

CUB SCOUT PACK 376

BEAR

Parent Guide

3rd Grade • 2026–2027 Scouting Year

Bears are third graders. They can handle longer walks, simple tools, and more responsibility within the den.

Welcome to the Bear year! Third graders step up to a one-mile hike, their first pocketknife (if they choose the Whittling elective), and more hands-on citizenship. Den and pack meetings carry most of the program, with a few at-home items. Here's the full year at a glance.

How Your Scout Earns the Bear Badge

To earn the Bear rank badge, your Scout completes all 6 required adventures below, plus at least 2 elective adventures of their choosing. Most of this is done together as a den at meetings and pack events. Your den leader tracks progress and gives final sign-off.

The 6 Required Adventures

Adventure	What your Scout will work on	Where
Bobcat <i>Character & Leadership</i>	Learn the Scout Oath and Law, help create a den Code of Conduct, learn the denner role and signs, and complete the child-protection booklet at home.	Den + Home
Bear Habitat <i>Outdoors</i>	Plan and take a one-mile walk using Leave No Trace — map the route, handle trash, spot wildlife signs, and be kind to others on the trail.	Den / Family
Bear Strong <i>Personal Fitness</i>	Sample food groups, do 30 minutes of stretching and moving plus 15 minutes of heart-pumping exercise and a relaxing activity, and review the health form with you.	Den + Home
Paws for Action <i>Citizenship</i>	Learn U.S. flag history and handling, national symbols, how a non-profit works, and take part in a service project.	Den + Pack
Standing Tall <i>Personal Safety</i>	Watch the Protect Yourself Rules video, complete the Personal Space Bubble worksheet, set a family device policy, and learn about safety gear.	Home + Den
Fellowship <i>Family & Reverence</i>	Talk about your family's faith traditions, attend a service, do an act of kindness, and learn about a different faith.	Family

Family & Reverence note: this adventure can also be earned by completing the religious emblem of your family's choosing.

Choosing Elective Adventures (pick at least 2)

Your Scout chooses at least 2 of these to round out the year. The den usually does a few of them together, and your Scout can add more for fun or to earn extra recognition:

Elective adventures

A Bear Goes Fishing • Balancing Bears • Baloo the Builder • Bears Afloat • Bears on Bikes • Champions for Nature • Chef Tech • Critter Care • Forensics • Let's Camp • Marble Madness • Race Time • Roaring Laughter • Salmon Run • Summertime Fun • Super Science • Whittling

Shooting Sports (Archery, BB Gun, Slingshot): optional electives that can only be earned at a council camp with certified instructors — not at regular pack meetings.

Year at a Glance — What to Plan For

Here's the quick summary of the bigger commitments across the 10-month scouting year (roughly September through June):

Overnights	None required to earn the badge. One optional overnight if your Scout picks the "Let's Camp" elective — the pack usually offers a campout you can use.
Service project	One service project. No minimum hours. The pack organizes at least one each year.
Outdoor / hiking	One one-mile walk practicing Leave No Trace.
Swimming & water	Optional only — "Bears Afloat" and "Salmon Run" involve paddling/swimming and require the BSA swimmer test with qualified adult supervision.
Shooting sports	Optional only — Archery, BB Gun, and Slingshot are available at council camps with certified instructors.
Parent involvement	Not required at every meeting. Note: the "Whittling" elective introduces a first pocketknife under close supervision.

What We Need From You at Home

A few items are done at home with your Scout. Everything else happens at den and pack meetings:

- Complete the "How to Protect Your Children from Child Abuse: A Parent's Guide" booklet activities (part of Bobcat).
- Watch the Bear Protect Yourself Rules video together and complete the Personal Space Bubble worksheet.
- Set a family policy for digital devices (part of Standing Tall).
- Review the BSA Annual Health and Medical Record together (part of Bear Strong).
- Talk about your family's faith traditions and attend a service or gathering.

Tips for a Great Year

- Come to den and pack meetings — that's where most adventures are earned.
- Watch for the pack calendar so you can plan around campouts, the Pinewood Derby, and service projects.
- Keep the handbook handy and celebrate each adventure as it's completed.
- Ask your den leader anytime you're unsure what's coming up next.

Questions? Reach out to your den leader or pack leadership — we're glad to help.