



# PACK 431

SEMINOLE, FLORIDA

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## PACK 431 WELCOME KIT

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2023 / 2024 Scout Year



NOVEMBER 14, 2023

CUB SCOUT PACK 431, SEMINOLE FL

[www.seminolepack431.org](http://www.seminolepack431.org)

Greater Tampa Bay Area Council, Scouts BSA

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# WELCOME BACK CUB SCOUTS!

Welcome to Cub Scouts, Pack 431, sponsored by Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church of Seminole Florida (BSCC). We are excited that you have chosen to be a member of our Pack or continue with us for another Scout Year. To help Cub Scout families understand the organization of Cub Scouts and Pack 431, this “Welcome/Welcome Back” kit was put together for you. For details in greater depth, each parent should visit our pack’s website at <https://www.seminolepack431.org> or Scouting’s main website (<http://www.scouting.org>) for a wealth of information on the Cub Scout Program.

## Primary Communication

Our pack’s primary method of communication is through email. All pack-wide announcements and communications will come through our email address [announcements@seminolepack431.org](mailto:announcements@seminolepack431.org). Please add this email account to your contact list in your favorite email program. We will be using the email addresses input into Scout Book as the basis of our mailing list. If you have another email account that you would like to use in addition to the Scout Book email, please let our Cubmaster know.

## Our website – [seminolepack431.org](http://seminolepack431.org)

All our policies, procedures, event calendar, and program information will be updated and maintained at our website [www.seminolepack431.org](http://www.seminolepack431.org). The website is mobile-friendly and will be kept up to date by our webmaster.

## Den Communications

Our Den leaders will be using a group email list for communicating den-specific information to the parents. Please update your spam filters to allow **seminolepack431.org** emails to come to your inbox. We will be using the email addresses input into Scout Book as the basis of our den mailing list. If you have another email account that you would like to use in addition to the Scout Book email, please let our Cubmaster know.

Den leaders may also communicate with you via text or telephone if required. Please check with your den leader for details.

## Social media (Facebook Group)

The pack maintains a Private Facebook Group called **Cub Scout Pack 431 Seminole, FL** where we share pictures of our cub scouts and their adventures among the pack’s members.

The link to this group is:

**Cub Scout Pack 431 Seminole, FL**

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1676884389268591>

You can scan the QR code to the right to go directly to the group page.



Parents can communicate with each other here and share friendship and fellowship. We do ask all members to follow Facebook’s social media policies and that posts are respectful and maintained in the spirit of scouting (Remember a Scout is Courteous and Kind!). Questions regarding our social media use can be raised to our Pack Committee.

## Event Calendar

We have an annual calendar of Pack events which can be found on the Pack 431 website at <https://www.seminolepack431.org/events/>. Attached to this welcome kit is our current calendar for the 2023/2024 Scout Year for your schedule planning. Calendar changes will be announced through our announcement email with the pack's website updated to reflect all changes.

Den Leaders will communicate with you on any den-specific events directly.

## Pack and Den Meeting Times and Location

Pack 431 meets on most Tuesday nights at 6:30PM in the Parish Center at Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church. The church is located off 66th Avenue in Seminole, Florida. We do not meet on the first Tuesday of the month as we reserve that time for our pack leaders to meet. Please check the Event Calendar for detailed information.

For our meetings, we ask that you arrive a few minutes before 6:30pm and enter the open door to the Parish Center with our pack sign. We will start our meetings with a flag ceremony and opening announcements from our Cubmaster.

Most meetings we will split up into our Dens to do Achievement-specific activities. We strive to end our meetings at 7:30pm. Always try to be on time, but don't worry if something makes you late or you need to leave early – we want you to come no matter what!

We require our parents to attend the meetings with their scouts. See this as a great opportunity to partner with your child and learn together!

We will have a pack-wide meeting on the last Tuesday of the month. At this meeting we request the Cub Scouts to appear in their Class "A" Uniforms. If you do not know what that is no worries, just ask our adult leaders for details.

