

September – CUB SCOUT ROUNDTABLE AND GUIDE

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AMY Welcome, everyone, to the September CubCast. I am Cub Scouting Specialist, Amy Hutcherson. Joining me, as always, is Senior Writer for *Boys Life* magazine, Aaron Derr. So, listeners, have you heard? There's a new Cub Scout Roundtable Guide for the 2016-2017 Cub Scouting year.

AARON: As a Cubmaster myself, I've certainly heard about it, and it kind of reminds me of something from the Think & Grin section of *Boys Life* magazine. Two eggs are sitting on a kitchen table. One of them spots a whisk and asks, "What's that?" The other egg replies, "Beats me."

AMY: A lot of folks have had the same reaction with the new Roundtable Guide. Why the changes? How is this supposed to work?

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AMY: So we invited one of the authors, Jamie Green, onto the show to help us work through all the questions about the new Roundtable Guide as well share with us why we should be going to Roundtable. Jamie also had a hand in writing the Cub Scout Adventure Program and Pack Meeting Plans, so she is the definitely the one to help us figure out how all of these puzzle pieces fit together. Welcome to CubCast, Jamie.

JAMIE: Thank you so much for having me.

AMY: So, what is the Cub Scout Roundtable? In a nutshell, who's in charge and who attends?

JAMIE: Oh, great question, Amy. Cub Scout Roundtable is designed to help leaders come together in a monthly meeting format to help each other, to be supportive, to learn new things about Cub Scouting. Ideally, it's led by a Roundtable Commissioner who is experienced in all things Cub Scouting, who has been around for a while and understands the part Cub Scouting plays in the role of the young men that we serve. It's for all leaders. We have a concern out there that some people feel like, "I'm just a den leader. I don't need to come to Roundtable," but yes, yes you do. It's for everyone in the unit, whether it be a committee person, the committee chair or any of the committee members. It's for the Cubmaster and most definitely for those leaders who are out there touching the lives of those young men as they work through the program.

AARON: Jamie, let's just say I'm a Cub Scout leader. I've been doing this for a while. I know my way around the block. This is nothing new to me. Why should I attend Roundtable?

JAMIE: What if something changed? What if there's something new? We've brought out in the last 24 months many new things about Cub Scouting. Some things have gone away, some things are brand new (and) some things have had a little bit of change. That's a wonderful place to find that information out. But also, you've been out there for a while and you know what it's like to go to those monthly meetings and to deal with those young men and their parents. Maybe you can help someone else. Maybe you can be a mentor to a brand new leader who is struggling and might actually walk away from the program because they don't understand so you can be a huge help by attending Roundtable and sharing your knowledge too.

AMY: Will you help me understand? There's a new 2016-2017 Cub Scout Roundtable Guide. Who is that for and how is it used?

JAMIE: That is for the Cub Scout Commissioner who is leading the roundtable meetings and we followed the guide that we had established when we did the new Den Leader Guidebook to help those den leaders plan those monthly meetings and also the pack meeting planning meetings for those Cubmasters. We want to be able to help that Roundtable Commissioner plan a dynamic, relevant meeting that's full of fun and excitement but not take many hours of their time each month. So we tried to develop a format

that would allow them to read through the information, see what they need to do, and make sure that they're prepared for their meeting and get that set up for them that they can use their time wisely and still put on the great program that our leaders will expect when they come to the monthly meeting.

AARON: Who develops and writes the content for the Roundtable Guide?

JAMIE: Our team for this particular guide, 2016-17, was made up of Scouters, volunteers, just like everyone who comes to Roundtable is a volunteer, from across the nation, and we had many years of experience from, say, two to five years all the way to 25-plus years, and we had multiple Roundtable Commissioners as a part of this. So these are the folks out there putting on these meetings and they know what it's going to take to get this going. We all came together as a team and evaluated our topics and put those together for a 12-month plan and then fleshed them out into these hour to an hour-and-a-half-long meetings depending on what the areas need, and tried to provide the resources necessary for them to put together an awesome meeting for our leaders.

AMY: Okay, so Jamie, what was taken into consideration when developing the new guide?

JAMIE: There was a survey that BSA did that was asking basically why aren't you coming to Roundtable, and several things came up. One option was I don't think it's for me, so we've tried to make sure that the words gotten out to the commissioners all the way out to the people who are attending Roundtable this is for everyone, and come up with a format that meets the needs of everyone. We also found out that some people felt like the information was not relevant because we had been trying to help them plan their den meetings and their pack meetings using the Roundtable meeting to do that.

