



BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA
SOUTH FLORIDA COUNCIL



IDEAL YEAR OF SCOUTING
CUB SCOUTS | SOUTH FLORIDA COUNCIL



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A GREAT YEAR
AHEAD!

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This guide and all *Ideal Year of Scouting* resources can be found online
www.sfcbsa.org/resources



BOY SCOUTS
OF AMERICA®



FRIENDSHIPS ARE BLASTING OFF



HOW TO USE THIS GUIDE

Every great project starts with a great plan. The same goes for Scouting. By following our proven *Ideal Year of Scouting* plan, you can expect to see...

- A stronger program for your Cubs at less personal cost to you
- Increased parental involvement
- More Cubs camping
- Better retention
- More funding with less time spent fundraising
- A simpler, easier and more enjoyable Scouting program

The *Ideal Year of Scouting* follows the BSA's Journey to Excellence recognition program. Think of Journey to Excellence or JTE as your scorecard for Scouting success. The Journey to Excellence scorecard (Page 6) will help you identify, quantify, track and report key factors to make the program you deliver even better for your Scouts.

Over the next few pages we'll guide you through the Journey to Excellence criteria and set you on the path to your *Ideal Year of Scouting*. If you have questions or get stuck along the way don't worry...we've got you covered! This guide and additional online resources are available at www.sfcbsa.org/resources. You can also contact us at 305.364.0020 and we'll connect you with a Scouting professional who can help you achieve your *Ideal Year of Scouting*.

JOURNEY TO EXCELLENCE QUALIFICATIONS

Complete the Journey to Excellence Scorecard and submit it to the council office in January.



FAMILY SCOUTING

Cub Scouting is now available to both girls and boys in Kindergarten through fifth grade. Starting in February of 2019, the program for older boys and girls will be known as **Scouts BSA**. Boys and girls who are part of **Scouts BSA** will be known as Scouts. Just as before, these Scouts will earn merit badges, go camping and work toward the Eagle Scout Award. The organization name, Boy Scouts of America, will not change.

Beginning during the scheduled launch of Feb. 1, 2019, girls can join all-girl troops. Boys can continue to join all-boy troops. Scouts BSA will not have any mixed-gender, or coed, troops.

So, what exactly does this mean for you and your pack? Here are the top 4 things to know about Family Scouting, and how we can work together to bring the benefits of Scouting to more youth while remaining true to our mission:

1. Meeting the needs of today's families

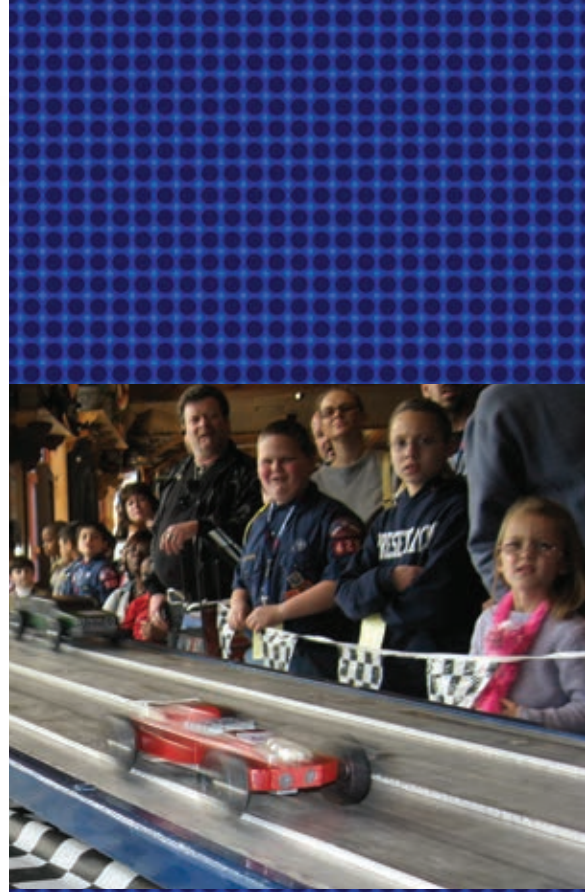
Our members – both youth and adult – consistently tell us that the values, character, and leadership skills taught through Scouting are needed for the entire family. In order to help meet those needs, BSA's traditional Scouting programs will be offered to all youth through Family Scouting. Independent research reinforces the requests the BSA has received from families interested in the type of programs that BSA offers for their daughters. According to the research:

- 90 percent of parents not involved with the BSA expressed interest in getting their daughter involved in programs like Cub Scouts.
- 87 percent of parents not involved with the BSA expressed interest in getting their daughter involved in programs like Boy Scouts.

