

# Cub Scout Academics and Sports Program

**Scholarship Leads to Adventure  
Sportsmanship Leads to Opportunity**

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The Cub Scout Academics and Sports program is a supplemental enrichment program that complements the existing Cub Scout program.

The Cub Scouts Academics and Sports Program is one method of addressing the third aim of Scouting: **the development of physical, mental and emotional fitness.**

Fitness includes:

- the body (well-tuned and healthy)
- the mind (able to think and solve problems)
- the emotions (self-control, courage, and self-respect).

The Academics subjects and Sports activities allow boys to:

- learn new techniques
- increase scholarship skills
- develop sportsmanship
- have fun!

Boys participating in the program will be:

- recognized for enjoying teamwork
- developing physical fitness
- discovering and building new talents

The aim of this program is to encourage the boys to **DO THEIR BEST**, to try new things and to put forth a best effort, and is not of achieving proficiency or winning.

# The Purposes of Cub Scouting

The Cub Scout Academics and Sports program relates directly to the ten purposes of Cub Scouting:

1. Character Development
2. Spiritual Growth
  - Positively influencing a boy's character development and encouraging spiritual growth
3. Good Citizenship
  - Helping boys develop habits and attitudes of good citizenship
4. Sportsmanship
  - Encouraging good sportsmanship and pride in growing strong in mind and body
5. Family Understanding
  - Improving understanding within the family
6. Respectful Relationships
  - Strengthening the ability to get along with other boys and to respect other people
7. Personal Achievement
  - Fostering a sense of personal achievement by helping boys develop new interests and skills
8. Friendly Service
  - Showing how to be helpful and do one's best
9. Fun and Adventure
  - Providing fun and exciting new things to do
10. Preparation for Boy Scouts

## Concepts and Guidelines

The Cub Scout Academics and Sports program is based on the following concepts and guidelines:

- The program supplements the existing advancement and recognition program for Tiger Cubs, Cub Scouts, and Webelos Scouts; it does not replace it. The program is one element of Cub Scouting, as are den and pack meetings, day camp, and other activities.
- All registered Tiger Cubs, Cub Scouts, and Webelos Scouts have an opportunity to participate in the Academics and Sports program.
- Participation may take place at home, with the family, or within a den, a pack, or the community.
- Adult participation by a parent or adult relative, if possible, is strongly recommended for Cub Scouts and Webelos Scouts and is required for Tiger Cubs.
- Emphasis is placed on introducing a boy to a sport or academic subject, allowing him to participate in it and encouraging him to do his best. The Academics and Sports program focuses on learning and skill development, not winning.
- The primary focus of the program is on scholarship and sportsmanship.

- Each Tiger Cub, Cub Scout, and Webelos Scout will be presented with the appropriate recognition item for completing the requirements, whether he does so as an individual Scout, with his family, with his den or pack, or in his school or community.
- The Academics portion of the program covers a variety of subjects, including art, chess, citizenship, communicating, computers, geography, heritages, mathematics, music, science, weather, and wildlife conservation.
- The Sports portion of the program includes summer and winter sports, indoor and outdoor sports, active and less-active sports, and team and individual sports.
- Cub Scouts who have disabilities may select their own activities and design their own fitness or academic program with the help of a physician, teacher, or parent.

## **Recognition**

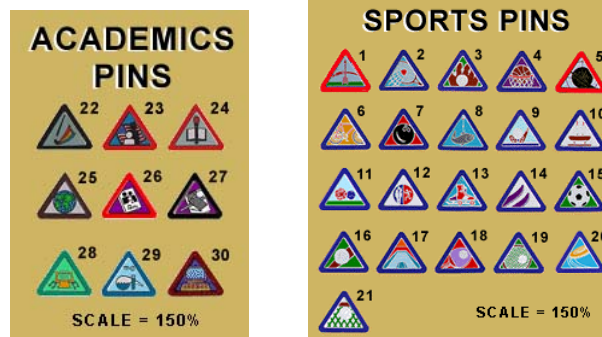
A variety of recognition items are available for the boys (Tiger Cubs, Cub Scouts, or Webelos Scouts) who participate in the program. (Adults are NOT awarded with belt loops or pins.) Packs are encouraged to include the cost of these recognition items in their annual budgets. Packs may consider charging a fee to each participating Cub Scout and adult partner to cover the cost of the awards.

