



Date: February 20, 2015

TO: Scout Executives, Camp Directors – Cub Scout Day and Resident Camps

FR: Bob Scott – Cub Scout Experience Manager

RE: Day Camp Guidance – New Cub Scout Program

We are excited to be introducing the new Cub Scout program beginning June 1st, 2015. Hundreds of volunteers have been working for the past three years to make the new program more dynamic and exiting for today's youth and families.

We are pleased by the exciting reception the new program has received, including one of our frequently asked questions: "What about day camps this summer?" The passion to embrace the new program is fantastic, yet we need to be realistic in how we approach the transition. From that perspective, the Cub Scout team would offer the following guidance and suggestions:

The overall purpose of day camps is to offer a fun experience and extend the participant's Scouting engagement. The purpose is not advancement. If advancement happens as part of fun engaging program, great! But it should not be the focus of camp.

If your day camp is already planned using the current Cub Scout program, including the Academics and Sports program THERE IS NO NEED TO REPLAN! While the Academics & Sports program will be discontinued, it will not disappear on June 1st. The folks at Supply understand the role of A&S belt loops and pins in day camp recognition and are committed to meeting your needs. *We would, however, recommend a discussion with your local council Scout Shop to make sure they are aware of your needs and have plans to meet them.*

If you choose to use the new Cub Scout program as part of the design of your 2015 day camp there are some things you will want to take into consideration:

One of the methods of Cub Scouting is adult association. Research indicates that a long-term relationship with a positive adult figure is a critical component for youth to develop into strong, resilient adults. In Cub Scouting this is accomplished by the den leader delivering a program of advancement in the den, focusing first on required adventures in the new program. The implications for day camp planning are:

- Focus day camp planning around elective adventures. There are 13 each for Tiger, Wolf and Bear and 18 shared for Webelos and Arrow of Light. And,





there is plenty of common content across ranks if mixed age groups are a part of your camp.

- Any use of the required adventures at camp, while not recommended, should be channeled to “partials” – requirements which may be difficult for dens to accomplish on their own. Camps will also need to develop a method which meets the approval of your council advancement committee of communicating partials to den leaders who are responsible for signing off on advancement for the boys in their dens.

Think about Aquatics! Each rank has one elective which is aquatic related, either swimming or boating. Camps with appropriate facilities are uniquely suited to help dens deliver these adventures. Access to suitable facilities, trained instructors and appropriately supervision can be barriers to these activities and council and district camps can really help.

For more information about the 2015/2016 Cub Scout program visit www.scouting.org/programupdates.

Thanks you for everything you do for Cub Scouts and for your support of the new program. If you have any questions please contact myscouting@scouting.org.

