

Cub Scout Pack 439 Handbook



Cub Scout Pack 439 - Towson, MD
Sponsored by:
Rodgers Forge Community Association
<https://pack439.org/>

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Welcome to Cub Scout Pack 439

We're glad your family has joined Scouting and we hope you and your child will have a great adventure with Cub Scout Pack 439. We have been meeting in Towson, MD for years and continue to thrive due to the dedication of its volunteer leaders and parents like you! We all believe that Scouting is an important part of the physical, mental, and spiritual development of our children.

About Cub Scouting

Since its beginning, the Cub Scout program has been a fun and educational experience concerned with values. Besides providing a positive place where children can enjoy safe, wholesome activities, Cub Scouting focuses on building character, improving physical fitness, teaching practical skills, and developing a spirit of community service.

The mission of the Boy Scouts of America 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.

THE SCOUT OATH

On my honor I will do my best
To do my duty to God and my country and to obey the Scout Law;
To help other people at all times;
To keep myself physically strong, mentally awake, and morally
straight.

THE SCOUT LAW

A Scout is:

Trustworthy	Obedient
Loyal	Cheerful
Helpful	Thrifty
Friendly	Brave
Courteous	Clean
Kind	Reverent

BSA Structure

Boy Scouts of America (BSA)

The Boy Scouts of America is one of the nation's largest and most prominent values based youth development organizations. The BSA provides a program for young people that builds character, trains them in the responsibilities of participating citizenship, and develops personal fitness. The Cub Scout program is part of the overall Scouting program offered by the BSA.

Note: The BSA announced on May 7, 2024, that it will change its name to Scouting America on February 8, 2025, its 115th anniversary. All applicable changes will be made to this handbook at that time.

More info at <https://www.scouting.org/>

Council & District

Cub Scout Pack 439 is part of the Gunpowder Falls District which is 1 of 7 Districts that make up the Baltimore Area Council of the Boy Scouts of America. Our Council and District have both paid and volunteer representatives whose job is to help Cub Scout Packs and Scout BSA Troops and the other 5 lesser known youth Scouting opportunities, mostly for older Scouts.

More info at <https://baltimorebsa.org/> and <https://baltimorebsa.org/gunpowderfalls/>

Chartered Organization

All Cub Scout packs are sponsored by a chartering organization. Individual chartered organizations help their units in differing ways whether it be Cub Scout pack, Scouts BSA troop, or other Crew, Ship, Post or Club. Pack 439 is chartered by the Rodgers Forge Community Association. Rodgers Forge is a welcoming, close-knit community in Baltimore County, just north of the Baltimore City line.

Pack Structure

Pack

A Cub Scout pack is a group made up of several dens. Pack 439 is a co-ed pack that has at least one den for each grade level (K - 5). The pack includes not only the Cub Scouts in those dens, but also their families and their leaders. Scouting is a family activity and there is no end to the opportunities large and small to help make the pack go and provide a fun, quality program for our kids. Pack 439 meets as a group once a month, in addition to pack events (i.e., campouts/overnights).

Dens

Ideally a Cub Scout pack creates small groups of 6 to 8 Cub Scouts that are in the same grade. These small groups are called dens. The size and structure lets Cub Scouts build relationships with each other and with leaders. It give them leadership opportunities and the chance to do activities that would be difficult with a larger group. Dens meet at least once a month. Activities vary based on age.

Each den has a Den Leader and some have an Assistant Den Leader. The Den Leaders and Assistant Den Leaders are trained parent volunteers. Den Leaders often stay with their den from K up through 5th grade when they age out and cross over to a Scouts BSA troop.

Cub Scouts have the following dens:

- **Lion:** kindergarten and their adult partners
- **Tiger:** 1st grade and their adult partners
- **Wolf:** 2nd grade
- **Bear:** 3rd grade
- **Webeles:** 4th grade
- **Arrow of Light (AOL):** 5th grade

Cub Scouts

Cub Scouts are by far the most important part of the pack. Pack 439 provides everything that each child will need when they join except for the Cub Scout shirt and hat (which is optional). This includes: Cub Scout handbook, neckerchief, neckerchief slide, all patches, belt and Pinewood Derby Kit (provided later in the year), plus all various advancements earned throughout the year.

