

Cub Scout  
Pack 214  
Parent Handbook  
2013-2014





## Cub Scouts Pack 214

Hello *Akela* (*parent or adult leader in Cub Scouting*) and welcome to Cub Scouts Pack 214. The information and guidelines presented to you in the next few pages will help you get off to a good start for the coming year, providing you with a reference point as you get to know Cub Scouting and Pack 214. Please keep this packet as a handy reference for future information needs regarding Pack policy and uniform information.

To begin with, your son is a member of Pack 214. The **Pack** is made up of **Dens**, which is a group of boys usually in the same grade as that of your son. Each Den has a specific numeral attached to it. Collectively, we are **Cub Scouts** and are members of the National organization, **Boy Scouts of America (BSA)**

**Den meetings** are held *weekly* at MUMC on Tuesdays at 6:30.

Unless previously announced, our **Pack meetings** are the *3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday* of every month at 6:30 p.m. They are held at the **Eagles' Nest**, which is the Troop 39 building at the other end of the parking lot of MUMC.

All Packs have a **Chartered Organization** which acts as a 'sponsor.' Ours is Matthews United Methodist Church (MUMC).

The Pack is run by a group of registered BSA Adult Leaders of the Pack who make up the **Pack Committee**. Committee Meetings are held the second Monday of each month at 6:30 at MUMC and are open to all parents of scouts in the Pack.

### **Find us on the web at:**

[www.Pack214.com](http://www.Pack214.com)

[www.Facebook.com/Pack214](http://www.Facebook.com/Pack214)

## Cub Scouting and You

When your son earns his **Bobcat Badge** he learns the ‘Law of the Pack.’ One of these laws states “The Cub Scout Helps the Pack Go.” Going is a major part of Scouting. Throughout the year, your son and his den will likely take part in many field trips and activities outside of the regular den/pack meetings. In addition, the Committee and the District will offer many opportunities for adventures. Take part in what you can in order to give your son the most enriching experience possible, but never feel obligated to do ALL of it. Worn out parents are not a good thing.

Ambitious as they are, a Cub Scout still needs *your* help in implementing the program and thereby giving the *Pack* the chance to keep our promise in the part of the Law that states “The Pack Helps the Cub Scout Grow”.

Remember, the **Pack** is ALL of us working together; leaders, parents, the community and Scouts.

Unlike other programs your son might enroll in, Cub Scouting involves the whole family, no matter what size or parental make-up exists in the home.

In Tigers, you are your son’s Adult Partner.

In Wolves and Bears, you are Akela.

In Webelos you are the “Wise Leader of the Tribe” and the final judge of your son’s efforts. In addition, at the Webelos rank, you are the Activity Badge counselor that could help influence a boy’s career direction for the future.

Throughout the year you will be invited to assist on different committees and at different events. Please volunteer freely and give of yourself when called upon to help. We all know the old adage that says “It takes a community.” Pack 214 can be that community for your family. And you just might find it to be a rewarding that you and your son will remember as doing **together**.

## A Brief Summary of Scouting and the Cub Scout Program

Scouting has been around a long time. The Boy Scouts of America was founded in 1910 and became federally chartered with the United States in 1916. Cub Scouts came into being in 1930. Millions of boys have worn the uniform, cooked over an open fire at a campsite, earned their Bobcat Badge, raced their Pinewood Derby cars, worked on service projects, and made new friends under the umbrella of Scouting. Underneath all this fun and excitement is a character-building program that encourages making good ethical choices, is family strengthening, promotes physical fitness and citizenship skills in the lives of our boys.

Scouting utilizes an advancement system that requires a boy to 'Do His Best' to fulfill and complete the requirements outlined in his handbook so that he may earn his rank badge. After receiving his badge, these Scouts can go on to earn other awards by completing a series of electives. Please keep in mind that although there are lots of awards and recognitions in Scouting, Pack 214 will strive to make sure that these are earned through significant, meaningful methods that your son will remember for a long time.