## Our Charter Organization

Since 1986, Pack 431 has been chartered by Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church in Seminole FL. Founded in 1959, the church has strived to spread God's message through its ministries and it's on campus K-8 school. Scouting tries to evoke a strong moral value system within its members, including the most important element – a belief in God and a sense of duty and reverence towards Him.

To find out more about Blessed Sacrament Church, please visit their website at [www.bscchurch.com](http://www.bscchurch.com)

Scouts BSA encourages its members to actively practice their own religious faith in worship. Scouting is a non-denominational, religious and educational institution and all faiths are welcome.

## VISION STATEMENT

Cub Scouts strives to promote core values such as:

- **Citizenship:** Contributing services and showing responsibility to local, state and national communities.
- **Compassion:** Being kind and considerate and showing concern for the well-being of others.
- **Cooperation:** Being helpful and working together with others towards a common goal.
- **Courage:** Being brave and doing what is right regardless of our fears, the difficulties, or the consequences.
- **Health & Fitness:** Being personally committed to keeping our minds and bodies clean and fit.
- **Honesty:** Telling the truth and being worthy of trust.

## Cub Scout Pack 431 Welcome Kit (2023)

- **Perseverance:** Sticking with something and not giving up, even if it is difficult.
- **Positive Attitude:** Being cheerful and setting our minds to look for and find the best in all situations.
- **Resourcefulness:** Using human resources and other resources to their fullest.
- **Respect:** Showing regard for the worth of someone or something.
- **Responsibility:** Fulfilling our duty to our own God, country, other people, and ourselves.

### Membership Fees and Dues (Effective 8/1/2023)

Effective 8/1/2023, Scouts BSA will be charging all its members directly for the annual dues. This will be charged for each Youth and Adult leader associated with any program in scouting.

	Youth	Adult Leaders
If you are a current member of Pack 431 before August 1 <sup>st</sup> 2023	Renewal Fee \$ 80.00 Council Fee \$ 33.00 <b>Total Fees \$113.00</b>  <b>DUE December 2023</b>	Renewal Fee \$60.00 Council Fee \$21.00 <b>Total Fees \$81.00</b>  <b>DUE December 2023</b>  FEES WILL BE REIMBURSED TO LEADERS FROM PACK 431 WHO ARE IN GOOD STANDING.
If you are a new member of Pack 431	Join Fee (One-Time) \$ 25.00 Registration Fee \$ 80.00 Council Fee \$ 33.00 <b>Total Fees \$138.00</b>  <b>Renews Annually on your Join Date</b>	Registration Fee \$60.00 Council Fee \$21.00 <b>Total Fees \$81.00</b>  <b>Renews Annually on your Join Date</b>  FEES WILL BE REIMBURSED TO LEADERS FROM PACK 431 WHO ARE IN GOOD STANDING.

### Pack Dues

Pack 431's committee prepares a budget prior to the start of the Scout Year to ensure we can cover for program, camping, and activity expenses. The budget is used to pay for awards and achievements, camping fees, den expenses, leader fees, and other Pack events.

With 40+ plus Cub Scouts and 13 leaders in the pack earning multiple awards every month, the bill is often large. It also pays for guest speakers, food for summer picnics, leadership training that makes the pack stronger, supplies for the Pinewood Derby, and other things that enhance and support the pack to provide valuable scouting experience.

**For 2023, our Pack cost per scout is \$370.** This covers your basic activities from July 1<sup>st</sup> through June 30<sup>th</sup>. Dues are pro-rated based on your Join Date. Our budget is available to view for our pack parents at our leadership meetings.

Our Pack strives to maintain to be a "Dues-free" pack through fundraising. There are ways your scout can fundraise through our Popcorn Drive.

