

JUNE: PREVIEW ADVENTURES

Music Full then Under

AMY: Hello, everyone, and welcome to *Scouting* magazine's CubCast for June. I'm Amy Hutcherson, Growth Coach for the Northeast Region and former Webelos Den Leader, along with Senior Writer for *Boys' Life* magazine and former Cubmaster, Aaron Derr.

AARON: We've got something brand new to talk about for this episode, something called Preview Adventures. Hmm, I wonder what that's about.

AMY: Oh! I'm sure our listeners do too, so let's get started.

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AMY: And joining us is the brand-new chair for the National Cub Scouting Committee, Lisa Wylie. Lisa has been with the Scouting family for 20 years and listen up because her story is very interesting. She had no previous Scouting experience. She didn't have any brothers in the program, nor was her husband involved in the program. Her son actually came home from school and said, "I want to join Cub Scouts." Lisa started as a Den Leader and serving on pack and troop committees all the up to serving as a member of the Chief Seattle Executive Board as Vice President of Membership and the Vice Chair of the National Cub Scout Committee. Welcome to CubCast, Lisa.

LISA: Thank you.

AMY: So, help us out here. What are Preview Adventures?

LISA: Preview Adventures are a brand-new concept. These adventures are actually in an experimental phase. You will not find them in the Cub Scout Handbook. They are only available online. Preview Adventures are a way for Cub Scouts to test out an adventure so that we can see what works, what doesn't work. We want to know what our boys and girls are doing, and what they think about adventures before making them a permanent part of the program.

AARON: And how are these Preview Adventures developed?

LISA: Well, there's actually three different ways. The first possibility is that the adventure is submitted by the BSA. Our first Preview Adventure will be on youth protection. This adventure will eventually be a required adventure in each of the ranks sometime in the future. As an organization for youth development, safety of our youth is paramount.

The second way may come from a corporate sponsor. We have some companies that think they have ideas that would fit into the BSA Adventure program. We take that information the company give us about their product, and we add some activities that keep our boys and girls moving and engaged, and we will create an adventure. If the adventure proves successful, corporate branding will be removed and the adventure will go under one of our elective possibilities.

The third way a Preview Adventure comes into being is from the field, families that we are currently serving or even our professionals. So, if you have an idea, we would love to hear about it. We're currently working on a way for our families to submit requests, so keep watching the Cub Scout website for more information.

AMY: Wow. This is a really neat concept. What's the difference then between Preview Adventures and the regular adventures?

LISA: A Preview Adventure is experimental; it's not fully fleshed out. The resources will be available online only. They are not in a book. They will not be in print. So, when a Preview Adventure is available for your rank, there will be specific requirements for each of our various ranks. The adventure will be available for a limited amount of time. It depends upon the adventure itself. Once we've determined that we've got enough input from youth, we will take it down and make a decision of whether or not to add the adventure to be a part of our regular adventures in the next edition of the handbook. So, changing a Preview Adventure to a regular adventure only happens when it's released in the updated hand book.

AARON: And are the Preview Adventures electives only?

LISA: Most of the Preview Adventures will be electives. Our goal is to create adventures our kids might want to explore right now and reflect current youth interests. I do want to make sure that everybody understands Preview Adventures can be used, as one of the electives in these seven adventure requirement for each rank advancement.

AMY: OK. And how are these adventures then going to be evaluated?

LISA: Oh, we're in the process of developing that right now. Our goal is to set up an advisory board to review the Preview Adventures. Adults and youth currently in the Cub Scout program that are using these adventures may be asked to respond to a short survey about how they feel about the adventure, what they enjoyed, what they think should be removed, what changes they would like to see. Preview Adventures will also show up in Scout Book, which I'm really excited about because that's a great way to

collect data. We will review advancement purchases and advancement report information. And then a small group of adults who currently have Cub Scouts in the program will take a look at everything, review it, and make a recommendation for approval, approval with changes or to not approve. And then the final decision lies with the National Cub Scouting Committee and the Program Development Committee. So, we have lots of places to make sure that we get it right before making the Preview Adventure a permanent part of our program.

AARON: So, when will the Preview Adventures be available?

