

PARENT INFORMATION PACKET 2021-2022

www.pack615.org



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Welcome to Pack 615!

Dear Parents and future Scouts,

We are excited that you are interested in taking the first step on the path to an enjoyable experience with your son or daughter into the world of Scouting. We feel privileged to have your interest and hope that the information contained in this packet will help you during your decision-making process. Choosing a Pack is a very important decision and we want you to know that you are not alone. As parents ourselves who were also new to Cub Scouting, we were in your shoes not long ago.

We know you'll have lots of questions like, "What does the program have to offer?" or "How much does it cost?" or "How do I get started?" We trust that you will find your questions answered as you read through this information packet. If you don't, please do not hesitate to contact us. Thank you again for considering Pack 615 as your first step on the trail of adventure for you and your child. We are looking forward to having you become part of the Pack.

Sincerely,

The Pack Committee





The Cub Scout Program

Cub Scouting: Fun with a Purpose

The mission of the Boy Scouts of America and the purpose of Scouting, is to prepare young people to make ethical and moral choices over their lifetimes by instilling in them the values of the Scout Oath and Law.

Cub Scouting is a year-round family-oriented part of the BSA program, designed for children who are starting Kindergarten and runs through 5th Grade. Parents work together with the Pack leadership to help their kids achieve the Aims and Methods of Scouting.

The Aims and Methods of Scouting are:

- Character
- Citizenship
- Personal Fitness
- Leadership
- Living the Ideals
- Belonging to a Den
- Advancement
- Family Involvement
- Activities
- Serving the Neighborhood
- Wearing the Uniform

Advancement

Cub Scout activities are centered around earning badges that are specific to each school grade level. This badge represents a rank. Advancement refers to the progress a Cub Scout makes toward their badge of rank. All of the activities for each rank are in the Cub Scout handbooks. [The Advancement Trail | Boy Scouts of America \(scouting.org\)](#)

Adventures

Based on different topics such as hiking, nature, science, citizenship, first aid, sports, and more, adventures are earned as a Cub Scout advances toward their badge of rank. Once an adventure is completed, a Cub Scout receives recognition in the form of an adventure loop or adventure pin. [Cub Scouting Adventures | Boy Scouts of America](#)





Awards

There are several awards Cub Scouts can earn beyond their badge of rank as individuals. The following are some of the awards that kids are able to earn through the program:

- Outdoor Activity Award – For outdoor activity participation
- Cub Scouts Shooting Sports & Safety – BB Gun, Sling Shot and Archery (Grades 1-5)
- World Conservation Award – Encouraging youth to think and act globally to preserve our environment
- Recruitment Award – Granted for recruiting other members into the unit
- Religious Emblems – An award that can be earned based on your faith and your duty to God.
- NOVA and SuperNOVA – Awards for STEM activities
- Whittling Chip – An award that is earned through the education of how to use a pocket knife (Grades 3-5)
- Emergency Preparedness Award – Teaching your child the essence of a Scout; to Be Prepared for any emergency
- Cyber Chip – Earned for learning how to be safe online and proper Internet etiquette.

Uniforms

The uniform is one of the methods of delivering the Scouting program. In addition to creating a sense of belonging, the uniform gives a Scout the ability to display their personal achievements. Uniforms are traditionally worn at Pack meetings, Den meetings, fundraisers, and other formal events. We strive to have new Scouts in uniform by the start of school in the fall. It's okay to attend the first couple of meetings without a uniform, however we encourage you to obtain one as soon as possible.

For more information on Uniforms, please visit [Cub Scout Uniform | Boy Scouts of America \(scouting.org\)](#)

Activities & Meetings

Meeting Place and Schedule

Where We Meet

Leewood K-8 Center
10343 SW 124th Street
Miami, FL. US 33176

(Inside the old Cafeteria or outside depending on the content covered for each meeting)

Meeting Schedules

There are two types of meetings that are held; Pack meetings, which are comprised of the entire Pack and are headed by the Pack's Cubmaster, and Den Meetings which are smaller and are held independently by each Den Leader. In den meetings and pack meetings, Cub Scouts make new friends, play purposeful games, and learn new things. Dens usually meet one to two times a month*. All the dens in the pack come together once a month for a pack meeting.

