



72nd St Mark's Ottawa Cub Pack
Pack Website: <http://www.72ndottawascouting.ca>

August 3rd, 2009

Dear Cubs and Parents,

I hope everyone is having a wonderful summer. Yes, the inevitable will be here shortly for the Cubs – back to school! Ok that is still 4 more weeks, but it will also be back to Cubs, and all those other programs you Cub may do as well.

We had lots of fun last year, and we hope to repeat that again this year.

Pack Size

I'm guessing that we will have a Pack size somewhere between 20 to 25 youth. We usually get a number of new registrations in the fall. If your Cub has any friends who might be interested in seeing what we do, feel free to bring them along.

Leaders

Bagherra (Ken), Kaa (Raymond), Chill (Robert) and Mang (Adrian) will be returning this year as leaders. Of course, we love it when parents help us out as well. I'll emphasize that this is very important for us – we love having you come along with us on outings and camps. And if you have any program ideas or contacts, let me know. I'm always looking for new places to go or new program ideas. And seriously, we are always looking for new leaders – inevitably some of us move on in time.

What to expect in costs

We strive to run a balanced program for the youth, but some things will cost beyond the basic registration. No youth should miss any event due to cost – if you need any assistance, *please talk to me*. I don't want to assume anything, neither do I want to upset anyone! Scout's Canada philosophy is that no child is to be left behind!

Here's what you are typically looking at for the year:

- Saturday September 26th – Great TD Shoreline Cleanup – FREE!
- Saturday October 3rd - Apple Day FREE (and we even give the Cubs hot chocolate)
- October 23-25th Fall Camp - \$35 / Cub (max cost, could be less!)
- Sunday November 1st – Great Urban Quest – Approx \$7
- Saturday December 12th - Indoor Wall Climbing - \$10. (we offset the cost of this by \$5)
- January - skating, Free!
- Saturday January 23rd, Polar Day – Approx \$10
- January 29 – Jan 31, Winter camp \$50/Cub
- April, Kub Kars (\$10)
- May, Scout Trees (\$10)
- June, camp (\$35 approx.)

As you can see, the camps are the most expensive part of the program. Again, we want your Cub to attend camp – but you need to talk to me if you need any assistance in paying for camp.

Events

Here's a list of a few of the things we have planned so far. Pencil them in on your calendar!

- **Thursday, September 10th** – our Welcome Back gathering from 6:30-8:00 (Beavers, Cubs and Scouts). This will be at Vincent Massey Park, with rain location being St. Rita's. Check our website the beginning of September. Note this is a Thursday start date – because of the late Labour Day weekend, this is the best time for us to start.
- *Monday September 14th* – Our first regular Monday evening meeting @ St. Rita's
- *Saturday September 26th* – TD Shoreline Cleanup – along the Rideau River
- *Monday September 21th* – Investiture of new Cubs
- *Saturday, October 3rd* – Apple Day
- *October 23-25th* – Fall camp @ Camp Oskoten (South of Wesport)
- *Sunday November 1st* – Great Cub City Search (back to back weekend events!)
- *Saturday December 12th* – Indoor Wall Climbing @ Coyote Rock Gym
- *Saturday, January 23rd* – Polar Day
- *January 29- 31* – Winter camp @ Opemikon
- *April 10th* – Area Kub Kar Rally
- *May 28 – 30* – Spring Camp (tentative dates)

Of course, there is still Scout Trees, star and badge work, visits, guests, crafts, games, songs, sports, skits, and a few surprises as well! While I try to avoid back-back weekend events, but I have two instances of that this year.

Meetings

Our meetings will still be Monday nights, from 6:30 pm until 8:00 pm in the gym at St Rita's School. Dues continue to be \$1.00, which helps offset costs of badges and craft supplies. I will send a weekly email as a reminder, and I'll be posting the information online at our website www.72ndottawascouting.ca

The cost this year is \$165 for the first child in a family, \$160 for the second. Call me at 224-7723 or email me at henry.starzynski@sympatico.ca if you want to register before the first evening (if you have not preregistered already).

