

PACK 97

INTRO TO BACKPACKING PROGRAM



WE WILL PREPARE CUB SCOUTS TO BECOME INDEPENDENT HIKERS, PHYSICALLY FIT, RESPECTFUL OF NATURE AND OVERALL MORE PREPARED FOR THE CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES THEY FACE AHEAD IN THEIR SCOUTING CAREERS.

"TO HIKERS THE JOURNEY AND THE DESTINATION ARE EQUALLY REWARDING."

The backpacking program will serve to prepare older Cub Scouts for high adventure programs traditionally found in Boy Scouts. It will allow experienced hikers to become familiar with backpacking and offers educational components focused on backpacking safety, equipment, trail and food preparation and leave no trace principles.

The intro to backpacking program will run year around in coordination with the hiking program. Backpackers will meet on the same day and location as the scheduled Pack Hike, but will need to arrive no less than 30 minutes prior to the hike start time to prepare their backpacks for the hike.





The program will offer a tiered advancement system and Scouts will advance through the program after successfully completing a 2+ mile hike with the assigned weight. In the spring, all Expeditionists (tier 4 or above) will be invited to a backpacking campout or full day backpacking hike where they can put their new found skills to the test.

Participation Requirements: Must be a Bear or Webelos Scout who has successfully completed 20 hiking miles and earned their hiking stick.

Program Rules:

- The pack has a few backpacks to loan on a first-come first-serve basis, based on registration date/time.
- Scouts may use their own backpack as long as it is a full sized interior or exterior framed pack.
- Weight is provided by the backpacking chief. Scouts will not be able to provide their own weight.
- Hikes must be 2+ miles in length and the full amount of assigned weight must be carried solely by the scout for the entire hike in order to be awarded a tier.
- Tiers can only be earned on an official Scout backpacking hike. Awards will be given at Pack meetings.

BACKPACKING PROGRAM TIERS AND AWARDS

Tier	Tier Rank	Max Weight (% of body weight)	Award Description
1	Tenderfoot	10%	Monkey Fist (Neon Orange) 
2	Explorer	15%	Monkey Fist (Acid Midnight Blue) 
3	Trail Blazer	20%	Monkey Fist (Golden Rod) 
4	Expeditionist	25%	25% Hiking Mileage Bonus + Paracord Key Chain 
5	Sherpa	25%	25% Hiking Mileage Bonus + Survival Bracelet 