the cord suspended under the arm. The shoulder cord will be transferred to the next scout at the first den meeting of each month. The “Denner” will serve as an assistant to



Figure 7:
Denner Gold
Cord

both me and the Assistant Den Leader. This scout can help with age appropriate tasks such as helping pass out papers or set up games. Most importantly, the “Denner” is responsible for the den flag. The “Denner” will be asked to keep the den flag safe the entire month at his home and be responsible for bringing the flag to all den meetings, pack meetings, and Go See Its. The goal with the “Denner” program in the Wolf year is to begin to teach our scouts responsibility and trust.

Achievements and Awards:

Recognition is important to scouts. Remember, a Cub Scout’s motto is “Do your best.” As “Akela”, we both need to urge our scouts to give it all they have. Not every scout will have the same result from his effort, but that isn’t important. What is important is the positive experience and the fun we will all have along the way. For the purposes of this guide, I’ve divided the awards into several categories.



Figure 8:
Cub Scout Motto

The first category of award is advancement. In the beginning, the focus of the den meetings is advancement primarily until your scouts achieve this goal. This is not to say advancement is the only part of the program in the den meetings. The advancement plan provides fun for the boys, gives them a sense of personal achievement as they earn badges, and strengthens family understanding. Together, we will work with scouts on



Figure 9:
Wolf Badge

advancement projects. My goal is to have them earn their Wolf badge by the end of February. Don't worry though. If for whatever reason that isn't possible, we have until the end of May to catch up.

In addition to advancement, the program consists of 23 Wolf electives, each with multiple parts. You can refer to your scout's handbook for a description of each elective. Many of the electives will be added to advancement requirements to help enhance the program. Following rank advancement to Wolf, we will focus on electives the scouts are interested in. One important point to mention is our scouts are not allowed to earn "Arrow Points" until after they have earned their Wolf badge. Arrow Points are awarded for every 10 electives completed and are permanently sewn onto the Cub Scout uniform (refer to Figure 13).



**Figure 10:
Elective Arrow
Points**



**Figure 11: Belt
Loop Award**

The Cub Scouts Academics and Sports Program is another large part of the scouting program. This program helps in the development of physical, mental, and emotional fitness. This program is optional for scouts; however, we will incorporate several of these activities into various den meetings. The academics portion of the program has opportunities in 25 different and varying subjects which might interest your scout. The sports portion allow for recognition to be earned through achievement in 28 sports. Remember, your scout can always work on these awards outside of den meetings. School and team sporting programs

help to ensure your scout is credited with what they've completed. I ask you to have any items annotated in ScoutTrack no later than the night of the Pack meeting each month. This will give me plenty of time to gather the awards and ready them for presentation. For large awards such as rank advancement, the Cub Scout Outdoor Activity Award, Leave No Trace Award, God and Country Award and others of importance, I will ask the Cubmaster to present these at a Pack meeting. The reason for this is your scout should receive his recognition in front of the entire pack for large scouting awards which required a great deal of effort to achieve.

Cub Scout Uniforms:

The Cub Scout uniform helps build pride, loyalty, and self-respect. Wearing the uniform to all den and pack meetings and activities also encourages a neat appearance, a sense of belonging, and good behavior. Your scout should have a "Class A" blue Cub Scout shirt with the appropriate patches sewn in place. A yellow Wolf neckerchief with accompanying neckerchief slide is required. The Wolf hat and Cub Scout belt rounds off the needed portions of the uniform. Cub Scout blue pants are available; however, they are not required. I ask your scout wear neat pants or shorts that do not have any holes in them. Closed toed shoes are also needed to help keep your scout safe during games and activities. Occasionally if the den is playing an outdoor game, building a pinewood derby car, or doing a messy activity, we will wear a "Class B" Cub Scout t-shirt. The Pack sells Pack 867 t-shirts; however, any t-shirt with a scout theme will suffice.

Throughout the course of the Wolf year, we will have den uniform inspections. One will be before the Blue and Gold banquet in February just to ensure we all look our best. Another will be at the end of the year to ensure our uniforms are correct before we all take off to summer camp. The Cub Scouting program encourages these and they are a chance for your scout to earn a unique patch for wear on his “brag vest.” To earn the passed uniform inspection patches, you should be in a clean, neat Class A uniform with all patches affixed (sewn or glued) in the appropriate place. Your scout needs a neckerchief, slide, Cub Scout belt, and appropriate hat. Don’t worry; there will be plenty of advanced notice before an inspection. We all want the scouts to do their best!

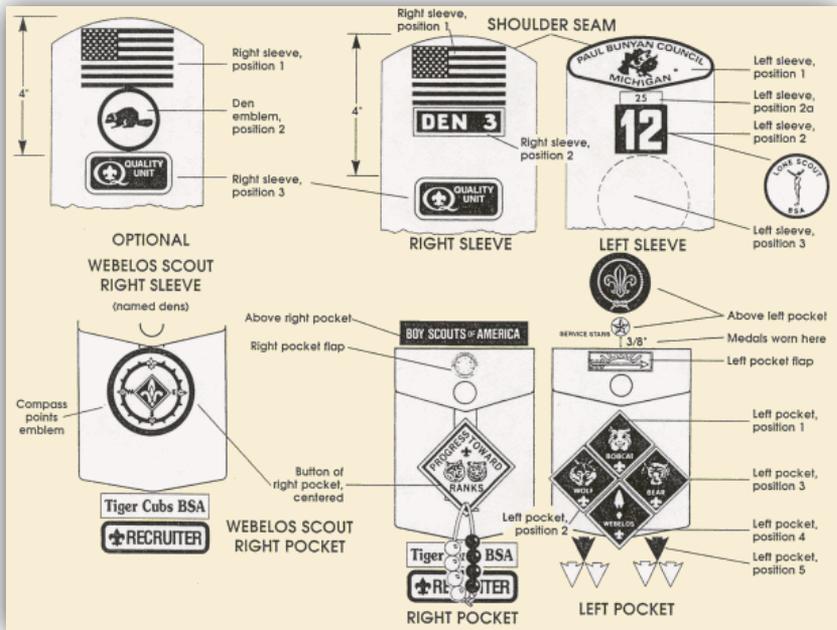


Figure 13: Cub Scout Uniform Patch Placement Diagram

Behavior:

