

# cubs

## Quick guide for newcomers

Your child is now one of the 38 million young people from all over the world who enjoy the fun, friendship and adventure that is Scouting.

Heath and Reach Cub Pack provides a varied programme for boys and girls aged from 8 to 11 years living in and around Heath and Reach.

This leaflet provides some basic information about the Pack, how we operate, and what to expect. It's not meant to be definitive, just a rough guide based on previous queries.

The activities we do vary wildly, from cooking to climbing; astronomy to rafting!

We are a co-educational Group, so we welcome anyone regardless of gender, background or ability.

### The Leaders

Our Leaders are all volunteers and have been involved in Scouting for many years and have worked with hundreds of Young People. We're also joined by other Helpers and Supporters depending on the activity. The main team are:

Neil                      cubs@ndickson.co.uk / 07952 283977  
Fay  
Marc

Please don't hesitate to contact us if you have any queries, but please try and keep phone calls to reasonable hours - we do work and need sleep! We're happy to discuss any matters at the end of meetings - not at the start please unless it's urgent because we are usually busy preparing so we can start on time.



### Meeting times

We meet most Wednesday evenings during school term at the Scout Hut on Gig Lane from 6-45PM to 8-15PM. Please arrive on time... we'll usually be open 5 minutes early.

Occasionally meetings will be elsewhere: you will be informed of this in advance. Please ensure you check details at least the night before - we often can't help with late queries.



### Going to miss a meeting?

No problem, but if you know in advance we'd appreciate an email or TXT so we know not to buy supplies. Also if you miss a meeting we don't have time to chase everyone, so check with a Leader if you missed any important information.

If your Cub is going to miss a lot of meetings due to other commitments (e.g. a sport club) please let us know in advance or they might lose their space.

### What to bring and not to bring

For weekly meetings, we just expect a Cub to turn-up in their uniform unless instructed, and they should always bring any medication they might need.

On a typical week there is no need for any of the following items and we would appreciate them not being brought: electronics (phones, other gaming devices, etc.), pocket money, sweets, or toys.

### Communications

We will regularly issue updates during the term. We realise that this sometimes can be overwhelming but there's a few key places to watch out for news:

- ▶ **Pack Newsletter:** This is issued at the start of most terms and will list the main plans for the term. Plans do sometimes have to change however so beware!
- ▶ **Emails:** We circulate updates by email where possible. Please keep us up-to-date with your email address.
- ▶ **TXT:** Rare, but for last-minute updates, e.g. cancellations.
- ▶ **Website:** We know that after events Cubs often don't report much back home. So we sometimes put photo's online after events to help tell people what we got up to.

Normally we only send messages to one contact for each Cub. If you prefer we notify multiple adults, let us know, and we will try.

### Your contact details

We must always be able to contact a parent or legal guardian whilst the Cubs are in our care. Please ensure we always have an up-to-date phone number. We insist a parent/guardian of each Cub must have access to a mobile phone.

### Dropping off Cubs

When leaving your Cubs for meetings or events, please ensure you explicitly check that the Leaders are ready for them - never just drop them off near the venue.

### Badges, Awards and extra projects

Cubs will work towards many badges which cover a wide range of interests and skills. Some can be gained at special events or during Pack meetings, and some can be done at home.

The decision to award a badge is the responsibility of the Cub Leaders. Their decision is final. We may occasionally set extra projects for the Cubs to do, though hopefully it's interesting and enjoyable!

Badges are usually awarded on the last week of every half-term (depending on plans, and other activities).

**Badge work at home:** There are some badges we're unlikely to tackle at meetings. If anyone is interested in an extra project at home there is a list of suitable badges on our website. Please do not do others without discussion first, to avoid clashes.

### Moving on to Scouts

Cubs move on to Scouts between the ages of 10½ and 11 years. There are various local Scout Troops depending on what nights the Cubs are available, though spaces are scarce.

The exact age a Cub moves up depends on their personal circumstances, our programme, and when other Cubs are moving up. The Leaders will always contact you when it's time to start thinking about moving up. Please note that we cannot guarantee spaces in the Troop you would like.

### Membership fees

We would appreciate your help paying this promptly as we would prefer to be running events not chasing unpaid money! Information on fees is supplied separately.

New members get two free weekly meetings to try out Cubs.

### Other payments

When making payments for events, please place the fee in an envelope labelled with the Cub's name (or write on the back if you're paying by cheque) and hand it over at the start of the meeting. This will help us to start the meetings on time and avoid any money mix-ups when everyone pays together.

### Payment plans

We try and offer a variety of events, and some of these will be cheap (or even free), whereas some can be quite expensive. We are happy to receive payments by instalments if you prefer, though please discuss this with a Leader in advance.

### Suggestions or comments

If you've got any questions or comments about the Pack then please get in touch. Constructive feedback is always welcome, as are offers of help.

We appreciate that issues do sometimes arise: It would be nice to resolve these amicably and early. If you don't feel this is possible then contact the Group Scout Leader using our website.