**Consult with your Den Leader regarding their Den Meeting Calendar*





Den Meetings

The Den Meeting is the most important part of Cub Scouting. It is where Cub Scouts build friendships, work together to learn new things, and progress towards earning their common badge of rank. Serving as a Den Leader is providing an opportunity to make a positive lifelong impact on your child and others in the den. The focus of each Den meeting is on completing the program as outlined in the Cub Scout handbook. Each year you will use a different handbook as your child progresses through each rank.

Pack Meetings

The pack meeting brings all of the dens in the pack together for the purposes of recognizing the achievements of the Cub Scouts, communicating information about upcoming events, and providing a program that enriches the Cub Scouting experience. It helps the Cubs realize their den is part of a larger organization. Our Pack meetings take place every other Wednesday (twice a month). The meetings are designed to let the kids have fun, but also with the purpose of educating them about the Aims and Methods of Scouting. Your entire family is always invited to every meeting, regardless of the objective and we encourage parent participation.

Camping and Outdoor Activities

Cub Scout families have opportunities to go camping and to participate in outdoor adventures. Lessons learned in the out-of-doors help to develop a life-long respect and appreciation for the environment.

Outdoor Adventures

Each rank in Cub Scouting has Adventures that take Cub Scouts outdoors. The outdoors can be urban or rural it does not need to be a remote location. From a one-foot hike to a five-mile hike Cub Scouts learn about their natural surroundings.

Pack Overnights

Our Pack conducts overnight campouts. We try to do at least 3 to 4 overnight campouts per year. A pack overnight campout can be a great way to get to know the families in the pack and to work on outdoor adventures.

Some other outdoor activities include:

- Council Organized Family Camps – Cub Scout families may participate in Council Organized Family Camp. These events may be called something less formal such as Parent and Pal or Cub Family Camp or Cub Fun Day. The program is provided by the local council and the event may last two nights.
- Cub Scout Day Camps – Offered as a three- or five-day event day camp provides opportunities to make new friends, earn new adventures, and participate in special activities. These events are organized by the Everglades District and take place during the summer months.
- Cub Scout Resident Camps – A long term overnight camping experience for cub scouts and their parent or guardian. Resident camps are three to five days usually held at a Scout owned camping facility.
- Pack Day Camps – Events that are held by our pack that are a single day and do not entail overnight camping.





Special Pack Events

One Pack event per quarter & several community outreach opportunities every month. There are always things to do!



Pinewood Derby

Get ready to race! This is always a winner for the scouts and some say the parents have a little fun along the way too. This is a traditional event where the scouts can build their very own Pinewood Derby car (with a little help from you of course). An official Pinewood Derby car kit will be distributed during one of our Pack meetings.



Rain Gutter Regatta

The Rain Gutter Regatta is a boat race where Scouts will build and decorate their own regatta boat and prepare it for race day. An official Regatta boat kit will be distributed during one of our Pack meetings.



Blue and Gold Banquet

This is an annual event to celebrate the birthday of Scouting. Pack families are invited to celebrate as our Scouts and leaders get recognized for achievements. It is the last event of the school year. You can check our Pack's calendar for the date/time.



Outdoor Camping

Contrary to what people might think, Florida has some great camping locations. We have several opportunities to camp out as a Pack when the weather gets cooler. This year, we have at least four campouts planned for our Pack! Check the Pack's calendar for more information.





A Parent's Role

Parents are an integral part of an exceptional Scouting program. As a parent, you are considered an Akela by your child and other scouts. The Akela, is a symbol of wisdom, authority and leadership. Examples of an Akela include the Cubmaster, Den Leaders, school teachers and most importantly, YOU. All whom are the main leaders your child looks to for guidance.

As your child progresses through the ranks of scouting, your role and influence on them achieving their goals should decrease accordingly. For example, your presence is expected at all Den meetings and outings as this is a family program. As your child progresses, you will see your child's skills and independence start to grow, but they will always require your presence and guidance. Cub Scouting is a program that takes effort. You get out of the program what you are willing to put into it and your child's interest will follow suit.

What we ask of all our families, is that you identify your strengths and find ways to apply them towards the program. Your role is certainly up to you, but we hope you find a good place in our Pack to apply your skills and enhance the program to new heights. Feel free to speak with any of the current leaders about where you can help. Adult participation is the key to success when it comes to making Scouting fun for the children.

The Organizational Structure

Council, District, Pack & Den

As you learn about Scouting, you will hear about Council Events, District Events, Pack Events, and Den Events. Below we give you an a quick summary and links to information on the Council and the Everglades District.