At the Tiger, Wolf and Bear ranks, Cub Scouting centers around monthly themes that have lots of appeal to boys at this age. During den meetings, the boys will be playing games, building craft projects, learning songs and more. In doing so, these boys will be improving different skills as they learn to get along with others, become more resourceful, and participate in new activities and venues.

At the Webelos level, in lieu of the monthly theme, the boys are introduced to several diverse Activity Badges and, within the framework of the Webelos den, they work on completing these badges.

There are Webelos 1's (4<sup>th</sup> graders) and Webelos 2's (5<sup>th</sup> graders). At the first level, after earning their Webelos badge, Webelos 1's continue to earn additional activity badges and gain new knowledge and skills in these areas. The Webelos 2's may still be earning Activity Badges, but will also begin focusing on completing other requirements for their Arrow of Light award and will be conducting activities with the Boy Scout Troop associated with the given Charter Organization.

Pack 214 follows a 'Scout Year' of September to May. At the May Pack Meeting all the boys 'cross over' into the next rank. (Webelos 2s crossover to Boy Scouts in March of each year.) During the summer, sit back and relax, there will be some fun activities to participate in but regular den and pack meetings are suspended.

There are many events offered in Scouting. In addition to Den meetings, the Pack will have family camping trips, a pinewood derby race, a Blue and Gold dinner, service opportunities and more. In addition, there are District and Council events which unite us with hundreds of Scouts. Your participation at these functions will definitely add to your son's Scouting experience.

Thank you for taking the time to go over this handbook with your new Cub Scout! With your help, this will be an exciting, rewarding experience for you, your son, your family, and your Pack.

We're glad you've joined us! If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact anyone on the Committee or the Cubmaster.

**Den Meetings**  
6:30 p.m.  
Second floor of MUMC



Lots of Cub Scouting happens in the den. Please remember that your son's **Den Leader** is a **volunteer** putting forth his or her time and effort to help your boy 'Do His Best' to earn his badges, participate in the fun and gain all the positive values that the Cub Scout program offers. Please assist the den leader in the following ways.

- Tiger Cubs **MUST** have an **Akela** (adult partner) with them at all meetings, trips, etc. Enjoy the time together!
- Please have your son to den meetings on time. Your den leaders have lots of activities planned and it is important to have the whole group together to begin the evening's fun and projects.
- Please pick up your son from den meetings on time. Your den leader has places to go and kids that they have to put to bed, too. Better yet, ask your den leader if they could use an extra pair of hands that night and stay. Not only will your help be appreciated, but also you can see what your son is working on.
- Be an active parent. *Everybody* has some special abilities and 'know how' that can be of great help in matters relating to Cub Scouts. Please make sure you have completed the Parent Talent Survey Sheet and return it to your leader. In addition to the boys learning new skills from *you*, I promise that you will have a good time helping *them*.
- Every Den Meeting is designed to explore the different elements of scouting while including activities for home and the community. The expectations are focused on the **Cub Scout Motto**, 'Do Your Best.' Every scout will have a chance to experience this motto as they earn their way to rank.
- There are 12 core values to scouting that set the tone for everything we do. It is important for the scouts to learn these as we will be using them weekly in their advancement and activities as we have both fun and teach your young son to grow up to be a good citizen.

1. Citizenship
2. Compassion
3. Cooperation
4. Courage
5. Faith
6. Health and fitness

7. Honesty
8. Perseverance
9. Positive attitude
10. Resourcefulness
11. Respect
12. Responsibility

## **Pack Meetings**

6:30 p.m.

Third Tuesday of most months.

At the Eagle's Nest.

Whereas at weekly den meetings the boys do activities towards earning rank badges and awards, the monthly Pack Meeting is where these 'advancements' are presented. Advancements are an important part of the program, as they allows the boys to receive due recognition in front of the group as a whole, inspires the younger scouts to strive towards achieving future ranks and bring everybody together for the big night!