## Uniform

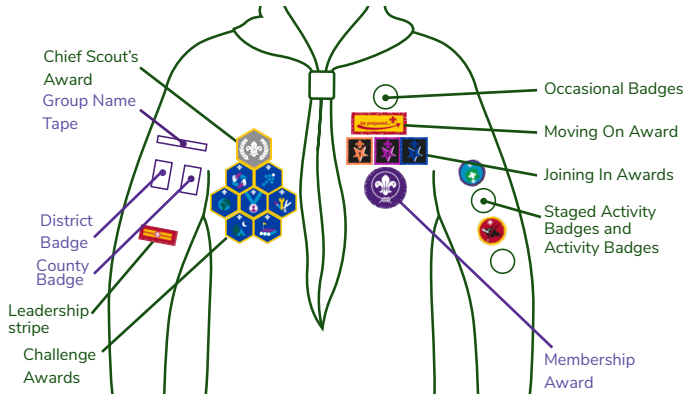
Scouting is a uniformed organisation. All Cubs are expected to wear partial uniform for Pack meetings, and full uniform on formal public events such as parades, unless instructed otherwise. New members should plan to get uniform 2-4 weeks after joining.

Uniform details can be found on our website.



## Badge positions

Cubs will be given various badges and awards during their time with the Pack - these should be attached as soon as possible. Anyone who loses badges, necker, woggle, or any other supplied items will be expected to pay for a replacement.



## Investiture

After your child has visited Cubs a few times they will become a member. The ceremony for this is called an 'Investiture'. The exact amount of time before this happens depends on our other plans, and whether he/she has the uniform, though usually after 3-4 weeks. Your child will also need to learn the 'Cub Scout Promise' and 'Law' before they join (see below), and buy uniform.

Cubs joining from Beavers are expected to attend both meetings for a few weeks as part of the 'Moving On Award': you will be told of the timescales by the Leaders.

### The Cub Scout Law

Cub Scouts always do their best  
Think of others before themselves  
And do a good turn every day.

### The Cub Scout Promise

I promise that I will do my best  
To do my duty to God and to the Queen  
To help other people  
And to keep the Cub Scout Law.

Note: Alternate versions of the Promise are available for different faiths. Please ask if required.

## A Cub Scout's obligations

Cubs isn't just about the weekly meetings - it's about adventure, learning, teamwork, independence, and challenge. So whilst we appreciate Cubs sometimes have other commitments we do expect them to be active members of the Pack and to attend some additional events. We expect all Cubs to:

- ▶ Attend at least 70% of all weekly meetings in a term unless ill, or away (e.g. school trips), or other commitments (e.g. too much homework);
- ▶ Take part in at least one formal ceremony per year i.e. St. Georges Day event in April or Remembrance Sunday in November. Ideally both should be attended.
- ▶ Attend at least four other Scouting events during the year including at least one overnight event.

## A parent/guardian's obligations

It is hoped that families will want to support their Cub's Scout Group. There are many ways in which this support can be given:

- ▶ Encouraging their Cub to attend events, even when they are new, challenging or outside their comfort zone.
- ▶ Booking events and paying fees on time.
- ▶ Attending the compulsory rota (see details below).
- ▶ Transport to events, and assisting with extra events.
- ▶ Discussing any concerns the Cub may be having at the Pack with the Leaders at the earliest opportunity.
- ▶ Supporting the management of the Group with fund-raising and similar administrative matters.

## Parent/Guardian rota

We operate a compulsory parent rota that all families must support to help at the Pack. All names will be notified at the start of each term via the newsletter. If you cannot attend on a particular night due to other commitments please arrange a swap with another family yourself and let us know.

If we have enough regular adults we won't bother with the rota (we don't want to waste anyone's time), but please be warned it may be required again in the future.

When we run additional events (e.g. camps) we will regularly need additional help. We hope that all parents will consider the different ways in which they can help us so this work can be shared equally.

## What skills have you got?

The Leaders are just volunteers, and this is just their hobby. If you could help share a skill just one evening it could really help.

We've had some parents share very interesting hobbies in the past so please do offer!

## Equipment

Some of the activities that we do will require additional equipment such as sleeping bags and rucksacks. Details will normally be provided, but if you would like advice before purchasing please don't hesitate to ask.

## Sixes

The Pack is split into teams called Sixes. Everyone is in a Six. Each Six has a 'Sixer' who is responsible for organising their Six, and a 'Second' to support him/her.

Sixes earn (and lose) points as the Leaders see fit, but mainly for behaviour, and achievement.

Please note that we frequently move people between Sixes so don't get too attached!

## Special needs and health matters

If your Cub has any special needs, or needs any extra help, please let us know. Also, if there are any medical matters that we should be aware of (such as asthma, allergies, etc.) then please let us know. It is much better (and safer) for all concerned if we are aware.

We cannot provide one-to-one supervision so if there are Cubs whose abilities or behaviour require more supervision then we may require that a parent/guardian attends with them for their own safety and comfort.

## Behaviour

We expect a good standard of behaviour from all Cubs at all times. The Cubs wrote their own list of rules (below), and if they are not followed then:

- ▶ **Warning 1:** A Leader and Cub will have a discussion.
- ▶ **Warning 2:** A Leader and Cub will have a discussion, in conjunction with a parent/guardian.
- ▶ **Warning 3:** As per warning 2, but a parent/guardian will have to attend with their child until behaviour improves. The Cub might not be invited to some events.
- ▶ **Warning 3:** If behaviour fails to improve the Cub will be asked to leave the Pack.

## Our Cub Pack rules

### Always:

- ▶ Do your best.
- ▶ Listen to what Leaders (and Sixers) ask you to do.
- ▶ Be sensible, safe, and considerate.
- ▶ Pay attention.

### Never:

- ▶ Be silly, rude, or dangerous.
- ▶ Make too much noise.
- ▶ Hurt or bully people.
- ▶ Waste time.
- ▶ Complain too much or be a sore loser.

### And most importantly:

- ▶ Always try to have fun!

