PACK 198 PARENT HANDBOOK

The Best Pack in the World

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Cubmaster Welcome

Welcome to Pack 198! Our vision is “to equip families to train boys and girls to become people of character, through a strong and quality scouting program.” We are here to instill great values in the next generation leaders: our children.

In order to accomplish this, we implement a scouting program that is fun and incorporates all aspects of the Scout Law: Trustworthy, Loyal, Helpful, Friendly, Courteous, Kind, Obedient, Cheerful, Thrifty, Brave, Clean, and Reverent.

We also welcome and encourage family support and participation, as we guide our sons and daughters along the Cub Scout trail.

I trust that in the upcoming scouting year, you will find something for everyone in our program!
We are glad you have chosen Pack 198 to share the scouting journey with you and your family.

Yours in Scouting, Chris Brixius

Overview of Scouting

Scouts BSA

Scouts BSA 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 in citizenship, and develops personal fitness.

For over a century, the BSA has helped build the future leaders of this country by combining educational activities and lifelong values with fun. The BSA believes – and, through over a century of experience, knows – that helping youth is a key to building a more conscientious, responsible, and productive society.

The mission of the Scouts BSA 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 Scout Law.

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.

Scout Law
A Scout is trustworthy, loyal, helpful, friendly, courteous, kind, obedient, cheerful, thrifty, brave, clean, and reverent

Some fun facts about past alumni from BSA….

- 181 NASA astronauts were involved in Scouting
- 36.4 percent of the United States Military Academy (West Point) cadets were involved in Scouting as youth
- 191 members of the 113th Congress participated in Scouting as a youth and/or adult leader
- 18 current U.S. governors participated in Scouting as a youth and/or adult volunteer

New Birth of Freedom Council

BSA is divided regionally in order to provide the most support from professional and volunteer personnel at the local level. Each unit (pack or troop) is part of a district, and each district is part of a council.

The New Birth of Freedom Council is a council of the Boy Scouts of America serving South Central Pennsylvania. The council was formed by a merger of York-Adams area council and Keystone Area Council on April 1, 2010.

The New Birth of Freedom Council is an organization that helps Scout leaders and parents to deliver life changing experiences to the young people we serve.

Pioneer District

Pack 198 is a part of the Pioneer District

More information about the Pioneer District can be found by visiting www.newbirthoffreedom.org/districts.

Pack 198 Online Resources

In addition to council resources, Pack 198 provides an up-to-date calendar, contact information, den pages, upcoming council events and more, at our website: www.pack198thebest.com.

We also have a private Facebook group for members-only, where photos and reminders about upcoming events are shared. Request access by visiting facebook.com/groups/pack198etters/.

Pack 198 Contact Information

CUB MASTER
Cub Master: Chris Brixius, brixius@epix.net, 717-475-2096

Assistant Cub Master
Joseph Grim, joseph.allen.grim@gmail.com , 717-602-7006

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Committee Chair: Lyndsay Wilderon, lyndsaywithpack198@gmail.com , 757-818-3424

Treasurer: Jonna Brixius, jonnabrix@gmail.com , 717-487-1502

Secretary: Mary Oles, marykoles@yahoo.com ; 717-793-7259

New Membership Coordinator: Ashley Clugston; aclugston22@gmail.com

Other positions available: Advancement Coordinator, Outdoor Events/Camping Coordinator, Party Planning Coordinator, Fundraising Chair

DEN LEADERS

Lion Den (Kindergarten)
Lion Guide: To be determined upon formation of den.

Tiger Scouts (1st Grade)
Leader:
Asst. Leader: Lyndsay Wilderson

Wolf Scouts (2nd Grade)
Leader: Mary Oles
Asst. Leader: Joe Grim
Boy Scout Den Chief: William Arnold

Bear Scouts (3rd Grade)
Leader: Rich Clugston
Asst. Leaders: Tom Pautz; Robert McGlynn

Boy Scout Den Chief: Corbin Oles

Webelos (4th Grade)
Leader: Kevin Arnold
Asst. Leader: Miguel Medina

Arrow of Light (5th Grade)
Leader: Seth Gamber

Other Volunteers

Chartered Organization Rep.
Richard Flickinger, Etters VFW

Unit Commissioner: Jessica Donella

Pack 198 Calendar of Events

Den Meetings are generally held on the first three Tuesdays of the month at 6 PM, unless we have another event planned. In General, Pack Meetings are the fourth Tuesday of the month at 6 PM. All meetings are held at the Fishing Creek United Methodist Church.

