



# 2015–2016 Cub Scout Program FAQs March 6, 2015 Update

*If you have questions that are not answered here, please send an email to [myscouting@scouting.org](mailto:myscouting@scouting.org). We will answer as quickly as possible and use new questions to generate the next round of FAQs.*



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## PROGRAM AND PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT QUESTIONS

**Q: Where did all of this begin?**

**A:** A team of volunteer leaders, supported by BSA professional staff members, developed the 2010–2015 National Strategic Plan. The plan is a comprehensive document that addresses improvement opportunities in program, membership, and more. See [www.scouting.org/filestore/strategicplan/pdf/Strategic\\_Plan\\_Progress\\_Report.pdf](http://www.scouting.org/filestore/strategicplan/pdf/Strategic_Plan_Progress_Report.pdf).

**Q: Who is responsible for the program changes?**

**A:** A committee was established to achieve overall progress as outlined in the strategic plan. The charge of the 411 Task Force was to ensure that all levels of program in the Boy Scouts of America become more relevant to and engaging for all boys. Over 100 volunteer leaders, drawn from across the country, contributed to the analysis of the current program and made recommendations for program changes.

**Q: What was the key charge for the task force?**

**A:** The charge of the 411 Task Force was to ensure that all levels of program in the Boy Scouts of America remain relevant to and engaging for all youth.

**Q: Who was involved in making the changes?**

**A:** Two groups were involved in the changes:  
The 411 Task Force was charged with an overall review of program content in Cub Scouting, Boy Scouting, and Venturing to evaluate the current program and make recommendations to achieve the desired outcomes for the entire Scouting program. These desired outcomes are designed to maintain a clear program focus at all levels, ensuring that youth who experience Scouting develop skills and dispositions that foster growth in character development, participatory citizenship, personal fitness, outdoor adventure, and leadership development. The Cub Adventure Team took on the responsibility of developing program design based on the desired outcomes established by the 411 Task Force.

**Q: What are the qualifications of the Cub Adventure Team?**

**A:** All members of the Cub Adventure Team are experienced Cub Scout leaders. In addition, they have contributed previously to Cub Scouts by developing other Cub Scout program and

program support materials such as BALOO training, the Cub Scout Outdoor Adventure Award, the former Theme Task Force, and Cub Scout National Camping School curriculum. Team members also have professional expertise in curriculum design and/or professional expertise in youth development.

**Q: How were the changes determined?**

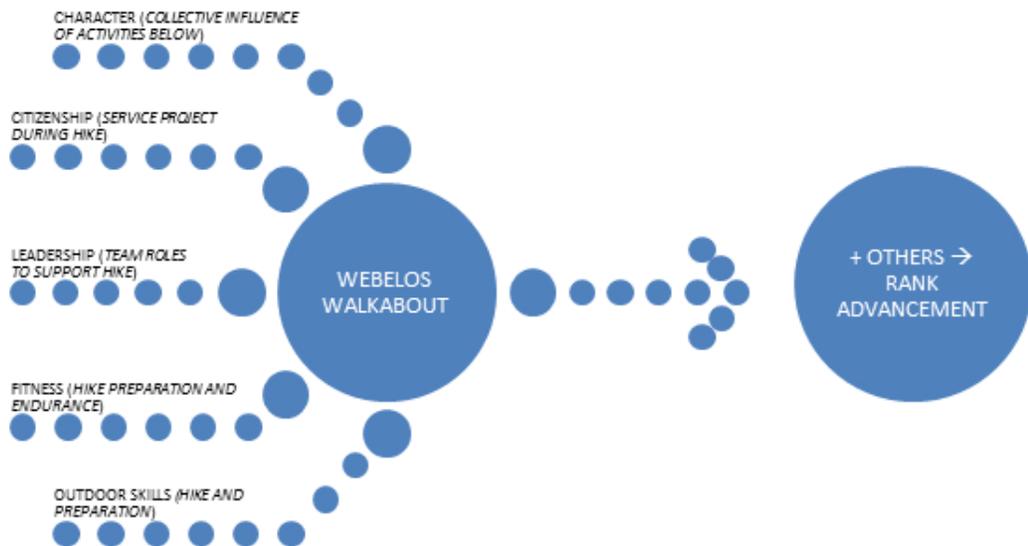
**A:** A two-year study produced the following findings:

The Cub Scouting program was not as strongly aligned with the mission of the Boy Scouts of America—character, citizenship development, and personal fitness—as other segments of the program are.

Cub Scouts and den leaders found the program to be more sedentary than was desirable. Over time, a variety of additional awards and recognitions had been developed for use in Cub Scouting. Not all of the awards were aligned with achieving the mission and aims of the BSA. The abundance of awards and recognitions tended to undermine the core advancement program for Cub Scouts. This increased number of awards and recognitions resulted in two unwanted outcomes: First, they made the advancement system grow in complexity; second, they caused the program to drift away from delivery of the aims of Scouting.

**Q: What is an “adventure?”**

**A:** An adventure is the new basic program unit in Cub Scout advancement. Each adventure represents an integrated program that uses a theme to deliver content derived from the desired outcomes. For example, one of the Webelos adventures, the Webelos Walkabout, achieves multiple desired outcomes within a single, theme-based adventure:



**Q: Why was the Academics and Sports program retired?**

**A:** The value of the fun and engaging activities present in many of the requirements for the Academics and Sports program was retained. Many of those activities were made part of the adventure recognition program, so boys will still take part in the activities they enjoyed before. The new activities also are more closely aligned with the desired outcomes of the Cub Scout program (character development, participatory citizenship, personal fitness, outdoor adventure, and leadership development).

**Q: I have heard that the program is easier. Why did you do that?**

**A:** The program was *not* made easier. It offers appropriate challenges to all Cub Scouts with the goal of making Cub Scouting more active, more fun, and easier for den leaders to implement. Advancement will now be simpler for the den leader to administer because all ranks take the same approach to achieving rank advancement: complete seven adventures.

**Q: Will the STEM-based Nova program continue?**

**A:** Yes.

**Q: How will the STEM-based Nova program change with the retirement of the Academics and Sports program?**

**A:** The STEM team is working on integrating the Nova awards structure with the new Cub Scout adventure program. They will announce the changes when their review is complete.

**Q: When will the STEM/NOVA award requirements be modified and how will the new requirements be communicated?**

**A:** Now that the core of the new Cub Scout program development is complete, the development teams are moving on to other, connected elements of Scouting, of which the STEM/NOVA awards are one. The requirements will be revised and released during the first quarter of 2015. When the new requirements are finalized, it will be communicated via [www.scouting.org/progamupdates](http://www.scouting.org/progamupdates), Bryan on Scouting and other appropriate channels.

**Q: What will happen to the Core Values and the Character Connections?**

**A:** The 12 Core Values of Cub Scouting will be replaced by the 12 points of the Scout Law and will be referred to as Character Compass points in the boys' handbooks.

**Q: Will there be a new handbook for the Arrow of Light Award?**

**A:** The required and elective adventures for the Webelos rank and the Arrow of Light Award will be combined in one shared youth handbook (and complementary *Webelos Den Leader Guide*). The core adventure requirements for the Webelos rank and Arrow of Light Award differ, but the elective adventures are shared and may be used to meet the requirements of either one.