LISA: Our goal is to have everything ready sometime in June. The first will be a preview of a future required adventure in the youth protection area, and we also hope to be releasing our first elective Preview Adventure in conjunction with Duncan Yo-Yo. So, look for information on the Cub Scout website and also Bryan on Scouting.

AMY: We've got more information on Preview Adventures so stay tuned – we'll be back after this.

Commercial – Wood Kits

AMY: OK. We might have a lot of excitement and some questions about this after folks hear about all these Preview Adventures. Where do we direct people to go for more resources and information?

LISA: Great question. So, each of our Preview Adventures will have their own page on the Cub Scout website under the Den Meeting Resources. requirements, activities, and other resources will all be available, and something a little different. The advancement recognition, those loops and pins, will only be available to purchase online. None of those will be available in your local Scout Shop.

AARON: Cool. Is there anything else about Preview Adventures that you think ought to be shared with our listeners?

LISA: Yes. So, our goal for the Preview Adventures is to be able to experiment, to try something out before we commit resources and our Cub Scouts' valuable time. You know, as adults we have great ideas for fun, but they may not necessarily resonate with the youth that we are serving or even their parents. I'm really excited about having this digital platform. It will allow us to be agile and respond to the desires of our Cub Scouts much more quickly than we have in the past. I believe this is going to be super beneficial to everyone.

AMY: Fantastic! So, Lisa, we want to kind of wrap up the Preview Adventure discussion and talk a little bit about you. You were recently appointed in May to serve as the new National Cub Scouting Chair. Share with us some of your thoughts and ideas about Cub Scouting and the direction of the program.

LISA: Well, of the five programs that make up the Boy Scouts of America, Cub Scout membership comprises approximately half of the youth we are serving, which is rather mind-blowing to me. Cub Scouts is where the majority of our families that are involved in our other four programs actually began their journey, and I am here because my oldest son wanted to be a Cub Scout 20 years ago. We can show that being involved in Cub Scouts can make a difference in the life of a child. The definition of what a family looks like has changed over the years. So, with the recent changes within the BSA, we now have a wonderful opportunity to reach out to more families. We welcome the entire family, boys and girls and their families in all shapes and sizes.

Over the past three years, the BSA has streamlined the Cub Scout program. Each rank has their own color branding for easy identification of books, patches, neckerchiefs. Many of these updates were made to make it easier for families to understand and navigate Cub Scouts. So many of our families are like mine, brand new to Scouting, never been involved before. So, now we're offering the opportunity to test out adventures with people that matter the most: the kids in our program. Cub Scouts is changing, becoming more nimble, responding to families currently involved. Our mission has not wavered. We still help families build a better kid. I'm really excited about the journey we're on and the program we offer, and I'm looking forward to making the difference in the life of a child.

AMY: Absolutely. These are such exciting times for Cub Scouting. Lisa, congratulations on the new position and thanks so much for coming on CubCast to share this new initiative with us.

LISA: You bet. Thanks for having me.

AARON: Now, don't go anywhere. We'll be back with Reminders and Tips right after this brief Safety Moment.

(June Safety Moment High Adventure Risk)

AARON: OK, folks, here we go with this month's reminders. Now is that time your unit should be camping. Day camp, resident camp – it doesn't matter where or for how long. Just go camping! After all, that's what Scouts are known for, right?

AMY: You should also have finalized your plans for earning the Summertime Pack Award. All your activities leaders should have their June, July, and August activities ready to go. Tune into the March 2019 episode of some fun summer activity ideas.

AARON: In the June *Boys' Life* issue, learn all about coral reefs, an underwater ecosystem with an amazing variety of fish and other wildlife.

AMY: And, in the May-June issue of *Scouting* magazine, join current Managing Editor of the BSA's magazines, Paula Murphey, as she met with Scouts from Troop 6 in Bismarck, North Dakota, and spent four days in the historic town of Medora, North Dakota, where they performed a series of service projects in return for free camping and activities such as hiking, cycling and horseback riding.

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AMY: And you can read about it right now as this is it for July CubCast. Thanks to our guest, Lisa Wylie, for coming on the show

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AARON: And thank you for listening. Send your ideas for future episodes by sending an email to cubcast@scouting.org, or tweet @ CubCast. And with that, I'm Aaron Derr.

AMY: And I'm Amy Hutcherson. We look forward to hearing from you.

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