South Florida Council

The South Florida Council is the local chapter of the Boy Scouts of America. More information on the Council can be found at their website [About - South Florida Council, Boy Scouts of America \(sfbsa.org\)](http://About - South Florida Council, Boy Scouts of America (sfbsa.org))

The Everglades District (Our District)

From Coral Way (SW 24th St) to the Dade/Monroe County Line, the District covers the cities of Coconut Grove, Key Biscayne, South Miami, Kendall, Miami, Pinecrest, Country Walk, The Hammocks, The Crossings, Palmetto Bay, Cutler Bay, Perrine, Goulds, Redland, Princeton, Naranja, Leisure City, Homestead, and Florida City.

The District also provides volunteer support, training, program opportunities, events, fundraising opportunities and administrative services at a more localized level. More information, including the District Calendar, can be found here: [Everglades District - South Florida Council, Boy Scouts of America \(sfbsa.org\)](http://Everglades District - South Florida Council, Boy Scouts of America (sfbsa.org))

Our Chartered Organization

Central Presbyterian Church located on Killian Drive and SW 124th Avenue is the organization that sponsors our Unit. More information about the church can be found here: [Central Presbyterian Church | Home \(cpcmiami.org\)](http://Central Presbyterian Church | Home (cpcmiami.org))





Pack 615

Our Pack serves the Kendall Community and welcomes all youth grades K through Five and focuses its recruiting efforts at the following schools in addition to our Chartered Organization.

- Frank C. Martin K-8 Center
- Gloria Floyd Elementary School
- Leewood K-8 Center
- Calusa Prep K-12
- Islamic School of Miami K-12
- Creative Learning Center
- Village Montessori Killian

The Pack Committee

As your child becomes more responsible and independent for his/her advancement in the program, parents find more time to assist with the needs of the Pack. The Pack Committee helps the Cubmaster with planning the Scouting program and presides over Pack business. Your role in this committee can be passive but hopefully, as your scout and his demands on your time decrease, your role in the Pack Committee could increase. Every child's parent or guardian is invited to become a member of the pack committee. Pack committee members perform many different administrative functions of the pack. Some of the positions and responsibilities are:

The Committee Chairman The top volunteer in the pack is the Pack Committee Chair. They are responsible for ensuring enough qualified adult volunteers are in place to provide the program. They lead the pack committee meetings.

The Advancement Co-Chair Maintains advancement records for the pack. Orders and obtains all badges and insignia. Attends the monthly pack meeting and pack committee meeting.

The Membership Co-Chair Manages the transition of new Scouts into the pack and coordinates orientation for new Scouting families. Responsible for the marketing and recruiting initiatives of the pack, as well as the growth and retention of the unit.

The Treasurer Keeps all financial records for the pack, including managing the pack bank account. Attends the monthly pack meeting and pack committee meeting.

The Pack Trainer Coordinates training for adults. Promotes leader training and roundtable meeting attendance. Attends the monthly pack meeting and pack committee meeting.

Your Den (Lions, Tigers, Wolves, Bears, Webelos & Arrow of Light)

You will be assigned a Den based on your Scout's grade in school. The idea is to place the scouts into small groups with friends he/she might already know. Ideally, Dens will have six to eight scouts and is led by a parent (Den Leader) and parent helpers (Assistant Den Leaders).

We encourage each parent to take part in leading the Den and helping whenever possible. The Den Leaders will draw from the resources of the Pack, the District and the Council. The boy and girl Dens will be run simultaneously, led by separate Den





Leaders. In the case where a Den does not have at least four girls or boys per grade, the pack will consider combining grade levels to form a Den.

Each girl will still be required to work on her respective rank. Girl's Dens can have a male Den leader if a female leader or den mother non-related to the Den leader is present at all times. Any concerns of the structure of your Scout's Den please do not hesitate to contact the Committee Chair or Cubmaster.

