

Pack 436 News

September 2019

Welcome Back! – We hope you all had a good summer and are glad you will join us for another exciting year in Cub Scouts. Our first Pack meeting will be held Wednesday, September 18th at Jones Lane ES and will start promptly at 7:15 pm. Returning scouts please be in full uniform – NEW scouts do NOT need worry about the uniform for the first meeting.

Dues – We have a couple of key changes regarding dues this year:

- Dues amount: Dues for the year are now \$85 for the Lions and Tigers and \$105 for all the other Scouts. This is an increase of \$15 from last year's dues in order to streamline collecting den-level expenses (e.g., room booking, various supplies, etc.) that in the past have often been collected on an ad hoc basis by some of the den leaders. It's important to note that this may or may not cover all of your Scout's den-level expenses – your Scout's den leader will discuss that with you at some point.
- Dues vs popcorn option: We're now also offering an option to cover your Scout's dues with popcorn sales. For Scouts whose popcorn sales are over **\$800**, their Pack dues for the year will be waived. (Although if your Scout's den asks for additional funds for den-level expenses, you'll still need to cover those.)
- How this will work:
 - For new Scouts, we'll need to collect your initial dues payment promptly in order to get the initial registration in place. Your Scout's den leader will be collecting dues for the year – ***please bring a check in the proper amount made out to "Pack 436" so we can get you covered under the program's insurance.*** If your Scout later ends up selling over \$800 of popcorn, your dues payment will be refunded.
 - For returning Scouts, we ask that you get a check to your Scout's den leader no later than the September Pack meeting, unless you expect your Scout will sell over \$800 of popcorn. If you're going to take that option, please let your Scout's den leader know so we can keep track of that, and if he doesn't end up selling \$800, we'll need your payment promptly following our popcorn order turn-in (should be late October / early November) in order to keep his registration current.

Call for Volunteers – The experiences that we provide our boys as part of Scouting don't just happen by themselves – they require dedicated effort and support from parent volunteers. As with prior years, ***we are asking that all our families volunteer for at least one position or activity within the Pack.*** We also have a couple of particularly important roles that we'll need to fill after this Scouting year – Committee Chair and Popcorn Kernel – so this would be a good year to learn the ropes as an assistant. A big shout-out and thanks to a couple of our parents who have volunteered to take on den leadership roles: Ed Taylor (Wolves), Leah Washington (Lions), Tejas Kadakia, and Rafal Olszewski (both Tigers)!

Here are some of the positions we are currently looking to fill:

- Committee Chair: This will be Eric's last year with the Pack, so starting at the end of the year we'll need a new Committee Chair. There's a listing of the key activities involved at the end of the newsletter, and we're looking into potentially splitting some of the responsibilities into multiple roles, so if you see something you're interested in doing, please let Eric know
- Asst Popcorn Kernel: Works with the Popcorn Kernel on our neighborhood and grocery store sales – compiling orders from the boys, arranging for the grocery store sales, and ensuring the Scouts collect payment. As noted, we're looking for someone who would be willing to learn the ropes this year, and take over from Stacey Buckner once her boys complete their time in the Pack at the end of this year.
- Raingutter Regatta: The Regatta is the main activity at our October Pack meeting - the Scouts race boats they have made. This year each Scout will be able to make and race their own boat!
- Scouting for Food: Coordinates the Pack's supplies and routes for our Scouting for Food dropoff and pickup - they happen first two Saturdays in November (2nd & 9th).
- Pinewood Derby: We're looking for several parents to cover everything from the race itself to handling refreshments and the student volunteers who help us out. Morning of the first Saturday in March.
- Camping / Hiking: Arranges our outdoor activities – family camping in the fall and spring (fall camping is already booked), and fall and spring hikes as well.

We have done our best to offer a variety of roles, from those requiring some pretty intensive work focused at a specific time to those with a somewhat less intense commitment running throughout the Scouting year. We have worked to incorporate feedback on the volunteering system worked last year, and we're happy to continue to take suggestions for improvement.

You'll note that for the activities requiring multiple people, the sign-up doesn't break down individual tasks - we'll leave it to the group of volunteers to decide how to split up the activities. We'll be doing sign-up again this year via Sign Up Genius. Please visit the following link: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/8050545A5A96-pack5>, which shows the positions available (and those already filled). If you have taken a look and have questions about what's available and/or when the activity would happen, or if there's something else you have in mind to volunteer for, please contact Eric Victory (committeechair@pack436.com).

New Scout Recruiting – We're working on continuing to build on the momentum we had from great recruiting last year. We're also going to be welcoming girls into our Pack. We have several things underway:

- **Bring a Friend**: Our boys can be our most effective voices: have your Scout tell his or her friends how great Cub Scouts is! Scouts who recruit a friend will earn a Recruiter patch they can wear on their uniform.
- **Back to School Night**: We'll have a table at the JLES Back to School Night on Thursday September 12 (there's a single combined BTSN for all the grades).
- **Join Scouting Night** will be held on Monday, September 16th starting at 7:00 PM at Jones Lane Elementary School. We'll be sending out fliers to JLES with the Friday September 13th flier distribution – any Scouts who have friend who are interested should invite them to join us! Please also have your Scout wear one of their Pack t-shirts on September 16 too.

Remember that any boy or girl in grades K through five is welcome to join even if they do not attend Jones Lane Elementary School. If you know of ANYONE who may be interested in joining, but cannot attend Join Scouting Night, their parents can contact Eric Victory at committeechair@pack436.com or Howie Draisen at cubmaster@pack436.com for more information.