- **Belt loops** are awarded to boys who complete the three belt loop requirements in an academic subject or sport. Academic belt loops are gold, and Sports belt loops are silver (except for the Archery and BB-gun Shooting belt loops, which are brass colored)



- Belt loops may be worn with the Cub Scout uniform on the Cub Scout belt. Webelos Scouts who have chosen to wear the khaki uniform may still wear the blue Cub Scout belt so as to display the belt loops they have earned.
- Many Webelos Scouts may earn belt loops and pins a second time to qualify for Webelos activity badges. All boys may earn belt loops more than once; however, leaders should encourage boys to try different requirements and earn the pin. Packs should have a clear policy in place to determine whether the pack or the boy's family will be responsible for the cost of awards that are earned more than once.

- **Pins** are awarded to boys who choose to continue their involvement in an Academics or Sports area and earn the pin by meeting the appropriate requirements.



- Pins are worn on the Cub Scout Academic and Sports letter
- **The Academic and Sports Letter** is available to boys for displaying Academics and Sports pins that Tiger Cubs, Cub Scouts, and Webelos Scouts earn. The letter, a large Blue and Gold "C", representing Cub Scouts can be worn on a sweater or jacket, or displayed or framed. It does NOT go on the uniform. There are NO specific requirements for earning the letter, as it is designed merely to display the pins.



- There are also Pocket Certificates, Activity Medals, and Trophies, and the **Participation Emblem**, which can be awarded as the Pack decides.



# **Cub Scout Academics Program**

## **Why Cub Scout Academics?**

Cub Scout Academics is a great way to help fulfill the aims of Scouting:

- Building character
- Developing citizenship
- Encouraging mental and physical fitness

Through the 17 subjects currently offered in the Cub Scout Academics program, a boy can stretch his mind by:

- Exploring the wonders of science
- Learning to better appreciate the arts
- Improving his sense of responsibility
- Understanding and valuing his heritage

Currently, recognition can be earned for the following 17 academic areas:

**Art, Astronomy, Chess, Citizenship, Collecting, Communicating, Computers, Language and Culture, Geography, Geology, Heritages, Map and Compass, Mathematics, Music, Science, Weather, and Wildlife Conservation**

Most of the Academic belt loops (except Collecting) can be used by Webelos Scouts when working on various Activity Badges. To be used for Webelos Activity Badges, the belt loops must be earned WHILE a Webelos Scout, even if they had already been earned by the Cub Scout while a Tiger Cub, Wolf, or Bear.

### Linkages between Academics Belt Loops and Webelos Activity Badges

This list contains only those Webelos Badges which have requirements that can (or must) be satisfied by earning one or more Academics Belt Loops.

<b><u>Earn this Academics Belt Loop</u></b>	<b><u>Get credit toward this Webelos Activity Badge</u></b>
<a href="#"><u>Art</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Artist</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>Astronomy</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Scientist</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>Chess</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Scholar</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>Citizenship</u></a> (required for Activity badge)	<a href="#"><u>Citizen</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>Communicating</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Communicator</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>Computers</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Communicator</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>Geography</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Traveler</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>Geology</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Geologist</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>Heritages</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Family Member</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>Language and Culture</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Scholar</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>Map and Compass</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Traveler</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>Mathematics</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Scholar</u></a> or <a href="#"><u>Engineer</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>Music</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Showman</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>Science</u></a> (required for Activity badge)	<a href="#"><u>Scientist</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>Weather</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Scientist</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>Wildlife Conservation</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Naturalist</u></a>

# Cub Scout Sports Program

## Why Cub Scout Sports?

The Cub Scout Sports program provides Cub Scouts with the opportunity to become acquainted with and participate in all kinds of sports:

- Summer and winter sports
- Indoor and outdoor sports
- Active and less-active sports
- Team and individual sports

When implemented properly, the program is an active physical fitness program for Cub Scouts.

