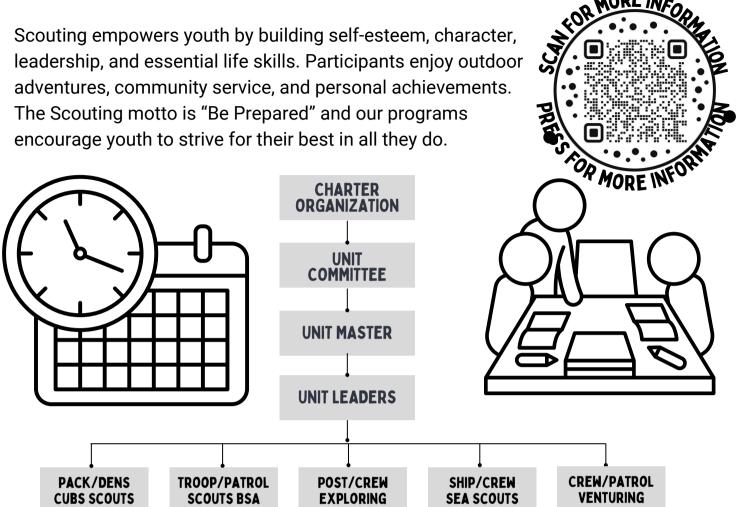
A PARENT'S GUIDE TO SCOUTING



WELCOME TO THE ADVENTURE OF SCOUTING!

THIS GUIDE PROVIDES ESSENTIAL INFORMATION TO ENSURE YOUR SCOUTING EXPERIENCE IS ENJOYABLE, REWARDING, AND MEMORABLE!

WHAT IS SCOUTING?



OUR PROGRAMS

CUB SCOUTS (GRADES K-5)

Cub Scouts is a fun, family-oriented program where kids explore the outdoors, play games, and earn awards.

SCOUTS BSA (AGES 11-17)

Scouts BSA offers youth-led adventure, leadership, and growth. Scouts plan hikes, service projects, and more!

VENTURING (AGES 14–20)

Venturing is a coed program focused on leadership, teamwork, and high adventure.

SEA SCOUTS (AGES 14-20)

Sea Scouts is a water-based program where teens learn boating, sailing, and maritime skills.

EXPLORING (AGES 10-20)

Exploring connects youth with mentors in real careers like law, healthcare, or public safety.

CUB SCOUT

GRADES K-5



Cub Scouts is a program for boys and girls in kindergarten through 5th grade. Kids build character, learn life skills, and have fun through hands-on activities—with parents involved every step of the way. Each group, called a den, is made up of kids in the same grade.

WHY JOIN CUB SCOUTS?

Cub Scouts is fun with a purpose—it helps children grow in confidence, make friends, and learn values like honesty and respect in a safe, welcoming environment.



WHAT WILL MY CHILD DO?

Cub Scouts go camping, play games, build things, explore nature, and earn patches as they learn new skills. It's a program designed for the whole family to enjoy together.

HOW OFTEN DO THEY MEET?

Dens typically meet once a week or twice a month, depending on what works best for the families involved.

WHO RUNS THE PROGRAM?

Parents and guardians lead the program together. Don't worry—
Scouting provides training, resources, and support to help you every step of the way.

SCOUTS BSA

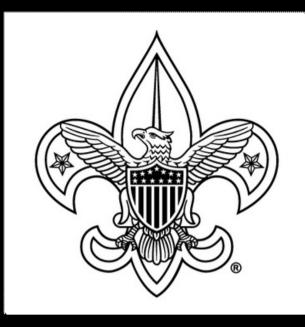
GRADES 6-12

WHAT IS SCOUTS BSA?

Scouts BSA is for middle and high school youth. It's where boys and girls learn outdoor skills, take on leadership roles, and grow into responsible, confident young adults.

WHY JOIN SCOUTS BSA?

This program helps kids become independent, capable, and communityminded—and the skills they gain are useful for life, college, and future careers.



WHAT WILL MY CHILD DO?