Boating – September 8, Black Hills Park – We'll be starting the year with an outdoor activity – boating at Black Hills Regional Park, on the afternoon of Sunday September 8 at 2 pm. We won't be doing any sign-up in advance – you'll get a boat when you're there. Some key elements to note:

- Because this is an activity on the water and safety is paramount, a parent is required to be in the same boat with each Scout.
- Canoes, row boats, and pedal boats are available to rent first-come first-served to parents with a driver's license. Rental information is on the Black Hills website: <https://www.montgomeryparks.org/parks-and-trails/black-hill-regional-park/black-hill-boats-little-seneca-lake/>; costs are about \$14/hour.
- We do want to try to get a tentative count – if you're planning to attend, please contact Dan Helgerman at helgermann@gmail.com.
- Note that there's road construction happening – make sure you enter the park from the east, via MD-355 (i.e., not from MD-117 & MD-121).

Washington Nationals Scouting Day, September 29 – Interested Scouts, parents, siblings, etc., have the opportunity to attend a Nats vs. Cleveland Indians game, Sunday Sept. 29 at 3:05 pm. The boys will get a special patch for attending and we'll get to sit together in a block. Please fill out this form to let us know if you'll be attending and how many tickets you need: <https://forms.gle/EteYLZZipBYoEEoU8>; let Howie know if you have any questions. We need to have all responses by **September 15th** so the Pack can make the bulk purchase. Tickets are \$23 apiece and can be paid via PayPal to pack436cubscout@gmail.com or by check to Pack 436. Please note how many tickets you are paying for on the check or PayPal transaction.

Popcorn Sales – We'll have order forms available at the September Pack meeting, and we'd recommend starting soon (the earlier the better before everyone else has started their fundraising events). This is the ONLY fundraiser for the Pack and traditionally raises a LARGE amount of money to be used for Pack events.

Our storefront popcorn selling opportunity this year will be at the Lowe's in the Kentlands:

- Saturday, October 12, 8-10 am
- Sunday, October 13, 8 am-12 pm

This year we'll be doing an individual sign-up for each Scout for the storefront sales (i.e., we're not going to have slots by den); we'll follow soon with a link to sign up. A few notes:

- Please only one slot for your Scout until everyone has had a chance to sign up – the District is limiting our slots during each session.
- We'll also need one person at each start and finish to pick up and drop off the popcorn and from and to Stacey.

Please make every effort to attend one of these sessions - the sales at the grocery stores are a big part of the Pack's sales.

More details will follow at the first Pack meeting. For further information please contact Stacey Buckner at popcornkernel@pack436.com.

Fall Family Camping – Fall Family Camping will be October 26-27 (Sat-Sun) at Patapsco Valley State Park in Marriottsville. Sign up will be at the September and October Pack Meetings or online – stay tuned for more at the September Pack meeting.

Pack Calendar and activities – The draft Pack calendar for the year is attached; it will be periodically updated on will be posted on our Website, so please check periodically for any changes.

Pack 436 Website – The Pack 436 website is www.pack436.com. A copy of this newsletter as well as information about our meetings and events can be found at the website. The Pack calendar is on the website as a Google Calendar, so events can be added to your own calendars by clicking on the "Google Calendar" button just below the calendar on the right-hand side. Contact Matt Hicks (webmaster@pack436.com) with any questions or comments.

Communication – We will continue communication via e-mail in the form of a monthly newsletter (and occasional "special announcements"). Your e-mail address will NOT be given out to anyone and will be used for Cub Scout related events ONLY. Please keep us informed of any changes in e-mail addresses. If there are any changes, please contact Eric Victory at committeechair@pack436.com.

Feedback – We encourage your feedback on ways that we can improve Pack 436. You're always welcome to share your input with Eric Victory (Committee Chairman) at committeechair@pack436.com or Howie Draisen (Cubmaster) at cubmaster@pack436.com. We appreciate your input!

Overview of Committee Chair role

In general terms we tend to think of the Committee Chair as the leader responsible for the “adult” side of the Pack, while the Cubmaster focuses on the Scout-facing activities. There’s obviously quite a lot of overlap in these two concepts, so it’s just as important that the Cubmaster and Committee Chair have a close working relationship.

More specifically here’s a reasonably comprehensive list of the key elements of what Eric has focused on as the Committee Chair:

- Adult volunteer recruiting: Putting together our roster of open volunteer positions (den leaders, specific activity leader, etc.), soliciting parents to take on those roles, and setting up the systems by which we track all of this (e.g., Sign Up Genius)
- Newsletters and communications: Drafting the monthly newsletter, sending it out for review among our Pack leadership and relevant volunteers who are involved in upcoming activities, and emailing it out to parents monthly. Also occasional emails about breaking news or other aspects that don’t quite make it into the monthly newsletter
- Annual planning: Working with the rest of our Pack leadership and parents to plan out the calendar of Pack activities for the year; the current cycle typically includes parent / leader planning meetings in August and February
- Join Scouting Night, recruiting, new membership: Working with the Cubmaster, the District personnel, and other Pack leaders to put together and run our recruiting for new Scouts. Includes getting completed applications (for both Scouts and adults) into the District for processing.
- Membership tracking and rechartering: Keeping track of our membership roster, and on an annual basis submitting our rechartering documents online to the National Scouting organization (typically in the November / December timeframe)
- Chartered organization relationship: Working with the designated representative of our Chartering Organization (American Legion Post 295) to ensure all of the appropriate review occurs (e.g., signatures on adult leader applications and rechartering documents), and ensuring the chartering organization is aligned with the Pack’s plans (e.g., on topics like girls in the Pack)
- Interface with District and Council leadership: Periodic conversations and discussion with appropriate Scouting District and Council representatives on topics of interest