Pack Leadership Roles

Pack Committee

A Pack Committee consists of interested parents, leaders, and members of the Chartered Organization. They are responsible for supporting the pack in areas such as planning and implementing pack activities as well as record keeping, finances, leadership recruitment and registration.

- Committee Chairman
 - Maintains relationship with the Charter Organization. Works with the local Scouts BSA troops that Cub Scouts will graduate into. Reviews and renews the Pack Charter on a yearly basis. And for Pack 439 Advancement Coordinator - purchases awards at the Scout Shop and organizes awards, bringing them to the monthly pack meetings.
- Pack Secretary (performed by our Assistant Cubmaster)

- Keeps notes on Pack Leader and Committee meetings. Publicizes and promotes pack activities and service projects.
- Pack Treasurer
 - Oversees the pack finances, including the annual budget. Works with Cub Scout families regarding payment dues, if needed. Keeps pack leadership and parents informed on pack finances.
- Pack Outings / Activities Chair (performed by Assistant Cubmaster)
 - Ensures all first aid and safety requirements are followed for pack events. Plans and arranges pack outdoor activities. Plans outings to help pack members earn the Summertime Pack Award.
- Pack Membership Coordinator
 - Maintains the Pack Handbook. Communicates and connects with new members to help get them plugged into the pack and appropriate den. Attends monthly Committee meetings.
- Cubmaster
 - Conducts monthly pack meetings. Aids Den Leaders by coordinating a monthly program for all leaders. Attends monthly Committee meetings. Has one or more assistants.
- Assistant Cubmaster
 - Helps the Cubmaster as needed to help Den Leaders. Sets up and cleans up before/after meetings. Plans the pack programming and all helps with the Den Chief Program.
- Den Leader and Assistant Den Leader
 - Plans bi-monthly meetings and activities with a den of 5-8 Cub Scouts - with Lion and Tiger adult partners joining in with each activity. Assures the den meeting is held at an appropriate location and time. Executes the Cub Scout program and helps the youth earn their ranks. Attends monthly Committee meetings.

About Pack 439

Pack Meetings

The 3rd Wednesday of every month Pack 439 gets together for a pack meeting with all of our Cub Scouts and their families. The pack meeting is a fun time for everyone. Dens show off the projects they have been working on, lead songs, perform skits and awards are presented to the Cub Scouts. It is a time for the family to get information on upcoming activities and share in the Scouting spirit. Be sure to attend and join in the excitement while watching your child advance!

Den Meetings

Den meetings are held at least once a month and provide your child with opportunities to enjoy various planned activities, learn new skills and have fun! Most den meetings include work on

advancement requirements, but some of that work is done at home by the Scouts with their parents.

We expect a parent or other caring adult to be present at each meeting. In Lion and Tiger dens, this is mandatory because, at this age, children often need a familiar face to help them, especially during new experiences.

Some Dens will require parent participation at specific meetings. Please keep in touch with your child's Den Leader so that you will know what activities are taking place and can track the progress your child is making.

Your child's Den Leader will discuss your den's meeting schedule and location and will inform you of any changes. Please try to arrive on time for all meetings.

Pack Events

Pack events include our Camp Out/Overnights, Blue & Gold Banquet, Pinewood Derby, Rocket Launch, Water balloon Bash and other fun activities.

Camping with Pack 439 is easy and fun even if you have never been camping before. The pack has a trailer full of equipment and brings the stoves, food, and handles the logistics. Camping trips are typically Friday evening through Sunday morning, but Cub Scouts can arrive late and leave early as needed. Costs for food for the weekend are typically \$25 per person and the whole family is encouraged to attend. Along with being fun, camping provides an easy way for Cub Scouts to complete many requirements. Our typical camping trip includes a Saturday morning hike, den based activities mid-day, and free time in the afternoon. The pack has three camping trips a year: summer, fall, and spring. Additionally the Webelos and Arrow of Light dens participate in the Camporee in the fall with other area packs.