**Q: With seven adventures required for rank advancement in Cub Scouting, will boys still be able to earn their rank advancements by the time the blue and gold banquet is held?**

**A:** Earning a rank advancement in time for the blue and gold banquet is not and has never been a program goal in Cub Scouting. It is a custom in many packs to encourage this, but it is not an expected outcome of the program. The Cub Scout program is a year-round, family-based program. There are plenty of adventures in the new Cub Scout program model to deliver Cub Scouting year-round.

**Q: The Archery and BB-gun shooting belt loops and pins will no longer be supported when the Academics and Sports program ends in 2015. Will anything take the place of those recognitions in 2015?**

**A:** If your council has remaining stock of the academic and sports program belt loops, you may continue to use those as recognition until the supply is exhausted.

A shooting sports recognition and skill development program for district- and council-operated day camps and resident camps is under development and will be released thru the National Camp School process beginning this fall.

**Q: In what order should the adventures be completed?**

**A:** There is no prescribed order for the adventures. Consider local needs, including the weather, local holidays and school schedules, and other resources and then sequence the adventures in an order that makes sense for your local circumstances

**Q: How do I describe the new advancement devices in writing?**

**A:** Adventures are a part of Cub Scout and Webelos Scout advancement. There are over eighty subjects to explore. Capitalize the name but not the word "adventure." Example: "complete the Team Tiger and Tigers in the Wild adventures."

**adventure loop** A recognition device given to a Tiger, Wolf, and Bear Scouts for completing the requirements for an adventure. Adventure loops are designed to be worn on the Cub Scout belt. When referring to the device, capitalize the name but not the words "adventure loop." Example: "present the Bear Claws adventure loop."

**adventure pin** A recognition device given to a Webelos Scouts for completing the requirements for an adventure. Adventure pins are designed to be worn on the Webelos colors or on the front of the Webelos cap. When referring to the device, capitalize the name but not the words "adventure pin." Example: "present the Castaway adventure pin."

**Q: There are new aquatics and water-based adventures at that level. What can I do to prepare myself?**

**A:** Whenever taking part in water-based activities, it is important for leaders to learn the best safety practices by completing the Safe Swim Defense training course. This course is available to all leaders at <https://myscouting.scouting.org/>. You should also contact your local council service center to see what support they can provide to find adequate facilities and supervision for this adventures.

**Q: How long does the Webelos program last?**

**A:** Most Webelos dens will be active for 16-20 months, depending on when Webelos Scouts transition into a Boy Scout troop. Dens associated with the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints employ a one-year Webelos program.

**Q: Has Bobcat been discontinued?**

**A:** No.

**Q: Tell me about the adventure loops...**

**A:** Adventure loops are lower in cost than the current academic and sports program loops (\$1.39 vs. \$1.89). Adventure loops were selected as recognition devices for Tiger, Wolf and Bear Scouts because:

- Boys really like them
- They are easy to award and easy to wear.

**Q: The Arrow of Light rank no longer requires earning the Webelos rank as one of its requirements. Why?**

**A:** Key reasons:

- The Arrow of Light rank (and its predecessors) serves the purpose of helping the oldest Cub Scouts transition into a Boy Scout troop. It still serves this purpose – better, in fact, than it did previously.
- For boys who join Cub Scouting in grade 5, earning an additional rank in order to earn the Arrow of Light award is a tremendous disincentive and works against their further involvement in Scouting.
- Cub Scout ranks are not cumulative as are Boy Scout ranks. Each rank is a stand-alone, independent experience. In this regard, the requirements used for the current version of the Arrow of Light rank have been an anomaly.
- **Only boys who join Cub Scouts in their fifth grade year should, after completing their Bobcat requirements, begin working directly on Arrow of Light requirements. All other Cub Scouts would work on earning the Webelos rank first.**

**Q: Is Arrow of Light now a rank, rather than Cub Scouting’s highest award?**

**A:** Arrow of Light has always been the highest rank in Cub Scouting. Referring to it as an award – or as a rank – may be considered synonyms. Its purpose remains to recognize boys who have prepared themselves to enter Boy Scouting.

**Q: Are boys in the fifth grade referred to as Arrow of Light Scouts?**

**A:** Boys who are earning the Webelos and Arrow of Light ranks are Webelos Scouts and are members of Webelos dens.

**Q: What happened to the academic and sports program?**

**A:** Many of the activities in the academic and sports program were integrated into the new advancement materials. The use of belt loops and pins for recognition was retained and repurposed to recognize achieving the newly developed adventures.

**Q: Are there any changes to the uniforms?**

**A:** No. Current uniforms remain in place, including gold/blue combination for female leaders and the option for Cub Scouts and leaders to “tuck under” the collar of the uniform shirt when wearing a neckerchief.

The Tiger Scout cap and neckerchief will reflect the updated design for the Tiger.

**Q: Why are we moving to the same oath and law as used in Boy Scouts?**

**A:** One of the recommendations of the BSA’s national strategic plan (a process led by volunteer scout leaders) was to move all of the programs of the Boy Scouts of America to a common statement of values and ideals – the Scout Oath and Law. This aligns each level of program with the mission of the BSA, to help develop young people’s ability to make ethical decisions guided by the values stated in the Scout Oath and Law. Each level in the movement has a separate motto to help young people mature in their ability to live up the values in the oath and law and apply it to their lives.

- Q: Are the adventure loops the same size as the current academic and sports loops?**  
**A:** They are narrower.
- Q: Will there be STEM-based adventures?**  
**A:** Yes. Please visit the requirements for the adventures at this link:  
[http://www.scouting.org/filestore/program\\_update/pdf/Appended%20Requirements.pdf](http://www.scouting.org/filestore/program_update/pdf/Appended%20Requirements.pdf)
- Q: Where are the adventure pins for Arrow of Light and Webelos worn?**  
**A:** On the Webelos colors or on the front of the Webelos cap.
- Q: I was told at our local Scout office that the program will start in September. The webcast says June 1. Which is correct?**  
**A:** The new program will kick off for use on June 1, 2015. Dens and units may begin using the new program and its requirements then, or later if they do not run a year-round program.
- Q: Has climate been taken into consideration?**  
**A:** Absolutely. There is no required order to complete the adventures. Sequence the activities in a manner that makes sense for your local conditions and resources.
- Q: Will den chief materials be updated?**  
**A:** Yes – all Cub Scouting materials are in the process of being updated to reflect the new program materials.
- Q: Are three meetings (two meetings plus one outing) per month required or a recommendation?**  
**A:** The program was designed to work best with two meetings and one outing per month. The materials and the activities were developed so as to not tax the attention span of boys of Cub Scout age.
- Q: Why did you not get feedback from unit leaders?**  
**A:** Feedback from Scouters from all around the country – including unit leaders – and boys, too, was acquired and examined when developing the materials for the new program.
- Q: Will Cub Scouts continue to use the current two finger sign, salute, and handshake?**  
**A:** Yes.
- Q: With the new Webelos program lasting only one year, how will that impact the LDS Cub Scouting program?**  
**A:** The Webelos program continues to be designed to be run as either a 18 month, school-year program or a 12 month, year-round program.
- Q: Are the pins for Webelos only?**  
**A:** Yes. Webelos Scouts will earn adventure pins as part of their advancement to the Webelos and Arrow of Light ranks.
- Q: May the Arrow of Light award continue to be worn on the Boy Scout uniform?**  
**A:** Yes. The square knot emblem that represents the Arrow of Light rank may be worn on the adult Scouter’s uniform, too.