They'll go camping, hiking, canoeing, and earn merit badges in topics like first aid, cooking, or robotics. Many Scouts aim to earn the prestigious Eagle Scout award.

HOW OFTEN DO THEY MEET?

Troops usually meet once a week, with extra activities like campouts, service projects, or hikes scheduled throughout the year.

WHO RUNS THE PROGRAM?

The Scouts plan and lead the program themselves, with support and guidance from trained adult leaders. It's about learning by doing.

SEA SCOUTS

AGES 14-20

WHAT IS SEA SCOUTS?

Sea Scouts is a program for teens who love being on the water. It teaches boating skills, teamwork, and leadership through fun, real-world experiences.



It's a unique way for teens to build real skills, explore careers on the water, and grow into strong, confident leaders.



WHAT WILL MY TEEN DO?

They'll do water-based activities like sailing, kayaking, paddleboarding, and even SCUBA diving. They can also earn certifications in water safety and lifesaving.

HOW OFTEN DO THEY MEET?

Most Sea Scout "ships" meet once a week or every other week, often near marinas or waterfronts.

WHO RUNS THE PROGRAM?

Youth lead the ship, with trained adult volunteers helping guide them. Many ships are sponsored by groups like the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary or local community organizations.

VENTURING

AGES 14-20

WHAT IS VENTURING?

Venturing is a program for teens who want to try new adventures, meet new friends, and build leadership skills. It's completely youth-led, with a focus on teamwork and fun.

WHY JOIN VENTURING?

Venturing gives teens the freedom to lead, grow, and have fun in a way that prepares them for the future.



WHAT WILL MY TEEN DO?

They'll choose activities they enjoy—like kayaking, community service, building robots, or planning trips—and develop important life skills along the way.

HOW OFTEN DO THEY MEET?

Most Venturing crews meet once or twice a month, depending on the activity they've chosen.

WHO RUNS THE PROGRAM?

Teens plan everything, with support from adult advisors. Groups are usually sponsored by schools, churches, or community organizations.

EXPLORING

AGES 14-20

E X P L O R I N G

WHAT IS EXPLORING?

Exploring is a career-focused program that connects young people with real-world professionals to help them discover and explore future careers.

WHY JOIN EXLPORING?

Exploring helps teens gain career skills, build confidence, and get a head start on their future, all while having fun with peers who share similar interests.

WHAT WILL MY TEEN DO?

They'll go behind the scenes in places like police stations, hospitals, fire departments, and tech companies to learn how different jobs work.

HOW OFTEN DO THEY MEET?

Exploring groups meet once or twice a month during the school year, usually after school or in the evening.

WHO RUNS THE PROGRAM?

Local businesses or agencies lead the program, providing hands-on learning and mentorship for youth.

SCOUTING

COMPLIMENTS EVERY PASSION—AND BUILDS CHARACTER TOO

HOW SCOUTING PREPARES:

Whether your child dreams of being an athlete, actor, engineer, or entrepreneur, Scouting prepares them for the road ahead—by shaping who they are, not just what they do



FOR ATHLETES:

Scouting teaches discipline, teamwork, and stamina—qualities that carry over to the field and court.

FOR ARTISTS AND PERFORMERS:

Scouts build confidence, communication skills, and creativity through leadership roles, presentations, and public speaking.

FOR HIGH ACHIEVERS:

Scouts learn how to manage time, solve problems, and stay committed to long-term goals—skills that show up in the classroom and beyond.

FOR BUSY FAMILES

With weekly meetings and flexible scheduling, Scouting is designed to fit alongside other extracurriculars—not replace them.

NFL running back David Montgomery is a proud Eagle Scout.

Before the bright lights of the NFL, David spent his youth in Scouting—learning responsibility, discipline, and leadership that shaped his character on and off the field.



"Scouting taught me how to be accountable—to myself, my team, and my community."

-David Montgomery, Eagle Scout & NFL Player

HOW SCOUTING COMPARES

Scouting stands out by combining the best parts of youth programs—leadership, service, outdoor adventure, STEM, and character building—into one experience. While sports, arts, and clubs focus on a single skill, Scouting develops the whole person through hands-on challenges and youth-led activities that build confidence and responsibility.

