

JULY: OUTDOOR ETHICS

Music Full then Under

AARON: Hi, guys and gals, it's time for the July CubCast! I am Aaron Derr, Senior Writer for *Boys' Life* Magazine with the lovely Amy Hutcherson, Webelos Den Leader and International Scouting Program Specialist.

AMY: Hi, everyone. CubCast favorite Dennis Kampa joins us to take a look at Cub Scouts and Outdoor Ethics.

AARON: You may remember when Dennis joined us in February of 2016 to talk about Cub Scouts and Shooting Sports, which was such a great conversation about life skills and not just, you know, "how to shoot."

Music Fades

AARON: So, we're glad to have him join us again. Dennis is the National Camping School Task Force Chair and Past Council President for the Rocky Mountain Council in Pueblo, Colorado. Dennis is also the author of the BALOO Training. Welcome back to CubCast, Dennis.

DENNIS: Well, thank you. It's great to be here, especially with the lovely Amy.

AARON: Absolutely. *(laughter)* Lovely and talented. *(Dennis laughs)*

AMY: I didn't pay him to say that. *(Laughter)*

AARON: All right, staying on topic, Dennis, in a nutshell, tell us what is Outdoor Ethics?

DENNIS: Outdoor Ethics is really very simple. It's just taking care of the outdoors, leaving a place, either the campsite, a trail, park, school, church grounds, wherever and whatever we're at better than we found it.

AMY: So, Dennis, why do the Cub Scouts, you know, the little guys, need to know this?

DENNIS: We want them to start practicing the ideals as early as possible so they can build on the simple skills as they experience more in the Scouting program; Just like we do with knot tying, first aid or any of the other Scout skills that make up our rich Scouting program. If you think about it, the BSA has a very rich history of outdoor stewardship, if you look at all the Scout camps and other properties that we have available to us now, mostly because of some forward-thinking individuals 50 to 100 years ago. So very often those people's names are long forgotten but the legacy they left behind lives on forever with our new scouts. It's a great thing and how fortunate we are to have those individuals back in the day.

AARON: In Scouting, we use a couple of different terms. Is there a difference between the "Leave No Trace" and "Outdoor Ethics?"

DENNIS: It's mostly interchangeable. The BSA has partnered with a great organization called Leave No Trace who has very similar ideas on how we should treat Mother Nature. The Leave No Trace folks provide training,

trainers, youth and adult activities all over the country and promote Outdoor Ethics principles in our organization and just the general public as well.

AMY: As a den leader myself, I try very hard to make sure that I am instilling in my boys the principles for Outdoor Ethics. I'm going to tell you, though, it is hard sometimes. A lot of our activities are in backyards or in parks. What are some do's and don't's as we talk about Outdoor Ethics?

DENNIS: We will have to sit down and talk about why you think it's hard, Amy, because (*laughs*) it's pretty simple. The principles and concepts really stay the same no matter where you are; a backyard, a church, a school grounds, Scout camp, wherever. You may have to adapt it based on the actual physical surroundings, the group you're with and other factors, but it really just boils down to leaving the place better than it was when you got there.

AMY: Sure. And mainly the most difficult thing is when boys want to pick up and take with them everything they find.

DENNIS: That's not just boys. If you've been in a national park you've seen the big signs about "Please leave it here." So, it's adults as well.

AARON: My pack just got back from a campout at a state park, Dennis, and a couple of the boys came to me and they had found these really cool fossils. And they were all excited to bring them home with them. And so, we sat them down and we said, "Listen, guys, It's so cool that found this.

Let's take pictures of them and then put them back where you found them. And there were some tears, I'm not going to lie to you but we left them, we left no trace and yeah, they got over it. So, speaking of that, we were camping on a state park and there was lots and lots of other people there. How do Outdoor Ethics apply when it comes to other people, other patrons at parks?

DENNIS: The Outdoor Ethics principles apply in a couple of the different ways when you start thinking about other people in the same area. So, first of all, people expect Scouts to embrace that Outdoor Ethics attitude. We take care of the outdoors, that's what we're known for, we should be living examples of the concepts we're talking about. When I was a Scoutmaster I used to say, "This is the good example, part of your job."

AMY: Hmm, yeah.