**Q: May boys receive patches for special district and council events?**

**A:** If that is the practice in your local council, then you may expect that it will continue.

**Q: Why was the former requirement to explain the meaning of the word “Webelos” removed from the Bobcat requirements?**

**A:** The word “Webelos” is defined in the youth handbooks. It was decided that it was unnecessary to make it a requirement as well.

**Q: With the movement to one oath and one law at all levels of the program, why didn’t the uniform become green and khaki, like the Boy Scout uniform?**

**A:** The program designers also value traditions, too, and the decision was to continue using a blue Cub Scout uniform.

**Q: Can we change the information in the Den Leader Guides?**

**And**

**Doesn’t new program denies talented and creative leaders the opportunity to design and run a program for boys?**

**A:** To achieve the desired outcomes of the advancement program, you are not required to use the soon-to-be published *Den Leader Guides*. However, the expectation is that leaders deliver a fun and engaging program for boys that provide youth with ongoing opportunities to advance in rank *based on the new requirements*. The *Den Leader Guides* were developed to help den leaders deliver a fun and engaging program with all needed resources available/identified in a single document. You are encouraged to use the material in the *Den Leader Guides* to achieve those goals.

**Q: Is the word “cub” being removed from the program?**

**A:** No. The program for 7-10 year old boys remains Cub Scouting. Each level of program, however, may be referred to as Tiger Scouts, Wolf Scouts, Bear Scouts and Webelos Scouts (which also includes boys working on the Arrow of Light award).

**Q: Bears teaching games to younger Cub Scouts? That sounds like it will need more coordination and planning among the den leaders and the Cubmaster.**

**A:** There has always been an expectation that Cubmasters work with den leaders to deliver the program at a pack meeting. This simply specifies that there are some rank requirements that are best accomplished during a pack meeting – and to be aware and plan for it.

**Q: It should be interesting to teach the oath and law to Tiger-aged boys.**

**A:** Bobcat requirements 1 and 2 ask boys to say the oath and law, with help if needed. We would expect this to be learned through ongoing use at den meetings over the entire program year with boys becoming more and more independent in their ability to recite it over time.

**Q: Is there a recommended order to deliver the adventures?**

**A:** No – put it together in a sequence that makes sense for where you live and the needs and resources of the boys in your pack. May in Maine is not the same as May in Louisiana. Let your program delivery reflect that reality.

**Q:** I'm sad to see "Do Your Best" get axed.

**A:** It was not. *Do Your Best* remains the Cub Scout Motto.

See Bryan on Scouting: <http://blog.scoutingmagazine.org/2014/12/05/cub-scout-motto-sign-salute-handshake-wont-change/>

Further comment on the rationale for all mottos in Scouting, drawn from the link above:

A comment about the use of the Scout Oath and Law across all levels of Scouting comes from the new Venturing Advisor Guidebook, shared below. It makes the point that we have a common set of values and ideals across all of levels of Scouting, but we use a motto to serve as a lens to help us understand how we live by those values. The motto serves as an age-appropriate way to connect individuals with the oath and law. In this way, we help young people become progressively more "other directed" as they mature in their interpretation and application of the values associated with the Scout Oath and Law.

"The Ideals Across All Program Levels

Scouting is a single program serving youth and young adults from ages 7 through 20. The ideals of Scouting are a constant across the entire organization, from Cub Scouting through Venturing. Helping youth members understand and apply the ideals to their daily lives is part of the inductive element of Scouting. Adult leaders don't teach the skills directly, as they might for how to tie knots or operate a motorboat, but the lessons learned through the development of these values will last a lifetime.

The motto at each level provides the key for interpreting how to live by Scouting's ideals. For Cub Scouts, the motto "Do Your Best" serves to guide boys to make every effort to live by the Scout Oath and Scout Law. Boy Scouts are challenged to "Be Prepared" to live by the Scout Oath and Scout Law. For Venturers, "Lead the Adventure" helps them focus on taking action to live by the values of Scouting's ideals. As Venturers mature, so should their understanding of the Scout Oath and Scout Law. The ideals are not just words for children and young adults to follow. They are truly a set of guidelines for leading an ethical life." (page 118).

**Q:** Will the oval and diamond-shaped Webelos rank badges be retained?

**A:** Yes – both will continue to be available.

**Q:** Are the adventure loops (and pins) rank-specific?

**A:** Yes – there is a different set of adventures for boys at each level in the Cub Scout program

**Q:** Will elements of the *Jungle Book* be included in the new materials?

**A:** The influence of the *Jungle Book* on the Cub Scout program is described in the new materials. Akela, for example, remains as a wise and honored leader.

**Q:** Why are there not options to earn faith awards to meet the duty to God requirements at the Tiger level as well?

**A:** The requirements for Tigers is structured to begin a dialogue between the boy and his family about what his family's belief structure is. Such a discussion was determined to be fundamental to a boy developing his own sense of his duty to God and has no substitute at that age.

**Q:** Why will the religious emblem be earned as a Wolf and Bear? If you earn it as a Wolf, then what do you do as a Bear?

**A:** There are alternative requirements at each level. Earning the Duty to God adventure has multiple options.

**Q: Do boys get a loop or a pin for recognition?**

**A:** Adventure loops are used for boys completing adventures for the Tiger, Wolf, and Bear ranks. Adventure pins are awarded to boys completing adventures for the Webelos and Arrow of Light ranks.

**Q: What do the new loops and pins look like?**

**A:** Take a look here:

[http://www.scouting.org/filestore/program\\_update/pdf/Appended%20Requirements.pdf](http://www.scouting.org/filestore/program_update/pdf/Appended%20Requirements.pdf)

**Q: Is Cub Scouting now a year-round program?**

**A:** Cub Scouting has long supported year round program opportunities. The adventure loops and pins provide opportunities to organize and deliver program experiences year round. Packs chartered by the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints encourage a year round program for the units they charter.

**Q: What happens if a boy misses a meeting?**

**A:** The same thing as when a boy misses a meeting in the current program – work with him and his family, assistant den leaders, parent helps and/or the den chief to provide some individual coaching and help to bring him up to speed on what was missed.

## **ADVANCEMENT QUESTIONS**

**Q: Is it true that Bobcat is no longer required?**

**A:** NO. Bobcat remains the first rank that all Cub Scouts earn, regardless of when they join Cub Scouting.

**Q: May boys earn additional elective adventures beyond the seven required for each level of rank advancement?**

**A:** Yes. Boys are encouraged to explore as many of the electives for their rank as they wish, either in their den or with their family. Boys may not, however, work on electives from earlier ranks after they have graduated to their next rank and den.

**Q: Are the Duty to God adventures achievable for boys whose families do not belong to an organized religious group?**

**A:** Yes.

**Q: Are the arrow points being discontinued?**

**A:** Yes. Boys may earn additional adventure loops and adventure pins as they explore additional opportunities.

**Q: How long does it take to earn an adventure?**

**A:** It takes about three meetings to complete an adventure. Adventures generally involve two den meetings and one outing.

