

BACK TO PACK



What is the Back to Pack?

A Back to Pack is a leader-led kickoff event to re-engage families and launch the new Scouting year. It's the ideal time to share the calendar, expectations, and get your Den leadership squared away. Include fun activities to energize Scouts and help families feel welcomed and informed.



When are Back to Packs held?

Back to Packs are generally held as the first activity the Pack does in the new school year.



Plan for Success

What are the Benefits of Holding a Back to Pack?

- **Kick off** the new Scouting year by aligning leaders, families, and Scouts to ensure everyone is informed, excited, and ready to start the season on the same page.
- **Evaluate** leadership and den structure to confirm which leaders are returning, identify gaps, and assess which dens can accommodate new Scouts, ensuring smooth recruitment and planning.

How do we do it? There are several steps to a successful Back to Pack:

1. **Make it fun and convenient.** Pool parties, cookouts, and picnics are popular with families. Make it a "drop-in" event that lasts for several hours. Families can drop by before or after other events (like baseball) and still participate.
2. **Get it on the calendar.** Schedule it to take place in late August or early September, but get it on the schedule now so everyone can plan to attend.
3. **Get the word out.** Promote it to all families as the first activity of the new program year. Send an email to all registered Scouts and leaders 3 weeks before the event – include all registered Scouts (even if you haven't seen them in a couple months).
4. **Remind everyone.** Recruit a couple helpers to call all registered families in your pack the night before the event.
5. **Keep it organized:**
 - Stay organized by having your Pack roster, adult leader applications, and den rosters on hand. Check in families, confirm their contact information, and make necessary updates.
 - Assign roles by displaying a list of necessary jobs for the year (Blue & Gold chair, Popcorn, Advancement, etc.) and ensure every family signs up for at least one.
 - Collect registration fees and applications during check-in to streamline the process before the event starts.
 - Distribute your Pack's schedule for the upcoming quarter to keep families informed about upcoming events and deadlines.
 - Set up a welcoming area where families can check in and get information, ensuring a smooth start to the event.
 - Have fun! Encourage a positive atmosphere and engage families to create excitement for the year ahead.

4 PARTS
To Joining
Scouts

BACK TO
PACK

OPEN
HOUSE

SIGN-UP
NIGHT

PARENT
ORIENTATION
NIGHT

WASHINGTON CROSSING COUNCIL
Scouting in Southeast Pennsylvania &
Central New Jersey

