

1st Croydon Hills TARRALLA Cub Pack



Parent Information Booklet

Updated 22/03/2018

Welcome to Scouting

Scouting is a movement dedicated to the training of young people so that they have an opportunity to take a confident place in our society. The training is enjoyable, stimulating, and adventurous and becomes more self-directing as time goes on. It is under the direction of adults who care about young people and like having a lot of fun themselves.

There are more than 28 million Scouts, youth and adults, boys and girls, in 216 countries and territories. Transfer is available to anywhere in the world if you move and Lone Scouting is available if no group is near by.

The principles of Scouting as identified by the Founder, Lord Baden-Powell, are that Scouts should serve their God, act in consideration of the needs of others, and develop and use their abilities to the betterment of themselves and their families and the community in which they live.

The Scout Program is in five stages or five sections:

Joey Scouts - boys and girls 6 to 8 years
Cub Scouts - boys and girls from 7 ½ to 11 years
Scouts - boys and girls from 10 ½ to 15 years
Venturer Scouts - boys and girls 14 ½ to 18 years
Rovers - young men and women 17 1/2 to 26 years

This is an introduction to Cub Scouting. It will be a valuable resource for all Cub parents, and will assist you to help your child during their time at Cub Scouts. Should you have any further questions on Cub Scouts please contact one of our Cub Scout Leaders, or Group Leader.

Promise and Law

These guiding principles of Scouting are contained in a code for living, which is called the Scout Promise and Law. A simple version of the Law has been written for Cub Scouts.

The Scout Promise (option 1)

On my honour, I promise
To do my best,
To be true to my spiritual beliefs,
To contribute to my community and our world,
To help other people,
And to live by the Scout Law

The Scout Promise (option 2)

On my honour
I promise that I will do my best
To do my duty to my God, and
To the Queen of Australia
To help other people,
And to live by the Scout Law

The Scout Law

- Be Respectful
- Do What is Right
- Believe in Myself

The aim of the Cub Scout section is to encourage children to do their OWN BEST to learn and achieve skills useful to society and have FUN.

'Learning by doing' is our tool.

Cubs are encouraged to live by their Promise and Law (which they take when they are invested) for all their life, not just while in uniform.

Baden-Powell in his wisdom realised the necessity for an imaginative theme as a background to the Cub Scout Section. He chose Kipling's **The First and Second Jungle Books**. This theme is as relevant today, as it was in 1916.

Grand Howl is what we call our parade. There have been changes over the years, and the old **DYB AND DOB**, that most people remember, have been replaced with Do Your Best and (We'll) Do Our Best.

Parents can help by asking if school work/home duties are done to your child's BEST. If they have misbehaved sometimes, ask what part of their Promise or Law have they broken?

Eight Areas of Growth

The Eight Areas of Growth of the Cub Scout Program revolve completely around the Fundamentals (Promise and Law, Aim of Scouting, and Duty to my God).

The Aim of Scouting is to encourage the physical, intellectual, social, spiritual and emotional development of young people so that they may take a constructive place in society as responsible citizens and as members of their local, national and international communities.

These fundamentals set out to assist young people in the eight areas of growth:

The world about us
Outdoor Scouting skills
Responsibilities for self
Growing awareness of the needs of the wider world people and culture
Responsibilities for others
Growing awareness of the local community
Creativity
Pursuits and interests

This is done through ADVENTURE, OUTDOORS, CHALLENGE, SERVICE, GAMES, ACTION, FUN, HIKES, CAMPS, PRAYER and FRIENDS at a level appropriate to Cubs Scouts.

CUB SCOUT PRAYER

Help us Oh Lord, to serve thee day by day
To do our Duty, and to enjoy our play.
To keep the Cub Scout Promise, and to rest,
Happy that we have tried to Do Our Best.

The Cub Scout Pack

Cub Scouts is a group of boys and girls aged between 7 ½ and 11 years old. The section is referred to as a Pack.

The Pack is organized into small groups of varying age Cub Scouts called a Six. Two older, or more experienced, Cub Scouts are appointed as Sixer and Second, and they are given some leadership training and responsibly.

Cub Leaders put a lot of thought into choosing Sixers and Seconds. They take a lot of issues into consideration - age, maturity, length of service, behaviour, ability of the Cub Scout to act as a good role model to others, adherence to Cub Scout Promise and Law, attendance at meetings and activities, and ability to get on with peers. Please discuss this with your Cub Scout.

Starting Cubs

Youth wanting to become Cub Scouts are offered “3 weeks for free” as part of their initial 6 to 8 weeks of initiation. During this time, they are known as New Chums.

