



72nd St Mark's Ottawa Cub Pack

Group Website: <http://www.72ndottawascouting.ca>

Pack Website: <http://www.72ndottawascouting.ca/cubs.html>

August 2017

Dear Cubs and Parents,

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

Please note – the Cubs website url is now <http://www.72ndottawascouting.ca/cubs.html>

This may not mean a lot to people, but our group was administratively moved from Heritage Area to Nepean Area.

Pack Size & Registration

Our Pack is starting off this year with low numbers from early registration. If you have not registered yet, please register online. Note – paper registration is no longer available! To register online, go to 'www.scouts.ca'. In the top on the right, click on '**Find A Group**'. Put in your postal code, Cubs, and you should see 72nd Ottawa. Click on Details and you will be able to register. Fees are now \$275. If you need subsidy, you need to contact the Scouts office. Details can be found at <http://voy.scouts.ca/sites/default/files/NOLB%20-%20Link%20from%20National%20Scouts%20Canada%20Site.pdf>

Leaders

We are heading into this year with 4 leaders for Cubs, but we can always use more leaders! Please consider becoming a leader. If you have any questions, contact me.

At this time we do not have enough leaders to run our **Scouts** section – we need 1 more adult to commit to being a leader. If you know anyone who would be interested in becoming a **SCOUT** leader, please have them contact me.

Program 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*. Scout's Canada philosophy is that no child is to be left behind!

Here's what you are typically looking at for the year in approximate additional costs. These are events we have booked.

- **Fall Camp (Oct 13-15)** - \$35 / Cub (max cost, could be less!)
- **December** – Indoor wall climbing - \$10
- **January** - skating, Free!
- **Saturday January 20th, Polar Day** – Approx \$10
- **Winter camp (Feb 2-4)** \$55/Cub
- **Kub Kars** - March 24 (\$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. There may also be one or two outings which may cost a few dollars.

Tentative Schedule of Events

Here's a list of a few of the things we have planned so far. Pencil them in on your calendar! Note our **starting** time is now **6:15** and the **ending** time is **7:45**.

- **Tuesday September 5** — meet/greet at a local park – to be confirmed!
- **Monday September 11th** – Our first regular Monday evening meeting @ St. Rita's
- **Saturday September 23rd** –Shoreline Cleanup in the morning – Hog's Back Park. More to come soon
- **Monday September 25th** – Investiture of new Cubs
- **Saturday, September 30th** – Apple Day (morning)
- **October 13-15** – Fall camp @ Baxter Conservation Area NOTE: Parents are responsible for transportation to/from

camp

- **Saturday, January 20th** – Polar Day (Vanier)
- **February 2-4** – Winter camp @ Opemikon just past Perth (this is the furthest we go)
- **March 24 (Saturday)** – Heritage Area Kub Kar Rally
- **June 1-3** – Spring Camp (tentative dates & location to be determined)

Meetings

Our meetings will be Monday nights, from **6:15 pm until 7:45 pm** in the gym at St Rita's School. We may have one or two Tuesday evenings with the Beavers. I'll be posting the information online at our website and sending weekly updates starting in September. <http://www.72ndottawascouting.ca/cubs.html>

Uniform

Uniform is a Grey shirt, available at the Scouts Canada store on Baseline Road

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Most critical information was requested on the registration form. Please make sure emergency contacts are up to date. Most important, if your child has allergies or takes medications, we need to know about this. Please ensure it is documented on the registration form.

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 will most likely have a fundraiser in October/November. It is important as we keep our fees as low as possible, but our costs have gone up. As well, **Apple Day on Saturday September 30th** is important for us. We would like to see all Cubs come out for at least 2 hours that morning.

Camp Costs

When we go to Ope in the winter, we get charged with the number of youth 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. If you have any questions about these policies, feel free to chat with me.

Communications

As mentioned I'll send a weekly update email, as well as posting all information on our website.

Parental expectations

- Leaders are not responsible for transportation to/from camps or events. Parents can arrange transportation between themselves. Transportation may be difficult for some parents, but it is not in our mandate to provide transportation. That being said, if it is an issue, we will try to help out as best we can.
- Unless otherwise stated, meetings end at 7:45 pm. We expect youth to be picked up at 7:45
- Before dropping your child off, please make sure that there are enough leaders present. Scouts Canada policy dictates that 2 leaders be present with youth at all times. Sometimes, leaders may be late, parents drop their youth off earlier and it puts the leader who is present in a difficult position.
- Please give us feedback and support us! We are volunteers giving of our time.
- Help your child at home with their badge/star work.
- Consider helping out with group duties or being a leader!
- If you have a skillset / knowledge that can help us with any of the badges, we would love to have you as a presenter, or get a tour of your workplace. We love fascinating road-trips!

Stars/Badges

We are working on some cool outings. 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.

We are working on a system called 'Canadian Path'. Details can be found at these links if you are interested

- <http://www.scouts.ca/ca/programs/cub-scouts>
- <http://www.scoutinglife.ca/canadianpath/outdoor-adventure-skills/>

- <http://www.scoutinglife.ca/canadianpath/cub-scouts/personal-achievement/>

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 Tuesday evenings .

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. We are also looking for a Group Commissioner and Treasurer for our group.

Some Cubs may have 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? Drop me an email if you believe your son/daughter has earned any badges.

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

Henry Starzynski
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