



# Pack 241

## New Scout Welcome Letter 2017 – 2018



Prospective Scout and Family,

Welcome to Cub Scouting and Pack 241! We would love to have your son(s) and family join us. Pack 241 runs an active, fun-filled scouting program serving 1<sup>st</sup> through 5<sup>th</sup> grade boys from Double Eagle, North Star, and the surrounding community. Beginning around the start of each school year in August, we kickoff with a Water Extravaganza at a local park and hold other pack-wide activities or events once a month throughout the entire year, including summer break. In addition, we typically hold pack meetings from 7:00 – 8:00 p.m. on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of every month throughout the school year.

As of now, the pack schedule for '17-'18 is as follows:

08/20 Water Extravaganza	11/11 Veterans Day Parade	03/15 Pack Meeting @ NS
08/24 Pack Meeting @ NS	11/16 Pack Meeting @ DE	03/18 Ice Skating
08/26 Popcorn Show-n-Sell	11/18 RR Food Bank Service	04/15 Parent's Choice Activity
08/27 Popcorn Show-n-Sell	12/07 Christmas Caroling	04/19 Pack Meeting @ DE
09/21 Pack Meeting @ DE	12/14 Pack Meeting @ NS	05/19 Crossover Camp
09/24 Fishing	01/15 **Skiing	05/27 Flag Placement
10/19 Pack Meeting @ NS	01/18 Pack Meeting @ DE	06/?? TBD
10/22 Three Sisters Hike	01/28 Pinewood Derby	07/?? TBD
11/05 Rocket Derby	02/24 Blue & Gold Banquet	**Family Pays

To stay abreast of slight adjustments to the schedule or activity above, please monitor the calendar at Pack 241's website ([www.abqpack241.org](http://www.abqpack241.org)), your email inbox, and listen to the announcements made at the monthly pack meetings.

Membership at Pack 241 varies from year to year. For calendar year 2017, Pack 241 registered 50 Scouts, with roughly 10 Scouts per grade/rank/den. In addition to the pack-wide events and meetings outlined above, each rank will typically hold a couple of den meetings or activities per month throughout the school year. During these meetings, the boys will often work toward rank-specific "adventures" or sets of requirements, play games, take "field trips", etc. As the boys complete these "adventures", they are awarded belt loops or pins at the following pack meeting, Blue & Gold Banquet, or Crossover Camp. Upon completion of enough mandatory and elective "adventures" along with a few other requirements, the Scout is awarded a rank badge which is distributed in a similar manner. The various awards are then worn with the official uniform. Ranks are as follows:

- **Bobcat:** All boys new to the Cub Scouting program, whether in 1<sup>st</sup> grade or 5<sup>th</sup> grade, earn this rank/badge prior to any other rank. A set of "orientation" and Youth Protection Requirements are associated with earning this badge. Earning the badge can take as little as a few hours.





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- Tiger: Upon completion of the Bobcat rank requirements, 1<sup>st</sup> grade boys work toward this rank through a set of “adventures” or set of requirements during the school year.
- Wolf: Upon completion of the Bobcat rank requirements, 2<sup>nd</sup> grade boys work toward this rank through a set of “adventures” or set of requirements during the school year.
- Bear: Upon completion of the Bobcat rank requirements, 3<sup>rd</sup> grade boys work toward this rank through a set of “adventures” or set of requirements during the school year.
- Webelo I: Upon completion of the Bobcat rank requirements, 4<sup>th</sup> grade boys work toward this rank through a set of “adventures” or set of requirements during the school year.
- Webelo II/Arrow of Light: Upon completion of the Bobcat rank requirements, 5<sup>th</sup> grade boys work toward this rank through a set of “adventures” or set of requirements during the school year. Unlike the other ranks, they typically transition to a Boy Scout program at the Blue & Gold Banquet, usually held in February. They no longer participate in the Cub Scout program or Pack 241 after this.

Unlike pack meetings and activities, den meeting and activities are not organized by the Cubmaster or Pack Committee. Den Leaders and their assistants facilitate the organization of the den or rank’s program throughout the school year. While den leaders and their assistants may also execute the den meetings and activities, individual parents and families may be asked or offer to lead or execute den meetings and activities as well. Den membership and meeting schedules, locations, duration, and frequency vary. While not enforced in any way, it often works best if:

- the size of the den is six to ten boys. Beyond ten boys, it may make sense to have multiple dens for a given grade/rank level.
- the length of the meeting is kept to a duration appropriate for the age/maturity of the Scouts
- the den itself meets at least 2x per month outside of any pack meeting or activity

Locations can vary across dens and within dens from meeting to meeting. Some dens meet at the same leader or parent’s residence each week. Others rotate the location based upon the leader or parent executing the meeting. Others meet at schools, places of work, community centers, or churches. Whatever is safe and works best for the Scouts and their families is fine so long as each meeting and activity has a registered BSA leader and another adult over the age of 18 present. In addition, the BSA leader(s) must have training commensurate with the activity (e.g. swimming, camping, etc.). At no time is any adult to be alone with a Scout unless they are the parent or guardian of that Scout. In addition, the 1<sup>st</sup> grade/Tiger Scouts must have their parent or guardian present for the duration of all Cub Scout meetings and activities, whether they are organized by the den, pack, district, or council.





