

MAY – NEW UNIT DEVELOPMENT: PROVIDING SCOUTING TO GIRLS

Music Full then Under

LEE: Hello, and welcome to May ScoutCast. I'm Lee Shaw, Team Lead of National Alliance, along with the famous *Bryan on Scouting* blogger, Bryan Wendell. We all know by now that girls will be able to join Scout troops soon; in 2019.

BRYAN: That's right, Lee, but it's already May, which means 2019 is just 7 months away. That seems like a long time but we all know it'll be here before we know it.

LEE: That's right, so now is the time to find out what's needed to start a troop so we're ready on day one to provide this wonderful program we call Scouting to girls.

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LEE: So, joining us to let us know everything we need to do to start a new troop is Gene Butler. Gene is the Business Development Specialist for my team, National Alliance, so trust me when I tell you, we've got the expert. Welcome to ScoutCast, Gene.

GENE: Thank you for having me.

LEE: Gene, let's get right to it, okay? So, let's start with what a unit in this case the troop, looks like.

GENE: There will be either all-male troops with all-male patrols or all-female troops with all- female patrols, and there must be a female adult in the female troop.

BRYAN: So, when looking for a chartered organization that might be a good prospect to start a new troop, where would you start?

GENE: You should to start with the chartered organizations that currently have the Scout family, which means the early adopters with female youth in those programs, and so that's where I would start.

BRYAN: They're already familiar with Scouting, right?

GENE: That is correct.

LEE: Now, you mentioned early adopters. That's the councils that have the Cub Scout program currently?

GENE: That is correct. Those are the chartering organizations that the councils identified that had their early adopters program, and so they targeted those chartering organizations and those were the ones who had females in their Cub Scout Packs.

LEE: Okay. So, Gene, when should we start talking to the chartered organizations?

GENE: You should start talking to them immediately and getting that information out there and helping them understand what they're responsible for moving forward by way of recruit the kids for Cub Scouts in the fall and currently we're scheduled for older girls to come in the February of 2019.

BRYAN: So, I know you've said there's going to be all-boy troops and all-girl troops. Could there be one troop that has both boys and girls in it?

GENE: No. We do not have any coed troops.

LEE: So, Gene, how do you recommend we recruit girls into troops?

GENE: That's a good question, Lee. I would concur with the March podcast; Webelos-to-Scout transition, troop crossover. I also would bring a sister, peer-to-peer, open houses that the middle schools might have, and also activities that troops may be doing in the communities to help recruit young girls in their troops as well.

LEE: Kind of giving them a sample what Scouting is; where they can see what it looks like.

GENE: Absolutely, giving them that taste of what they can be a part of once they join.

BRYAN: I read that young women will be able to earn Eagle under the new role older girl program. Is that true and will the requirements be different?

GENE: That is true and the requirements will not be different.

BRYAN: Oh, okay, great.

LEE: Gene, we talked about the recruitment aspect of the girls into the troops, when should leaders start taking leader training, and is that different for leaders of all-girl troops or is that the same? Explain to the audience what that looks like?

GENE: Sure. Yes, they should start taking the training immediately, and, no, that training is not different. It's the same as we've had for our current leaders that we have in our programs now.

BRYAN: And when can we start officially registering these all-girl troops?

GENE: Currently we are scheduled to roll out the program in February of 2019.

BRYAN: Okay, so wow, that is soon.

LEE: It really is. It's going to be here before you know it. Gene, where can folks go to learn more about new unit development?

GENE: There are a couple of places that folks can go and learn about that, and one is the [Membership Marketing Hub](#) where people can learn about the materials and resources that we have. And the other is scouting.org/familyscouting and they can go there as well and learn about the programs.

BRYAN: Scouting.org/Family Scouting, got it. Yeah, that's one to bookmark for sure. Now, Gene, can one chartered organization have both an all-girl troop and an all-boy troop? Can they support two troops, I guess, is what I'm asking?

GENE: Yes, that's strictly on that chartering organization if they want to do that. They can have the same committee as well. We would want and recommend that the Scoutmaster be different in both of those troops.

BRYAN: Could they even meet at the same place and at the same time if the chartered organization supports that?

GENE: Absolutely. If the chartered organization supports that, they can meet at the same location.

BRYAN: That makes it very convenient for families.

GENE: And that's what we're trying to do is meet their needs.

LEE: Gene, is there anything else that we haven't discussed that our listeners should know?

GENE: These are exciting times to be a part of the BSA, and that it gives us an opportunity to meet the needs of our families by saying that their daughters and sons can learn at the same pace, and that is exciting.

LEE: Absolutely. Well, Gene, this is why you're on the team. You're very knowledgeable about the Scouting program and I'm sure our listeners appreciate you sharing everything you know about new unit development. Thank you so much for joining me and Bryan on ScoutCast.

GENE: You're welcome. Thanks for having me.

BRYAN: Now let's check out our May Safety Moment, and then we'll be back with Reminders and Tips.

(May Safety Moment - Insurance)

BRYAN: And now for the always timely Reminders and Tips. This is a busy time of year for outings planning, so be sure your unit has adopted the Risk Assessment Strategy. Check out the BSA Health and Safety website for all the tools you need to access risk.

LEE: Also, you should be recruiting your Popcorn Kernel or other fundraising coordinator right about now. The Committee Chair is the person responsible for appointing someone, but if you know someone who would make a good candidate, go ahead and pass the suggestion along to your Committee Chair.

BRYAN: You know, speaking of popcorn, it's almost time for *Solo: A Star Wars Story* to come out in theaters, which also makes it the perfect time to read

about a Star Wars Camporee. You can do so in the May-June 2018 issue of *Scouting* magazine, and the coolest part about this event – the Scouts plan it themselves. Now, that’s the way it should be, right, Lee?

LEE: Absolutely. The Scouts are from Troop 98 from Whitpain Township in Pennsylvania. The Camporee is complete with Jedi training and Force-powered knot-tying. You can read more about it in this month’s *Boy’s Life* magazine, but this time through the Scouts’ point of view.

BEGIN MUSIC UNDER

LEE: But now, this ScoutCast has come to an end. Thanks to our guest, Gene Butler, for joining us and thanks to you for listening. But don’t keep all this ScoutCast fun to yourself. No, sir. Be sure your fellow leaders are tuning in as well.

BRYAN: Yeah. Consider it your Good Turn and suggest they do what you do, and subscribe to ScoutCast on iTunes or your favorite podcast app. Now, is there a topic you’d like to hear about in a future episode? Let us know about it by sending an email to Scoutcast@Scouting.org, or you can tweet us. We’re @bsaScoutcast. And with that, I’m Bryan Wendell.

LEE: And I’m Lee Shaw. Join us next month to discuss the wonders of the STEM program. You’ll be surprised to discover you’re already doing most of it. We’ll see you then.

Music Full to Finish