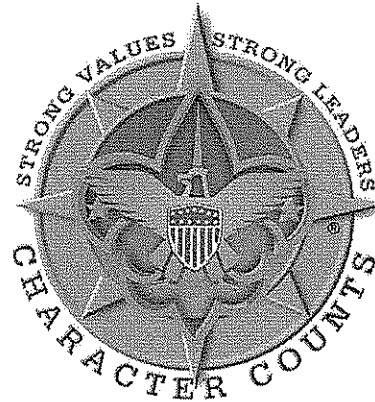


Pack 460
A User's Guide



Cubmaster's Preface

This is Pack 460, A User's Guide, if you are a returning parent or leader, this is for you. if you are a parent with experience with another pack, you will find that Pack 460 does some things differently than other packs, partly because no two packs do things exactly the same, and partly because we plan things differently, whether it's our annual Fall Frolic, our Webelos to Scout transition plan that includes the 4th and 5th grade boys sleeping in their own tents, to our relationship with our older brother Boy Scout Troop 460, you will see that Pack 460 is Jammin'!

Gary Blandina

Cubmaster

August 28, 2010

Mission Statement

Cub Scouting offers boys a family environment in which everyone can feel secure both physically and emotionally. That sense of security comes from the Cubmaster, the Den Leaders and other adult leaders. As leaders of Pack 460 we shall offer every boy in our community who wishes to join us the chance to share scouting fun and personal growth with his family and friends. We want these boys to have fun and to feel good about themselves. In all scouting activities, we strive to teach boys to respect God and country, their community, their neighbors, and the environment. And we have a lot of smiles and laughs along the way.

Pack 460 fees for 2010-2011:

Pack registration is \$110.00 per scouting year. This fee includes \$28.00 for rechartering in December, \$25.00 for awards your son will earn, \$30.00 yearly den dues to cover supplies and snacks, \$17.00 pack equipment fee to cover the cost and maintenance of pack equipment. If you pay the dues by the October pack meeting, you get a \$10 early bird discount per scout.

Any parent who feels they have a hardship paying these dues on time should approach the committee chairperson (Roman Maciag) and it will be reviewed on an individual basis. If a member's check is returned twice for insufficient funds the member will be asked to make all payments for activities in cash for the remainder of the year.

Cub Scouting is a family experience. Our pack is a family also. You will travel the road to the Arrow of Light and hopefully Eagle with your son. We hope you will be willing to help us in some small way. Pack campouts and other activities may be supplemented by money earned from popcorn sales and other fund raising events. Depending on how the Pack Committee decides fees subsidies and incentives may change based on scout participation. The pack encourages all scouts and families to be involved. The Pack Committee is made up of the parents of the pack, be sure to attend the committee meetings to voice your opinions and ideas.

Pack 460 requires all leaders and parents to be an example to the boys. This includes following and enforcing the church rules about where to park and not park, as well as other expectations for proper behavior and etiquette (leaving your meeting room exactly as you found it, taking any and all trash you generate with you, scouts and siblings staying out of forbidden areas, scouts and siblings not running around the church nor playing on the stairs or elevator).

All leaders MUST set the example for wearing proper uniform at all scouting events. The boys are expected to be in full uniform for all meetings. If the den is performing activities where class B is warranted the scout can remove his class A shirt for the activity. Awards will only be given to a leader or scout in full uniform. If a scout is not in uniform the den leader will make the decision to award the scout at a den meeting or at the next pack meeting when he is in uniform. The Cubmaster will award the leader when he or she is in uniform. Class B t-shirts are available for purchase at all pack events and randomly will be available Thursday nights at Pines Baptist Church. Class B shirts are any scouting related shirt. We encourage a class B t-shirt to be worn under the class A.

If a meeting is needed at an alternate location such as nature hikes, fire station visits or community services a tour permit is required two weeks prior the event. The Committee Chair and the Cubmaster are to be copied with the request. Any questions you can feel free to call us anytime. You can find links to the Pack Leaders email addresses at <http://www.pack460.org>

Frequently Asked Questions:

Alphabet soup, answers to common acronyms in Scouting:

BSA: Boy Scouts of America, the parent organization that Cub Scouts belong to.

DE: District Executive, a paid, professional position in scouting

OA: Order of the Arrow, an honor society in scouting

PBC: Pines Baptist Church, Pack and Troop 460's charter organization.

SPL: Senior Patrol Leader, this is a youth leadership position in a boy scout troop.