For New Cubs

New Cubs will need a Cub shirt & sash, and Cub book, available at the Scout Shop on Baseline Road (across from the Loblaw's Superstore). There is also a Scouts T-shirt (activity shirt) that is sold there. We prefer Cubs to wear their uniform or activity shirt to meetings. Cubs require their Cub shirt for outings.

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As usual, I need the following forms and you can find them on our Pack website:

- Photo Release (I like to take pictures for promoting our program). Actually I am more concerned if you prefer that your child's photo NOT be used on the internet. This is important for me to know
- Physical Fitness (very important – especially if your child has medications or any medical conditions!)

Fundraising

I hate fundraising. I say it every year. But we gotta do a bit each year to update our equipment and offset our program costs.. We'll be selling popcorn again in the fall, and your support is greatly appreciated. This is our main fundraiser, it helps offset

the cost of the programs. As well Apple Day is a great boost for us and we hope as many Cubs can come out for about 2 hours on Saturday October 3rd.

Saturday events

I know some Cubs have other events on Saturday mornings (language schools, hockey, gymnastics, etc). I always tell parents to make sure their Cub does not miss their other activities. I try to balance the weekend activities between Saturday and Sunday, but sometimes we can only do things on a Saturday. Believe me I understand the conflicts!

Camp Costs

Every year I have one or two issues with this. Last year we lost over \$150 due to commitments not being met. (ie I was told a Cub would attend camp, they did not, and we never received funds). When we go to Ope in the Winter, we get charged with the number I submit. When you give a commitment that your Cub will attend Camp, consider it to be like buying a ticket in advance to a play or hockey game – the commitment to pay has been made. This year, I'll be asking for all camp payment TWO weeks in advance, and I won't give exceptions unless you talk to me in advance. I don't intend to lose money on camps. That being said, sometimes things come up once you have indicated your Cub will attend (illness, etc.) My policy is that we will charge you HALF the cost for the NEXT camp. After all we can't predict illness in advance! If you have any questions about these policies, feel free to chat with me.

Communications

As mentioned I'll send a weekly update email, but as much as possible, I will be posting all information on our website. I'm going to try to print as few things as possible this year.

Stars

This year, our focus will be on the Black Star (Natural World) and Red Star (Physical Activity). Our activities will not be restricted to those program areas though.

Scouting offers programs that are popular and accessible. If you know of any other youth or adults who would like to join us this year, bring them along. We would *love* to have more in our Pack! A reminder that we offer Beavers (5-7 years old) on Thursday evenings, and Scouts (11-14) on Wednesday evenings.

Again, a big THANK YOU to all the parents who supported us last year with our fundraising, camp and party cooking, driving, and generally helping out. The Cubs love to know that their parents take an interest in the things they do.

If you would like to help us out more formally we are always looking help on our Group Committee. Being on the Group Committee is an easy way to help out for a couple hours each month and have an impact on our program. If you have the time to be a leader with us, it will help greatly. Of course, we always appreciate the help parents give us at all events.

I know some Cubs attended summer camp at Ope, and they may have earned or met some of their badge requirements. As well, think about the activities that you and your Cub have done over the summer. Are any of them suitable for badge or star requirements? Did your Cub spend some time on a sports team (Team Player), swimming lessons (Swimmer), camping (Green Star, Camping, Hiking), or gardening (Gardener)? How about other activities – language school, cooking, helping out around the house? Check your Cub's Cub Book and sign off on the hard-earned accomplishments!

Our parents are great resources as well! If you have any expertise in any of the badge and stars we are covering this year, or have ideas for an evening, I'd *love* to hear from you. If you have any neat-o ideas, let me know!

If you have any questions, I can be reached at 224-7723 (h) and at 660-2476 (w), or again, by email

[\(\[henry.starzynski@sympatico.ca\]\(mailto:henry.starzynski@sympatico.ca\)\)](mailto:henry.starzynski@sympatico.ca).

We are looking forward to having you join us for another great year!

Henry Starzynski

Akela