

JUNE – THE NEW MEMBER COORDINATOR

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AMY: Hello everyone! I'm Amy Hutcherson, Webelos Den Leader and International Scouting Program Specialist, and joining me in this is very special June episode is...

BRYAN: Bryan on Scouting Blogger, Bryan Wendell. Hey, Amy, thanks for having me. Yeah, that's right. It – we have a representative from each podcast this month because this is such an important topic that we wanted every unit and every Scouting program to know about it. It's our crossover episode. It's like when CSI Miami and CSI New York cross over. Right, Amy?

AMY: Yes. All right. So get ready, everyone, as Ellie Morrison joins us to tell us all about the New Member Coordinator.

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AMY: Ellie Morrison's Scouting career includes a variety of unit leadership positions. She is currently the assistant Scoutmaster with Troop 308 in Waco, Texas. She also divides her time pretty equally between membership functions and commissioner functions, so it made perfect sense for her to serve on the New Member Coordinator Task Force. Welcome to our special CubCast / ScoutCast, Ellie.

ELLIE: Thank you so much!

AMY: So before we get started, you told our producers that Scouting is like a coin metaphor ...

ELLIE: Yes. Having gone back and forth between membership and commissioner service over time, I have come to see them as two sides of the same coin. The coin itself is the Scout, and membership reaches out and brings that Scout into Scouting. But it is commissioner service and the service to that unit that holds the boy or the girl in Scouting.

AMY: Oh, that's nice.

BRYAN: Can you explain to someone who might be a host of this podcast exactly what the New Member Coordinator is? *(Laughter)*

ELLIE: Oh, that's a good question. New Member Coordinators are a person or, better yet, persons – it's wonderful to have two or three people doing this – within a unit whose primary focus is that of welcoming the new youth and their families and getting them involved in the unit.

AMY: Why is it so important?

ELLIE: A lot of times, joining Scouting is an exciting time for families but it can be overwhelming too and sometimes even a little scary, and a lot of times new members just drop out of Scouting before they ever really get engaged. A New Member Coordinator helps them bridge that gap and helps them become involved in the unit much more quickly.

BRYAN: So, Ellie, what level are we talking here? Is the New Member Coordinator, is this a unit, district, council thing?

ELLIE: It's a unit position because they're going to be working directly with those new members that come to a unit. They'll also work with unit leadership and district membership chairs.

AMY: All right, Ellie, I want one for my unit. *(Laughter)* Like, right now. So how do I go recruit my New Member Coordinator?

ELLIE: We have some online training for units to help them understand the role of that position but also to help them identify people within the unit that already has those skills and is likely already doing a lot of those things.

BRYAN: So, how should the New Member Coordinator put themselves in the shoes of a new parent? Because a lot of these people probably have been involved in the program for a little while and it's hard to remember what it's like coming to that first meeting where you have no clue, like, what an Adventure Loop is or what any of the uniform pieces are. So, how can we encourage this person to understand how a new parent might feel and, and might be turned away by all the rules and commitments of Scouting?

ELLIE: I've been in Scouting a looong time *(laughter)* but I remember what it was like when I first joined, and the jargon made no sense to me, and all those uniform people were pretty overwhelming. *(“Uh-hm.”)* But there is a video that we have out welcoming to New Member Coordinators that will kind of help them go back through what it was they felt. We also have a resource

page with a bunch of stories on it where people can go back and read what other people felt when they first came in and the difference that a New Member Coordinator made for them.

AMY: When you're a new member and you first start in Scouting as a mom, I remember it being so overwhelming with the uniform and then the patches ...

ELLIE: Yeah, where does it go? (Laughter)

AMY: Where do all these patches go? Aaaaaa! So, Ellie, you mentioned earlier there's training for the unit on how to recruit a New Member Coordinator. Is there training for that actual New Member Coordinator and how they get started with their role?

ELLIE: Yes. We have a welcome video, which has been posted online, and there are three different trainings for each element of the role that they'll be pursuing. They will need to take the welcoming video and at least one of the elements of the job in order to get started, and then they can take those other two elements as they feel led to do so. In addition, there is some training for District Membership Chairs and DEs on how to develop and mentor the people in those positions. All of those things will be posted on the membership page of Scouting.org. That would be a great thing for you to blog about, Bryan!

BRYAN: Hey, that is a good idea. (Laughter) I'm getting a blog idea out of this episode too. This is a win for everybody. That's great. So, the New

Member Coordinator comes from within the actual unit. Am I getting that right?