At Pack meetings, the **Cubmaster** will 'Do His Best' to make sure that each Den has a chance to "show off" something that has been learned or achieved during den meetings. This could be a craft, a song or skit, or sharing about a "Go See It." In addition there will likely be an advancement ceremony or other themed event planned for the evening.

Please observe the followings guidelines in regards to Pack meetings.

- Please accompany your son to his Pack meeting. Pack meetings are a *family* event - brothers, sisters, grandparents, but most of all, **YOU!** We require your son's **Akela** there not only to help keep order at the meeting (things *can* get a bit rowdy) but also because in Scouting many awards are presented to the parent who then presents it to the Scout. Cub Scouts is a family program.
- Please arrive to Pack meetings on time. Try to arrive at 6:15 to sign in and get settled. This is a great time to speak with your son's Den leader about upcoming events and socialize with the other parents in the den. The Pack Meeting will always start right at 6:30 to honor everyone's time. If your son's den has been assigned to help out with the flag ceremony or assist with sign in and attendance, it is imperative to have him there by the appointed time (generally 6:00 for duty months).
- Your son should wear his Class A uniform to Pack Meetings (and den meetings as well). Class A will be described in the Uniform section of this handbook, but generally, his uniform shirt, belt and hat. Make sure the shirt is tucked in!
- Sit with your den. Den's are identified by their Den Flag. Please make every effort to sit near and with your son, his fellow scouts and their families.

Most of all, we hope to make Pack meetings entertaining, enriching, and FUN!!!

## Pack Committee

The Pack 214 Committee includes a Committee Chair, Secretary, Treasurer, \*Cubmaster, Events Coordinator, Advancement Coordinator, age level representatives, Chaplain, Pack Trainer, \*Charter Organization Representative and \*Unit Commissioner.

All parents of a Cub Scout in the Pack are welcome and encouraged to become a Committee Member. Our committee meetings are held the second Monday of each month at 6:30 at MUMC and are open to *all* parents of Scouts in the Pack.

The Committee reports directly to the *Charter Organization* and closely follows the values set out by the Charter Organization and the BSA.

<b>Committee Chair</b>	<b>Donna</b>	<b>Sand</b>
<b>Committee Chair Elect</b>	<b>open</b>	
Webmaster*	Elizabeth	Beardsley
Secretary	Neal	Sharkey
Historian*	<b>open</b>	
Medical Forms*	<b>open</b>	
<b>Treasurer</b>	Brad	Williams
Friends of Scouting*	<b>open</b>	
Camp Cards*	Dan	Maples
Popcorn*	Eldon	Vickers
Show & Sells*	Glenn	Grossman
Pack Trainer	Dale	Salter
Chaplain	<b>open</b>	
Care Packages for Troops*	<b>open</b>	
Toys for Tots*	<b>open</b>	
Scout Sunday*	<b>open</b>	
Scouting for Food*	David	Crowe
Events Chairperson	<b>open</b>	
Recruitment*	Mike	Sand
Matthews Alive*	Donna	Sand
Cuboree & Webeloree*	<b>open</b>	
Super Trip*	Mike	Sand
Grimes Campout*	<b>open</b>	
YECO*	Brad	Williams
Day Camp*	Kelly	Williams
4th of July Parade*	Rob	Bireley
Advancements	Wesley	Roark
Advancements	Jules	Riley
T-Shirts*	Jules	Riley
Tiger Rep	<b>open</b>	
Wolf Rep	Sharimaine	Hall
Bear Rep	Tom	Knowles
Web 1 Rep	<b>open</b>	
Web 2 Rep	Heidi	Frankson
Charter Org Rep*	Dan	Latta
Unit Commissioner*	Curtis	Castell
<b>Cubmaster*</b>	<b>Mike</b>	<b>Sand</b>
Asst. Cubmaster*	Dale	Salter
Pizza Kick-Off*	Mike	Sand
Raingutter Regatta*	Neil	Sharkey
Christmas Party*	<b>open</b>	
Arrow of Light*	<b>open</b>	
Blue/Gold*	Carol	Bireley
Pinewood Derby*	Neil	Sharkey

\*Non-voting members of the Pack Committee.

