

## *Dear Parent or Guardian*

### *General information about our pack*

Our Cub Scout Pack is part of the

#### **7<sup>th</sup> Braid Edinburgh (George Heriot's School) Scout Group**

Meeting place:	<b>George Heriot's School, school gym</b>	
Meeting day :	<b>Friday</b>	
Starting time:	<b>6.30pm</b>	
Finishing time:	<b>8.00pm</b>	
Subscriptions:	<b>£30.00 per term</b>	
Your Cub Scout Leader is:	<b>Robert Anderson</b>	
Home Telephone No:	<b>(0131) 668 3264</b>	Mobile <b>07905 314 327</b>
email:	<b>heriotscubs@blueyonder.co.uk</b>	
Website:	<b>www.7braid.btck.co.uk</b>	
Twitter	<b>@7braidscout</b>	

### *The Cub Scout Pack*

Your youngster is joining a Cub Scout Pack. The Cub Scout Leader (CSL) runs the Pack usually with a team of Assistants (ACSL) who all give their time freely and have had training to help them do an effective job.

Cub Scouting, by tradition, has adapted some ideas from Rudyard Kipling's *The Jungle Book*. You may find that some of the Leaders are known to the youngsters by the names of the animals in this book. The youngsters usually call the Leader *Akela*, and may meet others such as *Baloo*, *Bageera* and *Kaa*. These Leaders are responsible for planning and running the programme of games and activities for Pack meetings and special outings and events.

The youngsters work in small groups called Sixes, which are led by older Cub Scouts, called Sixers and assisted by Seconders.

The Pack has simple ceremonies, one of which is the investiture to which you are invited, when your youngster will be asked to make a promise.

The Cub Scout Promise is:

**I promise that I will do my best  
To do my duty to God and to the Queen,  
To help other people  
And to keep the Cub Scout Law.**

They will also be asked to try and keep to the Cub Scout Law which is:

**Cub Scouts always do their best  
Think of others before themselves  
And do a good turn every day.**

There are variations of the Cub Scout Promise for different faiths or citizenship out with the commonwealth.

### *What do Cub Scouts really do?*

Cub Scouts will enjoy a great deal of fun and adventure whilst in the Pack. They will have an opportunity to gain badges. These are given in recognition of the effort made by each youngster at his or her own level of development and understanding. The Cub Scout Programme includes such activities as:

- Adventure
- Camping
- Caring for the Environment
- Model Making
- Cooking
- First Aid
- Exploring
- Helping Others

## *The Training Programme*

The training programme is split into three main areas: Awards, Challenges and Activity Badges.

### **Awards:**

- **Moving on Award** (Beaver Scout to Cub Scout)
- **The Cub Scout Membership Award**
- **Joining in Awards** – given for each year of membership.
- **Chief Scout's Silver Award** – a special award for the older Cub Scout.
- **The Moving on Award** (Cub Scout to Scout)

### **Challenges:**

- **Our World Challenge**
- **Our Skills Challenge**
- **Our Outdoors Challenge**
- **Our Adventure Challenge**
- **Teamwork Challenge**
- **Personal Challenge**
- **Team Leader Challenge**

### **Activity badges:**

There are **36 activity badges and 14 staged activity badges** that Cub Scouts can achieve. They cover a wide variety of activities. Details of all these awards can be found in your youngsters, Cub Scout Badges and Awards book or at [www.scouts.org.uk](http://www.scouts.org.uk).

You may ask the question 'how do I find out about these activities and events'. The Cub Scout Leader will inform you by letter, email, text message and through your youngster. If at any time you are not sure about the arrangements for a Pack activity, do have a chat with the Leaders after the Pack meeting or contact them at home.

The Cub Scout pack meets regularly. The Pack is often taken out on visits in connection with the programme of activities. Sometimes the Cub Scout Leader invites visitors to speak to the

Pack, like a local Policeman or Fireman. You may find that Cub Scout Pack has links with other Cub Scout Packs locally and through out the Area. They join together for special events such as District Competitions or Area Activities and camps.

## *What do Cub Scouts wear?*

Cub Scouts have a smart, practical uniform comprising of a green Scout sweatshirt and a Scout Group scarf. There is also a woggle to hold the scarf in place. For below the waist, they can also wear school uniform or green Cub Scout tracksuit bottoms.

The uniform is available from:

Guide Shop 16 Coates Crescent EDINBURGH (0131) 225 3483	Aitken & Niven 6 Falcon Road West Morningside EH10 4AQ (0131) 477 3922
Glasgow Scout Shop 21 Elmbank Street GLASGOW G2 4PB (0141) 248 5941	
<b>or by web order at</b> <a href="http://www.glasgowscoutshop.com">www.glasgowscoutshop.com</a> <a href="http://www.scoutshops.com">www.scoutshops.com</a> <a href="http://www.aitken-niven.co.uk">www.aitken-niven.co.uk</a>	

You only need to buy the sweatshirt. The Pack will supply the scarf, woggle and badges.

