

MAY – HOW THE NEW CUB SCOUT PROGRAM AFFECTS YOUR TROOP

Music Full then Under

LEE: Hello, and welcome to a brand new episode of ScoutCast. We're glad you could join us. Sadly, Paula Murphy's duties as Managing Editor of all three Boy Scout magazines will prevent her from participating in cohost duties. But I'm happy to introduce you to my new cohost, a guy whose blog you probably read every day. Please welcome, Bryan on Scouting blogger, Bryan Wendell.

(Applause)

BRYAN: Thanks, Lee. You know, I listen to ScoutCast every month, so I'm really excited to be here. What are we talking about this month?

LEE: It's May, 2015, and that means the new Cub Scout Adventure Program is ready to launch, and many of our listeners want to know how it affects them and their troop.

BRYAN: Let's get started.

LEE: I'll introduce our guest.

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LEE: Dennis Kampa is the National Camping School Task Force chairman and the president for the Rocky Mountain Council in Pueblo, Colorado. He's also the author of the BALOO Training and has taught several classes on the new Cub Scout Program at the Philmont Training Center. Dennis is a CubCast favorite, but now, he's here to help ScoutCast listeners know how the new Cub Scout program will affect your Boy Scout troop. Welcome to ScoutCast, Dennis.

DENNIS: Well, thank you. It's exciting to be here.

LEE: Dennis, what changes to the new Cub Scout program will affect the troop or Scoutmaster?

DENNIS: They're going to see a couple of different changes on several levels. First of all, better prepared Scouts. The kids who come through the new Adventure Program will have a longer exposure to Scout skills; for example, the map and compass and knots and first aid. It goes through the whole program now. It's not just concentrated at the upper ages. So even as Tigers, they are learning some of the basics for that. Another thing they're going to notice is that there is a lot of overlap between the Scout requirements and the Scout rank requirements and the Arrow of Light requirements, so that they should be able to get those brand new Boy Scouts their Scout badge pretty quickly. Another interesting thing that I think is going to happen is the Webelos will have a better understanding of how a troop should work. Part of the requirements for their Arrow of Light year, they have to complete a Scouting adventure which includes visiting a troop meeting, but it's much more than the previous version; this time they were looking for a progressive program across ages, meetings led by boys, and setting

patrol meetings, and a whole variety of things happening in troop meetings. So the Scoutmasters might have to put a little effort in and get ready to go for the new program.

BRYAN: You said that Cub Scouts coming into Boy Scouts are going to be better prepared, but what about the Scoutmasters themselves? What should they do to prepare for these changes?

DENNIS: Probably the most essential is they need to connect with the feeder packs - where they get their Webelos from. There's really a coordination needed between the pack and the troop to make this transition work. The other part of it is the packs are going to be needing help with some of the outdoor program skills, probably from an equipment perspective, possibly borrowing some gear, at least.

BRYAN: Uh-huh.

DENNIS: And then, borrowing people to help them learn the new skills, and that could certainly be Boy Scouts as well. So a real opportunity here to build better relationships between the packs and the troops.

BRYAN: Yeah.

LEE: You're absolutely right about that, Dennis. Prior to the new Cub Scout program, the Arrow of Light needed to be earned before advancing to Webelo; now, it doesn't matter. So how will that affect the Webelos-to-Scout transition?

DENNIS: The only real difference is that the fifth grade kid who joins Cub Scouting doesn't have to go back and earn his Webelos badge. He can jump right into the Arrow of Light requirements and can start it. When I was a

Scoutmaster, I felt kind of bad for the kid that wanted to join in his fifth grade year because you really didn't have a program for him, short of making him go back and do some things that he missed the previous year which doesn't exist anywhere else in the Cub Scout program. So, luckily, that change happened, and I think it's for the best. We can get those fifth graders into Cub Scouts and have them earn their Arrow of Light and move right on into a Boy Scout troop.

BRYAN: Okay. So the new Cub Scout program is all about these adventures. Are those adventures going to affect advancement at all when a boy gets into a Boy Scout troop?

DENNIS: It's going to be interesting to see how it goes. We pulled a lot of the Boy Scout requirements, especially Scout skill stuff, down into the Cub Scout program. So they should at least have heard about it before. We have Wolves and Bears doing map and compass, and first aid goes up through the whole program. So it should make advancement a little easier.

BRYAN: They're getting, kind of, introduced to the concept.

LEE: All right. Are there resources available to assist Scoutmasters with the new Cub Scout Program?