Cost of Scouting

Item	Cost
National Membership Fees	\$96 for each child (includes a one-time \$25 new member fee)
	\$45 for each adult, per year (includes Background Check)
Council Membership Fee	\$30 for each member (Child and Adult)
Scout Life Magazine	\$12 for each Subscription
Local Pack Dues	\$125 per year/ per Scout
Local Den Dues	\$2-5 per den meeting / per Scout
Official Uniform(s) (Purchased Individually)	Approx. \$110-\$120 for a complete uniform (Shoes not included). Visit the Miami Scout Shop for more information and prices Shop By Scout (scoutshop.org)
Class B T-Shirt	Incl. with Pack Dues (Parent T-Shirt avail. For addl. cost)
Uniform Patches	Cost varies-most are less than \$3. Check the price list at www.scoutstuff.org
Scout Handbook	\$9.99 for the Lion Kit and \$16.99 for all other Cub Scout handbooks

Membership Fees

Registration fee is \$97. This includes a one-time joining fee of \$25 and an annual fee of \$72. For only \$1 a month, \$12 for the year, Cub Scouts may subscribe to Scout Life magazine. For adults, the cost is \$45 per year, which includes the cost of the required background check. The South Florida Council also charges an annual membership fee per registered member (Adult and Child) which is \$30.

Local Pack Dues

Pack dues cover the administrative costs to run the Pack for a program year. These funds allow us to purchase advancement materials, awards, badges, special event supplies, camping supplies and equipment.

Uniforms & Insignia (Patches)

The uniform and required insignia can be purchased online or at the Scout Shop in Miami Lakes. As an option, you can choose to purchase a uniform shirt with all the standard patches included (Council Shoulder Patch (CSP), American Flag and the World Crest Scout Emblem), to save you time and hassle. You'll still need to purchase and sew on the unit numerals separately. More information on uniforms can be found here: [Shop By Scout \(scoutshop.org\)](http://Shop By Scout (scoutshop.org))



Scout Handbook

Your child will need a new handbook each year. Handbooks can be purchased at the ScoutStore or online.



Financial Assistance

If you are unable to afford the costs of Scouting, don't worry. Contact our Committee Chair (contact information on the last page of this packet) and ask for a financial assistance form. Besides the Pack Treasurer, no one else in the Pack needs to know about your situation and it will be handled in confidence. Do not let the cost of Scouting deter you from joining.

Common Questions

Question: "How many uniforms do I need to buy?"

A: Usually one uniform will suffice for the first couple of years. The class A uniform which you can buy at the Scout Shop or online. More information on the uniform can be found here: [Miami Scout Shop - South Florida Council, Boy Scouts of America \(sfbsa.org\)](http://Miami Scout Shop - South Florida Council, Boy Scouts of America (sfbsa.org))

Question: "How Do I Become a Leader and get Trained?"



A: All current and new leaders must complete Youth Protection Training and Position Specific Training as required by Council and by our Pack. All required training is available online. There is no cost for the required training. See our Pack Trainer for more information on the different types of training that is available.

Question: "I'm not sure if I want to be a leader yet. Do I still have to take the required training?"

A: Yes. All registered adults in our unit will need to take Youth Protection Training, regardless if you hold an official position in the unit or not. It is free and available online once you are registered. If you don't take the training, you will not be allowed to join as per South Florida Council bylaws.

Question: "I'm confused with all the fees. Is there a simple cost that I can use to budget per year?"

A: Yes. If you and your child will be joining this year, the total cost for both of you would be the following:

- Membership Fees: \$177
- Child Uniforms & Insignia & Handbook: \$145-\$162
- Magazine Subscription(s): \$12
- Pack Dues: \$125
- Approx. Total: \$459-\$476





Tatham Scout Center

Home to the Council's training and conference center, retail Scout Shop, and administrative offices. This is where you can find all the materials you need to get started. They are always running promotions and sales right before the end of summer and have lots of items on clearance.

15255 NW 82nd Avenue
Miami Lakes, FL. 33016
305-822-6287

Staying Updated

Pack615.org

You should check the website regularly as we update it often. We also will have an extensive library of documents and links to online forms available for parents to use. Our website format has been adopted by hundreds of Packs across the country and our leaders are required to complete training courses and learn the tools made available to them through our website. Bookmark it and check it often.

Facebook

You can find us on Facebook at facebook.com/pack615Miami, or just search for us by using "Pack615Miami." We use this page to share stories about our Pack. We encourage you to share our posts with your friends on Facebook. This helps us get the word out about our program.

Instagram

Our Instagram account is linked with our Facebook account, so that we never miss a beat on sharing the latest event information, or sharing a cool moment of our Pack in action! Find us on Instagram @Pack615Miami

Twitter

Follow us on Twitter as well @pack615miami

Contacts Us

For more information, or if you have any additional questions, please reach out to our Committee Chair at Chairman.Pack615@Gmail.com, or our Cubmaster at Cubmr.pack615@Gmail.com.

We do our best to check email at least once a day. We look forward to speaking with you!