A Cub Scout may participate in Sports activities in:

- His unit
- His community
- By himself

However the boy participates, he will:

- Have fun learning a new sport
- Develop new skills
- Compete with his peers
- Be recognized

The Cub Scout is encouraged to learn and practice good sportsmanship, and to **DO HIS BEST**.

Currently, recognition can be earned for the following 23 sports:

**Archery, BB-Gun, Badminton, Baseball, Basketball, Bicycling, Bowling, Fishing, Flag Football, Golf, Gymnastics, Ice Skating, Marbles, Physical Fitness, Roller Skating, Snow Ski and Board Sports, Soccer, Softball, Swimming, Table Tennis, Tennis, Ultimate, Volleyball**

To be used for Webelos Activity Badges, the belt loops must be earned WHILE a Webelos Scout, even if they had already been earned by the Cub Scout while a Tiger Cub, Wolf, or Bear.

<b><u>Earn this Sports Belt Loop</u></b>	<b><u>Get credit toward this Webelos Activity Badge</u></b>
<a href="#"><u>Swimming</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Aquanaut</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>Physical Fitness</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Athlete</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>2 Individual &amp; 2 Team Sport</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Sportsman</u></a>

The Shooting Sports belt loops and pins (Archery and BB Shooting) can only be earned under BSA range trained supervision. The BB Shooting loop and pin **MUST** be earned at a BSA facility range.

## **Why other Sports are NOT included in the Cub Scout Sports Program**

**"Why isn't there a belt loop for Karate or other martial arts?"**

**"Why can't my son get credit for his participation in Pop Warner football?"**

BSA will not likely add any of the martial arts to the Cub Scout Sports program. FLAG Football was added to the program in 2002, but that addition did not include Tackle Football programs like Pop Warner League play.

Back in 1974, the Boy Scouts of America's National Executive Board decided on a listing of team and individual sports which it felt was not consistent with the ideals and promotion of sportsmanship that Scouting is promoting.

They didn't say that "these sports are bad" or "Scouts should never participate in these sports" but rather...

**"These sports have the potential for extreme harm while playing the sport and therefore we will prohibit them from being played as part of a BSA program or program option."**

The list has been adjusted through the years, but has remained basically intact.

Note that ANY SPORT can be dangerous if:

- Played against the official rules
- The participants are not dressed or outfitted appropriately
- And/or if they are not coached and trained well.

A Scout could just as easily injure himself or others while playing marbles as he can while playing football or Karate. However, the BSA found that a number of sports present a significant risk to Scouts and Scouters and the BSA does not allow them to be used to meet requirements toward various badges or as inter-unit play during Scouting events or meetings.

The list is codified in the Guide to Safe Scouting, in a list entitled "**Unauthorized and Restricted Activities**". The list includes the following sports or sports equipment:

- All-terrain vehicles (ATVs)
- Boxing, karate, and related martial arts-except judo, aikido, and Tai Chi
- Exploration of abandoned mines
- Varsity football teams and interscholastic or club football
- Flying in hang gliders, ultralights, experimental class aircraft, or hot-air balloons (whether or not they are tethered); parachuting; and flying

in aircraft as part of a search and rescue mission are unauthorized activities.

