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Dear Parents of Potential Cub Scouts,

As Cubmaster of Pack 112 I wanted to invite you to consider having your son participate in the Cub Scout program as a member of our pack. We have grown from a small group of 6 boys to our current size of 33. Word has gotten out that this is a viable program with much to offer young boys. We are volunteer-based at this level; we do it for the love of it.

Being mindful not to overwhelm you with information, I'd like to lay out how the program works. The 3 key goals of Cub Scouting are to instill a sense of participating citizenship, positive character development, and personal fitness. All the aspects of the program flow from these goals. The Cub Scout motto is "Do Your Best".

**Organizational Structure:** We operate as a pack chartered under the Ashland Lions Club, and under the guidance of the Crater Lake Council (Big Pines District). The pack is made of age/grade specific groups called dens, typically 1<sup>st</sup> graders-Tiger Cubs, 2<sup>nd</sup> graders- Wolves, 3<sup>rd</sup> graders- Bears, 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> graders- Webelos I and II. Dens have leaders and meet once or twice a month in homes of scouts while the pack as a whole meets monthly, usually the last Tuesday of the month in Pioneer Hall, across from Lithia Park.

Den meetings focus on projects and achievements toward the specific rank the boys are working on. Occasionally dens will have fun field trips to places of interest to the boys. We've had trips to a pumpkin patch, the fire station, the police station, Lithia Park, the Armory, Rogue Rock Climbing Gym & the Brammo auto factory. The pack meetings center on one of the 12 character traits (honesty, resourcefulness, etc.) and include a program with an advancement ceremony for the boys who have completed achievements since the last meeting. Some meetings are given over to events like the Pinewood Derby and Raingutter Regatta, as well as a Blue and Gold Banquet—fun for all. We also will have scheduled outings such as ice skating or Rocket Day. At the council level we have large-group gatherings of packs for Snow Capades in January, day camp in June and resident camp in July or August.

**Calendar:** Packs run on a school-year calendar but the Boy Scouts of America (BSA) runs on a calendar-year schedule as far as membership and renewal of our charter. Recruiting happens in September when the school year starts. We publish a calendar with pack and council events

**Uniforms:** We have decided that the basic shirt with emblems, kerchief and slide are enough for us. Caps are optional, as well as the belt and pants. Boys typically wear blue jeans. Boys are expected to wear their uniform to den and pack meetings. These can best be purchased at the Scout Shop in Central Point [3039 Hanley Road, call 664-8477 for hours] or online at their cyber shop <http://www.craterlakecouncil.org/>. Blackbird may have some as well. The scout shop sells a product called *Badge Magic* which uses heat transfer to secure the patches, eliminating the tedious need to sew, or 'Fabric Fuse Permanent Adhesive' available at Wal-Mart.

**Costs:** The cost of Scouting breaks down as follows. Families are expected to obtain the uniform and handbook (rank specific) for their boy. The fees for application and initial subscription to Boys Life magazine are based on the month of joining, and the prorated amounts are on the application form. Checks for these fees can be made out to BSA, Crater Lake Council and given to the Cubmaster along with the filled-in application. This money goes to the national organization. Dues run until Dec 31<sup>st</sup> of each year. The pack budget tries to cover all our program costs for the calendar year. We have a fund-raiser in the fall that can pay for much if not all of the boys' program costs. Depending on when your boy joins us, that amount will be prorated. Checks for the pack program should be made out to Cub Scout Pack 112.

**Training:** We like to have our leaders receive some training so they feel comfortable in whatever roles they take on. Rank-specific training is available for adults who volunteer to be leaders. Some is available online while some is sponsored by the Council. Some roles are more of a commitment than others, but it would help to have all adults take the Youth protection training as part of their orientation to scouting and working with young boys. This is a no-cost online training available through the BSA organization. Go to the council website <http://www.craterlakecouncil.org/>, click on the Training link then *Youth Protection Training*. You do not need a password or account to complete the training, just bypass that step if you like.

**Camps:** One of the highlights of Scouting is attending camp. There are two opportunities for Cub Scouts—Day Camp and Resident Camp. Information for both can be found on the council website. There are deadlines for applications and deposits which we want to meet in order to make sure all those wanting a space can have one.

Day Camp is for boys who will be in the 1<sup>st</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> grade in the fall. The application form and fee is due mid-May. Resident camp is for boys who will be entering 2<sup>nd</sup>- 5<sup>th</sup> grades in the fall. For resident camp, the fees for boys and adults are due May 1<sup>st</sup>. Adults are needed at each camping experience, typically one adult for every 4 boys. I think any boy who has been to camp would say it's a highlight of his Cub Scout years.

There are many layers to Scouting, and it takes time to unpack them and get the information out to people. We really want the boys to achieve the rank for their level, but along the way there are other opportunities for recognition. Two that are worth a mention here are the *Religious Emblems* and *Sports & Academics*.

**Religious Emblems:** There are 35 faiths that participate in the *Religious Emblems* program. To earn these, the Scout completes a booklet specific to their religion, under a parent's guidance. Depending on the program, there may be a review by a minister of that faith. The program booklets may be available at the Scout Shop, and if not there is a website that has materials. For starters, go to (<http://www.scouting.org/applications/religiousawards.aspx> ) and look under your particular faith.

**Sports & Academics:** Scouting has recognition belt loops and pins for exploring different subjects or playing a variety of sports. There are awards for 17 subjects from Art to Wildlife Conservation and 21 sports from Badminton to Volleyball. Actually there are 2 more- BB-gun shooting and Archery- but these can only be earned at council-sponsored camps.

**Family Involvement:** Scouting is really a joint adventure with boys and their parents and we need parents to participate in making the pack run smoothly. Unlike many activities for youth, we don't hire coaches; we depend on parents helping with all of our functions. There are lots of

ways to help out. When you sign your boy up, we expect as parents you will be committing your time and energy to help as well. We have a handout on Roles & Responsibilities that detail the activities or events that need to be staffed; we expect all families to volunteer for at least 2 activities that we sponsor as a pack throughout the year.

Now that you've made it this far, let me thank you for considering getting your son involved with Scouting. I was a Cub Scout for 3 years and a Boy Scout for 2 years way back in the late 50's/early 60's. As Cubmaster, I plan to have fun keeping activities organized and interesting for the boys. Scouting is fun with a purpose. I think it is a wonderful program and I hope we can make it so for your boy.

Yours in Scouting,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "John Engelhardt".

John Engelhardt