

JULY: PROGRAM PREVIEW

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GARFIELD: Hello, listeners, and welcome to the July ExploringCast. I am Garfield Murden, Senior Boy Scouting Specialist, with Senior Exploring Program Specialist, Kristen Falatko.

KRISTEN: This month will be all about the Exploring Program Preview.

GARFIELD: Program Previews are a lot like Scouting's Roundtable, so I'm interested in hearing about this myself.

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GARFIELD: And joining us for this discussion is Deanna Heisler. Deanna is currently the Exploring Executive for the Las Vegas Area Council, Western Region Area 6, and since she began a little over a year ago, the council has had an impressive 43 percent growth! Way to go, Deanna, and welcome to ExploringCast.

DEANNA: I appreciate it. I'm glad to be here.

GARFIELD: Let's begin. In a nutshell - what is the Program Preview?

DEANNA: The Program Preview is a great chance where the Exploring posts and clubs get a chance to showcase all the great things they have to offer all their new members and in their yearly program. Ideally, the Program

Preview is usually set up by the council. This can be something that's in conjunction with traditional Scouting too. The Scouting Program Preview helps give the Eagle Scouts another opportunity after they age out of the Scouting program. It's also another great way to encourage new charter partners, and don't forget to invite all of your advisors and volunteers.

KRISTEN: So, how often is a Program Preview held?

DEANNA: Typically, a Program Preview should occur in the late spring or early fall. It's very helpful to provide a reasonable amount of time for advertising for the event and coordination with volunteers so that they have enough time to prep for the upcoming school year.

GARFIELD: What's the purpose of going to a Program Preview? Why should our listeners attend?

DEANNA: Going to a Program Preview gives time for one-on-one question and answer sessions with the lead advisors and also a chance to see the youth leadership of the Explorer post or the Explorer club. It's a great way to learn about a program and there's no better people to learn from than the people making it happen. Even some of them have hands-on demonstrations available for a better understanding of what they get to learn about in the program as a member. This is also another chance for you to get some of those Eagle Scouts involved that have moved through the Boy Scout program.

KRISTEN: Oh, wow. You mentioned Eagle Scouts. I didn't even think of that. Did you, Garfield? *(Laughs)*

GARFIELD: No, I didn't, so that's why this is so fascinating and interesting. Can you explain a little bit more about the Eagle Scout connection?

DEANNA: Sure. Eagle Scouts, are groomed them to be leaders in the community. What better individuals to be part of our up-and-coming youth leaders in our community? Eagle Scouts know the program. They're ready to go out and serve. Just because they've earned their Eagle doesn't mean they're done giving back to their community.

KRISTEN: So, they're in the Scouting program and it's really different than the Exploring program, so tell me how would the Eagle Scouts know about the Program Preview and how to get involved and so on.

DEANNA: I would definitely go through a lot of our own District Executives or Scout Executives to help promote through the council. Make sure that those different avenues are filtering down into Roundtables; their own program planning opportunities. Make sure that it's accessible on your council website. You'd be surprised how many people want to come out and learn more about the program.

GARFIELD: It sounds like it also might be a great idea to invite some of the District Executives so they can actually see what a Program Preview is so they can talk about it a little bit more and maybe inviting some commissioners

so when they go back to their Roundtables they can promote it and talk about an opportunity for your Exploring advisors to be involved.

KRISTEN: Good point. Okay, Deanna, who develops and writes the content of the Program Preview?

DEANNA: A Program Preview, it's not just limited to one person providing the input. It's really best demonstrated by a variety of the 12 different career fields. It's also a great chance to showcase product fundraising, the Journey to Excellence Award for Exploring, community service opportunities, even summer activities. staff camp opportunities. Post renewal training, open houses – it just goes on and on. Don't forget about giving them information about the Career Interest Surveys.

GARFIELD: So, Deanna, I do have a question. Now, when the Program Preview takes place, is there an agenda and are there resources that get distributed for this event?

DEANNA: An agenda is a great way to keep it on track. That's a very good point. Sometimes having a speaker even to announce the opening of the Program Preview is a good idea. It kind of sets the tone of the event. Council Previews usually have a printed book, almost like an activity program, that highlights some of the information that's coming out of the event. You can have everything from flyers in there to training, activities, a calendar. Some program updates would be a good idea to put in there as well.

GARFIELD: Now, Deanna, how would you suggest the Program Preview be promoted?

DEANNA: You know, remember, we're working with a lot of young people here so promote your Program Preview online. Use social media outlets like Twitter and Facebook. Use your emails from your council and council websites. Word of mouth is always a great promotion of the Explorer program and it really helps get them involved in showcasing their own program. Make sure those high school and charter school career counselors are also invited so they can let their students know.

KRISTEN: So, it sounds like the Program Preview event is something that an advisor, any other committee member of an Exploring post or club should attend. but what if it's the case that, me as an advisor, I can't attend the Program Preview. What do you suggest would be a good alternative?

DEANNA: This is really something where the professional can get involved to give them a hand, to make sure they're always connected. Make sure the council's Exploring program has a great place to display readily available information for advisors or youth who might want to stop by the office. Keep an up-to-date council website and Facebook page. It really helps engage your volunteers and keep them active in upcoming activities and events. Make sure that you remind them to attend their quarterly meetings and get the word out too that it's easy to keep up to date on all the national events by going on the Exploring.org website. There are some really great resources to help expand their yearly program.

GARFIELD: Is there anything else about the Program Preview that you would like to share with our listeners?

DEANNA: I just like to look at this as another chance for exposure of the Exploring program. Networking events like this really help build your Exploring program and your council. Invite those people you've had discussions about the program with and want to get involved. You may end up with a new service team member, an activity opportunity, or even a new charter partner.

GARFIELD: Sounds like our listeners should take full of advantage of the Program Preview to make their Exploring program a great experience for both the advisors and the youth. Deanna, thank you so much for coming on ExploringCast.

DEANNA: You bet. Thank you.

KRISTEN: Thanks, Deanna. Now for all you Exploring Executives out there, here is a reminder that you should be in the planning stages of your Cultivation Event. Recruiting a Cultivation Event Chairman can really help you with all of those little details.

GARFIELD: Be sure to listen to the March ExploringCast for all the tips and tricks to ensure a successful cultivation event. The new Cultivation Event Guidebook can found on Exploring.org.

KRISTEN: For all you Post Advisors out there, is your post involved in any summer activities? Tune in to last month's ExploringCast for ways to really keep your post active in the summertime.

GARFIELD: There's still plenty of summer left, so as soon as this episode is done you should check it out.

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GARFIELD: And just like that, the July ExploringCast has come to an end. Thanks to Deanna Heisler for dissecting the Program Preview with us.

KRISTEN: And thank *you* for listening. Let us know what you'd like us to talk about or even just let us know how we're doing. Send us an email to exploringcast@scouting.org or a tweet to [@exploringcast](https://twitter.com/exploringcast). With that, I'm Kristen Falatko.

GARFIELD: And I'm Garfield Murden. Stay connected to the Exploring Program at Exploring.org where you can sign up for the monthly newsletter. Be sure to like us on Facebook, follow us on Twitter, and check out our Exploring YouTube channel.

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