**Q: How should recognition take place?**

**A:** Boys must be recognized as soon as possible after completing an adventure – and a badge of rank. Pocket certificates are available as well as devices for adventures (adventure loops and adventure pins) and cloth badges of rank. Your pack may establish a practice that makes sense for its members. Two possible examples:

- Presenting the device (adventure loop or adventure pin) at a den meeting immediately after completion, and presenting pocket certificates at the next pack meeting
- Presenting pocket certificates when the award is completed and bestowing the device at the next pack meeting

**In any case, no boy should be required to wait more than two weeks to be recognized and to receive his award.**

**Q: Do boys need to remove previously earned academic and sports program belt loops and pins, or arrow points earned as part of Wolf and Bear advancement?**

**A:** No. Once an award is earned, it may continue to be worn as appropriate

**Q: When do boys earn the Whittling Chip?**

**A:** It is part of the Bear Claws adventure, earned while working on the Bear rank.

**Q: Does Cub Scouting support individual exploration?**

**A:** Absolutely. The adventures that lead to rank advancement are all designed to help boys achieve the outcomes of Scouting: personal fitness, participatory citizenship, character development, outdoor adventure and leadership development. In addition to the required adventures at each level, there are many elective adventures that boys may explore with their den – and their families – to follow their own interests and passions.

**Q: Is the Webelos Super achiever award still available?**

**A:** Supply service items and local council-produced items to recognize boys who earned 20 activity badges in the new program are not part of the new program materials. Items such as this are not part of the advancement program.

**Q: Will boys be able to earn advancements in rank by the Blue and Gold banquet?**

**A:** While for many packs it is a tradition to encourage boys to earn their rank advancements in time for the annual Blue and Gold banquet, that goal has never been a program requirement in the Boy Scouts of America. However, for boys who earn adventures beginning at the start of the traditional academic year (August/September), it is likely that he would earn the rank advancement by February.

Blue and Gold banquets were conceived as celebrations of Scouting’s establishment in February 1910. Blue and Gold banquets are not intended to serve as “graduation” experiences for boys moving to the next program level. Program level changes take place at the end of the traditional school year (or on a boy’s birthday for units chartered by the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints).

**Q: Will the religious awards program continue to be available?**

**A:** Yes.

**Q: Do boys need to re-earn Bobcat after June 1?**

**A:** No.

**Q:** **I am concerned that boys with special needs will not be able to keep up.**

**A:** More detailed suggestions on working with special needs boys will be available in each of the new Den Leader Guides. A short answer here: the level of performance for all boys in Cub Scouting is to do his best.

**Q:** **What about those of us who are planning to finish the program using the current set of program materials – will the academics and sports program awards required for some of the Webelos activity badges still be available through next year?**

**A:** The intention is to keep those program materials available while those recognitions are still needed.

General comment: dens and packs are free to use the current academic and sports program recognition materials while they remain available at your local scout shop.

**Q:** **Will internet advancement be revised to reflect the new program model?**

**A:** Yes

**Q:** **Will ScoutTrack be updated?**

**A:** ScoutTrack is a third party resource and the Boy Scouts of America is not in a position to comment on their plans.

**Q:** **If the adventure requires an outing, what do we do if it is too cold to go outside?**

**A:** Don't plan your adventures with significant outdoor requirements for months when the weather is a challenge. You can arrange the adventures in any order that makes sense for where you live.

**Q:** **Can a boy apply the same electives toward both Webelos and Arrow of Light?**

**A:** No. A boy would earn 5 required and 2 elective adventures for Webelos and 4 required and 3 elective adventures for Arrow of Light. The set of elective adventures for both ranks will not allow for "double dipping." You may earn the adventures in any order and award both Webelos and Arrow of Light on a boy's 11<sup>th</sup> birthday.

**Q:** **May boys continue to earn the academic and sports program belt loops and pins?**

**A:** They may continue to earn these recognitions as long as they are available for purchase at your local scout shop.

**Q:** **May a boy earn required adventures for Arrow of Light before he has earned his Webelos rank?**

**A:** Yes.

**Q:** **If a boy joins a den at the start of grade five he can work on the Arrow of Light award without earning the Webelos rank. I understand that. What if he joins a den that is finishing up with the current program materials? This is like running two separate programs!**

**A:** In the current program, if a boy joins Cub Scouting in grade five and wishes to earn the Arrow of Light award, he needs to meet the requirements for the Webelos award through coaching, personal attention from the den leader, and extra work supervised by the boy's family. The situation described in the question is similar – work through coaching and with other leaders and the boy's family to meet the requirement for Arrow of Light.

**Q: Do the boys need to remove the adventure loops at the end of each year?**

**A:** No – they may continue to wear them on their Cub Scout belt.

**Q: Are the age appropriate guidelines for Scouting going to be modified? If not, how will they complete the Bear Necessities cooking requirements?**

**A:** The guidelines as they relate to camping remain unchanged. Boys may complete the Bear Necessities requirements on a pack or family camping outing or other suitable outdoor cooking situation.

**Q: Why is there a geocaching requirement in the Webelos Camper adventure? Why not map and compass activities?**

**A:** Map and compass activities were introduced during previous Wolf and Bear adventures.

**Q: Will online advancement allow us to record the new adventures starting on June 1?**

**A:** Yes. Future recording of a boy's progress will be at the adventure level in addition to the rank level and an advancement report will NOT be required to purchase adventure loops and pins. An advancement report will continue to be required to purchase badges of rank.

**Q: May our pack continue to use the activity segments that we purchase at our council Scout shop?**

**A:** Yes – if your council maintains that recognition system for den, pack and local council events, then it will continue to be available.

**Q: What happens if a boy misses a meeting?**

**A:** The same thing as when a boy misses a meeting in the current program – work with him and his family, assistant den leaders, parent helps and/or the den chief to provide some individual coaching and help to bring him up to speed on what was missed.

**Q: Are the adventure loops and adventure pins available for boys to earn at any rank?**

**A:** The adventure loops and pins are designed for use at a single level of program. There are unique sets of adventures for Tiger, Wolf, Bear, Webelos and Arrow of Light ranks.

**Q: What will happen to the Academics and Sports program?**

**A:** The Academics and Sports program is “going away,” and with it, the belt loops and pins. At a deeper level, the best of the Academics and Sports program has been reviewed and, where appropriate, integrated into the required and elective adventures of the new program. Each adventure will have an immediate recognition item that Cub Scouts will wear on their uniforms. A series of belt loops, similar to those used in the Academics and Sports program, are being designed to serve as recognition items.

**Q: My boys really liked the Academics and Sports program belt loops. I am unhappy that the loops were discontinued.**

**A:** Many of the activities that were part of the Academics and Sports program were integrated into the new Cub Scout adventure program. Belt loops—now called *adventure loops*—will be used to recognize completion of each of the Cub Scout adventures described in the handbooks.

**Q: Can boys work on elective adventure loops before they advance in rank?**

**A:** Yes—and they may continue to earn additional adventure loops designed for each rank level after they have earned the rank at each level.

**Q:** **Do boys need to complete all requirements to earn an adventure loop?**

**A:** They will need to complete the requirements as written for each adventure.

**Q:** **Do the adventure loops need to be earned in a specific order?**

**A:** No. Work on them when it works for the boys in the den you lead. A set of required adventures, represented by the loops, need to be earned to achieve the ranks of Tiger, Wolf, Bear, and Webelos Scout and the Arrow of Light Award.