## **Pack 214 and BSA Annual Membership Fees & Other Costs**

- Membership fees are collected in September of each year.
- Fees are prorated when a boy joins the Pack later in the calendar year. Fees (as of 2013) are as follows:
  - Sept. – Nov. \$75
  - Dec. – Mar. \$50
  - April – Aug. \$27
- Pack Fees (as of 2013) are \$75. This includes:
  - Activity Patches
  - Pins/Beltloops
  - Rank Patch
  - T-Shirt for new boys
  - Council Fees
- Add \$35 per Webelos 2 boy for Shadow Box & \$10 for Arrow of Light.
- \*Fundraising – Each family is expected to sell, at minimum, \$400 of popcorn. At a 27% return to the pack, a buyout of \$100 for program fees is acceptable, but discouraged.
- Uniforms are purchased by the individual family. They generally cost under \$85 and can be purchased at the Scout Shop (details on Uniform Page of this handbook.)
- Optional Events (all of these costs can be offset by fundraising):
  - Super Trip is generally under \$150 per boy/adult. The Yorktown trip may be higher.
  - Day Camp in June was \$125 in 2013.
  - Webelos Resident Camp (for current Bears & Webelos 1's) was \$125 in 2013
  - District Events such as Bobcat games, Knights Games, Checkers Games, Skiing, O'Ree, Trailblazer Day, etc. All have a nominal fee attached that generally runs from \$10 - \$20 per person (the exception being skiing which is approximately \$75 per person.)
  -



## Fund Raisers

Pack 214 does two main *fundraisers*. The first being the Popcorn Sale in the fall and the second being camp cards in the spring.

The **Popcorn Sale** has a benefit to the Pack, the council and the family. We **strongly encourage** all families to participate in the popcorn sale because of the core values that it teaches the boys. Citizenship, cooperation, honesty, perseverance, positive attitude, resourcefulness, respect and responsibility are all part of approaching friends, family, and neighbors and asking them to support the scouts. Lessons are learned throughout the process as a boy is rejected/rewarded in a sale and when he accomplishes the goal set out by you, his Akela. Many parents will tell you how their son learned to respectfully speak to adults through selling popcorn.

- Each Scout is asked to sell a minimum of \$400 of popcorn through individual sales or through Pack initiated "Show & Sells."
- Benefits for selling in addition the prizes set out by the council:
  - \$800                    1 Free Super Trip
  - \$1200                  2 Free Super Trips
  - \$1600                  2 Free Super Trips + \$100 Cubby Bucks
  - \$2000                  2 Free Super Trips + \$200 Cubby Bucks

\*Each Additional \$400 (after \$2000) in Popcorn results in \$100 in Cubby Bucks for the Family.

- As of December 2012 Cub Scouts are eligible for a scholarship fund once they have sold over \$2500 in popcorn. See Trails-End's website or our Popcorn Chair for current information on this.

**Camp cards** are discount cards/coupons that we "buy" from the District in March/April. They have NO benefit for the Pack. All proceeds go directly to the scouting family and are completely optional.

- In 2013 cards sold for \$5.00. 50% of this amount is given to the District and 50% is returned to the individual scouts in the form of **Cubby Bucks**.

## Cubby Bucks

Cubby bucks are essentially gift certificates given to scouts from their sales of fundraisers.

- Cubby bucks are transferrable within the Pack, by the parent of the Scout owning the bucks. Specific transfer information must be written on back of buck and signed.
- Cubby bucks have no cash value.
- Cubby bucks can be used for Pack 214 fees including yearly registration fees, camp costs, Super Trip costs, etc.
- Cubby bucks can also be used for Scout Gear. The definition of "Scout Gear" is gear specifically required for scouting events, ie. hiking boots, hiking back packs, tents, camping cookware, sleeping bags, etc.
- Cubby bucks are the sole responsibility of the Scout Family they were given to. Pack 214 and it's representatives do not keep track of bucks assigned or used.
- Cubby bucks are valid for 2 years past their issuance date. NO EXCEPTIONS.