2. Is this change a departure from the BSA's core mission and identity?

No. In fact, this aligns with the BSA's mission and values. Our mission is to prepare young people to make ethical and moral choices over their lifetimes by instilling in them the values of the Scout Oath and Scout Law, such as the importance of maintaining a sense of Duty to God and Country. To achieve our mission, we create innovative programs and evolve existing ones to meet the needs of today's families and deliver them through dedicated volunteers in communities across the nation.

Our time-tested curriculum will remain the same – BSA's program content and activities are appropriate for boys and girls alike, as are the current rank advancement requirements. As always, volunteers have the ability to tailor activities to meet the developmental needs and abilities of Scouts in their packs and troops.





3. Does this mean that Cub Scouts and Boy Scouts will be co-ed?

The BSA strongly believes in the benefit of single-gender programs, and the Family Scouting model builds on the benefit of a single-gender program while also providing character and leadership opportunities for both boys and girls.

These changes do not make our dens and troops co-ed. Moving ahead, we'll have boys in dens and troops, and girls in their own dens and troops.

In Cub Scouting, you can have a separate pack for girls, or you can have separate dens for girls and dens for boys in the same pack.

In the case of troops for older youth, you must have separate troops for boys and girls. A chartered organization may also have "linked troops," which means a chartered organization can have a shared troop committee with separate troop for boys and for girls.

4. Do chartered organizations have a choice whether or not to adopt the expanded program?

Yes. Chartered organizations always have the option to select from our numerous BSA program offerings. They can select all or one of the BSA programs that they feel best meet the needs of their members and the communities around them.

To learn more about family Scouting, head to scouting.org/familyscouting for the official fact sheets, news, and more.

Questions and Answers About Scouts BSA

Q: Will the name of the organization change?

A: No, the organization's name will continue to be Boy Scouts of America.

Q: When will the change from Boy Scouts to Scouts BSA be effective?

A: The scheduled launch date for Scouts BSA is Feb. 1, 2019.

Q: What will the members of the program be called?

A: Scouts — same as today. A boy or girl might say, "I'm in Scouts BSA. I'm a Scout."

Q: Will the Boy Scout Handbook be updated to reflect the new name?

A: Yes.

Q: What does the change to Scouts BSA mean for Venturing?

A: Nothing about Venturing will change. The BSA's program for boys and girls ages 14 to 20 (or 13 and done with the 8th grade) will continue as normal.

Learn more at www.scouting.org/familyscouting

LION PROGRAM (Kindergarten)

Cub Scouting's Program for Kindergarteners Now Available

Lion is transitioning from a pilot to an official Cub Scout rank and program taking effect for the 2018-2019 program year. Recognizing the success of the national Lion pilot program, the Boy Scouts of America's Board of Directors and the South Florida Council have approved integrating Lions into the Cub Scout program empowering chartered partners with packs to offer the experience to kindergarten-age youth.

As a Lion, your kindergartner will make friends, laugh loud, gain confidence, discover nature, and most of all...have fun! They'll experience the Scouting concepts of character development, leadership, citizenship, and personal fitness through engaging and exciting adventures!

Can all packs offer Lions?

Absolutely! Lions are official nationwide and in the South Florida Council, meaning all packs have the green light to begin recruiting new Lions and their families now.

The rank is an official part of Cub Scouting – just like Tiger, Wolf, Bear and Webelos. Lions offers a great opportunity for your pack to serve more families. Packs that participated in the Lions pilot program saw an 87 percent retention rate, steady growth and excellent parental involvement.

What are these new Lion adventure loops?

Lions, like their older packmates, will get to earn adventure loops. Over the course of a year, Lions will complete all five of the required adventures (compared to at least seven for Tiger and above). They also may complete one or more of the nine elective adventures.

Adventure loops are immediate recognition items, meaning packs should present them to Lions right away – not wait until a big event like a blue and gold. Adventure loops should be worn with pride on the Cub Scout belt.