Key People:

Pack 460:

Charter Organization Representative: Derek Cordle 954-520-6416

Committee Chair: Roman Maciag 954-610-8590

Cubmaster: Gary Blandina 954-668-5668

Seminole District:

District Chair: Derek Cordle 954-520-6416

District Commissioner: Glenn Gomez 954-655-4446

District Executive: Alberto Rodriguez 954-584-4200

What is a Charter Organization and what are their responsibilities?

The Charter Organization is an entity that gives a scout unit its charter to exist. Without a charter organization, there is no scouting unit. All assets of the unit actually belong to the charter organization. While BSA is a non-profit organization, a scout unit is only tax-exempt if their charter organization is. The chartered organization agrees to conduct the Scouting program according to the policies of the Boy Scouts of America. Some chartered organizations have more than one scouting unit. Pines Baptist Church is the Charter Organization for Pack 460 and Troop 460. They provide us with a place to hold our pack and den meetings as well as a place to park our pack trailer and storage space for our other pack equipment. The main decision a charter organization must make is appointing a Charter Organization Representative. That person then selects a Committee Chair, and they select a Cubmaster, the charter organization expects these people to run the program in accordance with BSA policies and the charter organizations policies. Derek Cordle is our Charter Organization Representative. He is a member of the church who is also an active scout leader. He is a past committee chair for Pack 460. His two sons are members of Troop 460 now, where he is also the Charter Organization representative. He is Seminole District's current District Chairman.

How does a Pack operate? What are the differences between the Committee Chair and the Cubmaster?

A scout unit has two sides to it. The business or administrative side and the program side. A Committee Chair is like a movie producer, and the Cubmaster is like the director. The Committee Chair is over the business side and the Cubmaster oversees the program side. The Committee Chair recruits the Cubmaster and then recruits a pack committee. A treasurer, a secretary, an Awards Chair, an Advancement Chair, an Equipment Manager (Quartermaster), an

Outdoor Coordinator, and any other committee positions necessary to effectively run the pack and support the program. Under the auspices of the Committee Chair, the pack committee sets the budget and fees. They create the pack calendar. They reserve campgrounds, and pay the bills for the pack.

The Cubmaster runs the Pack meeting, and coordinates campout activities in conjunction with the den leaders. They plan campfire ceremonies, and supports the den leaders in running different events, especially the Webelos Arrow of Light and Crossover ceremonies. The Cubmaster is the emcee or Ringleader of the pack.

Why should I, if I want to be a registered leader, have to pay an annual registration fee, when I volunteer so much of my time?

The annual registration fee really isn't very much when you consider all that leaders receive in return. Your National Fee provides for Local Council Assistance, program research and development, program materials including Scouting Magazine, and local Council insurance and benefits.

Please note, as a registered leader you can claim tax deductions for your registration and training costs, as well as your uniform and mileage to and from scouting events.

What is Seminole District?

As a member of Pack 460, we are members of South Florida Council. South Florida Council serves Broward, Dade and Monroe Counties through ten separate districts. Seminole District is one of these ten districts covering southern Broward County. The boundaries of Seminole District go from County Line Road in the south to Griffin Road in the north; from the Atlantic Ocean to the Everglades. Pack and Troop 460 are located in the heart of Seminole District!

What is the OA or Order of the Arrow?

It is BSA's honor society. Boys can get elected in as boy scouts. Adults in OA, were either elected in as youth members, or as adult with a troop, crew, ship, team, or as a district or council committee member. If you Cub Scout adults that are member of OA, they fall into these categories. Cub Scouts and Cub Scout leaders are not eligible to be elected into OA.

How many boys make up a den?

This is a difficult number to pin down. Many people say six to eight Cub Scouts is the suggested and recommended number of boys. But what happens if you have 9, 10 or 11 boys? If you split the den, one or both dens would be under the "ideal" number. Some Den Leaders may feel comfortable with more boys, especially if they have more than one assistant and a Den Chief. Dens are designed to be small neighborhood groups. If you feel that your den is growing too large, discuss it with the Cubmaster. We have seen problems arise when dens split.

What are the den leader's responsibilities?

There are multiple trainings and resources available to answer this question.

First, get trained. Not only does every boy deserve a trained leader. BSA policy requires it. For a unit (our pack) to achieve the Quality Unit designation, one requirement is to have all of our

direct contact leaders trained. Quality Unit designation, besides giving us a patch to wear on our uniform and a ribbon for our pack flag, allows us to earn FREE rank advancements from the council office (this saves all of us money). Tour permits for pack events WILL NOT BE APPROVED, if we haven't satisfied certain training requirements amongst our unit leaders.

Second, follow the monthly theme outlined by the BSA den planning guides.

