

NOVEMBER – THE LIONS PROGRAM

Music Full then Under

AMY: Hello and thank you for tuning in to the November CubCast. I'm Amy Hutcherson, Membership Growth Coach for the Northeast Region, along with Senior Writer for *Boys Life* magazine and former Cubmaster, Aaron Derr. So, Aaron – I see we have a Twitter question.

AARON: We sure do. One of our loyal listeners, @Howard_Chalmers, had some questions about changes to the Lions program now that it's no longer a pilot program, but actual bona-fide, real-life program of the BSA.

AMY: So, if you're a Lion Den Leader or Cubmaster who now has Lion Dens in your Cub Pack meeting, we'll assist you everything you need to know about the new Lions program.

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AMY: With Christine McDanal, the Council Lion Champion for the National Capital Area Council in Washington, DC. Christine has been involved in the Scouting program for almost 15 years, serving as Den Leader, Pack Advancement Chair, and Cub Scout Roundtable Commissioner. In 2016, when the Lion pilot was first offered, Christine became a Lion Guide and joins us to let us know the updates now that Lions has moved from the pilot program to a full-fledged BSA program. Welcome to CubCast, Christine.

CHRISTINE: Thank you. I'm happy to be here.

AMY: So, let's get started with the basics. How is a Lion Den formed and what do you do to recruit the boys and girls for your den?

CHRISTINE: Recruiting Lions is no different than recruiting any other Cub Scouts. You do whatever you find works for your pack. It could be fliers or open houses or school talks. Just make sure everyone knows that the program is open to kindergarten now.

AARON: And what are the changes in Advancement requirements now that the Lions program is a full-fledged official program?

CHRISTINE: If you're familiar with the pilot program, you'll find that there's only one small change in the advancement requirements, and that's the addition of the pamphlet How to Protect Your Children from Child Abuse. This is a pamphlet that's found in all of the Cub Scout Handbooks and it has been added to the Lion Handbook as well. Adult partners should review this guide and go through the exercises with their Scouts, but other than that, nothing has changed. There's still the same five required adventures and seven elective adventures.

AMY: Okay. So, to piggyback onto that, what are the changes, if any, to the recognition for Lions?

CHRISTINE: The biggest change in recognitions is that Lions will now get adventure loops for their adventures instead of just the stickers. Also, the Lion badge is changing in shape. It's going to be a rectangle. And, as Cub Scouts they'll be able to wear it on their blue uniform shirt below the left pocket underneath where the Tiger badge goes.

AARON: Oh, speaking of uniform, Christine, what about the uniform? Is it changing

at all?

CHRISTINE: The uniform is still going to be the Lion t-shirt officially. They're going to want to have a belt for their adventure loops to go on. There is also the Lion cap, but now there's also an optional neckerchief and neckerchief slide.

AMY: So, as far as updates for den and pack meeting participation, are there some updates for Lions on that?

CHRISTINE: Now the program is no longer a pilot and it's a full part of the pack. The pack and the Den Leaders are going to be able to adapt the meeting schedule to set the need for their unit. That means if they have den meeting ideas that are different from what's in the leader's guide, but they still meet the requirements for the adventure, the Den Leader or the adult partners who are running the meeting will be able to incorporate those changes or those different activities into the meeting activities. Also, the Lions have a choice of attending as many or as few pack meetings that they are comfortable with. You just have to remember that the attention span of a Lion, especially early in the school year, is much less than that of older Scouts and they've going to do better at pack meetings where they can actively participate in things.

AARON: Right. For new leaders and parents who are just starting in a Lion Den or just signed up for a Lion Den, what resources can you recommend to them where they could go for help?

CHRISTINE: The program has been evolving over the last couple of years and all of the official changes are going to be on the [Scouting.org](https://www.scouting.org) website. Also

Scouting Magazine is a good resource for official information. Your District Roundtable is a good place to get ideas from other leaders, and most councils have a Cub Scout Pow-Wow and/or University of Scouting where leaders can go and get training and information, all sorts of Scouting topics. There's a lot of places on the internet where leaders post ideas and things. You get a lot of the resources fun ideas that people have tried. You need to be careful though that you watch for official updates on the official website.

AMY: Oh, Christine, this is fantastic information. Is there anything else about the Lions program that you think might ought to be shared with our listeners?

CHRISTINE: It's a very exciting time for Cub Scouts. Lions is showing huge growth. In my council there's an 89% increase this year ("wow") over the same time last year.

AARON: Awesome.

CHRISTINE: But more importantly, there's a 31% increase in Tigers. Those Lions are staying with the program.

AMY: Hey. That's great. Well, @Howard_Chalmers, I hope we were able to help you and other listeners with all the changes to the Lions program as it manifests into a formal BSA program. Christine, thank you so much for coming on the show and joining us for this discussion.

CHRISTINE: Thank you for having me.

AARON: Now before you go running off, let's check in with this month's Safety Moment, and then we'll be back with Reminders and Tips.

(Safety Moment – Holiday Trees)

AARON: Let's jump into Reminders and Tips for November. First, let's talk membership inventory. By now, all your new youth and adult applications from your recruiting drive should be submitted to the council office. It's always a good idea to compare the My.Scouting Tools records to your own to make sure there are no discrepancies and that all those new folks are properly registered.

AMY: This would be also be a good time to talk to your Commissioner or Scoutmaster about recruiting a Scout to serve as a Den Chief. Den Chiefs are for Wolf, Bear, or Webelos dens. Any qualified Den Chief can serve any den. In other words, a boy Den Chief can serve a girl den and vice-versa. Being a Den Chief counts as a leadership position for the Scout's advancement, so you're doing a good turn by hiring a den chief.

AARON: As a bonus, they make a great Den Assistant, so you'll notice that being the leader becomes so much easier. Download the October 2013 CubCast to learn all about the joy of having a Den Chief.

AMY: Now here's an ongoing piece of business: Remember, Cub Scout Adventure Loops do not require an advancement report. They are to be presented at a den meeting whenever each adventure is completed. It's all part of the instant recognition program of Cub Scouting. Stock up on the

adventure loops ahead of time so you have them ready. And there's got to be something in that process that a parent could help with.

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AMY: And that, sadly, brings us to the end of the November CubCast. Thanks to our guest, Christine McDanal, for joining us.

AARON: So do you have an idea for a CubCast episode? Send us an email to Cubcast@scouting.org, or tweet to @Cubcast. @Howard_Chalmers did and you can too. Tune in next month for How to have a Great Pinewood Derby. With that, I am Aaron Derr...

AMY: And I'm Amy Hutcherson. From all of us at CubCast...

AMY & AARON: Happy Thanksgiving!!

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