The first 3 weeks allow New Chums, and their parents, to witness and take part in the pack activities and decide if they wish to be a full-time member of the pack. After this initial period, we ask the New Chum and their parents to commit to filling out Registration forms and paying fees for the remainder of the financial year. At this stage, parents should also purchase the Cub Scout uniform shirt (available online, from scoutshop.com.au).

Also, upon committing to Pack membership, the New Chum is presented with their White Scarf. This signifies that they are a provisional member of the Pack and that they are going through their period of initial training. During their remaining weeks as a New Chum, they will be taught the traditions and history of Scouting and of Cub Scouts, and will become familiar with the operation of the Pack and how the theme of the Jungle Book is woven through the structure of the Cub Pack.

At the end of this New Chum period, a date and time will be agreed upon between leaders and parents, to schedule the New Chum’s Investiture as a full member of the Pack. This ceremony will be held in front of the whole Pack with parents, grandparents, and siblings invited to witness the proceedings. Parents are encouraged to take photos during the ceremony.

Finishing Cubs

At around age 10 ½ years, Cub Scouts are ready to **LINK** to Scouts (the next section in the Scouting movement). The Linking process is one whereby the Cub Scout spends time with the Scout Troop, learning how the Troop operates (somewhat different to the Cub Scout Pack) and getting to know the Scout leaders and the Scouts (some of whom they will know from their time as Cub Scouts). At the same time, they are still members of the Pack and are still attending Cub Scout Meetings and activities.

This can best be achieved by spending alternate weeks with the Troop and the Pack, but is essentially up to the Cub Scout and their parents.

The linking process will last between several weeks and a school term and is a time when the Cub Scout goes through some orientational training to earn the Scout Link badge. When the Cub Scout is ready to Go Up to the Scout Troop, a Scout Leader will visit the Cub Pack on a meeting night and present the Cub Scout with their Scout Link badge. This, or the following week, will be the Cub Scouts last meeting with the Pack and we will have a short ceremony at the end of the meeting to say Farewell and Good Hunting. The Cub Scout will then attend Scout meetings with the Troop and will be invested into the Troop in the next week or two.

The Cub Scout Award Scheme

The Cub Scout Award Scheme has four parts:

- 1. Boomerang Scheme** - the main thrust of Cub Scout training, starting immediately after investiture and continuing until ready to advance to the Scout Troop.
There are three levels to the Boomerang Scheme - Bronze (7 ½ to 8 1/2yrs), Silver (8 ½ to 9 ½ yrs), and Gold (9 ½ to 10 ½ yrs). Your Cub Scout will pass ten Boomerang tasks selected from a total of fourteen at each level. Tasks 1-7 being compulsory, and choosing 3 of the rest. We at 1st Croydon Hills program these Boomerang tasks into our weekly meeting. Your role in the Boomerang tasks is to provide advice, and if necessary, assist your Cub Scout with any tasks that need to be undertaken at home.
- 2. Achievement Badge Scheme** - interwoven into Cub Scout training, relying heavily on natural interest and outside the Pack help. It is designed to complement the Boomerang Scheme. There are 34 badges, each of which has two levels. They do not have to be earned in any order, but only the highest level earned may be worn on the uniform. These badges are primarily earned away from cubs. i.e. at home or school, with a sporting activity or other interest groups. Cub Scouts are expected to supply a note from a parent, coach, or teacher or some other qualified person attesting to the fact that the Cub Scout has completed the tasks required, as set out in the yellow Cub Scout Record Book (received on investiture). A Cub Scout Leader will then ask one or two questions about the badge requirements before signing off on the badge. Badges are most often awarded the following week during Final Parade.
- 3. Grey Wolf Award** - designed especially for the older Cub Scout. Not all Cub Scouts will earn this award. It takes concerted effort on the part of the Cub Scout. All the requirements for the Grey Wolf must be completed before the Cub Scout is goes up to Scouts. For more information refer to the Cub Scout Record Book or talk to your Cub Scout Leader.
- 4. Special Interest Badges** - these are badges in special interest areas including World Conservation, Landcare, Waterwise, Faith Awareness, Local History, Their Service Our Heritage and the Language Emblem. These badges have only one level and can be completed at any stage.

Not all work for the above badges will be completed during Cub Scout meetings.

Some activities may be done at Pack meetings.

Some activities may be done at home.

Some activities may be started at a Pack meeting and finished at home.

Some activities may be done as a family.

Parents can help Cub Scouts choose activities and help them complete some of them for Achievement badges. The more they do for themselves the better, but some help and encouragement from you will be useful.

LEADERS

Leaders are trained by the Association to help encourage Cubs. They make the Scout Promise and sign a Code of Conduct. They VOLUNTEER their time to the Movement and receive no payments except to reimburse expenses outlaid.