- Motorized go-carts and motorbikes for Cub Scout and Boy Scouts
- All motorized speed events, including motorcycles, boats, drag racing, demolition derbies, and related events, for all program levels
- Amateur or professional rodeo events
- Paintball and Laser Tag.
- Hunting by Cub Scouts or Boy Scouts
- Motorized personal watercraft, such as Jet-Skis<sup>®</sup>
- Parasailing
- Bungee cord jumping

Part of the justification as to why the various martial arts and tackle football were not included as an option for meeting the requirements is also included in the Guide for Safe Scouting in the following statement:

**The general policy of Scouting is to train youth to do safely the many things they normally do, such as swimming and boating; handling firearms, knives and axes; riding bicycles; and hiking and camping. Scouting's disapproval or restriction of hazardous sports and activities is a positive policy to keep fun in the program and to develop sound judgment through experience. It is consistent with our principle of safety through skill on the part of leaders and youth.**

Most Councils do not carry enough insurance to cover the injuries which could be sustained accidentally or on purpose through such activities, and Boy Scout Councils, and even more importantly, individual units like Cub Scout Packs and Boy Scout Troops, do not maintain or stock the appropriate padding and safety gear necessary to carry out those sports safely.

BSA does not permit any martial arts activities as part of its program, except defensive Judo, Aikido, and Tai Chi.

Even for those three, they add limitations, as documented in one final quote from the Guide to Safe Scouting:

### **Judo, Tai Chi, and Aikido**

**If Scouts and Venturers practice defensive judo, Tai Chi, or aikido, it should be done with proper mats and with qualified instructors related to YMCAs, colleges, or athletic clubs whose objectives and coaching methods are compatible with the principles of the Boy Scouts of America.**

## **Using School- and Community- Based Events**

When planning your den or pack Academics program, be sure to check with local schools to determine whether they are planning any special academics-related events. Also be aware of any special community events or summer programs that might fit into one of the Academics areas.

Consider:

- School Science Fair
- Local parks and recreation department programs
- Area clubs
- Local government events (Government Day?)

Remember that individual boys may participate in community-based events, so parents need to be informed of these resources

### **Cub Scout Academics Fair “Loopapalooza”**

A Cub Scout Academics Fair provides Cub Scouts with the opportunity to learn skills in a variety of scholastic and artistic areas that they may not have explored before.

The Cub Scout Academics Fair is a pack event and requires planning and preparation, just like any other successful Cub Scout activity.

Avoid letting the fair become a full-blown competitive event. Remember that the ability and interest levels of the boys in the various Academics areas could vary significantly, so try to include something for everyone!

## **Other Opportunities for Incorporating the Cub Scout Academics and Sports Program**

- Parent Night/New Scout Sign-up Night
- Pinewood Derby
- Pack overnights
- “Go See It” outings
- Summertime Pack Events

**Want more information?  
Check out some of these sites!**

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

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

[www.boyscouttrail.com](http://www.boyscouttrail.com)

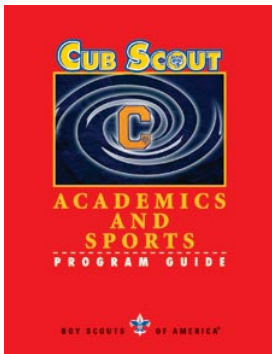
[www.scoutmaster.org](http://www.scoutmaster.org)

[www.geocities.com](http://www.geocities.com)

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

# Cub Scout Academics and Sports Program Price Sheet

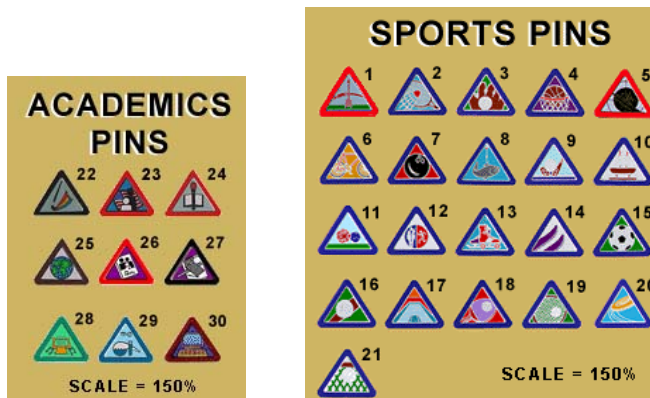
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\$7.49



Academics & Sports Belt Loops  
\$1.49 - \$1.59



Academics & Sports Pins \$1.39



Academics and Sports Letter  
\$2.59



Participation Emblem  
\$2.59