Third, make your den a part of the pack meeting. Set up a den table displaying the art or craft projects you worked on since the last meeting. Or display photos from a den activity or outing. Have a song or skit prepared for the pack's entertainment. Do the opening and closing flag ceremony at a pack meeting or on a campout. Have your den lead the Scout's Own ceremony on a campout.

Fourth, plan den activities, and help plan pack activities for campouts. Have a song or skit prepared for the campfire program. Your den will be responsible for running a pack event during the year.

Fifth, demonstrate SCOUT SPIRIT! Be enthusiastic and cheerful. Set the example by wearing the uniform properly and without complaint.

What is a "Scout's Own Ceremony?"

One of the key points of scouting is Duty to God. A Scout's Own ceremony is a non-sectarian worship service on the Sunday morning of a campout. The Cubmaster expects den leaders to help plan this, and get youth and adults to conduct it. The entire pack in attendance on a campout is expected to participate. So nobody should be packing up their camping gear during this time.

As a den leader, what kind of help should I have with my den?

Every den should have several adults responsible for running it. Besides the den leader (or co-den leaders), there should be an assistant den leader, a pack committee representative whose main job is to represent the den at pack committee meetings. You should try and get a parent to be the den's advancement coordinator. A parent to collect the money for dues or a pack event. The more adults you have helping you as the den leader, the more time you have to focus on what's important, planning a quality meeting for the boys and running it. You should also consider having a den chief.

What is a Den Chief and how do I get one?

A Den Chief is an older Boy Scout or Explorer that can assist as part of your den's leadership. With your guidance and direction, he can be a most valuable addition by leading songs and games, teaching tricks or puzzles and helping with activities.

To get a Den Chief:

1. Tell your Cubmaster you would like to have one.
2. The Cubmaster discusses your need with the Scoutmaster.
3. The Scoutmaster selects the right boy who has been trained in leadership skills.
4. The Cubmaster trains him in Cub Scouting skills so that he will be successful in working with a den.

Not all den leaders like to have den chiefs, but they are a helpful and integral part of scouting.

What is a Denner, and where do I get one?

The Denner is one of the Cub Scouts in your Den. He is elected to office by the Den members and is responsible for assisting the Den Leadership (primarily the Den Chief if you have one but also should help the Den Leader). The Denner wears a special gold braid over his left shoulder to signify his position. The Denner is used to help set out craft materials, paper and pencil supplies, help to organize the game or a special activity and can help with last minute preparations and clean up after the den meeting is over. Many Den Leaders rotate this position of responsibility amongst the boys in their den.

Whoa, whoa whoa, not so fast there. What do you mean about this: "Your den will be responsible for running a pack event during the year." ?????

In addition to campouts and pack meetings, there are several Pack Events that take place during the scout year. Each den is responsible for running an event.

They are:

Fall Frolic: Pack Committee

Pinewood Derby: Webelos I

Raingutter Regatta: Wolves

Blue and Gold: Bears

Webelos Arrow of Light/Crossover: Webelos II

Pack Graduation: Tigers

I'm not really good with crafts, what should I do?

There are many resources with excellent instructions for theme-related craft projects available to you. With a little patience and practice, you'll get the hang of it and probably enjoy it. There might be a parent in the den with a talent, please survey your parents.

Resources: BSA National website <http://www.scouting.org>

The Cub Scout handbooks

District Roundtable

Pack Trainer

Other den leaders

Public library craft magazines

University of Scouting

If a boy joins a Webelos den as a first time Cub Scout can he go back and earn his Tiger, Wolf, and Bear ranks?

No, he has to earn his Bobcat rank, and then starts working towards the rank for his age/grade level. This is different in a boy scout troop.

Why should I go to Roundtable, and when and where is it?

Roundtable is one of the most valuable training tools a den leader has. It is monthly scouting education. It is the place to find out what is happening in the district and council. You have the opportunity to share your ideas with others, and get their ideas. It is also a place where you can go and find out that other people are having the same frustrations that you are having in your

den or pack, and either find out their solutions, or brainstorm some solutions. It is also supplemental training where you can get ideas for your program, and ideas on how to implement those ideas. You can actually save time by attending Roundtable because you can spend considerably less time planning your programs and activities in your den or pack.

Roundtable usually meets the first Monday evening of the month at the Pines Baptist Church pavilion from 7:30-9:00. That's right, we are the host pack and troop for Roundtable, we need to be there!

How long should den meetings be? What time should they start?

