

## **DECEMBER – ALL ABOUT CUB SCOUT AWARDS**

### **Music Full then under**

AARON: Welcome everyone to our Cubcast for December. I'm Aaron Derr, Senior Writer for *Boys Life* magazine. With me is Cub Scout Specialist, Amy Hutcherson. We realize you're busy with the holidays and other year-end activities so we really appreciate that you're taking the time to join us.

AMY: This month we'll be having some fun with Cub Scout Awards. Let's face it – we Cub Scouters love awards!

AARON: Who doesn't? In fact, CubCast listener Chris Allen sent an email to us and asked if we could share, right here on CubCast, everything we know about Cub Scout Awards.

### **Music Fades**

AARON: Joining us in the fun is April Borge. April has served as a Den Leader for Pack 62 in Lewisville, Texas for 4 years and is currently the Pack Trainer and Assistant Cubmaster for the Pack. Additionally, she volunteers for the Tonkawa District as the Cub Scout Roundtable Commissioner. Welcome to Cubcast, April.

APRIL: Thanks for having me.

AARON: All right. Let's start with Belt Loops. There's been a change to that right?

APRIL: That's right. The Belt Loops, fortunately, haven't gone away. We've just renamed them Adventure Loops. And now we can earn these Adventure Loops in den meetings that lead us through rank advancement. Scouts

still will get the immediate recognition and boys love collecting them. Don't they look great in their uniforms?

AARON: Yes.

AMY: And I love seeing the boys in that uniform. So the Belt Loops are earned as a den but presented individually. Are there other awards that Cub Scouts can earn on their own?

APRIL: There is an award for every interest. So, say you have a Scout who loves math and science. You might want to check out the NOVA Award or you have a future firefighter or police officer on your hands, the Emergency Preparedness Award or Crime Prevention Award is a great alternative. And if you have that boy who just loves being outdoors, the Outdoor Activities Award or the Cub Scout Shooting Sports Award is also great to have your Scout participate in.

AMY: My son has that one. He loves that one. Won't take it off his uniform.

AARON: In my experience as a leader, I find that there are some boys who are real go-getters and they want to go out and earn all these loops on their own and there's others that really like sort of the team aspect of working together with their den. So are there awards that a den can earn as a group?

APRIL: Yeah. Naturally we want dens to be working together as a team. I like the Conservation Good Turn Award as a way to accomplish this. It gives the group a shared mission and it's something that they can decide to do as a team. So one year we partnered with a local zoo on a mission called Turtle Watch where we got to observe, collect data, and report our findings back to the zoo about the local turtle population. The kids had a great time doing it and they learned that conservation can be so much more than just picking up trash.

AMY: Nice. Okay. So help me out with this one, April. How are religious emblems earned? Especially if you have boys in your den that are different faiths?

APRIL: That's actually a really good question. Religious emblems, they're an alternative way to complete the Faith-based Adventure that the Scouts need to do for rank advancements. And it's important to remember that religious emblems are not Scouting awards as they are presented by the religious group that that boy belongs to. So the boys in a den may be working on an emblem at the same time but they won't necessarily be doing that together. It'll be done more at their church or place of worship and with their families. Den Leaders should explain this to the parents ahead of time so they know what to expect and also be prepared to give them the proper information and where to send them to complete this task. The Scout Shop is always a great place to start.

AARON: Now, fortunately, most Cub Scout groups have at least a handful of parents who are really eager to help out and get involved. When it comes to awards, April, how can leaders get the parents involved in helping their

kids earn them, whether it's individual awards or den awards? What is the role that the parent plays?

APRIL: It's always great to get parents involved at entry-level positions and an award is a great way to do that. You can make them be a resident expert about that award by being able to promote it to the pack, answering questions, and also tracking attendance and who is actively working on that award. It's a way to give them a sense of accomplishment and also be hands-on in Scouting. You should communicate the family benefit of these awards and how it'll be impacting them. Currently we have a Home Emergency Kit and it's only because my son was working on the Emergency Preparedness Award. This is something we probably wouldn't have prioritized otherwise but I'm so glad we have it.

AMY: That is really fantastic. So are there resources that leaders can find to help with awards and how they're available and how they're earned?

APRIL: If you look in your son's Scouting Handbook, many awards are featured there, and that way the boys feel like they are working on something in their book and doing it together as a family. You can also look at [scouting.org](http://scouting.org). They have a page called [Other Awards You Can Earn](#) and it's loaded with great information. And, of course, your Scout Shops. You can check at both your local and council headquarters and they will be a great resource for answering all kinds of questions.

AARON: Excellent stuff, April, is there anything else about Cub Scout Awards that we haven't talked about that you think should be shared with our listeners?

APRIL: I want to encourage Scouters to not be afraid to add to what already seems like a really full program. These awards often match up to activities that the Scouts are already doing and they may to only do one or two additional requirements to earn that extra patch or pin. Boys' smiles and pride of display in the awards on the uniform will be well worth that extra effort.

AARON: Well, as the actor Alan Alda once said, "Awards can give you a tremendous amount of encouragement to keep getting better no matter how young or old you are." No one knows that better than the BSA. And, April, we thank you so much for the discussion.

APRIL: Thanks so much for having me.

AMY: We'll be right back with Reminders and Tips.

**(FSB Promo)**

AMY: OK, everybody, time for a pop quiz! Do you know who your local Scouting professional is? This person may be known as your Unit Serving Executive. If you don't know who that is, call your council to find out.

AARON: If you don't know your local council name, go to [Scouting.org](http://Scouting.org) and type "local council locator" in the search field. Your local Scouting professional

is a great resource in helping deliver a quality program. It might also help to download the October 2013 ScoutCast entitled Who's Who in the Zoo.

AMY: And even though you're probably thinking more about the holidays than next summer, now is the time to start planning for summer camp which includes Cub Scout Day Camp, Resident Camp and Family Camp. The April 2013 Cubcast on the Cub Scout Outdoor Program will help you with planning and promotion.

AARON: And finally, check out this month's *Boys Life* magazine and join me as Scouts from the Westchester-Putnam Council and I gather for a day of ice climbing in upper New York State. Or check out the Cub Scout version for the Pinewood Derby at the NASCAR Hall of Fame as Cub Scouts gather for a giant Pinewood Derby surrounded by the most famous real-life race cars of all time.

### **BEGIN MUSIC UNDER**

AARON: Thanks for listening, everyone. And thanks to our guest April Borge.

AMY: And one more thanks to Chris Allen for the suggestion. If there's anything *you'd* like to hear about, just drop us a line to [Cubcast@scouting.org](mailto:Cubcast@scouting.org) or tweet @Cubcast. Until then, I'm Amy Hutcherson.

AARON: And I'm Aaron Derr – closing the show with this holiday favorite from the Think & Grin section of *Boys' Life* magazine: What is a duck's favorite holiday present? A nut-quacker!

### **MUSIC FULL TO FINISH**