With our new Den Leader Guides and our new Pack Meeting Plans, that's already done. So now we need to step up into the roundtable realm of providing new information, new ideas, new things they can do with their unit above and beyond the normal things that we help them with like Blue and Gold Banquets and Pinewood Derbies and things like that. Those units generally are established in those activities anyway, and those have a little bit of tradition that is attached to them, so those are happening. We want those leaders to come and find out things that are new in the program and new ideas, new ways to do things, how to reach more boys,

how to recruit, how to retain our leaders once we get them so that we can have a good, strong program nationwide.

AARON: Jamie, you mentioned the meeting plans. Can a Cub Scout leader, based on the flow of activities and his or her own district or council, are they allowed to select which month they want to present a particular plan?

JAMIE: Absolutely. We've tried to fix it so that it's kind of a one-size-fits-all, but if you need to alter it, definitely do that. You might want to swap out the May meeting for the February meeting or vice versa. So, yes, that Roundtable Commissioner has the option to read through those 12 months of topics and decide what best fits them throughout the year.

AMY: I can see this coming up quite a bit. What if I can't attend my local Roundtable Meeting like on a regular basis?

JAMIE: It's quite possible that people don't have the time to come every single month, but we have a lot of units who adopt a rotational way of handling that. They will assign one leader to come to the Roundtable for a month and bring back all of the information that they learned and share with all of the group at a committee meeting that's subsequent to that. So that works

very well and then it's only asking for an hour commitment every three or four months depending on the size of that committee, and we find that that's working very well.

AARON: Is there anything else about Roundtable you can think of that ought to be shared with our listeners?

JAMIE: They should attend a Roundtable going to expect a fun time. Remember that everything should be KISMIF in Scouting: Keep It Simple, Make It Fun. And that goes all the way up to the adult leadership. If we're not having fun while we're Cub Scouting, we need to step back and say, "What can I do for me?" because it should be fun for everyone. If we aren't attending, we're missing out on great opportunities to learn but also to help others, and that's part of our Scouting mission is that we're always helping other people.

AMY: It sounds like a lot of thought has gone into the new guide for the Cub Scout Roundtables, and after this discussion, folks should be able to take full advantage of it to make their Cub Scouting program totally awesome. Jamie, thank you so much for coming on CubCast.

JAMIE: You are so welcome. It was my pleasure.

AARON: Stay tuned, everybody. September Reminders & Tips are coming up right after this.

(Campmasters)

AARON: Okay, folks, here we go with this month's reminders. Amy?

AMY Your pack school night or Roundup should be held soon, if you haven't done so already. And don't forget to submit all new youth and adult applications and registration fees to the Council Service Center. That's right, folks – you have to turn in the money.

AARON: And remember, for every adult wanting to join Scouting, Youth Protection Training is a requirement within 30 days of submitting an application. If you can't attend a council-led training session to get your Youth Protection Training Certificate, you can take the training online. Absolutely anyone, especially parents and potential leaders, can take the online training by creating a [My.Scouting](#) account. Just go to scouting.org and click the [My.Scouting](#) tab at the top of the page.

SEP 3 AMY: Now, this is an ongoing piece of business. Remember to turn in your advancement reports every month. Internet Advancement and Scoutbook are tools designed to make this process quick and easy.

AARON: It's very important that you turn in advancement reports so that the boys receive advancement credit in a timely way. Boys should be recognized as soon as possible at their next meeting.

AMY: Now, we all know that Cub Scouts love the Pinewood Derby, Space Derby, and Rain Gutter Regatta, and now is the time to get started planning those events. Not next month, not next week – now.

AARON: It's also a good time to start the ball rolling on the Blue and Gold Banquet, which occurs in February. Sure, that seems like a long time from now, but we all know how time zips by, and the sooner you plan for these events, the better they are and the more the boys and their families will enjoy the occasion.

AMY: The Blue and Gold Banquet is meant to be a big birthday celebration for the BSA, so if you need ideas or inspiration for this event, you can go to

the archives and download the December 2012 CubCast for some great ideas on *How to Hold a Blue and Gold*.

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AMY: And now this CubCast has come to an end. Thanks again to our guest, Jamie Green.

AARON: And thank you for listening. Be sure to come back next month for the Webelos to Scout Transition. Yes, we've covered this in past CubCast episodes, but not like this. If you have a new Webelos den, you won't want to miss it.

AMY: And that was a suggestion we got from the mailbox, so if there are topics that you'd like to hear about or just want to let us know how we're doing, send us email to CubCast@scouting.org or tweet @CubCast. With that, I'm Amy Hutcherson.

AARON: And I am Aaron Derr. We look forward to hearing from you!

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