Planned Perseverance with Mitigations

This upcoming pack year is unprecedented in the amount of complexities and constant unknowns due to the COVID-19 global pandemic. The volunteers who lead and execute the pack’s program are fully aware of the concerns regarding our youth with this highly contagious disease. We fully understand many Cub Scouts currently enrolled have an important decision on whether or not to continue with the program. The Pack’s leadership fully supports and understands any decision which you ultimately adopt. Please understand, if at any time you wish to rejoin Pack 445, all attempts will be made to help facilitate the Cub Scout’s progression towards the next rank. However, if your decision is to remain with the Pack we will follow all CDC/BSA guidelines and policies. We fully support these guidelines and policies which is an attempt to elude and stop the spread of COVID.

Please read below for the following mitigation steps which are going to be implemented this Pack year (2020/2021):

1. All family members and cub scouts in Pack 445 are required to wear a face mask and maintain strict adherence to social distancing of at least 6 feet apart when face-to-face den meetings are occurring.

2. Den leaders have the right to choose virtual den meetings at any time if community conditions worsen or if there is a consensus with all members within the den for a virtual learning environment.

3. Den leaders who choose to execute face-to-face den meetings have the right to end the den meeting if mitigation efforts are ignored.

4. No more than 10 total personnel per gathering in a face-to-face den meeting to include the family member’s attending.

5. Pack 445 meetings on the third Thursday of the month are virtual until further notice.

6. Provide predictability more than 30 days out even with uncertainties towards community events.

7. Additional mitigation steps may be implemented if warranted by the Pack leadership.

Additionally, the pack fully understands the financial hardships which COVID has presented. Regrettably, we do know the cost for each Cub Scout’s membership has been raised by the BSA, and unfortunately at the worst possible time. Many attempts by our leadership have been made to contact BSA on these increases in membership, but to no avail. Therefore, the total cost to join this year per child is $78.00 and an additionally $12.00 if you want the Boys' Life Magazine. New memberships are ranged according to starting month. A new member starting in October would be $57.50 + (Optional $5.00 for Boys Life Magazine) and then an additional $78.00 for the rechartering fee. There will be follow on emails from the leadership on line-by-line costs for membership. Our attempt to help mitigate the financial burden is through the following changes below:

1. We are not collecting monthly dues, $10.00 per child, till January 2021.

2. Requirements to purchase uniforms is now suspended. WEBELOS Scouts are permitted to continue to wear their blues from previous years. Newly incoming or Cub Scouts who have outgrown their uniform are not required to purchase new uniforms.

3. Cub Scouts achievements which have been gained through participation in den meetings will be internally funded by the Pack. Additionally, the National Summer Time award and Cyber Chip will also be internally funded by the Pack. However, any additional achievements gained outside of the regular Den meetings WILL NOT be funded by the Pack due to funding limitations. The NOVA/STEM, as well as any other award/emblem WILL NOT be awarded until monthly dues resume and all registration fees have been met. Nevertheless, they can be earned and entered into Scoutbook.com as completed but the pack does not have the financial resources to purchase until monthly dues resume.

4. Community outreach sales, such as popcorn sales, are not occurring due to unnecessary risks towards the Cub Scout.

In conclusion, we the volunteers of the pack have decided to persevere and attempt to provide continuing opportunities for our youth towards becoming outstanding members of society. It is our hope to continue the Cub Scout program as best as possible through meaningful engagements either virtual or mitigated face-to-face interactions. We are hoping everyone will be able to be flexible, entertain innovative methods, and stay resilient through these complex and stressful times.

Please contact your Den leader if you have any circumstantial hardships towards this year. In essence, the communication lines between parent/guardian and Den leader is instrumental and vital on the continuous successfulness of the Cub Scout Pack 445 program. We are here to listen and attempt to overcome all unforeseen or known obstacles which may impede a child for attendance.

Yours in Scouting,

Matt Capps

Cub Master Pack 445