



Dear Prospective Cub Scout Family,

We welcome you to our 32<sup>nd</sup> annual Round Up! We expect this year to be a very busy year for scouting in general as last year we celebrated the 100 year anniversary of scouting in America with many events all over the country that has re-kindled interest in scouting at all levels. The motto of the Cub Scout program is “fun with a purpose”.

The purpose of all Cub Scout Packs is to prepare the boys in the pack to graduate to Boy Scouts. Our Pack has families from all over the South Bay. While the boys from our Pack are free to choose to join any Boy Scout Troop they feel best suites their personality and interests, most of our Cubs graduate into Troop 851 - also here in Torrance. This Troop was chartered over 60 years s one of the oldest Troops in the area. It has a fantastic program and has produced many Eagle Scouts, the highest rank in Scouting.

We look forward to having a fun filled year – activities, adventures and an opportunity to learn in a constructive and fun environment. Our pack has a great program planned. We start this year off with an opportunity to camp with your entire family that the Los Angeles Area Council’s (LACC) Family Encampment. It will be held at the Firestone Scout Reservation in Brea – a short drive. There are many activities including” BB guns, Archery. This is a great opportunities for you to share an exciting weekend with your son and to get to know your fellow Pack 851 families - I highly encourage you to attend. If you are not a “camper” we offer lots of support and encourage you to come out and have a great time!

As you are new to the program, I will attempt to spell out some of the basics of the Cub Scout Organization and the approximate time you will spend. Cub Scout units are called Packs. Our Pack meets as a unit once each month for approximately one hour. As the Pack Leader I run most of the Pack meetings, which generally have a theme focusing on recognizing the children for advancements or some theme the Pack Leadership Committee has chosen for that month. Some of our most anticipated meetings are our annual Halloween Costume Contest and our Skit Night. The Pack is made up of Dens; which are made up of 6-8 boys, and usually meet twice a month for an hour or so each time and these meetings are lead by a Den Leader and Assistant Den Leader -many of our dens are Co Lead as well. The meetings will focus on the age appropriate requirements provided in the Cub Scout Handbook for your son’s age. These meetings are not just limited to academics. Many focus on crafts and skill. We often have Go See Its planned to get the boys out to see their community. For example last year my Wolf Den went to the Goodyear Airship Operations Center in Carson and got an up close look at the Blimp! The adults had as much fun as the kids and all got to sit in the Captain’s chair! Tigers are

First Graders – and they have an adult partner for every meeting. Wolves are Second Graders, Bears are Third Graders and Webelos is an 18 month program for Forth and Fifth Graders who then graduate to Boy Scouts in late February.

This brings me to a very important topic, we need parent volunteers. This is an all volunteer program. Very few of our current leaders had any experience in scouting prior to their son joining the Pack. We have a number of Adult Leader positions that need filling as we have some very active parents who will graduate out of the program this year. One of the reasons we have been so successful in the past is our adult leader transition program – where new volunteers get to “learn” for a year before taking on the position themselves. We will need a new webhost this year, a new refreshments coordinator, advancement coordinator and a few other positions to help us manage the membership and advancement records.

We also need Den Leaders. We will need at least two parent leaders for each grade level: First – Tiger, Second – Wolf and Third Bear. If your son is of that grade level, we will need parents if your son is to join. Scouting has a requirement of “two deep leadership” and we will need at least two parents to form dens to have your children become part of our program. Again, very few of us had any scouting experience and we learned along the way and from each other! I was a den leader for my oldest son for five years before he graduated to Boy Scouts. This will be my third year as den leader for my youngest son who is a Bear this year and I have been the Pack Leader for the last 4 years. I would be glad to share ideas and resources with you as would all of our Leaders. BSA also offers level specific training locally in October to help us get new leaders off to a running start.

I know we are all busy with a large number of commitments and interests vying for our limited time and this may seem like “one more thing I don’t have time for”. The time commitment is small and the personal rewards are great! Your son will only go through this program once and it will mean a great deal to him that you made this time with him a priority - among all the other things you do. We will gladly accept any help you can give – let us know where you can help!

If you have any questions, please don’t hesitate to ask. Please speak with any uniformed leader tonight or contact me directly at (310)316-3600. When you pick up an application for your son, please pick one up for yourself, you will be glad you did!

Yours truly,

Kevin Mackintosh  
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Torrance, CA