

## **FEBRUARY – CAMPING AND OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES**

### **Music Full then under**

AMY: Hello everyone, and welcome to our CubCast for February. I'm Amy Hutcherson, Webelos Den Leader and International Scouting Program Specialist along with *Boys' Life* Senior Writer and Cubmaster, Aaron Derr.

AARON: So, your pack has decided to adopt the Family Program and now you have either an all-girl or a coed pack. Congratulations on embracing this new chapter of Scouting!

AMY: Now comes the fun part of planning the activities, especially camping and outdoor activities. Can you simply repeat the things you did last year?

### **Music Fades**

AMY: And here to help us out with this is Dianna Marsh. Dianna is the Cub Scout Camping Director for the Michigan Crossroads Council in Lansing, Michigan, which includes managing two camp properties and all Cub Scout Resident and Family camping opportunities in the state of Michigan. Wow. Welcome to CubCast, Dianna.

DIANNA: Thank you for having me.

AMY: We're going to look to you for all these answers. First, how is the Cub Scout Outdoor Program different from the Boy Scout Outdoor Program?

DIANNA: The first thing you've got to know is that the Cub Scout Outdoor Program is an introductory program to the outdoors, so we use age-appropriate activities to develop outdoor skills that the Cubs will use when they get into the Boy Scouting program. The Cub Scouting program is more family oriented while the Boy Scouting program is more individualized.

AARON: What are the camping opportunities like under the new Family Program?

DIANNA: The camping opportunities pretty much are the same thing under the new program, and we're still going to be offering day camps which are one- to five-day programs during the daylight or early evenings. We're also going to be offering resident camps which everybody should be used to, which are the two to five overnight experiences, and there's also going to be family camps which are the whole family can enjoy together.

AMY: Help us out, Dianna, a little bit with understanding how the resident camp will work out. Will there be a girls' week and then the next week it be boys week or will summer camps include both genders?

DIANNA: That will depend upon the local council and their camps. Some councils will have both boys and girls involved with the camp and some might have separate weeks. It really just depends on that local council and how they want to run it.

AARON: And what about sleeping arrangements and restrooms on trip where both girls and boys are present, how will that be handled?

DIANNA: We have to look at our Youth Protection Policy. We need to keep in mind that sleeping arrangements as well as facility use we have to keep all of our Youth Protection Policies in place.

AMY: So how do we talk to our parents about coed Cub Scout outdoor activities?

DIANNA: The activities that we are currently doing are not gender specific, they are age appropriate, so both boys and girls can participate. The programming that we're already doing now can involve girls just as easily as it involves boys right now.

AARON: And what can leaders do to get parents involved in the new Family Program?

DIANNA: The big thing is to explain that the Cub Scouting is family based. We all know that families are busy and don't often get enough family quality time, and outdoor activities such as family camping lets the family get together and spend some good family time that's in a safe, exciting environment.

AMY: So, Dianna, I've personally been on many, many Cub Scout outdoor outings and I would love to hear your tips on how to make these outdoor experiences more successful for Cub Scouts.

DIANNA: Plan, plan, plan, and be prepared for any type of weather that might be out there. The other big thing is that make sure that all of the adults that are on the trip are Youth Protection trained.

AMY: Okay.

AARON: What resources are available to help leaders get ready for the Cub Scout Family Program Outdoor Program?

DIANNA: The biggest thing right now is the [scouting.org](https://www.scouting.org) website as well as your local council professionals. They're going to be most up to date on what the council is offering for the Family Programs in your specific council.

AMY: Fantastic. Anything else, Dianna, that you can think of about Cub Scout activities and the Family Program that you think might ought to be shared with our listeners?

DIANNA: Keep on checking in with your local council for any new programs available. With the whole Family Camping Program coming onboard, everybody is really excited to start new programs, so we think there's going to be a lot of great activities out there. So, keep an eyeball on your local websites and hopefully you'll have some good times.

AMY: Okay, great., Dianna. Thanks so much for this discussion.

DIANNA: You're welcome.

AARON: We'll be right back with Reminders and Tips after this brief Safety Moment.

(Safety Moment – CO Poisoning)

AARON: Okay, time for Reminders and Tips. Let's start with succession plans. Having a succession plan means being prepared to replace volunteers in key roles because the den or pack leader may have committed to their responsibilities but, alas, they may not be able to keep that commitment.

AMY: And since our motto is Be Prepared, a successor needs to be identified for the role should something unexpected happen. With a succession plan in place, you won't be scrambling around trying to fill a vacancy and the pack can maintain its tradition of 100% trained leaders. Tune into the April 2014 CubCast for more on succession planning and cultivating new leaders.

AARON: This is also a good time to be thinking about recruiting more youth in the pack with the Spring Roundup. Talk to your Unit Serving Professional about coordinating your recruitment efforts with local schools.

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.

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AMY: And now, this CubCast has come to an end. Special thanks to our guest Dianna Marsh, and thank you for listening.

AARON: Be sure to send us your thoughts and ideas for a future CubCast. Just send an email to [cubcast@Scouting.org](mailto:cubcast@Scouting.org) or a tweet to @Cubcast.

AMY: Join me with ScoutCast host Bryan Wendell for a special crossover episode next month as we figure out how the new Family Program will affect Webelos dens and Scout troops. Until then, I'm Amy Hutcherson along with Aaron Derr. Have a great rest of your day!

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