With flexible scheduling and year-round engagement, Scouting complements—not competes with—other passions. Many Scouts are also athletes, performers, and scholars—Scouting simply helps them grow stronger in every role they take on.

√ = YES 1 = SOMEWHAT × = NO	SCOUTING*	YOUTH SPORTS	DRAMA/ THEATER	KARATE LESSONS
EST. MONTHLY COST	\$20-\$40	\$50+	\$80+	\$60+
LEADERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES	✓	×	1	A
PARENT INVOLVEMENT	✓	1	×	A
CHARACTER DEVELOPMENT	✓	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	À
YEAR ROUND	✓	×	×	1

ESTIMATED MONTHLY COST FOR SCOUTING INCLUDES NATIONAL FEES AND BASIC UNIT COSTS. ADDITIONAL UNIT-SPECIFIC FEES (SUCH AS UNIFORMS, TRIPS, OR EVENTS) MAY VARY.

MEETINGS & OUTINGS

We want you and your Scout to be as involved as you can, but don't worry about missing a meeting or two. Scouting is a year-round program and there will always be opportunity to catch up later or catch up at home. Here is a standard meeting schedule:

DEN/PATROL/CREW

YOUR SCOUT'S SMALL
GROUP WILL MEET 2 OR 3
TIMES A MONTH.



OUTINGS

YOUR GROUP & UNIT WILL
WORK TO PLAN, ON
AVERAGE 1 OUTDOOR
ACTIVITY A MONTH.

CONTACTS, TIMES, & LOCATIONS

MY UNIT NAME AND #		
LEADER:		
PHONE:		
EMAIL:		
MEETING TIME:		

If you require any further assistance or have questions, please consult with your unit leadership or contact our Council at 813-872-2691 or visit our website: GTBAC.org



MEETING DAY:	DISTRICT
MEETING DAT.	ואוכוע

LOCATION: DISTRICT EXECUTIVE:

ACTIVITIES & EVENTS

CUB SCOUTS

Families join exciting adventures like campouts, the Pinewood Derby, and Splash and Spook-O-Ree. These fun events build teamwork and lasting memories.

SCOUTS BSA

Scouts experience outdoor adventures such as troop campouts, merit badge academies, and hiking expeditions. Each activity strengthens leadership and independence.

EXPLORING

Youth engage in career-focused activities, including hands-on workshops and interactive events. Exploring helps teens discover passions and career opportunities.

VENTURING

Teens participate in high-adventure activities and specialized leadership training. Venturing promotes personal growth, teamwork, and lifelong skills.

SEA SCOUTS

Members enjoy sailing trips, maritime skillbuilding, and exciting competitive regattas. Sea Scouts gain nautical expertise and leadership through real-world experiences.



AWARDS & ADVANCEMENTS

Cub Scouts earn Rank Badges, Belt Loops, and Pins by participating in fun, hands-on activities throughout the year, outlined in their grade-specific handbooks. As Scouts grow, they can pursue prestigious honors such as Eagle Scout (Scouts BSA), Quartermaster (Sea Scouts), Summit Award (Venturing), and Career Achievement Awards (Exploring). Each award celebrates dedication, skill-building, and leadership developed along their Scouting journey.

CUB SCOUTS GRADES K-5	SCOUTS BSA GRADES 6-12	SEA SCOUTS AGES 14-20	VENTURING AGES 14-20	EXPLORING AGES 14-20
Grade-specific ranks earned through fun activities	Progress through ranks by earning fulfilling life- skill requirements	Four ranks based on seamanship, leadership, and service	Four-level structure focused on leadership, personal growth, service, & adventure	Recognition through participation & leadership in the program
Arrow of Light	Eagle Scout	Summit Award	Quartermaster	Career-specific recognitions
Adventure Loops & Pins, Religious Emblems	135+ Merit Badges, Eagle Palms, World Conservation Award	Discovery, Pathfinder, Summit Awards; Ranger & Trust Awards	Apprentice, Ordinary, Able, Quartermaster; Certifications in CPR, SCUBA, Boating Safety	Leadership Awards, Service Awards, Certificates from partner organizationn

LEARN THE SCOUT WAY

Start working on the Scout Oath, Scout Law, and learn the Scout motto, salute, and handshake. Every Scout should know these basics!