Community Service

Pack 439 participates in Community Service projects throughout the year including the Scouting for Food Drive. We are always looking for new opportunities to provide community service so if you have any ideas, please feel free to notify the Pack Leadership.

Attendance

We encourage Cub Scouts and their families to view Cub Scouts as a commitment. But, like we teach the Cub Scouts: "Do your best!" [to attend]. We know everyone is busy, especially with other activities like sports. However, don't let a sports season end a Scouting career! Please try to participate as often as you can, even if you have to show up late and in your soccer uniform. And plan to get back in the swing of things as soon as you can. Our leaders will be happy to help your Cub Scout get caught up with the rest of their den. Reach out to them!

If you are concerned about your Cub Scout's loss of interest in the program, please talk with their Den Leader or the Cubmaster and Assistant Cubmaster right away. Cub Scouting is the best youth program anywhere, but like anything worthwhile, it takes commitment from everyone involved. You only get out of the program what you are willing to put in. Your Cub Scout cannot benefit from Cub Scouting if they drop out.

Annual Membership Dues

Dues are utilized to purchase den and pack materials, neckerchiefs, badges, belt loops, awards, Pinewood Derby car kits and rocket kits on behalf of the Cub Scouts. An additional portion is allocated to annual pack registration fees, etc.

For the 2024-25 Cub Scout year, the dues for returning scouts are \$250 per scout and \$350 for new scouts, which includes handbook, class A shirt, belt, neckerchief, neckerchief slide, unit numbers, and patches.

No child should be denied the opportunity to participate in Cub Scouts due to financial hardship. In the event that you need financial assistance, please reach out to our Cubmaster or Assistant Cubmaster.

Cub Scout Ranks

Advancement Trail











































On the advancement trail, Cub Scouts progress towards a badge of rank based on their age/grade. They don't need to have earned the previous rank in order to earn the next. Each of the ranks in Cub Scouting has its own requirements that are age appropriate, so earning a rank below a Cub Scout's current grade is not permitted. As a Cub Scout advances through the ranks, the requirements get more challenging, to match the new skills and abilities they have learned.



Each den is named based on the rank the Scout is working towards. Everyone must complete 6 required Adventures and any 2 elective Adventures to earn their badge of rank. Adventure loops are earned for Lions, Tigers, Wolves and Bears, which can be worn on their belt. Adventure pins are earned for Webelos and Arrow of Lights, which can be pinned on the Webelos colors.

**2024-2025
Cub Scout Badges of Rank
Requirements**

The Bobcat Adventure is designed to be the first required Adventure.
Each badge of rank is earned by completing six required and two elective Adventures.
The six required Adventures are focused on the aims and focus areas of the BSA.

 LION Kindergarten	 TIGER 1 st Grade	 WOLF 2 nd Grade	 BEAR 3 rd Grade	 WEBELOS 4 th Grade	 ARROW OF LIGHT 5 th Grade
 BOBCAT Character/Leadership	 BOBCAT Character/Leadership	 BOBCAT Character/Leadership	 BOBCAT Character/Leadership	 BOBCAT Character/Leadership	 BOBCAT Character/Leadership
 MOUNTAIN LION Outdoors	 TIGERS IN THE WILD Outdoors	 PAWS ON THE PATH Outdoors	 BEAR HABITAT Outdoors	 WEBELOS WALKABOUT Outdoors	 OUTDOOR ADVENTURER Outdoors
 FUN ON THE RUN Personal Fitness	 TIGER BITES Personal Fitness	 RUNNING WITH THE PACK Personal Fitness	 BEAR STRONG Personal Fitness	 STRONGER, FASTER, HIGHER Personal Fitness	 PERSONAL FITNESS Personal Fitness
 KING OF THE JUNGLE Citizenship	 TEAM TIGER Citizenship	 COUNCIL FIRE Citizenship	 PAWS FOR ACTION Citizenship	 MY COMMUNITY Citizenship	 CITIZENSHIP Citizenship
 LION ROAR Personal Safety	 TIGER ROAR Personal Safety	 SAFETY IN NUMBERS Personal Safety	 STANDING TALL Personal Safety	 MY SAFETY Safety/First Aid	 FIRST AID Safety/First Aid
 LION'S PRIDE Family/Reverence	 TIGER CIRCLES Family/Reverence	 FOOTSTEPS Family/Reverence	 FELLOWSHIP Family/Reverence	 MY FAMILY Family/Reverence	 DUTY TO GOD Family/Reverence
 2 Elective Adventures	 2 Elective Adventures	 2 Elective Adventures	 2 Elective Adventures	 2 Elective Adventures	 2 Elective Adventures