The illustration shows you where the badges are sewn on the Cub Scout uniform.

## *Camps and Pack Holidays*

Ask any Cub Scout what they like best about being a Cub Scout and most of them will reply camping or pack Holidays. Most youngsters' love being out of doors and the camps and pack holidays are very special – certainly very different from school trips! It is a chance to try some special activities that cannot be done at the regular Pack meeting.

Your youngster will have the opportunity to camp in tents and sleep indoors on a Pack Holiday. The Cub Scout Pack usually goes away for a weekend or maybe for a few days during school holidays.

The Cub Scouts go away with their own Pack and also they have the chance to join a larger camp mixing with other Packs, from the local District, Area or Nationally. Occasionally, a special camp is organised by Area or nationally for both youngsters and parents to participate in.

The Leaders in the Pack are specially trained before they are allowed to take youngsters away on a camp or Pack Holiday. They take on the responsibility to look after the Cub Scouts with same level of care as if they were their own large family of youngsters.

The Leaders will often need to take along extra adult help to help assist with the catering arrangements or equipment. This extra help many include Scouts, Explorer Scouts, Scout Network members, Instructors (for special activities) or parents/guardians to help with general supervision. Outing away from the hall, including camps and Pack Holidays require a ratio of 1 adult to 8 Cub Scouts plus an extra adult.

### *What is Scouting trying to do?*

The Aim of The Scout Association is to encourage the physical, mental and spiritual development of young people so that they may take a more constructive place in society.

Scouting tries to achieve the Aim of the Movement by providing an enjoyable and attractive scheme of progressive training, based upon a Scout Promise and Law. Adult Leadership guides the activities and training offered by Scouting.

All sections in The Scout Association are open to both males and females. Our group is termed as a closed group. This means our membership is restricted to pupils or former pupils of George Heriot's School, which is this Scout Group's sponsoring authority.

The Scout Association in the United Kingdom is a multi-cultural, multi-faith organisation consisting of 5 sections:

#### **The Beaver Scout Section**

Beavers Scouts are youngsters aged between 6 and 8 years old.

#### **The Cub Scout Section**

Cub Scouts are youngsters aged between 8 and 10½ years old. They can join Cubs from when

they are 7½ years old and stay in Cubs until their eleventh birthday.

#### **The Scout Section**

Scouts are youngsters aged between 10½ and 14 years old.

Locally you will generally find one or more of the sections above forming a Scout Group. Currently, our Scout Group comprises of only a Cub Scout Pack.

#### **The Explorer Scout Section**

Explorer Scouts are aged between 14 and 18 years old.

#### **The Scout Network**

Scout Network are young adults aged between 18 and 24 years old.

The Scout Group is like a family and is looked after by a Group Scout Leader (GSL). He or she supports all Leaders and makes sure that your youngsters enjoys quality Scouting through exciting, challenging and interesting activities. The other key task of the Group Scout Leader is to ensure that the activities of the whole Scout Group are co-ordinated.

## *How can you help?*

Your youngster may come home and ask you for something he needs for Cubs. Your youngster expects you to be interested and will get much more out of Scouting if you are prepared to offer your support. There are lots of ways in which you can help, for example:

Offering a skill or hobby to train or test the Cub Scouts for Activity badges.

Helping to prepare refreshments for a Group or Pack event.

Helping transport Cub Scouts to events and outing by driving a minibus.

Supporting the Scout Group's fund raising events, social events, Annual General Meeting and Open evenings.

Joining the Scout Group Executive Committee to help them plan fund raising, buy equipment and manage the Scout Group.

## *The Group Council*

Once your youngster is invested into the Scout Group, you automatically become a member of the Group Council. All parents, Leaders and Patrol Leaders in the Group are Members of this Council and it meets once a year, usually in June at its Annual General Meeting.

## *The Group Executive Committee*

Each year, the Scout Group elects an Executive Committee consisting of a number of parents and various Leaders in the Group to carry out the day-to-day tasks of running the Scout Group. They are responsible for purchasing of equipment and maintaining group property. The function of the Group Executive Committee is also to support and help the Group Scout Leader carry out their role in maintaining an effective and successful Scout Group.

## *What do you gain from helping?*

You will have the opportunity to meet a variety of new people and make a real contribution to help your local community. Please do not be too shy to offer your help and if you feel you have any skills to offer to the Cub Scout Pack, please contact the Cub Scout Leader.

By playing your part and supporting your child you will share the enjoyment, friendship and fun of the family of Scouting.

## *GIFT AID*

The Group is a registered charity, number SC036159. An important part of our fundraising is the Gift Aid scheme, where we claim back the tax on your subscription payments. Each payment of £30 is worth £37.50 to the Group. By ticking the box on the admission form, you agree to treat payments as gift aid donations and that:

- You pay an amount of income tax or capital gains tax at least equal to the tax we reclaim on the payments (currently 25p for every £1 you give).
- You can cancel this declaration at any time by notifying the Scout Group.
- Please notify the Scout group if you change your name or address.