

JULY: NEW STEM AWARD REQUIREMENTS

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AARON: Hello, everyone. It's the middle of the summer, but we're so glad you found time to click on the July CubCast.

PAT: Back in May of 2014, CubCast had a wonderful episode with Teresa Colletti on incorporating STEM into your den and pack meetings. It was chock-full of experiments and activities so the boys can have lots of fun while secretly learning about science.

AARON: The BSA STEM program is so successful that they decided to make the program even better. So as soon as the music fades, Teresa Colletti is back with us to chat about the new STEM requirements.

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AARON: Teresa Colletti began her service with the Greater Saint Louis Area Council as a Tiger Cub leader. In 2012, she became STEM coordinator for her council's STEM activities and has also served in various capacities associated with STEM at the district, council, and national levels. As the council training chair for STEM, her committee has trained more than 300 Scouters on the program and mentored ten Cub Scouts from three different packs to receive the Supernova award. Welcome back to CubCast, Teresa.

TERESA: Thank you for having me. I'm very excited to be here.

AARON: Start us off real quick. Remind our listeners what STEM stands for.

TERESA: STEM stands for science, technology, engineering, and math.

PAT: What is the BSA's initiative with STEM?

TERESA: The STEM initiative that BSA is taking on (is) to encourage the natural curiosity of our youth in these fields through existing programs within Cub Scouts, Boy Scouts, Varsity, Venturing and Sea Scouts. We live in such a great time of opportunity, and the spirit of innovation helps us to overcome challenges. Our country however (is) falling behind in the STEM world. Many professionals and educators in science, technology, engineering, and math believe the U.S. should do more to encourage students to enter STEM-related fields. The U.S. Department of Labor shows that of the 20 fastest-growing occupations projected for 2014, 15 of those require significant math or science preparation. So the BSA's STEM program is not to replace traditional Scouting. It's just to encourage our youth to consider STEM fields for their future. It's a supplemental program to enhance all the wonderful things that Scouting already provides.

AARON: And we're talking today, Teresa, about the new STEM requirements. So fill us in now exactly: Requirements for what now?

TERESA: Okay. The STEM awards within BSA, specifically Cub Scouts and Webelos, include both Nova and Supernova awards. The Nova awards are intended to be an exploration of a topic in science, technology, engineering, or math where the youth works with a Nova counselor. There are two Supernova awards: The Luis

Alvarez Award is for Cub Scouts, and the Charles Townes Award is for Webelos. Both of the Supernova awards are a more in-depth exploration of STEM where the youth member works with a Supernova mentor. And since the Cub Scout and Webelos programs are changing, the STEM program must change as well.

PAT: So what's changing?

TERESA: The four Novas and the two Supernovas contain requirements for belt loops and pins. With the change to the Cub Scout and Webelos program, those are being replaced by adventures, and the STEM program has replaced those belt loop and pin requirements with an appropriate adventure requirement.

AARON: And when do these updates go into effect?

TERESA: Between June 1st and December 31st of 2015, Cub Scouts and Webelos will have the opportunity to earn Nova's and/or Supernova awards using either set of requirements. Any youth who has not completed the requirements prior to December 31st, must switch over to the new requirements.

PAT: Is there anything staying the same?

TERESA: Everything else, actually, will stay the same. The other requirements may look aesthetically different, but the requirement itself and the intent is the same as it was when the program was rolled out nationally in the summer of 2012.

AARON: Talk about the resources that are available to help den and pack leaders learn more about STEM and the related awards.

TERESA: The best place to learn about the changes and the STEM awards is at www.scouting.org

Look for the STEM button and click on it, and there you can find the Alvarez Supernova Award changes under the Cub Scout tab, and the Townes Supernova changes are under the Webelos tab. Just remember, both the Cub Scouts and the Webelos can earn the Novas. In addition, many of our councils and our districts have STEM committees or STEM chairmen. Those folks are a phenomenal resource at a local level, and they can provide help. Especially if you can't find the answers to what you are looking for on the national website, go to your local council and look for those. A final resource and a really great opportunity will be to take a STEM class at one of the national training centers. The Philmont Training Center's offering courses in September. And so those are also great ways to get a good handle on what the STEM program is.