## Uniforms, Patches, and Accessories

Scouts in uniform are more conscious of their role in Cub Scouting and feel a sense of pride and belonging when wearing one. A uniform provides a proper place for the display of badges earned and a way for him to ‘show the world’ that he has been rewarded for his achievements. Scouts in uniform create a strong, positive, visible image in the community that helps to strengthen the important ties between the public and the scouting organization.

All Tiger Cubs, Cub Scouts, Webelos and Den Leaders are required to wear a regulation BSA uniform to den meetings, pack meetings and other events as determined by the **Cubmaster**. Their uniform is sometimes referred to as their “Class A Uniform” or “Class A’s.”

### Where to Buy

Uniforms, patches and accessories are available at the **Mecklenburg County Scout Shop** located at:  
1410 East Seventh Street  
Charlotte, NC 28204.

In addition to uniforms, they carry almost everything you see in the Scout Catalog and then some. Enjoy the time spent there! Your son will love it! Also, the Pack might have some ‘experienced’ uniforms for use. Please see the Pack Secretary for details.

(Note, uniforms are also available at the National Distribution Center on the corner of Westinghouse and Hwy 49. We discourage shopping here simply because the *Scout Shop* in Charlotte uses the proceeds from purchases for OUR benefit ~ Belk Scout Camp, Council/District activities, etc. Prices at both shops are the same. If you see something in the catalog that the Scout Shop doesn’t have, just ask, they will get it in for you.)

### Uniform Code

The main article of the uniform is the shirt, as it displays the rank of the Scout, and identifies him as belonging to a certain Den, Pack and Council. The other required items are a Hat and neckerchief. When purchasing a new uniform, remember that your son is growing and if, for example, he is now a newly signed up Wolf Cub, get an extra size or two larger, so he can wear it for his Bear year as well.

Pack 214 uses a “waist up” uniform code. This includes the following:

- Hat
- Neckerchief and Slide
- Belt and Belt Buckle
- Blue/Tan Shirt and the following patches
  - Den Number
  - World Crest
  - Council Patch – Mecklenburg County
  - Pack 214 and Veteran Bar (This is provided by the pack)

### **Bottoms**

Clean pants, jeans or shorts are acceptable – preferably blue. Please stay away from athletic/gym shorts and camouflage is not allowed.

### **Class B's**

The boys are expected to be in Class A for all den meetings and pack meetings. BUT, there are times that Class “B” will be acceptable. Class “B” is the Pack 214 t-shirt, tucked into the same bottoms as listed above. The pack will provide one child sized shirt for each registered boy their first year. Additional shirts are available for purchase.

### **Patches**

\*\*Please Note, the iron on patch adhesive that is available for purchase is NOT recommended. It does not hold up and leaves a residue when replacing patches that can be VERY frustrating.

In addition to the purchasing of a uniform, there will be many patches that need to be sewn on your son’s shirt. Please pay close attention as to *where* on the uniform these need to be placed. (Please refer to uniform insignia placement on the next page).

It is important that when your son receives a badge that is to be a part of his uniform, you affix it to his shirt as soon as possible. He earned it, and he deserves to have it displayed.

A uniform is something that a Scout can help pay for himself by assigning him various chores around the house, or helping out with other home projects. Also, keep in mind that uniforms, Scout accessories, camping supplies, and other ‘Scout stuff’ make *excellent* birthday and holiday presents for your son or the Scouter in your family.

Matthews Alterations is a wonderful locally owned shop that can handle the sewing of your patches. They have all of the information needed to get your uniform correct.

In the past their rate has been \$8 for a Blue Shirt (child), \$15 for a Tan Shirt (adult) and \$2 for individual patches. Below is the contact information.