UNIFORMS

We encourage neat, tidy and correctly worn uniforms. The uniform consists of a Cub Scout shirt (blue with yellow shoulders). They are available new online, from scoutshop.com.au. Pants / skirt etc.: neat and clean (often school uniform). Shoes: clean and sturdy, suitable for active wear. NO thongs, sandals, or open toed shoes.

We also operate a clothing pool. On moving up to Scouts, or leaving the Movement, we would appreciate any donations of uniform items no longer required. Operating the clothing pool helps us to decrease the costs of Scouting, and so make it affordable for as many young people as possible.

MEETING TIMES

Our Cub Pack meets on Tuesday nights from 7.00pm - 8.30pm. Please ensure that your Cub Scout arrives at the hall by 6.50pm, so that we can start, and therefore finish our meeting on time.

If for any reason your child no longer wishes to attend Cub Scouts, we would appreciate you advising us, so that we can offer your child's place to an interested child.

DROP OFF/PICK UP POLICY

Cub Scouts must be escorted into the hall at the start of the night. Your first duty is to sign your Cub Scout in on the roll situated at the table inside the main door. At the end of the night, parents must come inside the hall to collect, and sign out their child. Please make sure you arrive by 8.25pm. This is the time that notices are given out, so it is important that you are at the hall by this time.

SUBS

Invested Cub Scouts are asked to bring 20¢ (Subs) to each meeting, which is collected by their Sixer, or Second, who fills in a record book of who has attended and who has paid Subs on a weekly basis. The money collected this way is used to subsidise the purchase of badges and materials for the pack.

The primary purpose of Subs is to encourage and develop responsibility within the Cub Scout and to assist Sixers and Seconds in fostering their leadership skills.

DISCIPLINE POLICY

As some parents may be well aware, discipline can sometimes be a little difficult to maintain - all Packs go through it and it's something we need to deal with from time to time! At Cubs, we walk the fine line between having fun without anarchy and learning things without making it boring.

To help Cubs focus on having a good time without things getting out of hand, we have a simple discipline policy, which is easy to understand and administer, while hopefully not being too restrictive.

There are two components to the policy:

- 1.. If a Cub ignores a simple request to do something (be quiet, behave, etc), or does something obviously wrong, they will be given a warning. 3 warnings and they'll miss the next game/activity by sitting out.
2. If the Cub gets 2 more warnings for the night (5 in total) they will be (discreetly) asked to miss a week of Cubs. The parents will receive a note to let them know.

We hope to rarely have to get to the 2nd step.

Please discuss this with your child and ensure that they understand that this is designed to help all children enjoy their time at Cubs.

BOOKS

A Yellow Record Book is given to your child on investiture and if lost is your responsibility to replace. This book has all the badge requirements.

FEES

Fees are charged each year, and we would appreciate you seeing that these are paid as soon as possible. Fees can also be paid 6 monthly. These fees go toward membership fee, insurance, and maintenance of the hall, leader training fees, and weekly section expenses. The cost of camps and other outings are kept to a minimum to cover expenses.

If parents are facing difficulties in paying fees, other options are available simply by contacting the Treasurer or the Group Leader

PARENTS

Parent help is always of great assistance to the Pack. Parents are welcome to stay for the meeting and help out as directed by Leaders on an irregular basis. Parents who would like to help out regularly will require a Working With Children (WWC) card and will need to be registered with Scouts Victoria (Branch). Parents are also encouraged to attend and assist on outings and camps. Once again, to assist on a camp, Parents must hold a WWC card.

Leaders are parents who decided they couldn't resist being part of the fun. All parents are encouraged to think about being trained as Scout Leaders and will be most welcome should they decide to join up – just talk to one of our current leaders.

Parents are asked not to **smoke or drink alcohol** at Scouting activities.

OUTINGS AND ACTIVITIES

Our adult to child ratio increases to at least 1-6 for any outing away from the hall. In order to maintain these ratios, we need extra parent help. Younger or older well-behaved children are usually welcome depending on the activity.

For all activities we need you to return the reply slip attached to the distributed notice **whether or not your child is attending**. This assists us in planning the activity, and ensures that we have all the relevant information for authorities, should this be required.

Health Update Information – Care Monkey

For all activities out of the hall (hikes, outings, camps, etc) and for sleepovers held in the hall, you need to ensure your Cubs Scout's Care Monkey Profile is up to date. The Profile includes contact details and notification of any allergies and/or health issues that Leaders need to be aware of to look after your child effectively.

This updated information is crucial as it is the first thing a Leader will turn to if some health or safety issue presents itself. In most circumstances, your Cub Scout will not be able to participate in the activity in question if they you have not replied confirming the information is up to date. We will issue Event Invitations, through Care Monkey, for every event that is out of the hall or is a Sleepover. You will have received an invitation to create a Care Monkey Profile for your child, after your child has been registered with Scouts Australia. You need to ensure that this profile is created and is kept up to date.