### Additional Activities

Pack 431 loves to have fun! We try to have 1 to 2 big adventures where the kids learn and do new things. This year we are looking to do the iFly indoor skydiving adventure and do an overnight at the Florida Aquarium (called "sleeping with the Fishes")

These optional activities are not included in our pack budget, but Scouts can fundraise to cover the expenses. More information will be provided at our welcome meeting and from our Pack Committee Chair.

## Fundraising

The pack participates in the annual Council Popcorn sales event which takes place in late August through the end of October. In order to cover pack dues, all scouts are expected to participate. The pack receives extra benefits once certain sales thresholds are met. These benefits include free training, advancement badges and funds to the pack as well as the scout. Complete details regarding popcorn sales will be discussed at the August 29<sup>th</sup> 2023 Pack meeting.

## Uniforms

Uniforms are one of the aims and methods of Scouting. It teaches children responsibility, pride in their accomplishments, and the value of being part of a community. Pack 431 uses both the Class "A" and Class "B" uniform for all scout activities.

### Class "A" or Field Uniform

The Field Uniform, or Class A Uniform, should be worn at any public or community service event, Flag Ceremonies, Pack meetings, or special events such as Scout Sundays. Lion scouts uniform consists of a Lion T-Shirt while the "blue" uniform is for Tiger, Wolf, Bear, and Webelos.

Webelos and Arrow of Light Scouts can wear the khaki uniform as it prepares the scout to cross over to Scouts BSA.

Adult Leaders with official roles also wear a khaki uniform in similar circumstances.

### Class "B" or Activity Uniform

The Activity Uniform, or Class B Uniform, is our Pack t-shirt. This should be worn at "messier" type events, such as camping for example. Scouts should wear their Class B uniform for Den Meetings unless the Den Leader requires different attire. Adults and siblings are encouraged to wear their Pack t-shirts at all events so children can easily identify who is with our group.

Activity shirts can be purchased from Adver- T Screen Printing directly through the QR code or link below.

Adver-T Screen Printing 408 S Saturn Ave, Clearwater, FL 33755 www.advert.ink Call - 727-443-5525	
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Link: <https://adver-t-screen-printing.printavo.com/merch/cs-pack431>



### Where to Get Scout Uniforms?

The **Field Uniform** can be purchased from our Tampa Scout Shop or through ScoutShop.org (<http://www.scoutshop.org>).

Our local Council's shop is located off I-275 at Fletcher Ave. You can have your children try sizes on, get advice from the staff on uniforming, and even get patches sewn on uniforms for a nominal charge. There are some great uniform guides there as well.

<p><b>Tampa Scout Shop</b> 13228 N Central Ave Tampa, FL 33612</p> <p><b>LINK:</b> <a href="https://tampabayscouting.org/shops/tampa-scout-shop">https://tampabayscouting.org/shops/tampa-scout-shop</a></p>	
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### Scout Uniform Closet


Finally, our Pack maintains a **Scout Uniform Closet**, with gently used and clean uniforms. Please don't hesitate to ask if items are available. We also gladly accept any items that you might pass on to others, in the spirit of Scouting.

More information can be found at our website at <https://www.seminolepack431.org/uniforms/>

### Safety + Youth Protection

Cub Scouts have a two deep leadership policy. This means that no adult will be alone with a child (other than their own) at any time during the program. This includes rides in vehicles without express permission of the parents. Any suspicious or odd behavior should be immediately reported to leadership and the proper authorities. At times you may be asked at the last minute to stay at a Pack or a Den meeting because one of the leaders was delayed or unable to make it. This is for everyone's safety.

Additionally, Scouts BSA has recently updated their Youth Protection Guides We encourage all parents to review these guidelines prior to any Scout activity:

<p><b>BSA Youth Protection Guidelines (Cub Scouts)</b></p> <p><a href="https://www.scouting.org/training/youth-protection/cub-scout/">https://www.scouting.org/training/youth-protection/cub-scout/</a></p>	
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## Medical Forms

All Cub Scouts and parents who attend our Pack or Den activities require to file a medical form with our Pack. This information is critical for the health and safety of your Cub scouts and others. While we do not expect to have any accidents, scouting is a hands-on program and Safety is always paramount.