PAT: As a leader, what would I get from that training?

TERESA: Oh, it's a fabulous opportunity! What you would get is you would understand how the STEM program fits in with the rest of Boy Scouts of America. So you would see not only where it would fit for your den, but also for your pack, for the troop, for the local council, for the district, and you would find a lot of great ways to build your program.

You also form a wonderful network of other Scouters across the country, and you can learn what works well for them, what didn't work for them, and you can shamelessly take their ideas and use them for yourself and share those within your network as well. So it builds a stronger network, gives you lots of great ideas and people to contact for things that maybe locally you can't solve yourself.

PAT: Is there anything else about the new STEM requirements that we haven't talked about that you think ought to be shared with our listeners?

TERESA: I actually have a couple of items. Probably one of the more important things to remember is that while Scouts can earn the Novas and Supernovas using the old requirements through December 31st of 2015, the belt loops and the pins are eventually going to be phased out. So the closer you get to the end of December, you need to think about that ahead of time to make sure that you can obtain those for your Scouts.
The second item is just to let everyone know there are new Cub Scout Nova modules electronically so that's pretty exciting and those will include the new adventures.

AARON: The STEM program is so cool that *Boys' Life* is actually doing a special STEM issue in September. So Teresa, thanks so much for coming on the show and filling us in on the new requirements that we need to focus on to get those Nova and Supernova awards.

TERESA: Thanks for the opportunity to share these changes. It's a great supplement to the Scouting program, and we're glad it's a part of it.

PAT: Now, don't go anywhere. We'll be right back with Reminders and Tips right after the sneak peak of the July ScoutCast.

(July Scoutcast snippet: The Secret to Recruiting)

PAT: Okay, Aaron. Time for July Reminders and Tips.

AARON: You should be in the middle of completing the requirements for the Summertime Pack Award. A pack can earn the award by doing three pack activities when school is out for the summer. One activity each in June, July, and August.

PAT: Hopefully, you had a pack activity in June. Qualifying packs get a colorful streamer for their pack flag. Dens that have at least half of their members at the three summer pack events can earn a den ribbon. Pack members who take part in all three events are eligible for the National Summertime Pack Award pin.

AARON: In case you've forgotten, there's still time to earn the Hornaday Conservation Award. The Hornaday Award program encourages learning about natural resources, conservation, and the environment. A Cub Scout pack can earn this award by doing a big, special conservation project.

PAT But remember, more than half of pack members have to participate to make the pack eligible. Your pack applies for the Hornaday Award through your local council.

AARON: That award helps a den or pack learn to be more concerned about their environment and to help them protect it for future generations. You can find the requirements to earn the award by going to www.scouting.org

PAT: Next, your fall program planning should be completed by now including your calendar for the entire upcoming year's activities and events. Be sure to share all that information with every parent. To

make sure you've dotted every "i" and crossed every "t," download the June 2015 CubCast for full details on everything you need for planning the Cub Scouting year.

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AARON: So that's it for the July CubCast. Thanks to our guest, Teresa Colletti, for coming on the show and taking us on the tour of the new STEM requirements. Be sure to tune in next month for everything you need to know about online training. And believe me when I tell you: You need to know about this. Until next time, I'm Aaron Derr.

PAT: And I'm Pat Wellen. What would you look forward to listening to? We'd like to know. Just send us an e-mail at CubCast@scouting.org, or Tweet to [@CubCast](https://twitter.com/CubCast).

AARON: Allow us to leave you with a science joke from the Think & Grin section of *Boys' Life* magazine. Do you know why you can't trust atoms? Because they make up everything.

PAT: (Laughs.)

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