All den meetings are to take place Thursday nights at Pines Baptist Church. Tiger, Wolf and Bear dens should plan to meet from 7:00-8:00 p.m. Webelos should plan their meetings to go for 60-75 minutes between 7:00 and 8:30. Their meetings should start no later than 7:30. It is recommended that den meetings be held weekly. In a typical four week month, a den will have 2-3 den meetings and a pack meeting. If we are camping that month, we usually do not schedule den meetings the Thursday before the campout. This gives the adults doing the food shopping for the pack, the time to do it, and families time to pack. The most important thing to remember is consistency - the same place, the same time each week as approved by the Pack Committee.

If you need to deviate from this meeting plan, it needs to be discussed with the Cubmaster and the Pack Committee Chair ahead of time. If it's a random occurrence (such as you need to cancel a meeting) we need to know. If you are changing the venue (say to the police or fire station), we need to know and a tour permit must be filed.

If you need to permanently change your meeting time or location, we must discuss this with the pack committee.

What is a Tour Permit?

Permit designed to assist units in planning safe, helpful, and enjoyable trips and to ensure that proper procedures will be followed in case of emergency. This permit is filed through South Florida Council. They make sure Safe Scouting guidelines are adhered to, and they issue a tour permit. This provides blanket BSA liability insurance. See the pack committee chair about how to do this.

Can I take my den camping?

Any overnight camping other than pack/family camping is not approved for Tiger, Wolf, and Bear scouts, unless it is a Council sponsored event, such as Cub Scout/Webelos Resident Camp.

Does this mean that Webelos can go overnight camping?

The Cubmaster and the Webelos leaders should discuss the Webelos-Scout Transition Plan. Webelos Scouts are a transition group in scouting. They can do more camping than the other Cub Scout dens, but they do not go camping in the same way as Boy Scouts, that is, Webelos Leaders do not take the Webelos Scouts out alone to camp. Webelos Scouts are encouraged to

have parent-guardian/son overnight experiences away from home. This is an important step in the transitional period from Cub Scouting to Scouting. Each Webelos Scout Den should have one or two overnights each year to ensure that all den members will have the opportunity to earn the Arrow of Light award.

What if a boy's parent can't come on a campout, can the boy still come?

Remember, only a parent or legal guardian can sleep in the same tent with their son. No unrelated adults can share a tent with a scout. Since Tigers, Wolves, and Bears do not sleep by themselves, a Tiger, Wolf, or Bear cannot come on a campout without a parent or legal guardian, unless there is another adult relative like an aunt or uncle, cousin who can come.

If the boy is a Webelos scout they will be sharing a tent with another scout, the boy's parents might make arrangements for another parent in the den to be responsible for their son on a campout. There shouldn't be any "loose" boys, boys who aren't the responsibility of someone other than yourself. Each temporary, or substitute parent, is responsible for their "adopted" boy just as completely as their own son.

Any arrangement like this must be discussed with the den leader and the Cubmaster in advance of the campout.

How can I enforce discipline at den meetings?

First off, the parents should be at the meeting. They should be the first line of discipline. Even though they might not be paying attention or have the same tolerance level as you.

Communicate your rules and expectations to the boys and their parents.

Second, be sure all your boys know the Cub Scout sign and its meaning -- "when the sign goes up the mouth closes." By giving the Cub Scout sign and discontinuing all activity until all the boys have stopped talking, you can often regain control. Don't speak, just give the sign and wait.

Third, be positive. Reward compliance. A "den dangle" is a good idea. Create a pocket dangle, and present the boys with different colored beads to add to it, such as for showing up in proper uniform, being on time, doing an extra special good deed. You could add other embellishments like colored feathers, silly bandz, be creative and positive.

REMEMBER: What you permit, you promote.

Be consistent -- Don't let them get away with something one week that you will object to the next week.

Be fair -- treat each boy the same, show no favoritism whatsoever.

Don't threaten - act. If you promise a reward or a consequence, deliver it. Boys will test you and the limits and will continue to misbehave as long as you let them.

A boy that is continuously disruptive is depriving the other boys of the program. Talk to his parents if it continues. However, you are not permitted to strike or physically punish any boy, even if his parents give you permission. This includes your own boy. Apply the same rules and standards to him as well.

Plan enough physical activity to allow boys to let off steam/energy. If all they do is sit, they will act up because of boredom. Think about it, they've been in a classroom all day, they go home

and do homework, or they've been in aftercare and then they come and sit in a classroom and have to be still.

Try to find out why a boy misbehaves. He may be trying to tell you something! Remember, behavior is communication.

Do I have to follow the monthly themes put out by the National Scout Office?