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Pack 241 is one of the largest Cub Scout units within the Sandia District of the Great Southwest Council (GSWC), one of approximately 270+ councils within the Boy Scouts of America (BSA). From a financial perspective, the den, Pack 241, the GSWC, and BSA national are all separate, economic entities. Everyone within Pack 241, including the den leaders and their assistants, are volunteers. The GSWC is a mixture of professional Scouters and volunteers. BSA national is largely professional Scouters and staff.

Regarding finances, Pack 241 charges a \$50 registration fee at the time the Scout registers, typically in August or September. In addition, each Scout is expected to satisfy a Pack 241 Funding fee of \$150 through achieving \$417 or more of sales during the GSWC Popcorn Fundraiser. As an alternative, the Scout and their family may choose to “opt-out” of the Popcorn Fundraiser and pay the \$150 by cash, check, credit card, or PayPal. Also, should the individual family wish to do so, they may pay the combined total of \$200 in two installments. The first will be due at registration and the second will be due at the November 16 pack meeting. See the document “Pack 241 Registration and Funding Fees 2017 - 2018” included in your Pack 241 Welcome Packet or [http://www.abqpack241.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/08/Pack241\\_Registration\\_and\\_Funding\\_Fees\\_2017-2018.pdf](http://www.abqpack241.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/08/Pack241_Registration_and_Funding_Fees_2017-2018.pdf) for further details.

The monies that are collected at registration, Pack 241’s portion of the proceeds earned through the GSWC Popcorn Fundraiser, and monies from those electing to choose the Popcorn Buyout (may) go toward the following:

- |   |                                 |                                |
|---|---------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| -Scout BSA Registration   | -Facilities (PWD, B&G, etc.)    | -Pack Website                  |
| -Adult Leader BSA Registration                                    | -Storage Unit                   | -Equipment & Maint. (e.g. PWD) |
| -Boys Life Magazine (Monthly)                                     | -Required Adult Leader Training |                                |
| -Monthly Pack Meeting Materials                                   | -Paypal & Square                |                                |
| -Monthly Pack Activities:<br>Fees, Food, Materials, Patches, etc. | -ScoutTrack Awards Tracking     |                                |
| -Awards (Belt Loops, Pins, Badges, etc.)                          | -Office Supplies                |                                |
|   | -Arrow of Light Materials       |                                |

For details on Pack 241’s budget, please visit [http://www.abqpack241.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/08/Pack241\\_Budget\\_2017-2018.pdf](http://www.abqpack241.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/08/Pack241_Budget_2017-2018.pdf). The monies that are collected at registration and Pack 241’s portion of the proceeds earned through the GSWC Popcorn Fundraiser do NOT go toward the following:

- |  |                             |  |
|--|-----------------------------|--|
| -Adult Leader Uniforms                   | -Den Meeting Materials      | Pack 241 Activities that are more costly and the Committee deems to be better funded by the individual families (e.g. Isotopes Game, Skiing) |
| -Scout Uniforms, etc.                    | -Den Activities             |  |
| -Scout Handbooks, personal materials     | -Summer Day Camp Fees       |  |
| -Scout gear (e.g. Camping, Hiking, etc.) | -Webelos Week in Woods Camp |  |
| -GSWC Staff, Facilities, Materials       |                             |  |
|  |                             |  |





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Therefore, dens may choose to charge dues to go towards minimal materials purchases, activities, parties, etc. Further, the GSWC relies heavily on the Popcorn Fundraiser to support their efforts as well as they also receive ~36% in commissions from popcorn sales. To fill any gaps in their funding due to units not achieving \$417 in sales per Scout, they annually conduct a “Friends of Scouting” fundraising campaign across their units. All councils across the nation, to the best of our knowledge, do similar. As part of this, a GSWC representative delivers a short presentation regarding this campaign at a Pack 241 meeting or event, typically in late winter or early spring. To support their professional Scouts, staff, facilities, etc. they request voluntary donations to fill the shortfall in the proceeds that GSWC receives when Scout units do not achieve \$417 per Scout in Popcorn Fundraising sales. Again, this donation is currently voluntary. If you have any questions or concerns regarding the financials, please see the Treasurer (Kristelle Siarza) or Committee Chair (Brian Green).

With respect to uniforms, each Scout is expected to obtain an official Cub Scout or Webelos uniform (shirt, appropriate patches, neckerchief, neckerchief slide, belt, buckle, and cap). Boy Scout/Cub Scout pants, socks, etc. are optional. Most Scouts wear blue jeans or denim shorts with the official uniform. These items are purchased down at the GSWC Scout Shop. See the document “Pack 241 Uniform and Scout Shop Information” included in your Pack 241 Welcome Packet or [http://www.abqpack241.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/08/Pack241\\_Uniform\\_and\\_ScoutShop\\_Information.pdf](http://www.abqpack241.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/08/Pack241_Uniform_and_ScoutShop_Information.pdf) for further details.

In closing, Scouting is one of the best youth programs available today when led by committed and caring adults, supported by interested and willing parents and families. We believe that we can provide that to your boy and family here at Pack 241. Thank you for considering us. We look forward to seeing your son have fun, make friends, grow, mature, and learn to appreciate the aims of Scouting:

- **Character Development** - Growth in moral strength and character. We may define this as what the boy is himself: his personal qualities, his values, his outlook.
- **Participating Citizenship** - Used broadly, citizenship means the boy's relationship to others. He comes to learn of his obligations to other people, to the community he lives in, to the government that presides over that community.
- **Fitness** - Development of physical, mental, and emotional fitness. Fitness includes the body (well-tuned and healthy), the mind (able to think and solve problems), and the emotions (self-control, courage, and self-respect).

Sincerely,

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