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Scouts setting up for Saturday Cuboree

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By **Dan Sokil**, *The Reporter*

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UPPER GWYNEDD — Several hundred Cub and Boy Scouts are in the process of setting up dozens of tents, nearly 20 games, and even a sailboat at Upper Gwynedd's Parkside Place complex.

They'll be camping out, playing games, and welcome all visitors through Sunday morning as Scouts take part in the annual Cuboree, hosted by West Point Scout Troop 152.

"All of my friends said 'The weather's not going to be great, are you sure you're going to go?', and I just say 'No, it's even more fun that way,'" said Scout leader Chris Nagele.

Chris and his father Rob Nagele are both Scout alumni and helpers with the host Troop 152, and Chris said he's been going to Cuboree since he was a 7-year-old Wolf Scout in 1989 - and over the years the attendance has risen and fallen, the technology kids occasionally sneak into their tents has changed, but the feel of the Cuboree is always the same despite whatever Mother Nature throws at the campers.

"My dad always says, 'There's no such thing as bad weather, just poor clothing choices.' Even if it's cold and rainy, the guys will have a great time," Chris said.

As he spoke, father Rob led parents from 20 of the 21 Scout troops in the General Nash Scouting district - which encompasses the North Penn and Souderton Area school districts - in setting up their campsites, unpacking and stowing gear, and preparing the games they'll man all day Saturday.

"All of these kids are going to spend the night outside, make new friends, and have a great time. What else can you ask for?" said Rob Nagele,

On Friday night, Boy Scouts of high school age and their parents worked to set up their tents, decorate gateways to their camp areas, and build the games they'll be manning on Saturday, when Cub Scouts from across the area - and anyone interested in becoming a Scout - will come to visit.

Starting at 9 a.m. Saturday the older Boy Scouts from each of the local troops will operate circus-themed games that the younger Cub Scouts will visit as they rotate through their campsites, getting to know the older boys and hearing about their activities and experiences.

"Each troop will have different activities at their campsite, a lot of the troops will have gateways up, demonstrating their abilities, showing off the stuff they do," said Chris.

"It's a nice way to see a lot of the troops' campsites, get to see how they function, and the kids come out and have a great time. Even the kids that are running the event have a great time running events for the younger guys," he said.

One of the newer sights they'll see is a sailboat manned by [Sea Scout Ship Nautilus](#), based at [Zion Mennonite Church in Souderton](#); ship captain Timothy Wile said his troop was chartered in late 2012 and lets older Scouts from ages 14-20 learn sailing skills on Lake Galena and other area waterways.

"We'll let the Cubs climb all over our boat, see the sails and maybe even

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the galley - pretty much everything except for the head," said Wile.

After a full day of activities for Scouts old and young, Saturday afternoon's activities will close around 3:40 p.m. with all of the boys digging into a 100-foot-long ice cream sundae, served on an aluminum-covered rain gutter and made up of 60 gallons of ice cream donated by Turkey Hill.

Only the Boy Scouts camp out Friday night into Saturday, but on Saturday night into Sunday the younger Cubs and their parents will also sleep overnight at Parkside Place - and for Scouts of WeBeLos (We'll Be Loyal Scouts) rank at the last step from Cub to Boy, that will help them meet one of their final requirements before moving up to the next age group.

"Some troops will use it as a recruiting tool, to have Cub Scouts join their troops, but it's more just really for the enjoyment of the Cub Scouts as a whole," said Terry Moyer, troop leader from Harleysville Troop 137.

His troop will have 32 Boy Scouts and five Cubs along with five parents camping out Saturday night until a closing ceremony on Sunday morning - and while entertainment is a large part of the weekend, so is doing good for others. The Scouts will be accepting food donations for the Nor-Gwyn food cupboard run by St. Luke's United Church of Christ, Rob Nagele said, "to hold them over until Scouting for Food starts in November."

That subsequent food drive, when Scouts leave empty bags at local homes and come to collect them once filled with donations, will run Nov. 9 to 16 and anyone who stops by the Cuboree can donate high-demand food items like spam, canned meat, and beef stew, he said.

Any Scouting-aged kids who stop by can talk to any troop they're interested in joining, and [can visit the regional district's website www.GeneralNash.org](#) to learn more about the troops in our area, or visit the [national Scouting homepage www.BeAScout.org](#) to find the troops closest to your area.

Chris Nagele said every Cuboree he attends as an adult brings back different memories of fun times as a kid, like his Eagle Scout project of painting the community room Troop 152 still uses for meetings: "My coat of paint is still the one on there, but the paint underneath it is what's starting to flake off."

Those Eagle Scout projects that serve the community are just one of many reasons to constantly recruit fresh Cubs, Rob Nagele said - they truly live the Scout slogan to do a good turn daily, and use district-wide events like the Cuboree to meet others their age who do the same.

"A lot of these kids who camp out here, all of a sudden when they get to middle school their neighborhoods expand, and they say 'Oh you're in this troop over here,' and find friends in Scouting that they didn't know," Rob said.



"We're trying to get more churches and nonprofits involved, because if you have less Cub Scouts, that means you'll have less Boy Scouts, and that means you're going to have less Eagle projects, so look at all of that service that's not going to get done out in the community," he said.

For more information on the General Nash District of Boy Scouts, visit [www.GeneralNash.org](#) and for more on the Boy Scouts of America visit [www.Scouting.org](#).

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