

## **MAY –THE NEW CUB SCOUTING MATERIALS AND HOW TO USE THEM**

### **Music Full then under**

AARON: Welcome, everyone, to the May 2015 Cubcast. If you're a regular CubCast listener, as you should be, you're already familiar with the episodes we've had to prepare you for the changes coming to Cub Scouting and the release of all of the new Cub Scout Adventures.

PAT: We've mentioned in those episodes that there are new handbooks and guides, but maybe we need to do a more in-depth discussion about what they are and how to use them effectively.

AARON: Speaking of new books, here's something from the *Think & Grin* section of *Boy's Life* magazine. Ready? What kind of books do cars write?

PAT: Let's see...Let me think a minute...Oh! I know! Auto-biographies!

AARON: Very good! Now let's get this show on the road....

### **MUSIC FADES**

AARON: Nancy Farrell has served in every Cub Scout unit leadership position. She also served as District Roundtable commissioner, District Training chairman, and Pow Wow chairman. She has been active on the national

level having served on the National Supplemental Pack Meeting Plans, Cub Scout Online Training Task Force and Cub Scout Themes Task Force. In fact, Nancy has participated in many CubCasts focusing on those themes. She currently serves the Denver Area Council as the Cub Scout coordinator for the National Program Development Committee and is a committee member on the National Cub Scout Experience Committee. She continues to serve as the chair of the National Cub Scout Adventure Development Team. Welcome back to CubCast, Nancy.

NANCY: Thanks for having me.

AARON: Now, we've been talking a lot lately about new materials for Cub Scouts. Can you tell us what we mean exactly by "new materials?"

NANCY: We mean the new Cub Scout program materials that have been developed for not only our use but for our leaders as well. And these materials are going to really bring us into a more relevant program for what our boys need for today.

PAT: Nancy, what's new for our leaders?

NANCY: Oh, gosh. I'm so excited to share with you that we have for each level of program, the Tiger, Wolf, Bear and the Webelos and Arrow of Light, a newly developed den leader guide specific for each rank. Now, these

guides are going to replace the *Den & Pack Resource Guide* that we are currently using. And they're really specific in that they're going to bring life to those adventures that we promise in the youth handbooks.

You're probably wondering, "How is it different than we're currently using?" I'd encourage the leaders to purchase and obtain the rank-specific guide for the rank they're working with, to read through the entire guide, and it may take more than an hour, but we want you to really get a good idea and orient yourself with the materials because they are different than what you're used to. They've been built-up to support you better than ever before.

Once they open up that guide, they're going to get a foreword that is an overview of Cub Scouting and helpful hints on leading den meetings. The end is a great appendix that has additional support materials to hold the den meetings. Right in the middle of that are the den meetings for each of the adventures.

There's a few new items that leaders will find when it comes to the actual den meeting plans. As they look at each adventure, they're greeted with an overview first of what the adventure is. As part of that, they have the purpose of this adventure and how does it fit into the Cub Scouting program.

Next, is a list of takeaways that we want them to review so that they can get a good idea of what it is that we hope that Cub Scouts will gain from the adventures as they complete them. Part of those takeaways is a new character compass icon that will show up not only in the den leader

guides, but it'll show up in the youth handbooks. Now, the character compass icon shows up whenever the point to the Scout law is brought about naturally in the adventure. And we can help emphasize and teach the boys naturally about the points of the Scout law. So having that icon as part of the takeaways will let the den leader know in that adventure and in those den meeting plans that they really should focus on that point of the Scout law and help educate the boys about that point of the law. There will be a note to den leader's callout box, and this will be a helpful hint, right up front, to the leaders as they get ready to plan for that month adventure, items that they need to know ahead of time and to really prepare for in addition to preparing for the individual plans.

AARON: Lots of new stuff for leaders, that great.

NANCY: Next come the actual plans themselves. They're broken out for the seven parts of the den meeting plans; however, they've really been enhanced and built up. We learned and we listened to leaders from across the United States that told us that they wanted everything right there as part of the plan. They didn't want to have to go elsewhere to look up ceremonies or gathering activities. So these den meeting plans really are comprehensive in that everything they need, including activities; all of the how-to; all of the instructions is right there as part of the plan. And a neat design that we've added to this is that right after each plan is a resource page with everything they need. And if there is a do-at-home reminder

for the den leader to know that there are parts of these requirements that need to be done at home, there's a really cool new icon that they'll pick up on and say, "Oh, we have a do-at-home reminder here." But the resource page will also provide that template or that at-home page that they can reproduce and then get to the boys and their parents. We're trying to make it easier for the leaders and have everything right there at their fingertips.

Aaron: Now, let's talk about, a little bit about what's new for youth. I have a son named Ethan, and I can't confirm or deny whether or not there's a different Ethan that maybe Cub Scouts are going to get to be knowing over the next, hopefully, few years. Can you talk about Ethan a little bit, and what's new for youth?

