



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

August 1st, 2011

Dear Cubs and Parents,

I hope everyone is having a wonderful summer. Summers go by way too fast, and as soon as September hits us, we will be back into school and the Scouting season.

Pack Size

I'm guessing that we will have a Pack size somewhere between 10 to 15 youth. Over half our Pack from last year has moved on to Scouts, so we are starting off much smaller this year. 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) will be returning this year as leaders. *We are looking for new leaders with new ideas* – if anyone is interested in becoming a leader, just let me know. 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.

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:

- October 21-23rd Fall Camp - \$35 / Cub (max cost, could be less!)
- Sunday October 29th – Great Urban Quest – Approx \$10
- Saturday December 10th - Indoor Wall Climbing - \$10. (we offset the cost of this by \$5)
- January - skating, Free!
- Saturday January 21st, Polar Day – Approx \$10
- Feb 3-5, Winter camp \$50/Cub
- March 31, Kub Kars (\$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!

- **Monday September 12th** – Our first regular Monday evening meeting @ St. Rita's
- **Saturday September 24th** – Shoreline Cleanup in the morning – Nepean Creek
- **Monday September 26th** – Investiture of new Cubs
- **Saturday, October 1st** – Apple Day (morning)
- **October 21-23** – Fall camp @ Camp Legewade, outside of Renfrew
- **Saturday October 29th** – Great Cub City Search (back to back weekend events!)
- **Saturday December 10th** – Indoor Wall Climbing @ Coyote Rock Gym
- **Saturday, January 21st** – Polar Day
- **February 3-5** – Winter camp @ Opemikon
- **March 31** – Heritage Area Kub Kar Rally
- **June 1-3** – Spring Camp (tentative dates)

We usually have a meeting at Vincent Massey Park the week school starts. I will get back to everyone on that – right now I have a few conflicts which I am trying to clear up that week.

Meetings

Our meetings will be Monday nights, from 6:30 pm until 8:00 pm in the gym at St Rita's School. We may have one or two Thursday evenings with the Beavers. 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 \$175 for the first child in a family, \$170 for the second. Call me at 613-224-7723 or email me at henry.starzynski@sympatico.ca if you want to register before the first evening (if you have not preregistered already).

Uniform

A new uniform will be available in September. If Cubs have a uniform from past years, it can still be used, or you can get the new uniform. Information is on the Scouts Canada website <http://www.scouts.ca/uniformlaunch/uniform2.html> More to come on that!

For New Cubs

New Cubs will need a Cub book, available at the Scout Shop on Baseline Road (across from the Loblaws 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 <http://www.72ndottawascouting.ca/formsandnotes/PhotoRelease.pdf>
- Physical Fitness (very important – especially if your child has medications or any medical conditions!) <http://www.72ndottawascouting.ca/formsandnotes/PhysicalFitnessForm.pdf>

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 1st.

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.

Camp Costs

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. I also have a google calendar (which I need to populate for the coming year – it will be there by the end of August) <http://www.72ndottawascouting.ca/CubsCalendar.html>

Stars

This year, our focus will be on the Blue Star (Home & Community) and Purple Star (Canada & the World). Our activities will not be restricted to those program areas though. With these Stars, there will be some fun homework for Cubs to do to help them earn the various badges.

In the Blue star area (<http://www.thirdottawa.com/cubs/badges/bluestar.html>) the Family Helper and Pet Care badges are ones that you can help your Cub with at home.

In the Purple Star area <http://www.thirdottawa.com/cubs/badges/purplestar.html>, there are also items you can help your Cub with.

I also have some cool outings planned. I'm working on an evening with our Ward 9 Councilor Keith Egli at City Hall. We will also return to the Food Bank. I'm working at getting some guests to come in, including the Carleton University cheerleading team (we had them in a few years ago and it was a great success!), an Elder from the Native Friendship Centre, hopefully a Veterinarian, and a friend of mine who has a guide dog. Again, I am always looking for other ideas as well. 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!

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!

If you have any questions, I can be reached at 613-224-7723 (h) and at 613-785-9963(w), or again, by email (henry.starzynski@sympatico.ca).

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

Henry Starzynski
Akela