LEARN AND SAY THE SCOUT OATH, WITH HELP IF NEEDED:

"On my honor I will do my best to do my duty to God and my country and to obey the Scout Law; to help other people at all times; to keep myself physically strong, mentally awake, and morally straight."

LEARN AND SAY THE SCOUT LAW, WITH HELP IF NEEDED:

A Scout is:

Trustworthy, Loyal, Helpful, Friendly, Courteous, Kind, Obedient, Cheerful, Thrifty, Brave, Clean, and Reverent.

LEARN & SAY THE SCOUT MOTTO:

"BE PREPARED"

SCOUTS FIRST Helpline

SAFEGUARDING YOUTH

In an emergency or when complying with mandatory reporting, call 911 or your local authorities immediately. Then, report the incident to your council.

Report Concerns About Youth Safety

If you suspect a youth has been harmed or their safety is at risk—including violations of youth protection policies—contact your local council right away.

If you cannot reach your Scout Executive or local Council, report directly to Scouts First via:



Email: ScoutsFirst@Scouting.org

Scan to Message Anonymously! (Via Real Response)





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WHAT DOES A YEAR OF SCOUTING COST?

YEARLY FEE

The annual \$118 Scouting fee covers a year of exciting adventures, valuable programs, and essential resources.

This investment supports youth development, leadership, and community involvement.

OTHER COSTS

Some activities like campouts, special trips, or overnight events may have extra costs.

These vary based on the activity.

Your Scout leaders will

HANDBOOK

Each Scout uses a specific handbook for their age.

Handbooks cost about \$24 and are used all year.

optional activities, and also track each Scout's progres

UNIFORM

The uniform is an important part of Scouting—it shows teamwork and belonging.

Uniform costs typically range from \$50-\$100+,

Your unit leaders can help you with what to buy and where to get it.

SCOUT LIFE MAGAZINE

This optional \$15/year magazine is full of fun!

It features Scouting stories, sports, science, history, hobbies, jokes, comics, and more—for poth Scouts and adults.

ADULT LEADER FEE

The \$86 annual fee for adult volunteers helps cover insurance and other costs.

In some cases, the group your child joins may be able to cover this fee for you

PAY SCOUTING COSTS WITH POPCORN!

Most of your Scout's Scouting costs can be financed by participating in the annual popcorn sale. **Learn more about selling popcorn by speaking with your unit leader!**





SAVE 10%

ON MATCHING UNIFORM BOTTOMS

With Purchase of a Uniform Top

SELECTION AND QUANTITIES MAY VARY! SEE STORE FOR DETAILS.



FUND YOUR ADVENTURE WITH

Poposyn



POPCORN WITH A PURPOSE

Did you know your child can pay their own way through our program—and even earn rewards—just by selling popcorn? It's an easy and fun way for kids to learn responsibility, build confidence, and set goals, all while raising money for their adventures. From camping trips to weekend events, popcorn sales help cover the cost so families aren't stuck footing the whole bill.

FUNDING YOUR FUN

Parents love it because it teaches real-life skills and takes the pressure off their wallets. Kids love it because they get to earn prizes, make friends, and feel proud of what they've accomplished. Whether your child is saving for their next big outing or just getting started, this is a great way to make it all happen—one bag of popcorn at a time. Scan the QR code to learn more!

EARN PRIZES LIKE: GIFTS CARDS, UNIVERSAL STUDIO TICKETS, AND MORE!





2025 SCOUT REWARDS

NEW REWARD OPTIONS* - PICK ONE OR MULTIPLE!