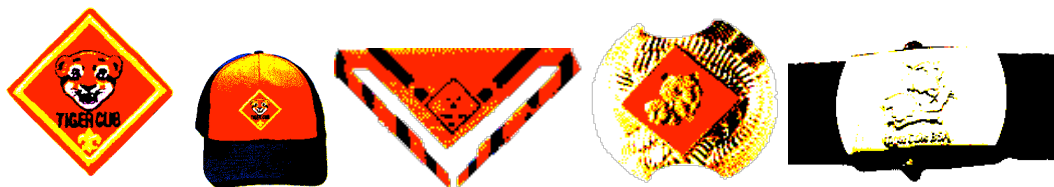
Matthew Alterations and Cleaners  
2217 E Matthews Township Pkwy  
Matthews NC 28105  
704-847-0263  
(Located in Sycamore Commons (Costco) next to McAllister’s)

## What to Buy

### **Tigers, Wolves and Bears**

- Tiger, Wolf or Bear Handbook (please purchase handbook as soon as possible)
- Blue Cub Scout Shirt with U.S. flag
- Your Council Patch
- Your son's Den Number Strip
- World Crest Emblem (purple patch with the fleur-de-lis symbol)
- Tiger (orange), Wolf (yellow) or Bear (blue) Cub Scout Neckerchief
- Cub Scout Slide for neckerchief
- Official Tiger, Wolf or Bear Hat
- Cub Scout web belt and buckle (These are designed to fit the Belt Loop awards that Scouts can earn)

Tigers are first graders and their uniforms are highlighted by an orange hat, neckerchief, and slide.



Wolves are second graders and their uniforms are highlighted by a red and yellow hat, neckerchief, and slide.



Bears are third graders and their uniforms are highlighted by a light blue hat, neckerchief, and slide.



## Webelos

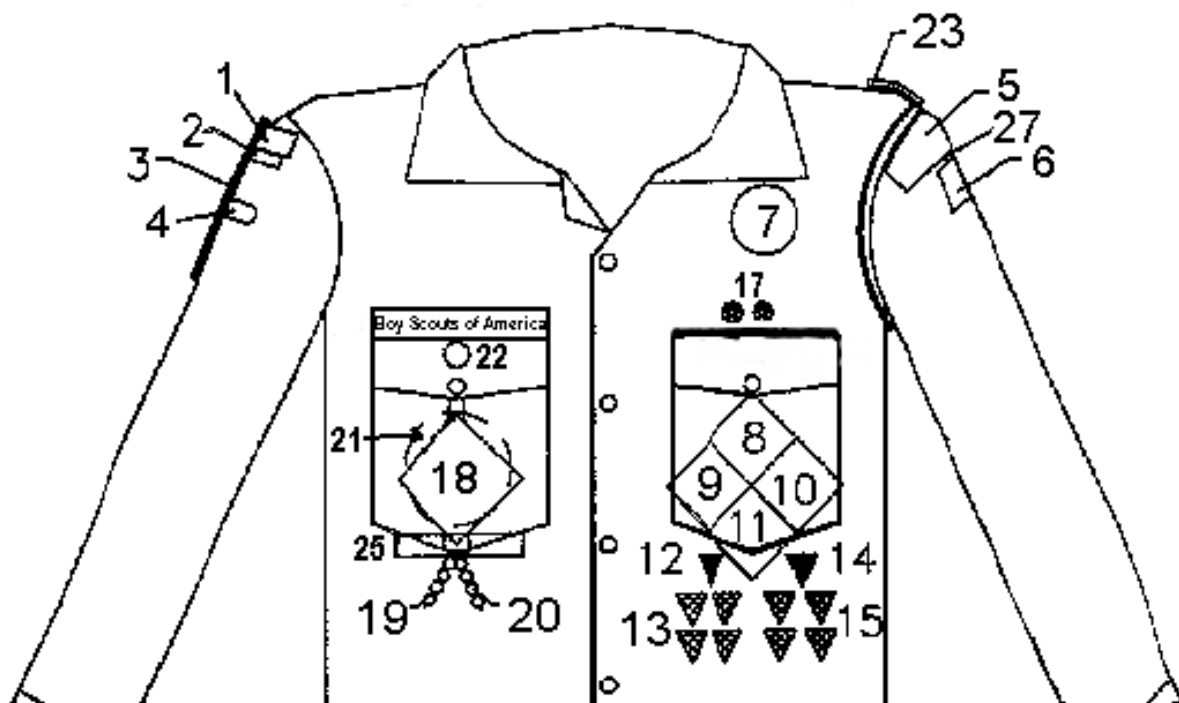
- Webelos Handbook (please purchase handbook as soon as possible)
- \*Tan Boy Scout Shirt with U.S. Flag
- Your Council's Patch
- Your patrol's patch (may be done in patrol)
- World Crest Emblem (purple patch with the fleur-de-lis symbol)
- Checkered Webelos Neckerchief
- Webelos Slide
- Blue Shoulder Loops for tan shirt
- Official Webelos Hat
- Cub Scout Web Belt and Webelos Buckle (The Webelos/Boy Scout belt is likely too wide to fit into "regular pants/shorts/jeans. So stick to the same belt as previously used.)
- Webelos Colors