**Q:** **What are the loops made of?**

**A:** The loops are metal, similar to the loops used in the Academics and Sports program.

**Q:** **Are they washable?**

**A:** Well, yes. But since they are metal, they will make a lot of noise in the dryer and probably will have some adverse effect on other things in the load, so washing them is not recommended. 😊

**Q:** **How many can a Cub Scout earn?**

**A:** A boy may earn as many as he wishes. The loops are different for each rank.

**Q:** **Can the adventure loops all fit on the Cub Scout belt?**

**A:** Yes. They are slightly narrower than the Academics and Sports loops.

**Q:** **Can the adventure loops be worn without a Cub Scout belt? Or worn with another belt?**

**A:** They are designed to be worn on the official Cub Scout uniform belt.

**Q:** **Some are colored, some are not. What's the difference?**

**A:** Core adventure loops are in several colors; elective adventure loops use a single-color design.

**Q:** **Can boys earn them at camp?**

**A:** Yes, if your day camp or resident camp program offers them as part of the camp program.

**Q:** **Can boys work ahead on the next rank level adventures and earn the loops while in their current rank?**

**A:** No, this is not an option. The adventure loops were developed for each level of program.

**Q:** **Must the adventure loops only be earned at den meetings?**

**A:** No. The den meeting program materials are designed to help den leaders assist boys in delivering a program that is commemorated by awarding adventure loops. Adventure loops may also be completed by families and during day camp and resident camp.

**Q:** **Do Webelos Scouts still earn adventure loops?**

**A:** Webelos recognition will make use of adventure pins. The pins may be worn on the Webelos colors or on the front of the Webelos cap. The pins will be used to recognize completion of adventures while earning the Webelos rank and Arrow of Light Award. Webelos Scouts can earn nearly 30 different adventures.

**Q: Our Bear den will finish the Bear requirements sometime after the beginning of January in 2015. What sort of transition is planned for Cub Scouts at that program level?**

**A:** The new program changes will be implemented beginning June 1, 2015. Boys in a Bear den who complete their Bear rank in January 2015 still have several months in which to experience Cub Scouting as Bear Scouts. There are additional adventures that boys in the den may earn. This reflects current practices, as dens are structured based on grade levels in traditional Cub Scout packs, so they would not begin their work toward Webelos until the end of the traditional school year in late spring.

When the den crosses over to become a Webelos den in late spring 2015, it would begin using the new adventure-based advancement requirements after June 1, 2015, as the boys pursue their Webelos award.

**Q: What does the transition from the current program to the new Cub Scout adventure-based program look like?**

**A:** Use the following guidelines to plan your program year:  
After June 1, 2015, use the new recognition system and adventures for the Tiger, Wolf, Bear, and Webelos ranks.

Special guidelines for the Arrow of Light Award – there are two options:

**Option 1:** He may continue to work out of the current handbook and complete the Arrow of Light requirements as stated.

**Option 2:** He may begin using the new Webelos Handbook and the Webelos Den Leader Guide for the Webelos adventures. If he chooses this option:

- He must complete the four defined required adventures.
- To satisfy the requirement for three electives, he may use EITHER the new adventure electives OR activity badges earned under the current program but not used to fulfill Webelos rank requirements. *Elective* activity badges earned before June 1, 2015, may be used to meet requirements for *elective* adventures during the first year of the new program, June 1, 2015, through May 31, 2016.

Previously only Option 2 was available, meaning when first-year Webelos transitioned to the second-year Webelos program in 2015, they would need to get the new book and earn their Arrow of Light Award under the redesigned program.

They may still do that, or they may choose Option 1 and stick with the current handbook and requirements as they finish Cub Scouts.

Since the Scouting program of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints uses boys' birthdays, not grade levels, for program transitions, specific transition suggestions for LDS units will be released in advance of the new program model. These suggestions are available on the BSA's Program Updates web page.

**Q: Will the “Earned All 20” (activity badges), “Super 20,” or “Webelos Super-Achiever” awards remain available after the transition to the new program model?**

**A:** Currently, more than 20 new Webelos rank and Arrow of Light Award adventures are included in the program; it is possible that still more will be developed.

Some background and commentary: You may not be aware that the Perfect 20 and similar awards are not recognized by the National Council. We certainly encourage boys to experience all that Cub Scouting has to offer as aggressively as they choose, but these awards will continue to exist only if the local council decides to maintain them. At the National Council, our focus is on quality program for the core adventures in the new program since it is these adventures that are connected most closely to the mission and aims of the Boy Scouts of America. Any rush to Perfect 20 or Super 20 that diminishes the outcomes of the core requirements would, in our opinion, be unwise. But hey, if the boys want to ...

**Q: What is the transition timeline for using the Scout Oath and Scout Law and for the new program materials?**

**A:** The official timing for shifting to the use of the Scout Oath and Scout Law, per the National Executive Board resolution, is with the other changes in the Cub Scout program. We will begin transitioning into the new program beginning with the 2015–2016 Scouting year. Program materials to support the new handbook will be in Scout shops no later than June 1, 2015.

Many dens and packs are already beginning to use the Scout Oath and Scout Law. The National Council has no issue with this earlier transition since it gets us to the desired outcome sooner, but that is a local decision. The only implication is that the unit would need to discuss its alignment with the Bobcat requirements.

**Q: Why don't boys have to earn all of the lower ranks to earn the Arrow of Light Award? That's like earning the Eagle Scout Award without earning the lower ranks!**

**A:** Cub Scouting is not the same as Boy Scouting.

In Cub Scouting, since a boy may join at any level and does not “go back” to earn an earlier award, the awards are more “standalone” in nature. In addition to serving as a capstone award for Cub Scouting, the Arrow of Light Award symbolizes readiness to become a Boy Scout, as it has since it was first developed. The new requirements for the Arrow of Light Award are designed to achieve that transition effectively, even for boys who join Cub Scouting as late as the fifth grade.

**Q: You said that the immediate recognition items are being changed. What will replace them?**

**A:** New immediate recognition devices were released at the May 2014 National Annual Meeting. Boys will receive an adventure loop to be worn on the Cub Scout belt for completing adventures at the Tiger, Wolf, and Bear level.

Boys working on the Webelos and Arrow of Light ranks will receive adventure pins when each adventure is completed. The pins have been redesigned for the new program

**Q: Our local district offers a Cub Scout activity day using the Academics and Sports program—we call it “Belt Loop College.” What will replace that? We will begin planning next year's Belt Loop College next month; what program feature should we use as a planning guide?**

**A:** New immediate recognition devices were released at the May 2014 National Annual Meeting. The Academics and Sports program will be retired June 1, 2015, so the district program you described may continue in the same manner through that date. The content for the Academics and Sports

program has been incorporated into many of the new Cub Scout adventure recognitions. Two alternatives may work for your district:

- Create a similar program around the Cub Scouting elective adventures.
- Provide a single embroidered emblem for participation in an enjoyable day of Cub Scout activities (which could incorporate the activities that were present in the Academics and Sports program).

**Q: As I understand it, boys complete six den-based adventures plus a family-based Duty to God adventure to earn the Tiger, Wolf, and Bear ranks, and each adventure will require about three den meetings to complete. Will this plan require a total of 21 den meetings to complete each rank? I'd appreciate any clarification.**

**A:** The number of meetings required to meet the requirements for each adventure was presented as what is "typical" for dens. Most of the adventures were designed so that two meetings and one outing complete each adventure. The Duty to God adventures are designed to be completed by families. This would translate into about six months of programming to complete advancement toward the Tiger, Wolf, and Bear ranks. All of the additional adventures provide ample opportunities for an entire year of programming for Cub Scout dens.

