

APRIL – THE ACTIVE SUMMERTIME CUB SCOUT UNIT

Music Full then under

AMY: It's CubCast time for April. I'm Amy Hutcherson, Cub Scout experience specialist. Here with me is *Boys' Life* senior writer, Aaron Derr, for what I hope is a lively discussion about the importance of your Cub Scout pack staying active during the summer.

AARON: (Sighs) Yeah, my idea of a perfect summer day is when the sun is shining, the breeze is blowing, the birds are singing, and the lawn mower is broken.

AMY: Didn't I read that on the Think-n-Grin page of *Boys' Life* magazine?

Music Fades

AMY: So, we've invited Georgia Caulkins who I know has a very active summertime unit. Georgia began her scouting career just three short years ago when her son was just a Wolf Scout. The current Cubmaster had stepped down, and there was no one to make the pack go, so she picked up the ball and ran with it. The pack has grown from 3 to 45 active Cub Scouts. Georgia is currently serving as a co-Cubmaster and treasurer for Pack 3317 in Galesburg, Illinois. Welcome to CubCast, Georgia.

GEORGIA: Thanks for having me.

AMY: Usually a scouting year is the same as a traditional school year, fall through the spring, so why is it so important to go through the summer?

GEORGIA: Our pack likes to hold a spring roundup to get all those new Kindergartners that are able to be Tiger Cubs, and then all the other boys that we may have missed or that have just become interested in Cub Scouts. And so, at our boy talks we ask them if they like to do archery, BBs, fishing, and they're all excited. But then we want to get them active right away so that they don't miss those events at day camp. Otherwise, at the Cub Scout level, we can't offer archery or BB on our own, so they have to wait until the council offers that to get to experience that fun a time.

AARON: Georgia, I was especially looking forward to this segment because I am a Cubmaster out here in the Dallas area. My Cub Scout pack is extremely active during the summer, but let's just pretend I have a friend - What would you recommend that he or she do during the summer? What kind of activities do you guys do?

GEORGIA: We go to like a local , and they go swimming. We like to have cookouts. Our council is also pretty active, and so they offer events for us, so if we don't want to plan an event on our own and we're not able to, we can at least promote the council events. One of the fun things that I like to do is camp out at a baseball game. You get to stay overnight and the boys run around the baseball field and they just have a really fun time. And it's an event that I get to go to that I didn't plan or organize or run, so that's like the best event to go to.

So, get out there; go on a hike, go on a picnic. One of things that we're looking into is renting out the roller rink and going skating and we, also,

have a really fun water park in our area so that would be another fun event to go to.

Something that we're looking forward to doing this summer, we're going to look into maybe doing a Snooze at the Zoo. There's a couple of zoos within an hour drive of where we live, so that might be kind of fun, sleeping there and have the lions roaring.

AARON: I am literally typing this into my phone right now for future reference.

AMY: Okay. So, we've established that we need to have the boys meeting throughout the summertime. How often? Is it every weekend, once a week, monthly?

GEORGIA: The summer before, we tried to have a pack event and our regular pack meetings, and we noticed our regular pack meetings weren't very well attended with baseball and summer vacations. Last summer our pack held one pack event each month, and our council is active, so we also promoted all of the events that they held. So, the summer went a lot better.

AARON: Where could I go for more help if I wanted to find out more information about what to do in the summer?

GEORGIA: You can network with other den leaders, other Cubmasters. That's how I found out about a lot of the fun things to do in our area. We are just four hours from Chicago, so one of the things we did, in April of last year, was we took the train up to Chicago and spent the night at the Field Museum. It was called '*Dozin' with the Dinos,*' and that was something really fun. And it's an event that I never would have even heard of had I not attended one of the Scout trainings that was offered through our council.

AMY: I've heard of that event. It sounds fantastic. Okay, so we all know that Cub Scouting is very family-oriented. What can we do to get our parents involved in this process?