DENNIS: Well, as you can imagine, it's going to take a while to get everything updated to reflect the new program changes. In the meantime, the best resource for everyone is to go to scouting.org, and then go to the program updates page. There is listings of the actual requirements, so they can get a look at what the Webelos Scouts and Arrow of Light year kids are

doing. There's 30 pages of frequently asked questions that cover a lot of ground.

There are videos of the webinars introducing the program. The actual books in the Scout Shops.

Roundtable's a great place. We're putting out roundtable presentations each month with different topics pertaining to the transition year. So there's good information there. Probably every council has somebody who if they didn't go to a Philmont or Florida Sea Base Training last summer, they know somebody who did. We've trained an impressive number of volunteers out there in the new program; they should be able to help with the transition as well. And if nothing else, come out and join us at the Philmont Training Center again this summer. We'll have more programs going on dealing with this new program as well.

BRYAN: Dennis, you mentioned the program updates page at www.scouting.org/programupdates

That's a really important resource for everybody to check out. And also, I've got to mention that "*Scouting*" magazine's May/June issue has a cover story all about the new Cub Scout program.

But I want to ask you, Dennis - Is there anything else about the new Cub Scout program that's (going to) affect the troop that we haven't talked about or that you think our listeners need to know?

DENNIS: A couple things - I can't stress enough the importance of doing their homework. The Scoutmasters' troops are going to have to get involved with their local Cub Scout feeder packs and make this work. This should be a regular meeting. It shouldn't be a carnival put on just for the Webelos. One thing that's probably going to be critical is that you have a person on your committee, maybe an assistant Scoutmaster, that becomes your liaison with the Cub Scouts and keeps things going, keeps

lines of communication open, (be)cause, we want all those Cub Scouts to go into Boy Scouts and continue on the Scouting journey. It's going to take more visit planning. The current requirements is visit a troop, and it really wasn't much more than walk in, look around, and check the box. It's way beyond that now. The kids are going to be looking for progressive programs, they're going to be looking for boy-led units, and the thoroughly planned meetings. So, maybe some troops need to do a little work on their own to get to that point.

And the last thing I would like to encourage is that Scoutmasters and everybody really promotes adventures on a local level. So, what we have is, we have a program that will support say, swimming and boating, through the Cub Scout ranks, but that's an area where Cub Scouting hasn't been traditionally. So we're going to need districts and camps and councils to put on special events to make that happen. Maybe a day camp or resident camp or maybe just a fun Cub Scout aquatics weekend of some sort to earn that adventure and teach the kids some water safety.

LEE: Dennis, thanks for joining us and helping our listeners be prepared with how the changes to the new Cub Scout Adventure Program will affect a Scoutmaster and his troop. You were great.

DENNIS: My pleasure. Thanks for having me on.

BRYAN: Thanks, Dennis. Now, let's get a sneak peak at CubCast; then, we'll be back with Reminders and Tips.

(CubCast Snippet – The New CS Materials)

BRYAN: And now it's time for Reminders and Tips. Lee, you're the pro, so get us started, and I'll follow your lead.

LEE: This is a busy time of year for outings. So you need to get your Tour and Activity Plan completed. Units complete a Tour and Activity Plan when planning a local, national, or international adventure.

BRYAN: The plan helps ensure your unit is properly prepared, that qualified and trained leaders are in place, and that the right equipment is available. Every registered direct contact leader can complete a tour and activity plan application online. Just log in to www.myscouting.org, and select the Tour and Activity Plan under your unit tool.

LEE: Plus you should be recruiting your "popcorn kernel" or other fundraising coordinator right about now. The committee chair is the person responsible for appointing someone, but if you know someone who would make a good candidate, go ahead and pass the suggestion along to your committee chair.

BRYAN: Okay. I have to put in a quick plug for this month's *"Boy's Life"*. I visited Swamp Base, the brand-new high-adventure camp located deep in Louisiana's Atchafalaya Swamp and is operated by the Evangeline Area Council. Scouts who visit Swamp Base get to experience kayaking, fishing, air boating and a whole lot more.

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BRYAN: And that, ladies and gentlemen, brings us to the close of the May ScoutCast. Thanks to our guest, Dennis Kampa, for hopping the podcast fence from CubCast to be a part of this episode with us.

LEE: And thanks to you for listening, but don't keep all of the fun for yourself. Be sure your fellow leaders are tuning in as well. Join us next month as we examine how a unit can promote themselves in their community.

BRYAN: Hey, are there other topics you like us to talk about on ScoutCast? Let us know by sending an e-mail to scoutcast@scouting.org, or tweet us @bsascoutcast. With that, I'm Bryan Wendell.

LEE: And I'm Lee Shaw. Go ahead, tweet about us. You know you want to.

Music Full to Finish