

Pack 436 News

October 2019

October Pack Meeting – The October Pack meeting is Wednesday October 16, 7:15-8:15 at Jones Lane ES. Some of Howie's colleagues from the Carderock Naval Warfare Center will be doing a STEM activity for the Scouts. We may also have some Bobcat badges to award for a few of our new Scouts! The Webelos 1 den has flags; the Webelos 2 have setup, and the Bears have cleanup.

A reminder and request for our parents: We now have a pretty big Pack (over 50 Scouts!) and we need your help to keep them well-behaved at Pack meetings so that everyone can enjoy and benefit from the activities. Please talk with your Scout to let them know that they're expected to behave well at the meetings and listen to the adults, and we also ask that you please keep an eye on your Scout(s) and help us keep them under control at the meeting – up to and including taking them aside for a moment if they're not able to behave.

Fall Family Campout – Our fall campout will be at [Patapsco Valley State Park](#) near Ellicott City, MD on October 26-27! We'll arrive at 1:30 p.m. for a family hike and then set up camp at the Youth Campsite #2. Cost is \$10 for those camping overnight and \$5 if you stay the afternoon. More details and a sign-up for dinner will come out in mid-October. Each family should bring their own main dish to cook over the fire, plus a side or dessert to share.

Popcorn – Popcorn sales are underway! Scouts should be selling popcorn around the neighborhood; and please sign up for store sales at Lowes (store sales will be apportioned to Scouts who worked them – more sales for the prize count!). The Lowes sign-up is at <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20F0C45AAA82FA3FB6-fall>; dates are:

- Saturday 10/12, 8-10 am
- Sunday 10/13, 8 am-12 noon
- Saturday 10/19, 8-10 am
- Sunday 10/20, 8-10 am

The popcorn info document is attached to the newsletter email, and it's also available on the Pack website (www.pack436.com). Please let Stacey Buckner (popcornkernel@pack436.com) know if you have any questions. Orders are due to Stacey by October 28.

Parent Volunteer Signup – Everything we do at the Pack is thanks to parents putting it together. We ask that every family contribute to this by volunteering. The sign-up is at <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/8050545A5A96-pack5>. A big thanks to some of our new leaders – Ed Taylor for the Wolf Den, Tejas Tadakia and Rafal Olszewski for the Tiger Den, Leah Washington for the girls Lion Den, and Kelly Gowetski for the boys Lion Den.

Some of the roles we're looking to fill include:

- **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. In addition, Howie would be able to take over as Committee Chair if there's someone who would

be interested in becoming Cubmaster – contact Eric or Howie if you're interested in finding out more about that possibility, including becoming our Assistant Cubmaster to learn the ropes.

- **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).
- **Lego Pinewood Derby:** Howie needs a couple of adults to help run the Lego pinewood derby – held at our January Pack meeting – January 15.
- **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 Saturday February 29.

Dues – If you haven't already done so, please get your Scout's dues (\$85 for Lions and Tigers, \$105 for all the other Scouts) into your Scout's den leader; or please let the den leader know if you're going to shoot for the 'popcorn' option (i.e., at least \$800 in popcorn sales to cover dues). You can make a check out to Pack 436, or pay by PayPal (to Pack436CubScout@gmail.com); if you use PayPal, please forward the confirmation email to the den leader.

Scouting for Food – The annual Scouting for Food food drive will be held November 2nd (bag drop off) and November 9th (bag pick up). This is done as a Den, and your Den Leader will be getting more information in the next few weeks. Also as noted above we're looking for an adult to run this – please [contact Eric](#) if you have any questions or are interested (signing up via the [link](#) would be fine too). This is a great opportunity for the scouts to participate in a service activity to assist those in need. We look forward to a record collection this year.

November Pack meeting – A reminder that our November Pack meeting is going to be the afternoon of Friday November 8 at the Sandy Spring Adventure Park (i.e., off from our normal 3rd Wednesday cycle). More details to follow as we get closer to the date, including cost and how to sign up.

T-shirts – We'll have the Scouts pick the design for this year's Pack t-shirt at the October Pack meeting, and we'll have more info about them in the November newsletter.

Pack Hike – Our fall Pack hike will be the afternoon of Sunday, November 3. We'll be hiking at the Woodstock Equestrian Park (a new hiking destination for the Pack!), located at 20207 Darnestown Rd (out MD-28 a bit past Beallsville). The planned route is about 4 miles, although there's enough of a looping route among the paths there that the younger Scouts will easily be able to take a detour if they need to cut things a bit short. There's more information about the park at <https://www.hikingupward.com/OMH/WoodstockEquestrianPark/> and we'll talk a bit about the hike at the October Pack meeting. The rain date will be November 10 if we need one.

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