DENNIS: The second thing would be if other users of the campsite or a park see us taking care of our area, they'll probably be more inclined to take care of theirs and show more attention to imitating the concepts that they see us living. Trashing their trash is a simple one. Even though they haven't been formally trained in all the Leave No Trace concepts, it's really simple to pick up the basic concepts and they should be able to do that. And then third, if we do leave our spot better than we found it, the next family or group that comes into that space will have a much more enjoyable experience for their day. So hopefully we can get sort of a pay-it-forward thing going by taking care of the area we're in and showing other folks how to do it when needed.

AMY: So, I'm gonna be completely honest here. The hardest one for me to do is when you're hiking and you have to continue to walk through the trail when it's all muddy and wet. And you're not supposed to go around, right? You're supposed to walk right through it.

DENNIS: Put on your big-girl hiking boots and keep going, Amy, come on.
(Laughter)

AMY: *(mutters: OK, Dennis).* So, okay, we're talking about Cub Scouting. Is there an award for Outdoor Ethics?

DENNIS: It depends on how you look at it. The current Adventure program has lots of opportunities for practicing the Outdoor Ethics principles. We have the Cub Scout World Conservation Award which has just recently been revised in June, and you can find new requirements on the [Program Updates](#) page on their National website. You also may have heard of the Outdoor Ethics Awareness and Action Awards. Those are currently not available for Cub Scouts or Cub Scout leaders, but they are available for Boy Scouts, Ventures and their leaders. So, the Cub Scout Adventure program was designed around just incorporating all of the Leave No Trace in it. At the time we felt like we didn't need another award so we discontinued at that point.

AARON: Dennis, can you recommend any resources to help leaders when it comes to guiding their Cubs Scouts in Outdoor Ethics?

DENNIS: There's a couple of really good ones. As I mentioned earlier, Leave No Trace. Their website is LNT – [Leave No Trace.org](http://LeaveNoTrace.org). They have a bunch of training info. They have an online awareness course you can take. They have a program called Leave No Trace for Every Kid. They have a great calendar section where you can dial in by your state and they'll tell you all about the training and other Leave No Trace sponsored events that are available. Another organization that the BSA works with is called Tread Lightly. Their website would be treadlightly.org. They're a little bit more involved with motor vehicles, boats, RVs, and those sorts of things, but there's important information there as well, and both of these organizations are committed to helping youth learn the principles of Outdoor Ethics.

AMY: I really am very proud of being a part of an organization that takes such great care in our Mother Earth. So, Dennis, is there anything else about Outdoor Ethics that we haven't talked about that you think might ought to be shared with our listeners?

DENNIS: One thing we haven't actually covered is the Outdoor Code which is, "as an American I will do my best to be clean in my outdoor manners, to be careful with fire, to be considerate in the outdoors, and to be conservation-minded". Four very simple lines. Cub Scouts could easily memorize one of those and maybe all four of them. It makes a good discussion topic in those quiet times and a good reference for lessons that occur such as your picking up things that you want to take home rather than leave here for the next person to see. Walking through the mud and staying on the trail. *(Amy laughs)* All of those are important. The important thing is, leave it better than you found it. Simple concepts, so start now and build on those concepts for the rest of their lives.

AARON: Yeah. It's important that these guys get an understanding and appreciation for taking care of the world they live in. Dennis, once again, thanks for joining us on CubCast.

DENNIS: My pleasure. Good to talk to you folks.

AMY: Now, don't go anywhere. We'll be right back with Reminders and Tips right after the July Safety Moment.

[\(July Safety Moment – Incident Reporting Helps\)](#)

AMY: And now for Reminders and Tips. 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.

AARON: Hopefully, you had a pack activity back in June. Qualifying packs can get a colorful streamer for the 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.

AMY: In case you've forgotten, there's still time to earn the World Conservation Award. You can read more about it in the May/June issue of *Scouting Magazine* and find the requirements to earn the award by going to Scouting.org/awards_central.

AARON: Speaking of awards, maybe your den is interested in getting the National Den Award. Check out the June 2016 CubCast for all the different activities your den can participate in to earn it.

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

AARON: 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.

Begin Music Under

AARON: So that's it for the July CubCast. Thanks to our guest, CubCast favorite Dennis Kampa, for coming on the show.

AMY: Be sure to tune in next month as we tackle how to handle tantrums with *other people's* children. I can't wait for that one. Until next time, I'm Amy Hutcherson.

AARON: And I'm Aaron Derr. Send your ideas for future episodes by sending an email to cubcast@scouting.org or tweet @CubCast. We look forward to hearing from you.

MUSIC FULL TO FINISH