**Q: Some of the adventures look pretty challenging to me as a leader—I don't know much about robotics or using technology. What help will be available?**

**A:** The den leader guides for each rank provide enough support that all leaders can successfully lead a STEM-based den meeting.

**Q: What is the role of the Character Connections approach, Know – Commit – Practice**

**A:** The Core Values are replaced by the 12 Points of the Scout Law. The highly structured know-commit-practice process has been replaced by two different approaches:

- Reflections in each youth handbook
- Call-outs for den leaders in the den leader handbooks, to reflect on the values of the Scout Law during the leader minute and during reflections after games and activities.

## TRANSITION QUESTIONS

**Q: I've read the materials and have a pretty good idea of what to expect. Do you have any suggestions to help my pack get started using the new program?**

**A:** Prepare for your annual planning meeting as before, but be sure to add these resources:

- The list of requirements for the new Cub Scout Adventures
- The online pack meeting plans (to be posted on 4/1/2015)
- Use the Cub Scout Adventure Analysis Worksheet (page 6, below) as a planning tool.
- The new Cub Scout handbooks
- The new Den Leader guide books for each rank

As an additional resource, a series of webinars was presented in January, 2015. The webcasts are archived at <http://www.livestream.com/bsanationalcouncil>

You do not need to sign in for the webcasts. The following topics were discussed: be presented in January.

- Cubmaster
- Den Leader
- LDS-Specific Considerations (It is recommended that those interested in the LDS session view one of the role-specific sessions first)

**Q: In the current program, Webelos Scouts complete a list of requirements for the Arrow of Light Award that includes learning the Scout Oath and Law, visiting a Boy Scout troop, etc. as well as earning activity badges. I did not see those requirements for the new Arrow of Light requirements in the new Arrow of Light requirements. Did those requirements go away?**

**A:** No. Those requirements did not go away. Those requirements are included in the Scouting Adventure, a required adventure during the Arrow of Light year.

Be sure to share those requirements with the leadership of the troops that your Webelos den visits. Webelos Scouts will be better prepared than ever before about what to look for in a Boy Scout troop. When Webelos visit a troop meeting, they will expect to see a meeting led by a Boy Scout, they will look for different levels of program for boys in their first year of Scouting and more experienced boys, and they will look for patrol meetings taking place during the troop meeting – along with games, ceremonies, fun and a Scoutmaster’s minute at the end.

**Q: Are any program support materials being designed for pack meetings?**

**A:** A new set of materials, *Pack Meeting Plans*, will be released to support Cubmasters. These materials will be posted online at the beginning of April 2015.

**Q: Is there going to be a new book for Cubmasters?**

**A:** An updated version of the *Cub Scout Leader Book* is in preparation.

**Q: What other resources will be available to leaders?**

**A:** The key new resource will be the *Den Leader Guide* – one each for Tiger, Wolf and Bear and one for Webelos and Arrow of Light combined.

These guides will include the requirements and den meeting plans for each of the required and elective adventures and in addition to step-by-step den meeting plans will include resources and materials lists to guide fun, engaging delivery of the adventures.

**Q: Will there be additional content for Roundtable commissioners?**

**A:** To help prepare unit leaders for the new Cub Scouting program launching June 1, supplemental roundtable content was developed to replace or supplement the current sessions listed as “Cub Scout Interest Topics” for January – July 2015.

January – Program Support for Den Leaders

February – Advancement

March – Program Planning for Dens

April – New Pack Meeting Plans

May – Aquatic Adventures

June – Campfire Programs

July – Resources for Packs and Den Leaders

Updates will be sent directly to registered Roundtable commissioners in advance. The materials will also be posted on the Program Updates website:  
<http://www.scouting.org/scoutsource/programupdates>

**Q: What sort of flexibility is there for using the new program for boys who are currently Cub Scouts?**

**A:** As boys transition into their next level of advancement at the end of the traditional academic year, new Tiger, Wolf, Bear, and Webelos Scouts should use the new program materials starting on June

For boys who are starting work on the Arrow of Light rank, there are two options.

OPTION 1: Continue using the current handbook and complete the Arrow of Light requirements as stated.

OPTION 2: Begin using the new *Webelos Handbook* and the *Webelos Den Leader Guide* for the Arrow of Light adventures.

- Must complete the four defined required adventures
- To satisfy the requirement for three electives may utilize EITHER the new adventure electives OR activity badges earned under the current program but NOT USED TO FULFILL WEBELOS RANK REQUIREMENTS

**Q: How will we know how to transition from one program to another?**

**A:** On June 1, start using the new materials. For Webelos Scouts starting on the trail to the Arrow of Light award after June 1, use the transition information posted here:

[http://www.scouting.org/filestore/program\\_update/pdf/CS%20Program%20Transition.pdf](http://www.scouting.org/filestore/program_update/pdf/CS%20Program%20Transition.pdf)

**Q: Do you have any suggestions for preparing to plan for using the new program?**

**A:** Several ideas will help you and the members of the pack prepare to use the new materials.

1. Attend roundtable meetings this spring. Each month will offer piece-by-piece introductions to the new program.
2. Carry out an annual planning meeting with your pack as described in the current *Cub Scout Leader Handbook*.
3. Look at the “impact” of the new den meetings. The chart below (CUB SCOUT ADVENTURE ANALYSIS WORKSHEET) is a helpful tool to organize this process. Use the requirements published on [www.scouting.org/programupdates](http://www.scouting.org/programupdates) to help your pack leadership understand the new program materials.
4. Map out your year’s program for your den. A simple chart like the one on the next page is included in the new *Den Leader Guides*.

WOLF DEN ADVENTURE PLAN	
JUNE	
JULY	
AUGUST	
SEPTEMBER	
OCTOBER	
NOVEMBER	
DECEMBER	
JANUARY	
FEBRUARY	
MARCH	
APRIL	
MAY	

\*DUTY TO GOD ADVENTURES ARE COMPLETED WITH THE FAMILY\*

WOLF DEN ADVENTURE PLAN	
JUNE	CALL OF THE WILD
JULY	
AUGUST	COUNCIL FIRE
SEPTEMBER	
OCTOBER	HOWLING AT THE MOON
NOVEMBER	
DECEMBER	
JANUARY	
FEBRUARY	
MARCH	PAWS ON THE PATH
APRIL	RUNNING WITH THE PACK
MAY	

\*DUTY TO GOD ADVENTURES ARE COMPLETED WITH THE FAMILY\*

DUTY TO GOD FOOTSTEPS – AT HOME

RED: REQUIRED ADVENTURES

WOLF DEN ADVENTURE PLAN	
JUNE	CALL OF THE WILD
JULY	FINDING YOUR WAY
AUGUST	COUNCIL FIRE
SEPTEMBER	PAWS OF SKILL
OCTOBER	HOWLING AT THE MOON
NOVEMBER	AIR OF THE WOLF
DECEMBER	MOTOR AWAY
JANUARY	CUBS WHO CARE
FEBRUARY	CODE OF THE WOLF
MARCH	PAWS ON THE PATH
APRIL	RUNNING WITH THE PACK
MAY	GROW SOMETHING

\*DUTY TO GOD ADVENTURES ARE COMPLETED WITH THE FAMILY\*

DUTY TO GOD FOOTSTEPS – AT HOME

RED: REQUIRED ADVENTURES  
BLUE: ELECTIVE ADVENTURES (ONE REQUIRED)

**RESOURCES AND TRAINING QUESTIONS**

- Q: Where is the link for the updates?**
- A:** Right here: <http://www.scouting.org/scoutsource/programupdates>
  
- Q: When will the new updated for position-specific training be available?**
- A:** These have been developed and will be released for use in the spring of 2015.