Webelos are 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> graders and their uniforms are green and khaki like Boy Scout uniforms.



\*Blue shirt can be worn throughout the Webelos 1 year. All boys will be required to have the tan shirt as they enter Webelos 2.

### Uniform Insignia Placement



- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1. American Flag (comes with uniform)              | 16. Tiger Cub Service Star  |
| 2. Den Number                                      | 17. Cub Scout Service Star  |
| 3. Webelos Colors (optional)                       | 18. Immediate Recognition Kit (available for Tigers also)                               |
| 4. Quality Unit Award (most recent only)           | 19. Wolf Beads (Yellow)   |
| 5. Council Emblem                                  | 20. Bear Beads (Red)  |
| 6. Pack Numerals                                   | 21. Temporary Patch (or Webelos Compass Badge)  |
| 7. World Crest                                     | 22. Summertime Pack Award   |
| 8. Bobcat Badge                                    | 23. Denner Cords  |
| 9. Wolf Badge                                      | 24. (Not Shown) Arrow of Light – below left pocket                                      |
| 10. Bear Badge                                     | 25. Recruiter Strip   |
| 11. Tiger Badge (or Webelos badge on blue uniform) | 26. (Not Shown). Oval Webelos Badge - Centered on left pocket under flap on tan uniform |
| 12. Wolf Gold Arrow Point                          |   |
| 13. Wolf Silver Arrow Points                       |   |
| 14. Bear Gold Arrow Point                          |   |
| 15. Bear Silver Arrow Points                       |   |

Cover Page:

## New Parent Handbook Information

Greetings Fellow Scouters! My name is Neal Sharkey, a Scouter from Pine Island District in South Florida Council.

Over the years, I have put together this Pack Parent Handbook, and have distributed it throughout some of our Districts to fulfill the needs of parents having a concise definition of what to expect when they sign their boys up for Cub Scouting.

This year, I have updated it to include the latest Tiger Cub Den and uniform changes and other things. Once downloaded, you can make the necessary changes to fit your individual Pack's needs and policies.

Throughout the handbook you will see certain words in the following type brackets: [your Council] Words within these brackets are to be substituted with your individual information inserted, and followed by removing the brackets. Sentences in regular parentheses (such as these) are to be used as written unless you wish to change them.

In addition, I have included other messages from me to you written in *italics* that once read, should be deleted.

When done, you should have a 'tailor made' Pack Parent Handbook that will fit your needs as each Pack is unique in it's own Scouting way.

This handbook is designed to be given out to your new families that have joined up on School Night / Join Scout Night / Fall Recruitment, etc. as well as a 'refresher' for those who have been a member of your Unit for several years.

I hope this helps you, even in some small way, to strengthen your Unit, and provide a much needed information reference.

If you ever want to say 'Hi' or offer suggestions, please feel free to contact me at one of the addresses below. Thank you very much.

In Commissioner service,

Neal Sharkey  
Pack 214 Secretary  
Den 2 Den Leader