Will Lions wear the blue Cub Scout uniform shirt?

No. They'll wear the blue Lion T-shirt and blue Cub Scout belt. The hat, neckerchief and neckerchief slide are optional and can be worn after the completion of the "Gizmos and Gadgets" adventure.

Do Lions now earn Bobcat first before working on the Lion rank?

No, Lions work on their Lion rank first. When they become a Tiger, they'll begin to work on Bobcat.

Where can I get more info?

Get the latest Lion resources and learn more at www.scouting.org/lion.

LIONS, HEAR THEM ROAR!



JOURNEY TO EXCELLENCE

Item	Objective	Bronze Level	Silver Level	Gold Level	Bronze Points	Silver Points	Gold Points
Planning and Budget					Total Points:		200
#1	Planning and Budget: Have a program plan and budget that is regularly reviewed by the pack committee, and it follows BSA policies relating to fundraising.	Have an annual program plan and budget adopted by the pack committee.	Achieve Bronze, plus pack committee meets at least six times during the year to review program plans and finances.	Achieve Silver, plus pack conducts a planning meeting involving den leaders for the following program year.	50	100	200
Membership					Total Points:		500
#2	Building Cub Scouting: Recruit new youth into the pack in order to grow membership.	Conduct a formal recruitment program by October 31 and register new members in the pack.	Achieve Bronze, and either increase youth members by 5% or have at least 40 members.	Achieve Silver, and either increase youth members by 10% or have at least 60 members.	50	100	200
#3	Retention: Retain a significant percentage of youth members.	Reregister 60% of eligible members.	Reregister 65% of eligible members.	Reregister 75% of eligible members.	50	100	200
#4	Webelos-to-Scout transition: Have an effective plan to graduate Webelos Scouts into Boy Scout troop(s).	With a troop, hold two joint activities or 75% of second year Webelos have completed "The Scouting Adventure."	60% of eligible Webelos register with a troop.	80% of eligible Webelos register with a troop.	25	50	100
Program					Total Points:		900
#5	Advancement: Achieve a high percentage of Cub Scouts earning rank advancements.	50% of Cub Scouts advance one rank during the year.	60% of Cub Scouts advance one rank during the year.	75% of Cub Scouts advance one rank during the year.	100	200	300
#6	Outdoor activities: Conduct outdoor activities and field trips.	Each den has the opportunity to participate in three outdoor activities or field trips during the year.	Each den has the opportunity to participate in four outdoor activities or field trips during the year.	Each den has the opportunity to participate in five outdoor activities or field trips during the year.	50	100	200
#7	Day/resident/family camp: Cub Scouts attend day camp, family camp, and/or resident camp.	33% of Cub Scouts participate in a camping experience or improvement over the prior year.	50%, or 33% and have improvement over the prior year.	75%, or 50% and have improvement over the prior year.	50	100	200
#8	Service projects: Participate in service projects.	Participate in two service projects and enter the hours on the JTE website.	Participate in three service projects and enter the hours on the JTE website.	Achieve Silver, plus at least one of the service projects is conservation-oriented.	25	50	100
#9	Pack and den meetings and activities: Dens and the pack have regular meetings and activities.	Hold eight pack meetings a year. Den or pack meetings have started by October 31.	Achieve Bronze, plus dens meet at least twice a month during the school year.	Achieve Silver, plus earn the Summertime Pack Award.	25	50	100
Volunteer Leadership					Total Points:		400
#10	Leadership recruitment: The pack is proactive in recruiting sufficient leaders.	Have a registered assistant Cubmaster.	Achieve Bronze, and prior to recruiting event, the committee identifies pack and den leadership for the next year.	Achieve Silver, plus every den has a registered leader by October 31.	50	100	200
#11	Trained leadership: Have trained and engaged leaders at all levels. All leaders are required to have youth protection training.	Cubmaster or an assistant Cubmaster or pack trainer has completed position-specific training.	Achieve Bronze, plus the Cubmaster and den leaders have completed position-specific training or, if new, will complete within three months of joining.	Achieve Silver, plus two-thirds of committee members have completed position-specific training.	50	100	200

☐ **Bronze:** Earn at least 525 points by earning points in at least 7 objectives.

☐ **Silver:** Earn at least 800 points by earning points in at least 8 objectives.

☐ **Gold:** Earn at least 1,050 points by earning points in at least 8 objectives and at least Bronze in #6.