All the fun scouts have can be a challenge for a leader to keep good order and discipline in a den. Our den needs to have an established set of rules, or code of conduct. I find it more effective to let the scouts define the rules they want to use for scout meetings. I know you are probably thinking this can't be right, but it is. I will help the scouts come to their own decisions about what good conduct will be during their Wolf year. We will use a large sheet of paper and write down rules the scouts tell me they have in their classroom, at church, and at home. Together with the scouts, I will narrow this list to a simple set of no more than five guidelines. A few tried and true rules are keep your hands to yourself, only say nice things to one another, raise your hand to talk, be quiet when the Cub Scout sign is up, and "Do Your Best!" These rules will be posted for a couple of den meetings and over time, good habits are formed by the scouts. You will be amazed how our scouts will behave if they had an active part in determining what behavior was acceptable.

During den meetings, the Assistant Den Leader will be keeping the boys on task. I ask you to allow us to take the first attempt at correcting inappropriate behavior. Should a discipline issue continue with a scout who is disruptive to the other scouts or the meeting, we will ask your scout to go talk with you about the concern. As always, we appreciate and enjoy the support of parents such as you.

Chapter 4



What is my Role as a Parent?

“There is no teaching to compare with example.”

... Lord Robert Baden-Powell

Parental Involvement:

The key to any scout’s success in a scouting program is support from their family. You enjoyed the chance to walk through the Tiger year with your scout from beginning to end. Whether it was singing a song, learning a skit, playing a game, or learning a skill, your scout knew his adult partner was right beside him. As our scouts get older, we have the great responsibility to help them become more independent and self sufficient. In the scouting program, the Wolf year gives us a great start in those skills. As the den leader, I will work with the assistant den leader to guide your scouts through the majority of the program. On occasion, there will be times during den meetings when your help will be needed for a harder task, but as we begin the adventure toward earning the Wolf rank, we have the chance to allow our scouts to try things on their own.

In the beginning of this year, I ask you to stay in the room during den meeting. Your scout needs to know you are nearby and can look to you for positive reinforcement and praise. Later in the year, we can explore having them at the den meetings with fewer adults. Remember though, the rules of “two-deep” leadership will always apply with your scouts in Cub

Scouting. There will always need to be at least two adults present at a den meeting.

Go See It trips, campouts, service projects, and other outings still need your support and attendance if at all possible. Your scout wants to experience new things and having you with them will create lifelong memories for the both of you. Should there be a time when you are unable to attend an outing, please don't let that stop your scout from attending. Unlike the Tiger year, your scout can attend events without you and under the ever watchful eye of the den leader and assistant den leader.

As you read through the Wolf Handbook, you will notice many of the advancement achievements will need to be accomplished at home and with your assistance. The master schedule provided as an attachment to this guide details which advancement requirements specifically need your attention. Please don't stop there though. Wolf electives as well as academic and sports belt loops offer great structured opportunities for your family to have "fun with a purpose."

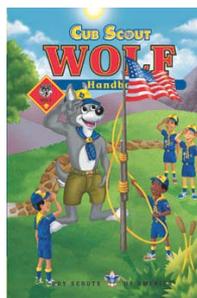


Figure 14:
Wolf
Handbook
Cover



Figure 15: ScoutTrack Homepage

Another need your scout has of you is to help ensure they are credited with their accomplishments. The Pack uses the internet-based *ScoutTrack* program to record accomplishments. The login page for *ScoutTrack* is located at <http://www.scouttrack.com/>. It only takes a moment to login and sign your scout off for activities he completes. Many activities your family is already involved with could serve as the venue for completion of various activities. Sports teams, church events, going to see a play, visit a museum, and many other family activities you already do can be counted for recognition. Take a minute and see what you can do to help your scout.

Parent Training:

I encourage you to take some time out of your schedule to accomplish two online training courses offered by the Boy Scouts of America. These courses take about 30 minutes to complete, but are extremely important and helpful for parents.

The first course I hope you will consider taking is “*Your Protection Training.*” This course discusses the concepts of two-deep leadership, how den leaders should interact with scouts, and general child safety concepts we should all know. An added benefit of your completion of *Youth Protection Training* is you can serve as part of the two-deep leadership requirement during scouting events.



Figure 16:
Youth Protection begins with YOU.

The second course is “*This is Scouting.*” I encourage parents who have no scouting background to take the time to go through this course. The overview of the benefits of scouting and how it is designed to shape your scout are very enlightening. In order to take these courses, you will need to establish an account at www.scouting.org.

If you are interested in other training opportunities, the National Capital Area Council offers classes several times each year. In the fall of each year, the council offers Pow Wow training. Pow Wow is a supplemental, action-packed training event for adult Cub Scout Leaders, Pack Committee Members, parents of Cub Scouts and just Cub Scout-interested persons. You’ll spend the day learning new ideas and concepts, and having hands-on experiences that will enhance your ability to deliver and support a fun-filled, exciting program to Cub Scout boys.

Another opportunity provided by the council is University of Scouting. The “University of Scouting” is a supplemental training opportunity for all adult Scout