GEORGIA: Talk to them because you might be able to incorporate a field trip into that. Last fall our Wolf den took a field trip to a local screen printing business. One of the dads works there. While they were there they all got to pick out the color of the shirt and make their own pack shirt, so that was kind of nice.

AMY: Wow.

GEORGIA: Yeah, it was really good.

AARON: So, Georgia, in your experience then, what are the benefits of staying active during the summer? What have you noticed?

GEORGIA: It's a great way to get the new scouts introduced to the current scouts, and it's also a great way to network with the parents. Even if I see one mom that she likes taking pictures, she might be like a historian for the pack. Being a leader, I am always kind of looking at how can they help the pack go when my son, he's a Webelo 1, moves into the Boy Scouts? I'll make the transition with him, and I've worked really hard with this pack. All of our parents have because we want to make sure that it's still going well.

AMY: Nice. Okay, Georgia, we know in Cub Scouting that we all – even the parents – enjoy the awards. Please tell me (with) all this extra work, there has to be some sort of patch, right?

GEORGIA: Oh, yeah, Cub Scout boys love to be recognized. There's the National Summertime Pack Award that the boys can earn. They can earn an

individual Summertime Pin to wear on their uniform if they attend all three of the pack events, one for each month, June, July, and August.

AARON: Now, my friend wants to know if there's a down side to staying so active during the summer.

GEORGIA: There's always planning and promoting to do when you hold events which can become tiresome if you're doing it all on your own. You can try to take turns planning events with the other pack leaders. Our pack also has its own Facebook group where almost 100% of the communication takes place. So, between that and emails, it's fairly simple to promote the events once you have all the details worked out.

AARON: Is there anything else about active summertime units that we haven't discussed that you think we should share with our listeners?

GEORGIA: If you don't have a very big pack or you don't have a very big budget for summertime stuff, you can do a lot of things where you don't have to spend any money. You can get the pack together to go fishing or on a hike or even a pack bike ride. One of the fun things our pack did a couple years ago was we had our Bicycle Rodeo. All of the scouts brought their bikes, and they participated in an obstacle course which was put on by the local police department. So, the police came and they talked about bicycle safety, they registered all of the boys' bikes in case they were lost or stolen they could be returned if they were found, and the police ran the whole event. So, the leadership just kind of sat back and watched and we learned stuff, too.

AMY: I love hearing all these great ideas for summertime fun and this being April, now is the perfect time to start planning for summer adventures.

Georgia, thank you so much for coming on CubCast and helping us out with all of this.

GEORGIA: Thanks for having me.

AARON: Let's see what's happening next door at ScoutCast, then we'll be back with Reminders and Tips.

(SC – Summer Community Activities)

AARON: Sounds like that ScoutCast might pair nicely with this CubCast, so be sure to check it out. But now it's time for April Reminders and Tips. Don't be shy, Amy, tell us everything.

AMY: If you didn't already know, April is Youth Protection Month, and the Boy Scouts of America takes that very seriously. Be sure that your Youth Protection Training is up-to-date. It's also a good time for you to review with your unit the four rules of personal safety.

AARON: To help you with this sensitive subject, you might want to give each member a copy of the *Power Pack Pals* comic book to open the discussion. You can order them from www.scouting.org/training/youthprotection. You could also have a family meeting to watch the DVD, "It Happened to Me." Now, this is kind of a serious and maybe a little bit scary topic, so parents, watch it first and then show it to your kids after.

AMY: On a lighter note, the March/April issue of *Scouting* magazine has cast the net wide to find the best fishing gear for your pack. Check it out and you'll have one summer activity ready to go.

BEGIN MUSIC UNDER

AMY: The April CubCast has come to an end, but we can't leave without a special thank-you to our guest Georgia Caulkins. I'm Amy Hutcherson.

AARON: And I'm Aaron Derr. Don't forget to send us your ideas and comments to cubcast@scouting.org or tweet to [@cubcast](https://twitter.com/cubcast). Now jot down those summer activity ideas before you forget. I'm going to do it right now myself. Let's see, we've got fishing, nature trail, baseball game ...

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