NANCY: Oh, absolutely. Each of the ranks have a new handbook and Ethan is part of each of those handbooks. He is a new member of the Cub Scout team, and he is a friend to all of the Cub Scouts. He shares with them, not only about his experiences, but he also helps mentor them through the book. We have some new photography in there of actual Cub Scouts from across the United States. There's been new drawings and graphics put in there, and all of the whole entire look is really (going to) appeal to boys.

PAT: So, Nancy, how will Ethan help Cub Scouts?

NANCY: As a Cub Scout learns a new skill and works on an adventure, Ethan is right there to support them and encourage them and give them helpful tips. He even will share funny stories that happened to him when he was working on those adventures. He's just right there to mentor them and be with them in each of the ranks all along the way.

He's year older in each of the handbooks. So, for example, in the "Tiger Handbook," Ethan is a Wolf Cub Scout. So he can really share not only his experiences that he had as a Tiger, but he can also help give them glimpses of what is coming up in the Wolf rank and things to look forward to. In the *Webeles and Arrow of Light Rank Handbook*, he's going to share experiences that he's having as a Boy Scout and the fun that's going to await them as they transition into the Boy Scout program.

AARON: Are there any other resources outside of the handbooks, like say the *Songbook*, that are still available?

NANCY: There are still resources available like the *Songbook*. Many have gone through an update and a revision. The *Cub Scout Leader Book* is still our primary resource book on how Cub Scouting works for all leaders, and it has gone through a thorough revision and got a new cover. The *Cub Scout Leader How-to Book* and the *Ceremonies for Den & Pack* have been updated and have a new cover as well. And the *Songbook*, as you mentioned, and the *Group Meeting Sparklers* are still good resources.

They've not needed any kind of updating but are still used to enhance the Cub Scouting program.

PAT: Nancy, where can a leader or parent find these materials?

NANCY: For the new youth handbooks and the new den leader guides, a parent or a leader can go to their local scout shop. They can purchase them online either through Amazon or through ScoutStuff.org, which is our national supply website for the Boy Scouts of America. Now, the other materials, the *Cub Scout Leader Book* and *Ceremony, Songbook, etc.*, they can be purchased through the local scout shop or through ScoutStuff.org.

AARON: Now maybe I am used to reading eBooks, books electronically, on my phone or my iPad or my Kindle. Is the new stuff available electronically at all?

NANCY: Yes, it's exciting to share with you that with this new handbook and new den leader guide, they will be available through eBooks on Amazon.

AARON: Cool. Anything else about the new materials that we haven't talked about that you think ought to be shared with our listeners?

NANCY: Some of our listeners may not know that the Cub Scouts, actually, are the ones that chose the covers for the handbooks. They were shown many

designs, and they really feed into that wood-burning, so they chose the covers. We wanted to make sure that the den leader guides were written with the feedback incorporated that we heard from the field that they wanted easy-to-use plans, but they wanted them to be comprehensive. They wanted everything right there at their fingertips and not have to go outside the den leader guide for the resources to get the materials to make it easy and have everything right there for them to plan the meetings.

I'd also encourage our listeners: If you have not been on the program updates page of [scouting.org](https://www.scouting.org) to do so. There's all kinds of resources and information about the new program, and it's constantly being updated, and if you have been on it but haven't been there in a while, check it out. There's all kinds of new updates that happen all the time. One of my favorites that just happened recently was the images and artwork bullet that you'll find under the Cub Scout section, and that provides a link to all of the insignia, all of the adventure belt loops and pins, the new Tiger rank insignia, there's some pictures of Ethan that you can use, some graphics and guidelines on how Ethan should be used.

AARON: Wow, some pretty exciting things happening with the Cub Scout program, Nancy, and it sounds like all the new handbooks and all the guides are going to make it really easy for leaders and parents and kids to get the most out of it. Thanks for coming on CubCast, Nancy.

NANCY: You are welcome!

PAT: Now, before we get to Reminders and Tips, let's listen in on ScoutCast.

**(May Scoutcast snippet: How the New CS Program Affects Your BS Troop)**

PAT: Gee, that sounds like an interesting topic. But before you head off to ScoutCast, it's time for our Reminders and Tips. Would you like to start us off, Aaron?

AARON: Now, this is a busy time of year for outings. So you need to get your tour plans completed. Packs should complete a Tour and Activity Plan when planning a local, national, or international adventure.

PAT: This tour plan helps ensure the unit is properly prepared, that qualified and trained leaders are in place for the tour.

AARON: Check with your local council for the policy regarding when a Tour and Activity Plan is required; however, it is recommended that Cub Scouts obtain permission slips from parents before going on any outing.

PAT Every registered, direct contact leader can complete a tour plan application online. Just go to [scouting.org](http://scouting.org) and type "tour plan worksheet" in the search field.

**Begin Music Under**

PAT: We are so glad you joined us this month. Thanks to our guest, Nancy Farrell, for helping us with all the new materials we need for great Cub Scout program.

AARON: And thank you for listening. Is there anything else you'd like to hear on Cubcast, just send us an e-mail to [cubcast@scouting.org](mailto:cubcast@scouting.org) or a tweet to @cubcast. Until then, I'm Aaron Derr.

PAT And I'm Pat Wellen. We look forward to hearing from you.

**Music Full to Finish**