When you Cub attends one of these events, please ensure that your Cub has at least one litre of water for a day's outing in a refillable plastic bottle, as well as a healthy morning tea, lunch and afternoon tea. There may not be anywhere to buy food and drink.

Please ensure that your Cub is carrying and knows how to apply sunscreen.

Ensure adequate clothing - one jumper, even on a hot day, can be useful if a southerly comes through, sunburn or mosquitoes are a problem, or even rain protection.

Let the Cub think that all of the above is his or her own responsibility - if they refuse to take a jumper and get cold, and everyone else is OK, they won't forget it next time.

CAMPS

(Adult - child ratio 1-6) we try to hold at least 2 overnight activities each year. We rely on parents to cook and serve at these activities and assist with craft and activities. The duties are not arduous, we keep the menu simple as we are feeding children, but they always eat well. It is also a good way of seeing the Pack working.

Parents are required to transport Cubs to and from activities. We encourage car-pooling to share transport; we do not need 24 Cubs to arrive in 24 cars! Leaders are discouraged from transporting Cubs in their own cars.

Please **encourage** your child to pack their own bag for outings etc. It fosters independence, helps with lost items (I have one like that at home, did I bring it?) and is part of Boomerang work.

There are two ways you could attack this:

1. If your child can read, hand them the list and ask them to put items on the bed. Then go through the list with them and check that all items have a name on them as well. Your child then packs his/her bag.
2. Or you place items on bed and your child packs them into bag. This sounds easier but leaves you with more work in the long run.

Eventually your child should be able to pack their own bag without your help.

Equipment:

- Sleeping bag:** A medium quality bag- rated about 5°C -0°C will be adequate.
- Stretcher:** We encourage Cubs to sleep on a narrow stretcher for camps and sleepovers. Please keep to a small single size. Small . Cubs aren't huge and don't need a huge, wide stretcher. The type with wire style legs are adequate and allow several Cub Scouts to fit in one tent. **NOTE-** Stretchers can suffer from cold air seeping through from underneath, so it is recommended that a foam sleeping mat be used between the stretcher and the sleeping bag as insulation.
- Backpack:** A medium size school backpack is all that is needed for Cubs. Used to carry jumper, water bottle, raincoat, personal first aid kit etc. A waist strap helps to stabilise the bag on their back.
- Water bottle:** Any 600ml - 1L leak proof bottle. Amount of water depends on hike. On an all day activity pack 2-600ml bottles and freeze one to defrost and drink after lunch.
- Raincoat:** Look for a thin plastic coat, in a plastic pack about 150 x100 mm. Cost \$2 -\$5 although any raincoat will do.
- Shoes:** For Pack holidays at least 2 pairs of shoes are needed. One for outside wear, as mornings are often damp, and one for indoors. Our policy is shoes on at all times (except bed and shower). Canoeing & water activities require sturdy shoes that can get wet- cheap sandals are good or beach shoes/ water slippers.
- Hat:** We enforce hat with flap or brim for all day outings.
- Clothing:** No singlets or midriff tops are to be taken to camp. Please pack collared shirts or t-shirts.
- Dilly bag:** A drawstring bag, which contains a plate, a bowl, a mug, cutlery and a tea towel.
- Aerosol cans:** **NO** spray cans are permitted at any Scouting activity. This is for safety and environment measures. (Except medication)
- Sunscreen:** A must on all daytime outdoor activities.
- Insect repellent:** Rid will kill scrub ticks, and keep away mosquitoes and flies.

Please do not allow valuable items, aggressive toys, or electronic games to be brought to camp.

PLEASE, PLEASE - NAME ALL ITEMS OF CLOTHING AND EQUIPMENT.

It helps us return misplaced items and saves embarrassment with underwear items. We now adopt the policy of if not claimed by the end of term it goes to charity.

GROUP WEB SITE

Our Group has a web site that you can access for all sorts of information. We endeavour to have a calendar on the site, and in the Cub section of the site we upload current term programs and rosters. On the site we also hope to keep the latest edition of our newsletter. To catch up with what is going on in our Group visit:

<http://www.1stcroydonhills.org/>

THE GROUP COMMITTEE / PARENT SUPPORT GROUP

A Group Leader is appointed to co-ordinate the work of the sections of a Group and the Group Committee and is the principal link between them. The parents and friends who make up the Group Committee provide:

- Physical facilities for regular meetings
- Maintenance of facilities
- Equipment for all sections
- Funds to cover the costs of the Scout Group
- Funds for the training of adult leaders of the Group

You will be required to assist with the Group Committee work.

The Committee also has sub-committees for:

- Fundraising
- Hall maintenance
- Hall hire

- Publicity
- Newsletter

With thanks to 1st Ermington Scout Group