Additional comment: online training for the content currently known as Fast Start and Position Specific will continue to be available. They will be implemented differently however. Look for a series of 3-8 minute modules; you may complete them in any order that you choose, but training not considered complete until all the required modules are finished.

- Q: When will updated training materials for BALOO and Introduction to Outdoor Leader Skills for Webelos Leaders be released?**
- A:** These materials are currently in revision to align the content with the new advancement materials. Look for these in the spring of 2015.
  
- Q: Will additional training be offered again at Philmont Training Center?**
- A:** Yes it will. This year’s conference will again introduce participants to the content of the new program materials as well as allow participants to break out into one of two tracks (unit leader and district/council leader) for in-depth preparation to implement the new program materials.

*Leading The Cub Scout Adventure*

During this fun filled week you will journey through the NEW Cub Scout Program from Tiger thru Arrow of Light. Den Leaders and Cub Masters will see and feel the excitement of being a Cub Scout as they learn about the new Cub Scout adventures and trek through samples from each of the ranks, latest and greatest in Pack Meeting Plans and den and pack planning tools. Attendees in service to units (professionals, commissioners, and others) will share this journey while following their own path discovering how districts and councils can support local units in the delivery of this NEW and EXCITING Adventure Program for Cub Scouts . This is a “hands on”

conference giving you perspective on leading the new program from multiple roles. You won't want to miss this one!

Conference dates: June 21 – 27; July 12 – 18, 2015; July 26 – August 1; August 2 – 8, 2015.

To register, visit [www.philmonttrainingcenter.org](http://www.philmonttrainingcenter.org)

**Q: When will handbooks and leader materials be available for purchase?**

**A:** May 1, 2015.

The costs of the books will be established as soon as the size of the book is confirmed.

**Q: Are the requirements available for review and planning now?**

**A:** Yes – please visit [www.scouting.org/programupdates](http://www.scouting.org/programupdates) for information on requirements and much, much more.

**Q: Is there a handbook for the Arrow of Light award?**

**A:** The requirements for the Arrow of Light rank – and the den leader materials to support earning this award – are in the *Webelos Handbook* and the *Webelos Den Leader Guide*.

**Q: Will the handbook materials also be available as electronic publications? Will they be available as portable document files (\*.pdf)?**

**A:** Yes – they will be available as e-pubs on May 1 at Amazon.com. No, they will not be available as \*.pdfs.

**Q: What about the binding for the books?**

**A:** Perfect binding or spiral for youth books; 8-1/2" x 11" and three hole punched for leader materials. Electronic versions will be available as well.

**Q: What does one den leader guide per rank mean?**

**A:** The *Den Leader Guide* is the leader's set of den meeting plans and program materials. There is a volume for Tiger, for Wolf, for Bear and for Webelos/Arrow of Light.

**Q: Do currently trained leaders need to be re-trained?**

**A:** No – once trained, always trained is the BSA's current position. You are encouraged to take the "What's New in Cub Scouting" training when it is released later this spring. Youth protection re

**Q: Will training such as BALOO change?**

**A:** Yes – BALOO and all other training that supports delivery of the Cub Scout program is undergoing revisions.

**Q: Is a training syllabus for a revised Cub Scout Leader Position-Specific Training under development?**

**A:** Yes. It will be released with online position-specific training by 3/31.

**Q: Are program helps going to be published in Scouting magazine as in the past?**

**A:** No – Cub Scout den meeting materials are in the four *Den Leader Guides*. Pack meeting plans are under development and will be published online in April, 2015.

**Q: Will I need to buy *Den Leader Guides* each year?**

**A:** A *Den Leader Guide* has been developed for each program level – Tiger, Wolf, Bear, and Webelos/Arrow of Light. If you follow a group of boys from year to year, a new book is needed. However, the book content for each rank will remain the same, so the books may be used for multiple years.

**Q: Can we change the information in the *Den Leader Guides*?**

**And**

**So the new program denies talented and creative leaders the opportunity to design and run a program for boys?**

**A:** To achieve the desired outcomes of the advancement program, you are not required to use the soon-to-be published *Den Leader Guides*. However, the expectation is that leaders deliver a fun and engaging program for boys that provide youth with ongoing opportunities to advance in rank. The *Den Leader Guides* were developed to help den leaders deliver a fun and engaging program with all needed resources available/identified in a single document. You are encouraged to use the material in the *Den Leader Guides* to achieve those goals.

**Q: I really don't like to change our pack meetings.**

**A:** The pack meeting plans to be released this year continue to use the same seven-step meeting model. They will also celebrate explicitly one of the points of the Scout Law and be organized with a theme to make the program fun and exciting for boys and families.

**Q: Roundtable is going to be an important tool for leaders with the new program. Are there materials ready to go?**

**A:** Starting in January of this year, new roundtable sessions will be released for use in launching the new Cub Scout program with new leaders.

**Q: When will the new training materials be available?**

**A:** By the end of the first quarter, 2015.

**Q: Can we download the power point presentations used during the webcast today?**

**A:** Current program summaries are available at [www.scouting.org/programupdates](http://www.scouting.org/programupdates) including a PowerPoint presentation; this summarizes the information as well.

**Q: I am planning day camp for our council. How long before I can see the activities?**

**A:** You can already review the requirements for the adventures at [http://www.scouting.org/filestore/program\\_update/pdf/Appended%20Requirements.pdf](http://www.scouting.org/filestore/program_update/pdf/Appended%20Requirements.pdf)

**Q: Can roundtable commissioners receive advance copies of the handbooks?**

**A:** They will be available to everyone on May 1. There are no early release copies available for anyone.

**Q: Are pocket certificates staying the same size?**

**A:** Yes – and the design will be updated to reflect the new program materials.

**Q: Tell me about the den leader guides.**

**A:** Four separate den leader guides have been developed for each of the program levels (one each for Tiger, Wolf, and Bear and a combined guide for Webelos Scouts and the Arrow of Light Award). They were designed as complete, all-in-one den meeting plan and resource guides to help leaders of all experience levels provide a fun and rewarding program to the boys in the den. Materials were extensively field-tested, then revised based on feedback.

Den leaders using the new materials during field testing were able to present the new adventure-based program simply by reading the den leader guides and following the program materials.

**Q: Will leader materials, specifically den meeting plans, be available in languages other than English and Spanish?**

**A:** Currently the Boy Scouts of America's provides support for volunteer leaders in English and Spanish. There are no current plans to make the new Den Leader Guides available in other languages.

**Q: I would like more information now—what is taking so long?**

**A:** The process of redesigning the Cub Scout program at this level is a significant undertaking. The Scouters designing and developing the materials would like to share as much as possible as it becomes available, but sharing information now that may change before the full program launch in 2015 could create confusion.

