

Pack 436 News

March 2019

March Pack Meeting – Weds. March, 20 – Our March Pack meeting will include some fun STEM activities. The boys will learn a little bit about electric motors and will be building robots that can draw (draw-bots) out of a motor and household items. The meeting will be at our usual time and location – Weds March 20, 7:15-8:15 pm at Jones Lane. The Bear Den will be in charge of setup; Wolves have opening and closing ceremonies, and the Tiger Den will have cleanup.

Pinewood Derby – Thanks again to all our organizers for putting on a great Pinewood Derby this year, and congratulations to all our winners who will have the chance to race at the District Derby!

Scout Sunday – Thanks to Leah Washington for organizing our Pack’s first Scout Sunday in a long time! If you attended a service on your own as part of Scout Sunday, please let Leah know (leah.washington08@gmail.com) so your scout can get his patch at the next pack meeting.

Family Scouting update – As many of you are aware, the BSA has recently made changes to allow girls to have wider membership options in the program, including the ability to join Cub Scouts. We had a good discussion at our recent planning meeting about whether we want to open membership in our Pack to girls, and we ended up with a fairly clear preference to do so, although there were also some parents present who noted that their Scouts strongly prefer the current all-boy program.

As part of the follow-up from this discussion, we have asked the Den Leaders to discuss this change with the parents in their Dens at an upcoming Den meeting. If you have any questions about the changes BSA has issued, the discussion we had at the planning meeting, or feedback you would like to provide, please feel free to contact Eric, Howie, or your Scout’s Den Leader.

Behavior at meetings – Another important topic of discussion from our planning meeting: parents, we ask that you keep an eye on your Scout at Pack meetings, and rein him in if his behavior isn’t appropriate. Our program is very much not a drop-off activity, and we ask for all of our parents to help be part of ensuring the boys are under control.

April Pack meeting – iFly, April 3 – We have a completely new and unique Pack meeting opportunity: Howie has negotiated a deep discount for the Scouts to get a great session at the new Gaithersburg iFly – the Scouts will get a comprehensive STEM educational program, followed by a chance to fly. There are a couple of very important things to know about this:

- The cost is \$50 per Scout (and per adult and/or sibling, if you’re interested to participate) – We’ll need payment made to Pack 436 by March 20th so we can get an accurate headcount. You can bring a check to the Pack meeting, or send via our Pack PayPal account – CubScoutPack436. Note that this represents a substantial discount from the normal cost
- The event is scheduled for a weekday (Weds 4/3); MCPS has a half-day that day

Parent Volunteers – Thanks to all the parents who have signed up for volunteer roles; if you haven't done so please do, and let Eric (committeechair@pack436.com) know if you have an idea but don't see anything that looks like it will fit the bill, or if you have any questions about what's involved. You can find the link at <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/8050545A5A96-cubscout4>.

Also a big thanks to Matt Hicks, who has agreed to take over as our Pack Webmaster!

Upcoming Spring & Summer Events – We're still working on dates, but we expect to have a number of fun-filled events coming up, so keep an eye on this newsletter and the Pack website for more details; note that some of the events listed are run by the district or otherwise outside of our Pack (e.g., Archery Day, Blue Crabs):

Spring Pack Hike – Our spring Pack Hike will be at Blockhouse Point State Park on April 7; the rain date will be April 14. Stay tuned for more specific info on start time and location.

Archery Day – The district is holding an Archery Day on the afternoon of Saturday, March 30 at the Isaac Walton League on Snouffer School Road; info and registration are at <https://www.scoutingevent.com/082-2019Archery>

Spring Family Campout – Our spring campout site is booked – we'll be going back to Washington Monument State Park on May 4-5. More information to come as the date approaches, and we may have some special guests!

Pack Service Project – We're working on one or two Pack service projects for the spring – watch this space for details.

District Pinewood Derby - For those who qualified at our Pack event, the District-level event is scheduled for Saturday April 13.

Blue Crabs baseball – The Blue Crabs of Southern Maryland baseball team host a Scout Night on Friday June 21; Scouts can see the game and camp out on the field. Cost is \$27 for admission, including dinner and breakfast. Chris Washington will be organizing, so stand by for more info.

Summer Camp – Summer camping is one of the great things that distinguishes Boy Scouting, and it's a great way for the boys to develop an appreciation for the outdoors, all while having a great time. There are several options available:

Camp Snyder (current Wolves & Tigers): For the younger boys (current Wolves and Tigers), Camp Snyder, located near Haymarket, VA, has weekend programs in the summer that are a great introduction to camping for the boys. We will register as a Pack and available dates are July 5-7 or August 2-4.

Camp starts 9 am Friday morning and ends 9 am Sunday. They have platform tents for us and we eat in the dining hall. The 2-night trip is designed to introduce Cub Scouts to week-long Boy Scout summer camps on their own at an older age. It is for registered Cub Scouts only, no friends or siblings, and a

parent or guardian is necessary (only one parent needed for multiple scouts in a family). There's more information at the camp's website:

<http://www.ncacbsa.org/outdoors/camp-william-b-snyder/summer-programs/>

Pricing for the weekend is \$235 for Scouts and \$75 for adults. The Wolf & Tiger den leadership will be working on planning, so stay tuned.

Goshen / Camp PMI (current Webelos & Bears): For the older Scouts (current Bears and Webelos), will be attending the Goshen Scout Reservation's Camp PMI, about 3.5 hours away, past Harrisonburg, VA, the week of **July 21-27**. We'll need at least 3 parents there at all times, and one or two more would be ideal, but you wouldn't have to stay the full week.

Prices for the week start at \$375 for Scouts and \$225 for adults (which can be split between 2 if each stays half the week) if paid by April 12; prices increase closer to the camp dates. Contact Eric (evictor@att.net) to get registered, and stand by for more info via a separate email. The council also has information at <https://www.gotogoshen.org/camps-programs/camp-pmi/>

Summer Day Camp: If the full overnight camp isn't quite the right fit for your Scout, the council also runs some day camp options, including a couple fairly close to us – a June 17-21 session at the Izaak Walton League (Lois Green) in Gaithersburg (near the airpark), and a June 24-28 session at Madison Fields Farm in Dickerson. Stay tuned for more information.

Additional info on day camp:

Day Camp at Madison Fields, Dickerson MD

June 24- June 28, 2019, 9:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. each day

Held at Madison Fields Farm in Dickerson, MD, this camp offers fishing and swimming along with archery, BB's, sling shots, STEM stations, scout skills, and so much more! Cub Scout day camps are organized by the National Capital Area Council and conducted by volunteers from the local area. Day camps are for registered Cub Scouts entering the 1st-5th grades the following school year. Those entering the 1st grade must be accompanied by an 'adult partner' during their participation. Each pack must provide 1 adult for every 5 Scouts in addition to any Tiger adults, so you would be asked to take at least 1 day to be the responsible adult.

Registration fee is \$190/Scout until April 28th, adults are free. "Camperships" are available for families unable to afford the entire cost of camp - deadline to apply is April 1.

People can contact Carolyn Silvey (csilvey@comcast.net) for more information or to get the information packet and forms.

Please respond by **April 15**, so we have time to figure out if it will work and get the forms all organized.