ELLIE: Yes

BRYAN: Okay. So what if it's a brand new unit, do you have any recommendations for how they would find a New Member Coordinator?

ELLIE: I'd be looking for someone with a smile on their face and someone who really enjoys meeting people and welcoming them. It's kind of like hosting a party, and you want someone to love Scouting as much as you do. Those are really the requirements for the job.

BRYAN: Who doesn't love hosting parties, right, Amy? That's perfect.

AMY: Right, absolutely. I am so excited to recruit a New Member Coordinator for our unit here in Texas. Is there anything for our listeners' sake else that you would like to add?

ELLIE: This probably sounds like another recruitment idea for Cub Scouting but it's really intended for every unit, because regardless of how long you've been in one program, once you transition over to another one you're new!

BRYAN: Yeah, as the ScoutCast representative here, I did want to ask you about how this role is a little bit different at the Boy Scout level, and you kind of

just touched on it a little bit, but are there other things to watch out for if we're talking about a New Member Coordinator at specifically the troop level?

ELLIE: My grandson just transferred over to the Boy Scouts and we have a New Member Coordinator in our troop; well, he's latched onto her. *(Laughter)* And it's been a great relationship.

BRYAN: So what has she done that's made him want to latch onto her?

ELLIE: She welcomed him and then she made sure that he found the right patrol table to sit at. Even if they've been in Boy Scouting for a long time, when they transfer over into Venturing and Explorers there's a whole different culture, there's a different way of leading. The youth are expected to take on even stronger roles of leadership, and a lot of times they don't know how to do that, and a New Member Coordinator can make all the difference there as well.

AMY: Nice. So it sounds like the New Member Coordinator is going to be a big help for our leaders at every program level, Ellie, thank you so much for joining us on this special CubCast / ScoutCast crossover show.

ELLIE: Thank you so much. I appreciate being part of the group.

BRYAN: Okay, now let's check out this month's Safety Moment and then we'll be back with Reminders and Tips.

(June Safety Moment – Safe Use of Medication)

BRYAN: Okay, folks, here we go with this month's reminders. Now is the time that you and your troop should be camping. This is June; get out there. It doesn't matter where or for how long, just go camping, so get your guys to set down the Nintendo Switch and head outside for some Vitamin D. After all, that's what Boy Scouts are known for, right, Amy?

AMY: Right. And Cub Scouts have day camp, resident camp, and overnights. Tune in to our April 2013 CubCast for all the details of a successful camping trip, and the December 2015 CubCast will help you calm any nerves you may have about it.

BRYAN: If you're prepared to venture down the path of really becoming aware of your surroundings, then the Outdoor Ethics Awareness Award was made for you. Available to Boy Scouts and Venturers, this award is guided by the Outdoor Code, Tread Lightly and Leave No Trace. So you want to check out the January 2016 ScoutCast for all the information you could ever want about the Outdoor Ethics Guide.

AMY: And absolutely anyone can earn the World Conservation Award. Cub Scouts, Boy Scouts, Venturers – even leaders! There is a nice piece in the May/June issue of *Scouting* magazine all about the award, so check it out.

BRYAN: Plus it has a panda on it, right, so who wouldn't want to earn that?

AMY: Everybody loves panda.

BRYAN: That is true. *(Amy laughs)* So, okay, we have to talk about fundraising because you really should be recruiting your Popcorn Kernel or your other coordinators of those council products sales right about now. Your Committee Chairperson is responsible for appointing someone, but if you know someone who might make a good candidate, be sure to pass that suggestion along.

AMY: One more tip for Cub Scout leaders: You should be finalizing your plans for earning the Summertime Pack Award. Your June, July, and August activities should be ready to go.

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AMY: And that brings us to the close of this combined CubCast / ScoutCast episode. Thanks to our guest, Ellie Morrison, for being on the show.

BRYAN: Thanks to you for listening and thanks to Amy for this crossover episode. *(“Absolutely.”)* This was great. Tune in next month to ScoutCast as Lee and I will figure out how to recruit adult volunteers that are outside the unit. So, what’s going on in CubCast next month?

AMY: Thanks for asking, Bryan. Next month, CubCast favorite Dennis Kampa joins us to talk about Cub Scouts and Outdoor Ethics.

BRYAN: And I will be listening. So, folks we’re going to head back to our own separate shows now. So with that, I am Bryan Wendell.

AMY: And I'm Amy Hutcherson, with a quick reminder to head over to iTunes or your favorite podcast app and subscribe to CubCast or ScoutCast – or both! You'll be glad you did.

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