AMAZON, TARGET, WALMART, PREPAID MASTERCARD®, DICK'S SPORTING GOODS, NINTENDO, REI, GAMESTOP, BASS PRO SHOPS, BEST BUY, CABELA'S, APPLE, LEGO, XBOX, AND PLAYSTATION



EARN MORE WITH HEROES AND HELPERS™

	Points* (per \$1 sold)	
Heroes and Helpers	1.75 (credit & online) / 1.5 (cash)	
App Credit & Online	1.25	
App Cash	1	
Each sale only accrues points in the applicable category above in which it will earn the most points		
Cash to Credit™ Earn an additional 0.25 point per \$1 converted. Points for Storefront cash converted are split among Scouts working the store that day.		

EARN MORE WITH ONE SCOUT & PARENT STOREFRONT SHIFTS

2025 Bonus Rewards*

Jun 30 8pm ET - Nov 30 6:59pm ET

Sell \$500 or more per hour per Scout

• Earn 1 bonus point per dollar sold

Sell \$300-\$499 per hour per Scout

• Earn 0.5 bonus point per dollar sold

Sell \$500 or more online

• Earn 250 bonus points

Choose the prizes you want by recording sales in the Trail's End App and collecting points towards eGift Cards and Prepaid Cards

Levels	Points	eGift Card
18	17,500+	10% of points
17	15,000	\$1,250
16	12,000	\$1,000
15	10,000	\$750
14	7,500	\$550
13	6,000	\$450
12	5,000	\$350
11	4,000	\$250
10	3,500	\$200
9	3,000	\$150
8	2,500	\$100
7	2,000	\$70
6	1,750	\$60
5	1,500	\$50
4	1,250	\$40
3	1,000	\$30
2	750	\$20
1	500	\$10

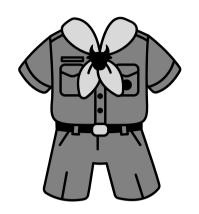


Trail's End Distributed Rewards earned in 2025 must be claimed by June 30, 2026.

*Additional Terms & Conditions apply. All promotions are subject to the Trail's End Terms & Conditions; view complete details at portal.trails-end.com/legal/terms. The merchants represented are not sponsors of the rewards or otherwise affiliated with this company. The logos and other identifying marks attached are trademarks of and owned by each represented company and/or its affiliates and do not indicate any relationship, sponsorship, or endorsement between Trail's End and the owners of these trademarks. Please visit each company's website for additional terms and conditions. By claiming certain gift cards, you represent and warrant to us that you are at least 18 years of age (or older if you reside in a state where the majority age is older). Virtual Prepaid Mastercard is issued by Pathward®, N.A., Member FDIC, pursuant to license by Mastercard International Incorporated. Mastercard and the circles design are registered trademarks of Mastercard International Incorporated. No cash access or recurring payments. Can only be used in the U.S. where Debit Mastercard is accepted online, for phone/mail orders or in stores that accept mobile wallet. Card valid for up to 6 months; unused funds will forfeit after the valid thru date. Terms and conditions apply.

WHERE CAN I GET MY SCOUT'S UNIFORM & HANDBOOK?

The Tampa Scout Shop offers uniforms, advancements, literature, gifts, t-shirts, pinewood derby equipment, and more! If we do not have it in stock, we can order it for you & have it at the store in about a week. We also take over-the-phone orders and are happy to coordinate shipping/pick-up!