As a pack, we like to follow these themes in our program. It helps put all dens on the same page. It helps to make sure all the boys are getting the right advancement opportunities. And why reinvent the wheel? If the program is already laid out for you, with art, craft, song, and skit ideas, why not take advantage of it? These planning guides are provided by BSA at

<http://www.scouting.org>

As a leader, I'm not that handy, or I'm not that artistic or crafty, what should I do?

First of all, if you are using the BSA planning guides, they provide instructions on how to do an art or craft project. They are like recipes, with lists of what to buy, and written and/or visual instructions provided.

Second, increase your skills and knowledge by attending Roundtable as well as other trainings like University of Scouting. We all want what's best for our boys, take the time to make yourself the best leader you can possibly be.

Third, don't overlook the parents in your den or pack as potential instructors. Troop 460 also has many boys and adults with vast Cub Scout experience and are willing to be helpful as well. Someone may know of interested outsiders that would be willing to share their expertise with you. Roundtable is a great place to network.

Fourth, don't be afraid to approach the Cubmaster or Pack Trainer about your problem. It is their job to be helpful.

Who signs the Cub Scout's books?

The parents of Tiger, Wolf and Bear Cub Scouts have the primary privilege of passing their son on advancement. The Den Leader may sign off achievements and electives done at den or pack events.

At the Webelos level, the Webelos Leader, or the person he/she designates, will approve the completion of requirements and sign the book. This is a necessary transition to boy scouts, where parents never sign their son's handbook.

What about the boy that is not advancing?

Talk with the boy yourself to see if you can aid him with any problem he may be having in not completing his requirements for advancing. Talk with his parents about the advancement plan and how it works. Offer your assistance to explain in detail, and in person, if necessary. Be sure to give proper recognition to the boy for advancement work when he does finish.

Consult with the Cubmaster if the problem persists.

Which Scouters are Volunteers and which ones are professional?

Most of the adult leaders in scouting (Scouters) are volunteers. The Committee Chair, the Cubmaster, the Den Leaders, the Unit Commissioner, the District Commissioner, the District Chairman are all volunteers.

The main person you would most likely meet who is being paid to do the job is the District Executive (DE). Currently our interim DE is Keith Jones, although Alberto Rodriguez should be back on the job soon.

Pack etiquette on campouts:

Everyone shares responsibility in making the pack go. We cook as a pack and eat together. Parents are expected to share the workload on a campout, both in meal preparation and in cleanup. A duty roster will be formulated for each campout.

Upon arrival at the campsite, people need to be cognizant of how many people they are sharing the space with. Dens should try and set up near each other. This helps create little villages within our camp community. The central gathering places on a campout are the campfire ring and the dining area or pavilion. There are people who stay up later than others, just as there are people who wake up earlier than others. Please be mindful of noise levels on campouts between 11 pm and 7 am. We usually provide an adult cracker barrel (a snack time for adults to sit around and talk) on Friday nights after the boys are sent to bed.

By centralizing meal times, it enables us to plan group activities more effectively. A menu and schedule will be posted for each campout. A sample schedule might look like:

Friday 3:00-9:00 pm Arrive and setup.
9:30 Scouts Wash up and brush teeth
10:00 pm lights out for scouts, adult cracker barrel.

Saturday
6:30 am breakfast crew starts cooking
7:00 am Wake up, scouts allowed out of tents.
7:30 am breakfast
8:15 am Flag raising
8:30-11:30 Den Activities and games
12:00 Lunch
1:00-4:00 pack activities and games
5:30 dinner
7:55 Flag lowering
8:00 Campfire program
9:30 Scouts Wash up and brush teeth
10:00 pm lights out for scouts, adult cracker barrel.

Sunday

6:30 am breakfast crew starts cooking

7:00 am Wake up, scouts allowed out of tents.

7:30 am breakfast

8:15 am Scout's Own Ceremony

8:45-? Pack up and cleanup.

No families should leave a campout until all of the pack equipment (tables, tents, canopies, stoves, cookware, lanterns, etc.) has been cleaned and put away, AND the campsite has been thoroughly policed for trash. Everyone wants to get home. Everyone is tired and hot or cranky. Everyone worked together to make the event happen. It is rude to be selfish and just pack up your gear and go. People will talk about you behind your back if you do this, and might even bring it up to your face.

If you must leave early because of work, or some other obligation, please discuss this with the Committee Chair and Cubmaster ahead of time, so the duty roster can be planned accordingly, and so any complaints about your leaving early can be addressed properly in order to set the record straight.

Except for the schedule, the rules about cleanup apply to every pack event.