In your Welcome kit there are 2 copies of the Medical form (one for the parent and one for the scout). We need sections **A + B** filled out and submitted by **AUGUST 29<sup>th</sup> 2023**. You can download additional forms directly at the link below:

<b>BSA Medical A+B Form</b> <a href="https://filestore.scouting.org/filestore/HealthSafety/pdf/680-001_AB.pdf">https://filestore.scouting.org/filestore/HealthSafety/pdf/680-001_AB.pdf</a>	
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## PHOTOS, SCOUTBOOK and FACEBOOK

The two deep leadership policies apply to contact with scouts via our pack web page and social media as well. "As it relates to social media, two-deep leadership means there should be no private messages and no one-on-one direct contact through email, Facebook messages, X (formerly Twitter), direct messaging, chats, instant messaging, or other similar messaging features provided through social media sites. All communication between adults and youth should take place in a public forum (e.g. the Facebook Wall), or at a bare minimum, electronic communication between adults and youth should always include one or more authorized adults openly "copied" (included) on the message or message thread." Please see <https://scoutingwire.org/social-media-guidelines/> for more information.

## CUBMASTER & DEN LEADER DUTIES

The Cubmaster and Assistant Cubmaster's duties include: leading and or conducting the monthly Pack meetings, guiding and support Den Leaders, work with the Pack Committee to plan an annual Pack program, and to coordinate the Cub Scout program in the Pack. Den Leaders duties include: planning and carrying out Den meetings with the goal of accomplishing the theme of the month. Prepare skits/songs/jokes & exhibits for the Pack Meeting and lead the den in participation at Pack Meetings, help the Cubmaster in presenting awards during Pack Meetings. Den Leaders are asked to attend the monthly committee meeting.

## PACK COMMITTEE

The function of the Pack Committee is largely administrative. Meetings of the Pack Committee are held once a month on the first Tuesday, or more often occasionally, to discuss Pack business. Pack Committee meetings are held to discuss and plan upcoming Pack activities, and to determine how Committee members can best help facilitate the Pack activity. Pack Committee members may be elected or appointed to one-year terms. Parents are encouraged to participate in the Pack Committee. There are a wide spectrum of positions and time commitments available.

At this point there are no term limits, however it is believed that the Pack will benefit by rotating new parents through the Pack Committee. Optimistically, all parents would become members of the Pack Committee, helping with the Program, administration, fund raising or recruiting functions of the Pack.

If you are interested, please contact our Pack Committee Chair, Dan Savarese at [danpsavarese@gmail.com](mailto:danpsavarese@gmail.com).



## TRAINING

There are many ways to easily become trained. Scouts BSA have an online system where you can do most of the basic training courses including Youth Protection Training, Quick Start Training, Position Specific Training, and much more. Our District also holds monthly Roundtable meetings on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday at Camp Soule where monthly themes and upcoming activities are discussed. Pack leaders are encouraged to attend these sessions, and parents may attend as well. The district offers a variety of single and multiple day training opportunities to top it off.

## VOLUNTEERING

Cub Scouting is a **FAMILY PROGRAM** and it requires parents to volunteer for it to work correctly. This way, both the parents and the scouts will benefit from the program.

In Cub Scout terms, Parents/Guardians and Adult Leaders are known as “AKELA”. Akela is a symbol of leadership, authority, wisdom and compassion. In addition to Den Leadership, there are many opportunities on the committee, including: fund raising positions and other small projects such as The Blue & Gold or Pinewood Derby. A few hours of volunteering make all the difference.

The next time we call for volunteers, please don't hesitate to raise your hands. We all benefit from the experience and build the Pack together. Parents are encouraged to share their talents and strengths with the Den. Please talk with your Den Leader.

We look forward to another Successful year of Cub Scouting with you!

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