Tampa Scout Shop

13228 N. Central Avenue Tampa, FL 33612 Monday – Friday: 9 AM – 6 PM; Saturday 10 AM – 4 PM (813) 935-3030

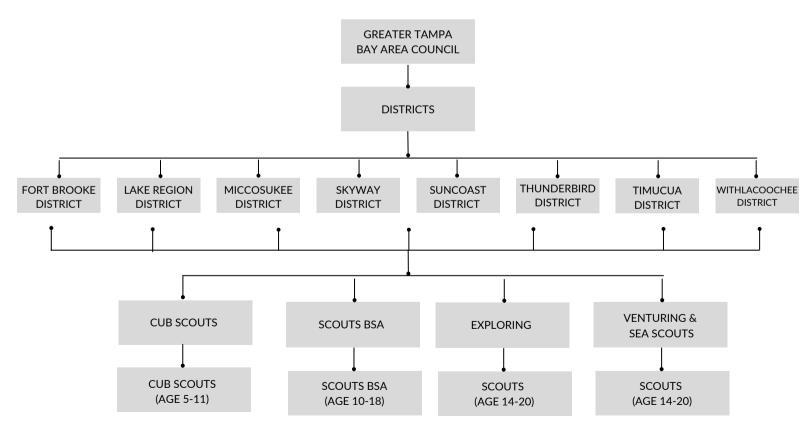
TampaScoutShop@scouting.org

Visit Us Online at: <u>TampaBayScouting.org/shops/tampa-scout-shop</u>



WHAT IS THE "COUNCIL?

The Greater Tampa Bay Area Council encompasses nine counties in West Florida and serves over 10,000 youth in 133 Cub Scout packs, 148 Scouts BSA, 15 Venturing Crews, 4 Sea Scout Ships, and 9 Exploring Clubs or Posts. The Council is located at 13228 N. Central Avenue Tampa, FL 33612. If you have any questions about Scouting or the Scouting Programs, please visit us or give us a call at (813) 872-2691



DISTRICT KEY

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 $\textbf{FORT BROOKE} \cdot \textbf{WEST HILLSBOROUGH} \mid \textbf{LAKE REGION} \cdot \textbf{EAST POLK}, \textbf{HARDEE HIGHLANDS} \mid$

MICCOSUKEE - NORTH PINELLAS | SKYWAY - SOUTH PINELLAS | SUNCOAST - PASCO |

THUNDERBIRD - WEST POLK | TIMUCUA - EAST HILLSBOROUGH | WITHLACOOCHEE - HERNANDO, CITRUS, SUMTER

CHECK OUT THESE GREAT NEW SCOUT EVENTS



CUB SCOUT ADVENTURE DAYS

SEPTEMBER 20, 27 & OCTOBER 5

Exciting, age-appropriate outdoor fun like archery, crafts, nature hikes, and team games—An unforgettable first taste of camp life



AQUA CAMP

SEPTEMBER 26 - 28 (OVERNIGHT SCOUTS BSA CAMP)

A thrilling water-filled adventure weekend where Scouts get hands-on with kayaking, swimming, and water safety.



SPOOK-O-REE

OCTOBER 10-12 & 17-19 (CUB SCOUT FAMILY CAMPING)

Spook-O-Ree is a Halloween-themed weekend full of safe family fun—costume contests, hayrides, campfire stories, and games



MERIT BADGE ACADEMY

NOVEMBER 1 (ASPIRING EAGLE SCOUTS START HERE)

Learn real-life skills like first aid, personal finance, cooking, robotics, game design and more!

For more details and updates about these events, please visit our website or follow us on social media



CHECK OUT OUR FALL SCOUT NIGHT EVENTS



MONSTER JAM SCOUT DISCOUNT

AUGUST 15-17

An action-packed, high-energy event that's perfect for thrillseeking kids and fans of giant trucks! **Scout Exclusive Discount!**



THRESHER SCOUT SPECTACULAR!!

SEPTEMBER 6

We take over Baycare Field. Fireworks, games, and an all-youcan-eat buffet make this a Scout night to remember!



SCOUT NIGHT WITH THE ROWDIES

OCTOBER 4

Enjoy an evening of exciting pro soccer—plus a commemorative patch, on-field activities, and experiences for the entire family



SCOUT NIGHT WITH THE LIGHTNING

DATE TBD

Get special ticket pricing, exclusive Scout perks, and the chance to experience NHL action up close!

For more details and updates about these events, please visit our website or follow us on social media



Experience Camp after Dark at



Weekend 1 Oct 10th - 12th

Weekend 2 Oct 17th - 19th

The Ultimate Family Weekend at Camp

Spook-O-Ree is a frightfully fun weekend full of safe family fun—costume contests, hayrides, campfire stories, and games

THE ROLE OF A SCOUT PARENT

Every parent plays a very important role with their Scout. You will be working with your Scout on achievements, attending camp outings together, and having fun with your family! Scouting would not be possible without the parent or quardian's involvement.

