

# BACK TO THE PACK GUIDEBOOK



The “Back to the Pack” concept is an effort to get all returning Cub Scouts and their parents reengaged before recruitment begins.

## The "Back to Pack" Concept

Each fall, Cub Scout Packs get a “fresh start” as they welcome in brand new Scouts through Fall Recruitment. New Cubs join the packs, new dens are formed, and literally new life comes to each Pack.

Somewhere amidst all the hustle and bustle of sign-up nights, many returning families do not get contacted to come back and an essential opportunity is missed. As a result, youth are lost along with potential leadership from their parents. The “Back to the Pack” concept is an effort to get all returning Cub Scouts and their families reengaged before membership renewal and recruitment begins, filling both dens and leadership vacancies.

In order to make sure that every Scout knows that the new year of Scouting is about to start and that every family is expected to play an active roll, it is recommended that each Pack hold a “Back to Pack” event. With this event, the pack has the opportunity to set a new tone of full family engagement and volunteering.

### Overview

Across the nation, the best Packs conduct “Back to the Pack” events in the month of July. It is important to remember, this is an **internal event** for existing members. The purpose of the event will be to get old members signed up for the upcoming Scouting year, recruit leadership to fill vacancies (whether it be for Cubmaster, Assistant Cubmaster, Den Leader, Committee Member, or the treat provider at a Pack meeting), and to share plans for this year’s Pack activities.

We encourage you to make this a fun event for the entire family. Suggested activities include: an ice cream social, watermelon feast, pool party, carnival, sports, etc. The meeting is designed to make sure that your Pack is ready and organized prior to receiving new Scouts and parents the following month.



## Promotion

Each Cub Scout Pack should personally contact all members, preferably by telephone, to get a commitment for their attendance. Research has shown many will not continue without being personally contacted. In other words, in their minds, they have only taken a vacation during the summer and are waiting to be contacted about when to start attending the meeting again.

Remember: in June, all Cub Scouts should be contacted about the “Back to the Pack” and encouraged to become active Cub Scouts again for the fall. Be sure to share that parents/guardians are expected to attend as well.

**As each unit shares their Back to Pack Information with the council (date, time, and location), the Las Vegas Area Council will send a personal invitation postcard to each returning family. It is critical that each Pack notify their District Executive no less than three weeks prior to the event for postcards to go out.**

## Unit Preparation

Cub Scouts leaders are experts at putting on fun activities for youth but for this event, we should make a few special preparations.

- First, have an **annual calendar** sharing the key activities and events for the Pack this upcoming year.
- Second, know your leadership vacancies and have a **leadership chart** with blanks showing where every family will have a responsibility, small or large, with the Pack.
- Third, be prepared to **collect any Pack dues** in a way that is effective and easy for your families.

## Set Up

While some units conduct their Back to Pack with a formal meeting, we recommend you take an informal approach by conducting the activity with 4 tables/stops at the entrance, guiding families to visit each as they arrive. Each of the 3 tables or stops have a very specific purpose with a recommended leader.

1. **Welcome, meet the Cubmaster, and receive the Pack calendar and a local events sheet.**
2. **Meet the Committee Chair, review the leadership sheet, and sign-up to help.**
3. **Sign-up and Pay Dues, Receive Unit SWAG with the Treasurer or Committee Member.**

# Welcome Back, [Pack Number] Families!

We're thrilled to have you back for another year of Cub Scout adventures with [Pack Number]! As returning families, you know the joy, growth, and friendships that come with Scouting. This guidebook is your quick reference to kick off the new Scouting year, reconnect with our Pack community, and make the most of the exciting opportunities ahead. Let's dive back into the fun!

## 1. What's New This Year?

### Program Updates

- **Rank Progression:** Your Scout has moved up to a new rank (Lion, Tiger, Wolf, Bear, Webelos, or Arrow of Light). Grab the new handbook at the council Scout Shop if you haven't already!
- **New Adventures:** Each rank has fresh activities to spark creativity and teamwork. Check your Scout's handbook for details.
- **Council Events:** Look forward to new council-wide activities, like [insert specific event, e.g., "a STEM Day Camp" or "Scout Expo"].

### Pack Highlights

- **New Leaders:** Welcome [insert names or roles, e.g., "our new Cubmaster, Jane Doe"] to the team!
  - **Updated Calendar:** We've added [insert example, e.g., "a spring hiking trip"] and streamlined some events for more family fun.
  - **Digital Tools:** Follow our new [insert platform, e.g., "pack app" or "updated website"] for real-time updates.
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## 2. Getting Back in the Groove

### Key Dates

- **Pack Kickoff Meeting:** [Insert Date, Time, Location] – Reconnect with the Pack, meet new families, and preview the year.
- **First Den Meeting:** [Insert Date, Time, Location] – Dens start working on new rank adventures.
- **Popcorn Fundraiser Kickoff:** [Insert Date] – Help fund our pack's activities with this key fundraiser.