Total points earned: _____

No. of objectives with points: _____

☐ Our pack has completed online rechartering by the deadline in order to maintain continuity of our program.

☐ We certify that these requirements have been completed:

Cubmaster _____ Date _____

Committee chair _____ Date _____

Commissioner _____ Date _____

This form should be submitted to the Scout service center or your unit commissioner, as directed by your council.

PROGRAM PLANNING

PLANNING & BUDGET

Utilizing Journey to Excellence criteria, the first step on the *Ideal Year of Scouting* path helps you develop an annual program plan, a budget to go along with that plan, and a fundraising plan to reach your program goals. The result is a well-managed, well-financed Scouting unit that spends time Scouting and not raising money.

DEVELOPING YOUR PROGRAM:

- **Brainstorm:** Hold a brainstorming session with Scouts and make a list of activities. Include a wide range of activities like field trips and service projects.
- **Evaluate:** The unit committee evaluates each suggestion and goes back to the unit with an “approved” list.
- **Vote:** From that “approved” list, have Scouts vote on their first, second, and third choices. The activities receiving the most votes should be put into your program plan.
- **Finalize:** Put the program plan to paper and into your unit calendar. Be sure to be transparent and share your plan with all families in the pack.

FUNDING YOUR PROGRAM:

So you’ve got a great program plan in place...but now how are you going to pay for it? To get started download the Pack Budget Planner at:

www.sfcbsa.org/resources

Four Steps for a Successful Fundraising Campaign

1. Establish an annual plan and budget using the Pack Budget Planner on the next page.
2. Determine the expenses from all activities, advancements, camping and training your unit wants to do, then decide how much campcards or popcorn your unit must sell to cover those expenses.
3. Set a pack fundraising sales goal and break down to a per-Scout-goal based on your budget.
4. Put together an exciting campcard or popcorn kickoff for your unit. Communicate sales goals and share prize program details. Offer additional incentives for Scouts to sell. For example, sell \$100 and you get to throw a pie in your Cubmaster’s face!

BEST FRIENDS MADE NIGHTLY



PACK BUDGET PLANNING

Income				
Program Expenses		Annual Cost per Scout/Unit	Number of Scouts / Adults	Total Unit Cost
Registration Fees	# youth + # Adults	\$40.00		\$0.00
Charter Fee	Yearly flat fee	\$40.00		\$40.00
Boys' Life Subscription	1/household	\$12.00		\$0.00
Advancement	Ideally 100% of youth to earn belt loops, pins, activity badges, etc.	\$25.00		\$0.00
Recognition	One for each youth (Thank you's, Veteran Awards, etc.)	\$10.00		\$0.00
Special Events	Blue and Gold			\$0.00
	Pinewood Derby			\$0.00
	Webelos Graduation			\$0.00
	Other			\$0.00
Special Activities	Location			
Field Trip A				\$0.00
Field Trip B				\$0.00
Field Trip C				\$0.00
Field Trip D				\$0.00
Camp				
Cub Scout Day Camp	Per youth			\$0.00
Bear Camp	Per youth			\$0.00
Webelos Camp	Per youth			\$0.00
Cub Family Camp	For Cub and Parent			\$0.00
Leader's fees				\$0.00
Program Materials	Ceremony supplies, den projects, camping items, etc.			\$0.00
Leader Basic Training				\$0.00
Reserve Fund	Registration Scholarships			\$0.00
Other Expenses	Contingency Funds			\$0.00
Total Budgeted Program Expenses				\$40.00
Income				
Annual Dues	(Monthly x's 9 to 12)			\$0.00
Surplus from prior year	(Beginning fund balance)			\$0.00
Other Income	(Parent payments, etc)			\$0.00
Income subtotal				\$0.00
Fundraising needed				\$40.00

JOIN THE PACK

MEMBERSHIP

BUILDING CUB SCOUTING

The next step on your path to the *Ideal Year of Scouting* is recruitment. Recruiting new youth is the lifeblood of our organization and is essential to ensure the longevity of any Cub Scout Pack. All packs should strive for an increase in Cub Scout membership annually and hold recruitment events year-round including their own School Night for Scouting.

