

JULY 2015

Dear Roundtable Commissioner and Staff:

This **Resources for Packs and Den Leaders** session is intended to replace the current **July Cub Scout Interest Topic** in the *Cub Scout Roundtable Planning Guide* (2014 – 2015).

With the launch of the new Cub Scout advancement program in June 2015, it was recognized that the current three sessions on the new program may not be enough to prepare all leaders for the launch of the new program.

The new updates will be available at www.scouting.org/programupdates during the final week of each month.

TOPIC: Resources for Packs and Den Leaders

Participants will learn the following:

- The resources available to Packs and dens to support the NEW Cub Scouting program

Presentation Method

The topic is ideally presented as an onboarding session on the upcoming changes in the Cub Scouting program. In planning the presentation, you should review the latest materials posted at <http://www.scouting.org/programupdates>, which include PowerPoint presentations and handouts published by the National Service Center. Below is a discussion outline that should also be of help in your planning. For this supplemental training on program planning, you should review and refer the leaders to the tools available to them at:

<http://www.scouting.org/scoutsource/CubScouts/Leaders/ProgramPlanning.aspx>

OVERVIEW On June 1, 2015, the new Cub Scouting program went into effect. This was the most significant change in the Cub Scouts program since the introduction of the current Webelos rank in 1967. Over the past six months, roundtable sessions were available to help all leaders prepare for the launch of the new program materials.

YOUTH Youth handbooks:

RESOURCES

- Completely revised and re-written
- Serves as the youth's guide through the program
- Outlines advancement system
- Outlines additional available recognition
- Written with youth interests in mind; feedback from adults and youth.

Comments from units as to how they responded to the new materials:

Nearly late to church yesterday because my Bear - who got his book on Saturday - was floating eggs in water when I came out of my bedroom ... "just doing an investigation, mom". Looks like the leaders aren't the only ones anxious to get this started!

I was at my troop meeting last night and was talking to a new parent who has 3 boys, the oldest of which just joined our troop. She is in love with the new Cub Scouting program. Her middle child wanted to drop out of Scouting. After seeing the new books, he became really excited about Cub Scouts. Her 1st grade Tiger is not a reader by any means, but he sat down after she bought the new book and was mesmerized. He was fascinated by it. The 5th grader, who just crossed over, wanted to go back and be a Webelos again in the new program.

C___, (third son to take part in program), wearing his plastic armor, just brought his Tiger book to me to read the Knight Adventure section. He is more than a little excited about being a Cub Scout, and I think the new Tiger program is definitely an improvement over the old one!

**KEY DEN
LEADER
RESOURCES**

New leader guidebooks

- Designed as a “one stop” reference to lead the new Cub Scouting adventures
- Preserves historic den meeting structure
- Full set of resources to organize and lead den meetings
- Materials may be “passed down” to leaders using the program the following year
- Pilot testing affirmed that leaders were able to use the program materials to efficiently plan and deliver the den meetings as designed

Comments to date:

I love the _____ listed at the beginning of each adventure in the book. I know the authors worked hard on those as they created the adventures, but including them for us to see is also great. It helps us answer questions from parents and helps us prepare for each meeting.

I LOVE the way the beginning of each Den Leader Guide reinforces everything we say in the Den Leader training. I can't wait until I can get my hands on enough copies to use them IN training. And for those Den Leaders who can't access face-to-face training, everything they need is right in the guides.

I just pulled out the Tiger Den Leader Guide and successfully explained the entire program to Mike, including rank advancement and recognition for Tiger, Wolf, and Bear in less than five minutes. It took me one more minute to add on Webelos and Arrow of Light.

I'm not giddy about the new program or anything. Nope, not at all. Those Den Leader Guides are amazing! I want to go back to C___'s Tiger year and pat my poor beleaguered new leader self on the head and tell her it'll be okay. Of course C___ has moved on to Boy Scouts and we don't start the new program until June. I'd be just a tad bitter if I didn't have D___ waiting in the wings...

- CUBMASTER RESOURCES**
- Pack Meeting Plans
- Pack meeting plans for the 2015-2016 and 2016-2017 Cub Scouting years are now available at:
<http://www.scouting.org/scoutsource/CubScouts/Leaders/DenLeaderResources/DenandPackMeetingResourceGuide/PackMeetingPlans.aspx>
 - From the Cubmaster’s Minute to resource lists, you’ll find everything you need to lead fun and engaging Pack meetings.

- DEN AND PACK LEADER RESOURCES**
- Substantial Revisions
Leader Book
- Key resource to operate a Cub Scouting Pack
- Ceremonies Book*
- Additional Ceremonies for den and Pack meetings
- Terminology Revisions
Leader How-To Book
- Additional program resources to supplement den and Pack program, the How-To Book now reflects the terminology used with the new Cub Scouts adventures
- BALOO*
- BALOO continues to serve as the required training to lead Pack camping; the new training syllabus now reflects the terminology used with the new Cub Scouts adventures

- TRAINING RESOURCES**
- In person position-specific training has been updated to support the new program materials; each is available via <http://www.scouting.org/Training/Adult.aspx>
- *Den Leader Position-Specific Training.*
This course is intended to provide Tiger, Wolf, Bear, and Webelos den leaders with the information and tools they need to conduct successful den meetings. Den leaders who complete the Tiger, Wolf, Bear, and Webelos training, along with Youth Protection Training, are considered “trained” for their position.
 - *Cubmaster and Assistant Cubmaster Position-Specific Training*
This course is intended to provide Cubmasters with the information and tools they need to successfully lead a Pack. Cubmasters and assistants who complete this training and Youth Protection Training are considered “trained” for both positions.
 - *Pack Committee Challenge—Pack Committee Position-Specific Training*
The Pack Committee Challenge is designed for Pack committees, and is the course (along with Youth Protection Training) Pack committee members need to complete to be considered “trained.”
- Online training
- New training materials are being readied for release to provide a completely new training program. Content is structured in smaller pieces to allow leaders to take the training when time is available. It will make training accessible when they want it, and how they want it.

- Training is also organized based on the leader’s needs – in categories such as “Before Your First Meeting”, “First 30-Days”, “First 90-Days”, and “Trained”.
- The training will be available this Fall through my.scouting.org.

LEARNING LIBRARY

In addition to formalized training, a new on-demand learning resource will launch this Fall to assist leaders in delivering fun and engaging meetings. From den meeting plans, to ideas on executing the new adventure requirements, the “Learning Library” will be a resource that leaders and parents alike can access to find information about the Cub Scouting program. Launching this fall at www.cubscouts.org

CLOSING

Focus on fidelity.... using the materials to support and deliver the program as designed

- All materials were designed to help leaders deliver a program that is more fun for boys and simpler for leaders to implement
- Use the materials as designed to support a great program to see enhanced retention for both boys and leaders

CLOSING REMINDER

For ongoing updates, visit <http://www.scouting.org/scoutsource/programupdates.aspx> for regular program updates and links to program materials and training opportunities.