View the full calendar at [website or link].

### What to Bring

- **Uniform:** Ensure your Scout's uniform is ready (check for new rank patches or neckerchiefs).
- **Handbook:** Bring your Scout's current rank handbook (available at the Council Scout Shop if needed).
- **Energy:** Be ready for skits, awards, and fun at our Pack meetings!

### Dues and Fees

Annual dues are [insert amount or "same as last year"]. Pay by [insert deadline] via [payment method, e.g., "check at the kickoff meeting" or "online at pack website"]. Contact [pack.email@example.com] for questions or financial assistance options.

## 3. Your Scouting Year

### Pack Activities

We're planning a mix of favorite and new events:

- **Monthly Pack Meetings:** Celebrate advancements, enjoy skits, and plan adventures.
- **Den Meetings:** Work on rank requirements in small groups.
- **Outdoor Fun:** Expect camping, hiking, or [insert specific activity, e.g., "a fishing derby"].
- **Community Service:** Give back through projects like [insert example, e.g., "a park cleanup"].
- **Fundraisers:** Popcorn sales and camp cards keep our pack thriving.

### Sample Schedule

- **September:** Kickoff meeting, den meetings begin.
- **October:** Fall campout, popcorn fundraiser.
- **November:** Service project.
- **December:** Holiday party and awards.
- **January–May:** Pinewood Derby, spring campout, regular meetings.
- **June:** Summer picnic or day camp.

### Rank Advancement

Your Scout's new rank comes with exciting adventures. Support them by:

- Reviewing handbook requirements.
- Helping with at-home activities.
- Attending den meetings to cheer them on.

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## 4. Ways to Stay Involved

As returning families, your experience is invaluable! Here's how you can contribute:

- **Volunteer:** Take on a new role (e.g., den leader, event planner) or assist with specific events. Training is provided!
- **Lead by Example:** Attend campouts, Pack meetings, and activities to strengthen our Pack community.
- **Share Ideas:** Suggest new activities or improvements at [pack.email@example.com].
- **Mentor New Families:** Help newcomers feel welcome by sharing your Scouting tips.

## 5. Tips for a Great Year

1. **Stay Connected:** Check [pack website, email, or social media] for updates.
  2. **Plan Ahead:** Mark key dates on your calendar to avoid conflicts.
  3. **Engage Your Scout:** Talk about their adventures and celebrate their achievements.
  4. **Refresh Supplies:** Stock up on uniform parts or camping gear at the Council Scout Shop.
  5. **Have Fun:** Embrace the Scouting spirit—adventure awaits!
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## 6. Resources

- **Council Scout Shop:** Visit 7220 S. Paradise Road Las Vegas, NV 89119 for handbooks, patches, and gear.
  - **Council Trading Post:** Visit for all Las Vegas Area Council swag and special gift ideas.
  - **Pack Website:** Access [website or link] for calendars, forms, and news.
  - **Safety:** Our leaders are Youth Protection trained. Review guidelines at [scouting.org/youthprotection].
  - **Scouting App:** Download [insert app name, if applicable] for on-the-go updates.
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## 7. Contact Us

We're here to make this year amazing. Reach out anytime:

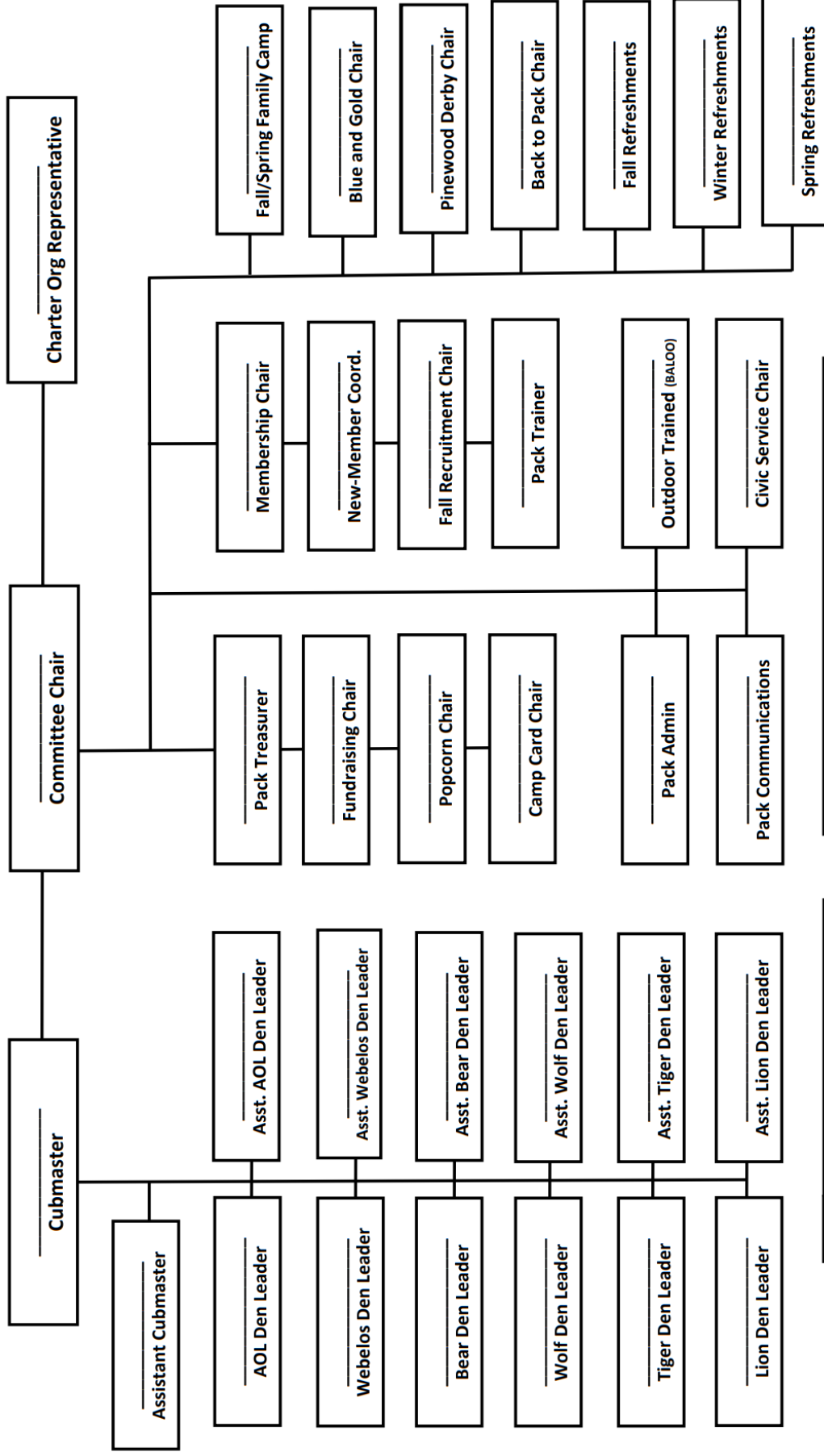
- **Email:** [pack.email@example.com]
- **Phone:** [phone number]
- **Website:** [pack website or link]
- **Social Media:** Stay connected on [Facebook/Instagram/Twitter].

Thank you for being part of [Pack Number]! Let's make this Scouting year unforgettable. **Back to the Pack!**





# Pack Leadership Chart



If interested in helping the Pack in another way not already listed, please contact the Committee Chair.

Indicates a position available for you and your family.

## Recommended Cub Pack Positions

<b>Cub Packs</b> <i>&lt;15 Scouts</i>	<b>Cubmaster</b>
	<b>Den Leaders x6 (as needed)</b>
	<b>Committee Chair</b>
	<b>Committee Member</b>
	<b>Committee Member</b>
	<b>BALOO Trained Leader</b>
<b>Cub Packs</b> <i>15-30 Scouts</i>	<i>All above positions plus</i>
	<b>Assistant Cubmaster</b>
	<b>Den Leaders (as needed)</b>
	<b>Treasurer</b>
	<b>Unit Fundraising Chair</b>
	<b>Pinewood Derby Chair</b>
	<b>Advancement Chair</b>
	<b>Pack Trainer</b>
	<b>Membership Coordinator</b>
	<b>Pack Communications</b>
<b>Cub Packs</b> <i>&gt;30 Scouts</i>	<i>All above positions plus</i>
	<b>Assistant Cubmaster (+2)</b>
	<b>Assistant Den Leaders (as needed)</b>
	<b>Scoutbook Specialists</b>
	<b>Advancement Ceremonies</b>
	<b>Recruitment Lead</b>
	<b>Recharter Lead</b>
	<b>Summer Program Lead</b>
	<b>Crossover (Arrow of Light&gt;Scouts) Chair</b>
	<b>Various Event Chairs</b>
	<i>i.e. Blue &amp; Gold, Back to Pack, Holiday Event</i>

**NOTE:**

For Den Leaders, examine the needs of your Pack. Smaller packs may have the need to run their program with a combined Den of Wolf and Bear or perhaps a combined Den of Lions and Tigers.

As your pack grows and as needed, each position can be strongly supported by an assistant to their role and responsibilities. i.e., Assistant Den Leader or Assistant Pack Training Chair.

Additionally, as needed, examine small roles within the above positions to identify small volunteer opportunities. Examples for these may be someone who helps make advancement purchases or provides treats at an event.