You will also be asked to serve as a volunteer with the Cub Scout Pack where your Scout is a member. Whatever time you are able to invest in Scouting – the result is phenomenal! Kids will not only have fun because of your help but will also grow physically, mentally, and in their relationships with other people.

Please take a moment to look over these roles. Please mark what you would be able to help with.

*PLEASE FILL THIS PAGE OUT AND TURN EMAIL IN TO MEMBERSHIP@TAMPABAYSCOUTING.ORG * **DEN LEADER OR ASSISTANT** (Must have at least two per den) - Works directly with their Scout's grade level den, their meetings, and activities. **OUTDOOR COMMITTEE** - Family Camping Events, Summer Day Camp Promotion, and Shooting Sports Events. **SPECIAL EVENTS COMMITTEE** - Blue and Gold Banguet, Pinewood Derby Race, and Scouting for Food Service Project. FINANCE COMMITTEE - Popcorn Sale and Pack Operating Budget. MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE - Annual Pack Charter Renewal and Year-Round Recruitment Planning. **SUPPORT COMMITTEE** - Coordinate Pack Meeting Speakers and Events and assist other committees as needed. **ADVANCEMENT COMMITTEE** - Record Keeping and Awards Coordination NAME_____ PHONE _____EMAIL ____ SCOUT'S NAME _____SCOUT'S GRADE____

IF A SITUATION ARISES AND YOU CAN NO LONGER HELP, PLEASE CONTACT YOUR DEN LEADER OR CUBMASTER

CHECK OUT OUR UNIT LEADER RESOURCES AT TAMPABAYSCOUTING.ORG/RESOURCES/RECRUITMENT-MATERIALS

From Scout Executive:

It's with immense joy and pride that I welcome you to Scouting. As your Scout Executive, I am deeply committed to ensuring your Scouting experience is filled with adventure, learning, and fun.

Your journey starts now!



MIKE BUTLER



13228 N Central ave. Tampa, FL 33612 (813) 872-2691

www.tampabayscouting.org

GTBACBOYSCOUTS





in GREATERTAMPABAYAREACOUNCIL

SCOUTING AMERICA YOUTH MEMBER APPLICATION - Must be completed by the youth's parent or legal guardian

YOUTH INFORMATION First name (Full legal name) Middle name Last name Suffix Preferred nickname Country Home address City State Zip code Phone Grade Ethnic background: Gender: Date of birth (mm/dd/yyyy) Black/African American Native American Aaska Native Male Female Caucasian/White Pacific Islander Asian Cout Life subscription Mispanic/Latino ♠ther Youth email address School PARENT/LEGAL GUARDIAN INFORMATION ☐ Mark here if the Lion or Tiger adult partner is not the parent or legal quardian. Have the adult partner complete and attach an adult application and indicate their relationship below. ☐ Mark here if address is same as above. ☐ Mark here if you are the Lion or Tiger adult partner. Select relationship: Parent Legal Guardian First name (Full legal name) Middle name Last name Suffix Preferred nickname Country Home address City State Zip code Primary phone Date of birth (mm/dd/yyyy) Occupation Employer Gender: Male OFemale Ext. Previous Scouting experience Alternate phone I have read the attached information for parents and approve the application. Laffirm that I have or will review How to Protect Your Children From Child Abuse: A Parent's Guide. Parent/legal guardian email address Signature of parent/legal guardian Date To be completed by unit Signature of unit leader (or designee) Date If applicant has unexpired membership certificate, registration may be accomplished at Ship Lone Cub Scout Unit type: Pack Troep Crew ☐ Has earned no charge by transferring the registration or multiple registering. Arrow of Light M Lone Scout Enter membership number ☐ Transfer application For pack registration select one: Lion Tiger Wolf Bear Webelos from unexpired certificate: ■ Multiple application Unit No.: Council No.: Pack Troop Unit No. or district name: Unit Council fee \$ Registration fee type: Crew Ship PAID: Cash Check No. Scout Life fee \$ 15.00 Credit card