All event information can be found by visiting our website:
http://www.pack198thebest.com/calendar.html

BSA Policies and Procedures

http://www.scouting.org/Home/HealthandSafety/Guidelines_Policies.aspx

Pack 198 Policies and Procedures

Uniform guideline

If Class A event – class A should be worn consistently:

If Class B event, Class B pack t-shirt should be worn. We offer once per year to order these t-shirts.

Gently Used Uniform Exchange

This program is intended to help offset the cost that is incurred when purchasing new uniforms (hats, shirts, neckerchiefs, etc). If you need to upgrade any part of your uniform, and do not have a need for any part of the uniform, please bring the gently used uniform to donate to our exchange. Similarly, if you are looking for a uniform, please inquire with Chris Brixius at 717-475-2096 prior to visiting the scout store.

Costs and dues

The pack program budget is available for viewing under the Forms page of our website.
The annual program budget is designed to cover the cost of the primary portion of the scouting program.

In addition to helping with fundraisers to help offset these budgeted costs, families are responsible for the following costs:

- Annual BSA Membership fee: $80 (For new members this will collected upon internet registration)
- New Member one time fee of $25
- Uniform costs (Class B shirts can be ordered from Pack 198, Class A uniforms can be purchased from the York or Mechanicsburg scout store)
- Scout handbooks (can be purchased at the scout store in York or Mechanicsburg)
- Pack & den outings – each family must pay for select outings on or before the announced deadlines for each outing. Cost details and sign-up deadlines will be announced as events get closer.
- In addition to these costs, each scout is asked to help with the annual Popcorn fundraiser, or the buyout option if that is preferred. See "Fundraisers" section for more.

Refund Policy

Pack 198 has a strict **no refund** policy on all money paid to the pack – this includes but is not limited to dues, fundraiser/buyout, a la carte events, donations, etc. It is at the discretion of Pack 198 leadership to waive this policy on a case by case basis, pending Committee approval.

Health and Safety

COVID-19 Safety Plan

Pack 198 will follow all updated CDC guidelines as well as any guidelines put in place from the WSSD.

Health Forms

Each scout must have a completed health form each year, which are available at each pack and den meeting through September.

Youth Protection

All trained leaders are required to take Youth Protection Training each year, and parents are encouraged to take this as well.

PA Act 15 Clearances

All parents are required to obtain all background checks and clearances as required by PA State Law in order to attend and participate in any of our off-site overnight pack activities.
http://www.pack198thebest.com/pa-act-15.html

FUNDRAISERS

Annual Popcorn and Nuts Sale

The annual popcorn and nuts fundraiser is our primary means of funding our program for the entire year. We ask each scout and family to participate in the fundraiser. For those who prefer, we offer a buyout option.

Camp Cards

Each Spring, scouts have an opportunity to “earn their own way” to summer camp by selling $5 discount cards.
These cards are very easy to sell and pay for themselves.

For every card sold, the scout gets $3.00 and New Birth of Freedom Council (our local scout council, covering York, Adams and Cumberland counties) receives $2.50.

The customer purchasing the card gets a discount card and coupons good at various stores and restaurants in the area, good for the entire calendar year.

More details about how this fundraiser works will be provided when the sale launches in the spring (typically around March).

Additional Fundraisers

Occasionally in order to meet our budget requirements to fund our program, we require additional fundraisers. These will be NBOF Council-approved and announced ahead of time with plenty of opportunity for families to help out.

Forms

Youth Registration Form
http://www.scouting.org/filestore/pdf/524-406A.pdf

Volunteer/Adult Registration Form
http://www.scouting.org/filestore/pdf/524-501.pdf

Health Forms
http://www.scouting.org/scoutsource/healthandsafety/ahmr.aspx

Class B Uniform Order Form
https://class-b-apparel.square.site/

PA Clearances and Act 15
http://www.pack198thebest.com/pa-act-15.html