



Pack 489 Newsletter



Do your best

January 2009 Edition: "A-MAZE-ing Games"

January is a good time for indoor fun. Make and solve puzzles. Stump your friends with riddles. Build a maze; do crossword puzzles and word searches. Rediscover some of the games that your parents and grandparents could have played. Discuss why playing by the rules is important. The pinewood derby is a good opportunity to learn about rules and good sportsmanship.

Pack Calendar

- 1/24 Cub Winter Day
- 2/7 YMCA Swim & Gym 7:30-11:00
- 2/26 February Pack Meeting, 7-8pm
Pinewood Derby weigh-ins 6:45-8:30
- 2/28 Pinewood Derby, GSC, 2-6pm
- 3/1 Co Co Key
- 3/8 Blue and Gold Ceremony 6-8pm
- 3/18 When I Grow Up Tours, 2:30pm
- 3/19 March Pack Meeting, 7-8pm

Did you know: Some of our Dens are larger than entire Packs!

We are truly fortunate to have the great group of boys and parents who make Pack 489 a success, and that many families want to be a part of. This has led to Dens larger than some Packs in the area.

For the 2009-2010 Scouting year, the Pack will be splitting the larger Dens into two Dens per grade level. We expect to have 8 to 10 boys in each Den next year [Boy Scouts of America recommends that Dens consist of 6 to 8 boys].

Our Pack objectives continue to be Achievement, Advancement, and Adventure.

- o The Dens' focus on achievement which will be much easier to accomplish with smaller groups.
- o The Pack Committee will support the Den Leaders by continuing to be a forum to share plans, ideas, and resources.
- o We have a library of prior year Den meeting plans for the future Den Leaders to utilize.
- o And of course, we will continue to rely on the strong support of all the parents to help organize and conduct Den meetings.

If you are interested in being a Den Leader for one of our smaller dens, please contact Brent Heist ([@gmail.com](mailto:bheist@gmail.com) or 489-4796). He will be happy to share what is involved and how the Pack leadership can help. We plan to have the new dens set by the May 2009 Pack Meeting so that everyone is ready to start the new Scouting year in September.

Upcoming Events

****We still have several events in the spring (March and later) that are in need of an organizer. If you're interested, please see Ernie Wallace or Brent Heist for details.**

Cub Winter Day – This Saturday, January 24th

Cub Winter Day is this Saturday. See Brian Blunt if you still haven't signed up or need to pay. Money is being collected no later than today. Scouts \$9, Adults \$6

Swim & Gym – February 7th, (not the 8th (or 9th)) Sign up tonight!

Doff the holiday apparel, don the swimsuits, and join the rest of the pack for the annual Winter Swim Party on Saturday, February 7th. Check your calendars and mark the correct date. Incorrect dates were published in last month's flyer. See the sign-up table for more details.

Pinewood Derby – February 21st

A brief car-making clinic will be conducted during this evening's meeting by Derby Chair Paul Komescher.

Car weigh-ins will be conducted during the February pack meeting, beginning at 6:45 and running until 8:30. During the meeting, please wait for your Den to be called to weigh in. Cars will then be left with the race committee for safekeeping until Saturday's races. Winners will go on to compete at the district race.

This year, we've added an 'open' division for cars that don't necessarily conform to the required specs for the scouts. Mom or Dad, if you're itching to race a car of your own or your scout would like to give last year's car another run, this is the division for you, provided your car can clear the timing device and is solely gravity-powered.

Blue & Gold – Sunday, March 8th

Mark your calendars now for the 2009 Blue and Gold Awards Banquet on **Sunday, March 8, 6-8pm**, at Good Shepherd Church. The Blue and Gold is our annual celebration of scouting during which we honor our Webelos II's as they earn their Arrow of Light awards and "cross the bridge" into Boy Scouts.

We have made some changes to the event this year to make it a more focused and enjoyable event. We still have a great buffet dinner and some important ceremonies, but the time will be shorter (two hours including dinner), there will be no boring speeches, and the activities of the younger Dens should be a lot more fun and entertaining for all. The Webelos I's will be the Host Den, and the whole Pack is invited. We will get personal invitations out to all Pack families in early February. For now, just get the date on your calendar, and make plans to join us in this celebration of our scouts.

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The Cub Scout Trophy Room!

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NOTS Cartoon by Rich Diesslin, used with permission

Co Co Key – March 1st

A fun-soaked day at Co Co Key Water Resort in Sharonville has been added to the schedule for March 1st as a reward for scouts who sold \$250 or more in popcorn. Discounts are available for anyone else who would like to attend.

One Last Note...

If you'll be coming early or staying late for Pinewood Derby car weigh-ins, please keep your scout close by, or otherwise constructively engaged. Unsupervised scouts will be sold for grocery money.