SCHOOL NIGHT FOR SCOUTING

School Night for Scouting is our annual recruitment drive. From August to October, thousands of new youth will join the fun of Scouting at a School Night for Scouting. Your pack's School Night is one of the most critical events you will plan all year. Here are a few helpful hints to ensure your pack's recruitment night is a success...

1. Plan Your *Ideal Year of Scouting*

- Create annual program plan
- Tie plan to a budget
- Communicate plan to Scouting families during Parent Orientation Meeting / Program Kick-off

2. Have a Marketing Plan

- Get the word out about your School Night! Utilize marketing materials like fliers, posters, and yard signs provided at www.sfcbsa.org/resources

3. Offer More Ways to Join:

- Give families multiple opportunities to join. Conduct a recruitment event in August (School Night) as well as September and October.

4. Select Adult Leaders

- School Night should be about recruiting youth, not selecting leaders. Identify your leaders before the School Night or prior to your Parent Orientation Meeting.



SCOUT ME IN™

RUN WITH WINNERS

RETENTION BEST PRACTICES

While recruiting new youth is essential, it is just as critical to retain current Scouts. The Scouting program transforms lives! Packs should set a goal to rereg-ister at least 75% of eligible youth members each year. Use the following tips to strengthen your retention efforts.

- Attend a South Florida Council summer activity or camp. Studies show Scouts that attend camp are more likely to stay involved in the program.
- Every new Scout should advance in rank, earning at least Bobcat in the first 30 days of joining.
- Adult leadership in your pack should build an active relationship with the family of each Scout. Have conversations on a regular basis to discuss a Cub's Scouting journey.

WEBELOS TO SCOUT TRANSITION

The Scouting journey doesn't end for a Scout after earning Arrow of Light...in fact it's just beginning! It should be the goal of every pack to graduate every Webelos Scout into a Troop. Here are 5 tips to help this goal become a reality.

1. Develop a working relationship with the leadership of a troop or troops in the community.
2. Work with troop leaders to secure den chiefs for each Webelos den and Cub Scout den.
3. Work with troop leaders to plan and conduct Webelos overnight activities.
4. Work with troop leaders to plan visits to troop meetings.
5. Plan a meaningful crossover ceremony at the pack's blue and gold banquet.



PROGRAM

LEARNING FUN



CUB SCOUT PROGRAMMING

Another important component of the *Ideal Year of Scouting* is program. Program is the core of Scouting and encompasses everything from the outdoors to advancement. Exciting programs are why youth join and stay in Scouting! It's our job as leaders to make sure there's adventure at every turn of their Scouting journey.

ADVANCEMENT

Recognition is important to Cub Scouts! The Cub Scout advancement plan provides fun for Scouts, gives them a sense of personal achievement as they earn badges, and strengthens family understanding as adult family members work with youth on advancement projects. Advancement also keeps Cubs in Scouting longer. Packs should plan to have at least 75% of their Cub Scouts advance in rank each year.

Make sure every new Scout earns Bobcat within the first 30 days of joining.



CUB SCOUT CAMPING

Camping is an integral part of the Cub Scouting program. Whether it's a weekend overnight or a weeklong Day Camp, Cub Scouts who go camping stay in Scouting longer. It should be the goal of every Cub Scout Pack to participate in at least 5 outdoor activities each year. Packs should encourage all of their Scouts to participate in Day Camp or Cub Scout Camps each summer.

CUB SCOUT DAY CAMP

Day Camp is open to all Cub Scouts and will offer an unforgettable outdoor experience with activities ranging from shooting sports to science. Camp is held within your district and typically runs 4-5 days a week from 8:00 am - 3:00 pm daily.

Camp details, including dates, locations and fees, can be found at:

www.sfcbsa.org



SEE THINGS DIFFERENTLY

SERVICE PROJECTS

Giving back is an essential part of the Scouting experience. Community service projects are some of our best marketing tools and they send the message that Scouts are here and they're making life better for others. Plan to participate in at least 3 service projects each year with your pack and make sure you record your project and hours online at www.scouting.org/jte.

SAMPLE SERVICE PROJECTS

Place American flags on graves for Memorial Day • Assist agencies that provide food to those in need • Participate in caroling at a nursing home • Adopt a park • Send cards to servicemen and women • Plant trees • etc.