Uniforms

There are many reasons for requiring uniforms. Among them are quick identification of the group, providing a place to display emblems representing hard work by the Cub Scouts and leaders, and to foster a sense of togetherness and pride.

Pack 439's uniform is the official uniform designated by the Boy Scouts of America. An official uniform is known as a "Class A" uniform (i.e., dress uniform) consisting of the BSA shirt, patches/emblems and neckerchief. Occasionally, it is appropriate that Scouts do not wear their "Class A" uniform, but still be quickly recognized as Cub Scouts. For example, while playing outdoor games or while on a hike. In these cases, Cub Scouts may wear their "Class B" uniform consisting of a printed Pack 439 t-shirt. If not otherwise indicated, Cub Scouts and leaders should wear their "Class A" uniform.

Lion / Tiger / Wolf / Bear / Webelos

- Cub Scout Uniform Shirt (blue)
- Den Neckerchief
- Neckerchief Slide
- Cub Scout Cut-to-Fit Belt
- Den Hat (optional)
- Webelos Colors (for Webelos only)

Arrow of Light

- Scouts BSA Uniform Shirt (tan)
- Scouts BSA Neckerchief
- Scouts BSA Slide
- Scouts BSA Uniform Hat (optional)

The uniform shirts consist of an assortment of emblems that identify the Cub Scout's council, pack, den, rank and certain accomplishments. Many of these emblems are described on the inside covers of the book for each rank. The local Scout Shop can provide you assistance in getting your first uniform and patches. It is located at [800 Wyman Park Dr Ste. 120, Baltimore, MD 21211](https://www.scoutshop.org). We strongly encourage that you visit the shop. The employees are very friendly and helpful in navigating the uniform to get you started. Uniforms can also be purchased online at <https://scoutshop.org>

Communication

Information about pack events will be communicated via email and the pack website. Scoutbook is used to RSVP for events and send messages to members. We also use Scoutbook to help Cub Scouts, parents and registered leaders track and report advancement records.

- Website: <https://www.pack439.org/>
- Email: Pack439MD@gmail.com
- Scoutbook: <https://www.scouting.org/resources/scoutbook/>

Parent Responsibilities

Pack 439 simply cannot be successful without your involvement. As a Cub Scout parent, we hope you'll recognize and take seriously the following responsibilities:

- Understand the requirements for your Cub Scout's rank advancement. Assist them in fulfilling these requirements. Help keep the record of their achievements accurate and up to date.

- Assure that your Cub Scout has a “Class A” uniform and that they dress appropriately for all Cub Scout functions.
- Notify your Cub Scout’s Den Leader whenever they will be absent or late for a meeting.
- Notify your Cub Scout’s Den Leader whenever they participate in a Cub Scout activity that is not sponsored by the pack so that they will receive the proper credit (like Cub Scout Day Camp).
- Volunteer!!
 - Volunteer to be a Den Leader, Assistant Den Leader, Den Parent or member of the Pack Committee
 - Volunteer your time to organize and execute one or more specific Cub Scout activity - banquets, fundraisers, Pinewood Derby, campouts, field trips, etc.
- Support the pack’s financial goals by participating in fundraising activities or consider making a monetary donation.