PACK & DEN MEETINGS

Youth in Cub Scouting meet regularly. Weekly den meetings are like stepping-stones: each week a Cub progresses a little further toward the next rank, learning skills as they go. The monthly pack meetings are like milestones that mark achievements along the Cub Scout trail and celebrate accomplishments along the way. Boring or unorganized meetings are the number one reason Cub Scouts drop out of Scouting! Don't fall into the trap of the same old routine. Below are some tips to make sure your meetings work.

1. Plan Your Meetings in Advance: Plan your meetings ahead of time with emphasis on the flow of activities.
2. Code of Conduct: Establish the rules that each meeting will follow.
3. Ceremonies: Ceremonies are important for marking the beginning and end of each meeting. They are also a time for reinforcing the aims and purposes of Scouting and bringing them together.
4. Immediate Recognition: Using immediate recognition is a method of encouragement along the advancement trail. Congratulate them enthusiastically for their efforts.
5. Scouts love goodies! Simple nutritious refreshments add a finishing touch.

Download Pack and Den Meeting plans at:
www.scouting.org/programs/cub-scouts



VOLUNTEER LEADERSHIP

S'MORES FUN



CUB SCOUT LEADERSHIP

Volunteers make the Scouting program go. The BSA relies on its dedicated volunteers to promote its mission of preparing young people to make ethical and moral choices over their lifetime by instilling in them the values of the Scout Oath and Scout Law. Ensuring adequate volunteer support is the final step in the *Ideal Year of Scouting*.

LEADERSHIP RECRUITMENT

Your pack could always use more volunteer help, right? But before you recruit a new leader, it is important to know what you need. Use the Pack Succession Planning Worksheet on the next page to find out what volunteer positions are vacant. You should also plan your succession strategy to make sure you identify future leaders now instead of later.

New recruits will also want to know their responsibilities and your expectations for them. Ask your pack families what volunteer positions they would like to fill. Use the New Parent Survey to help identify potential volunteers.

Download New Parent Survey at www.scouting.org

TRAINED LEADERSHIP

Every Scout deserves a trained leader. A trained leader is knowledgeable and more confident in the role being performed. Trained leaders exhibit a knowledge and confidence that is picked up by people around them. Trained leaders impact the quality of programs, leader tenure, youth tenure, safety, and a whole lot more. A trained leader is better prepared to make the Scouting program all it can be!

- Visit www.sfcbsa.org/training for the list of required trainings or to complete online training.

YOUTH PROTECTION TRAINING

The South Florida Council places the greatest importance on creating the most secure environment possible for our youth members. All adult volunteers are required to take Youth Protection training to learn about the BSA's Youth Protection policies, kinds of abuse, signs of abuse, and proper reporting procedures.

- For more on Youth Protection visit www.scouting.org/training/youth-protection
- Complete youth protection training online at www.MyScouting.org

PACK SUCCESSION PLANNING WORKSHEET

POSITION	CURRENT	NEXT	NEXT	COMMENT
CHARTER ORGANIZATION REPRESENTATIVE				
CUBMASTER				
ASSISTANT CUBMASTER				
ASSISTANT CUBMASTER				
COMMITTEE CHAIR				
SECRETARY				
TREASURER				
ADVANCEMENT				
MEMBERSHIP/ RECRUITING				
ACTIVITIES				
BLUE AND GOLD				
CAMPING				
CAMPCARD/POPCORN				

TIME WELL SPENT



PROGRAM RESOURCES

SUPPORTING YOUR MONTHLY UNIT PROGRAM

One of the most critical components of the *Ideal Year of Scouting* is making sure you have an annual program plan. If you are still looking for a few fun events for the whole Scouting family then look no further. For the complete list of Scout activities visit www.sfcbsa.org



BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA®
SOUTH FLORIDA COUNCIL

South Florida Council Tatham Scout Center

15255 NW 82nd Avenue

Miami Lakes, FL 33016

305.364.0020

www.sfcbsa.org

Hours of Operation:

8:30 am - 5:00 pm (M-TH)

8:30 am - 4:30 pm (F)



Miami Scout Shop

Phone Number: (305) 822-6287, Fax: (305) 823-8176

miamiscoutshop@scouting.org

Located in:

Tatham Scout Center

15255 NW 82nd Avenue, Miami Lakes, FL 33016

Normal Hours:

Monday – Friday, 9:00 AM – 6:00 PM

Saturday, 9:30 AM – 3:00 PM





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