**Q: Will there be a new *Cub Scout Leader Book*?**

**A:** Yes, there will be an updated *Cub Scout Leader Book* that reflects the changes to the program and its advancement. It, along with the den leader guides (one each for Tiger, Wolf, and Bear, and a combined guide for Webelos Scouts and the Arrow of Light Award), will represent the primary resources for den leaders, Cubmasters, and committee members.

**Q: The *Cub Scout Leader How To Book* – is it going to be revised?**

**A:** This resource will remain available without significant changes.

**Q: I think addressing the changes at roundtable would be very helpful to leaders, and perhaps more leaders will attend to learn about the changes.**

**A:** We are on the same page. Orientation materials will also be released through the roundtable commissioner guide. The information will be shared in "bite-sized" pieces for the year leading up to the release of the new program materials.

**Q: What is changing in the Parent Guide inserted into the handbook?**

**A:** A cross-functional task force consisting of Scouters, National Council staff and outside subject matter experts is currently being empaneled to assure that Boy Scouts of America has the best possible practices in the area of youth protection and enabling parents and leaders to provide a positive environment for the youth we serve. The task force's recommendations will be incorporated into the Parent Guide when its work is completed.

**Q: Will there be some sort of phone app or apps supporting the new program?**

**A:** The primary resources (boys' handbooks, Den Leader Guides and Cub Scout Leader Book) will be available as e-books in addition to printed versions. The new advancement tool enhancement to My.Scouting Tools will support tracking and management of advancement in a similar manner to

current third-party tools. Timing on this enhancement is still being finalized but is anticipated in mid-2015. The tool will be available via smart phones and tablets.

## LDS-SPECIFIC QUESTIONS

**Q: As you know, the LDS church delivers the Webelos and Arrow of Light programs in a twelve month span, starting on a boy's 10<sup>th</sup> birthday and ending on his 11<sup>th</sup> birthday. The new adventure program for Webelos and Arrow of Light now requires the parent guide and cyber chip be done with each rank. The cyber chip requirement is good for one year so do scouts in the LDS units have to do it twice since they do both ranks in 1 year?**

**A:** The intention of the Cyber Chip requirement is to encourage an annual parent/child discussion about one of life's risks, completed annually as boys' needs and readiness to discuss this issue evolves rapidly during this time. The requirement creates the opportunity for that conversation; as this requirement is certified by a parent, it would be appropriate to allow parents discretion as to how much discussion is needed for their son during this twelve month period.

**Q: How will Webelos Scouts in units chartered with the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints complete fourteen adventures (seven for Webelos rank and seven for Arrow of Light) in a single year?**

**A:** Two of the adventures are family-based Duty to God adventures. The remaining twelve adventures can be earned, one per month, during the twelve months that a ten year old boy is a Webelos Cub Scout. See LDS transition helps, located at this link:  
[http://www.scouting.org/filestore/program\\_update/pdf/CS%20Program%20Transition.pdf](http://www.scouting.org/filestore/program_update/pdf/CS%20Program%20Transition.pdf)

**Q: For Webelos, there are fourteen adventures total. What do we do?**

**A:** Two of the adventures are family-based, Duty to God adventures. That leaves twelve adventures to complete in twelve months.

**Q: I have a Webelos starting in February. Should I start him on the new program?**

**A:** Between now and June, use the current program. Use the transition materials – and plan for the use of the new advancement materials after June 1. Transition information is located at this link:  
[http://www.scouting.org/filestore/program\\_update/pdf/CS%20Program%20Transition.pdf](http://www.scouting.org/filestore/program_update/pdf/CS%20Program%20Transition.pdf)

**Q: If it works out that a boy completes his rank advancement before he moves to the next program level on his birthday, may we award his badge of rank?**

**A:** Absolutely!

**Q: What happens if a boy earns, for example, "half" of his Bear rank on June 1?**

**A:** Plan out your yearly program using the new adventures. When he reaches his next birthday, give him credit for having earned the Bear rank.

Whether a boy does 11 current/1 new or 1 current/11 new, just focus on delivering a great program and recognizing the boy for his accomplishments on his next birthday. Starting on June 1, boys arriving in a den after that date will only use the new program materials.

**Q: Will Duty to God camp continue?**

**A:** That is not a national program. Ward/council events such as that can continue while using the new program materials.

**Q:** **I am a Webelos den leader and find it hard to keep track of what boys do, since then enter and leave the den all through the year.**

**A:** Create a calendar and schedule the adventures throughout the year – in advance. This way, when a boy enters on a given month – say, October – by the following October he will have completed the necessary required and elective adventures during that twelve month period.

**Q:** **With the new Webelos program lasting only one year, how will that impact the LDS Cub Scouting program?**

**A:** The Webelos program has always lasted for one year. There should be no change.

**Q:** **We have boys changing dens nearly every month, as they enter and leave a den based on their birthday. What should we do?**

**A:** The best approach is to map out a year-round program and identify when an adventure will be completed. If, for example, February becomes the month when nine year olds earn the Bear Claws adventure, then each boy participating in the den for a year will be guaranteed to complete that adventure. Scheduling the required adventures at times that make sense for the den will ensure that a program is clearly mapped out and that boys will meet achieve the rank advancement by the time they exit the den on their next birthday.

**Q:** **Boys in our Webelos den appear to meet the Cyber Chip award twice during twelve months. Is that intentional?**

**A:** The purpose of the Cyber Chip (and youth protection) requirement is to ensure that children are kept safe and that as parents, we have an ongoing conversation on this important topic. As this requirement is documented by parents, it would make sense to defer to the parents in this regard.

**Q:** **Since Cub Scouts are not allowed to camp overnight, what should be do?**

**A:** The requirements not that some chartered organizations do not support camping by Cub Scout aged youth. Units chartered by those organizations may meet the requirements during family camping events or pack/den sponsored day-long outdoor activities.

For example, note the language in the Webelos Camper adventure, requirement 1: “With the help of your den leader or family, plan and conduct a campout. If your chartered organization does not permit Cub Scout camping, you may substitute a family campout or a daylong outdoor activity with your den or pack.”

A boy will have fun and learn a lot setting up and tent and cooking outdoors, building those skills, even if he is unable to sleep in the tent overnight.

**Q:** **I am a Webelos den leader with an LDS-chartered unit. One of our boys has completed his Webelos rank and is now working on his Arrow of Light rank. If he finishes before June 1, 2015, what can he do in Scouting?**

**A:** He may wish to earn some of the new Webelos and Arrow of Light adventures. This would be a great opportunity to visit with the boy and his family to see where his interests like.

**Q: How do the new Duty to God requirements connect with the *Faith in God for Boys* program?**

**A:** Completing the family-based Duty to God adventures will meet all of the requirements for the current Faith in God program. There will be no need to have additional Faith in God for Boys den meetings.

**Q: LDS dens provide a Cub Scout program in which transitions take place on a birthday, rather than a school year. Do you have transition suggestions?**

**A:** Be flexible. Consider what is best for each boy. During the 2015-2016 time frame, there will be boys who experience a hybrid program that involves elements of the pre- and post- June 2015 programs. There are two approaches to transitioning into the new program for LDS units.

- The first focuses on creating a strong, logical program using the new adventures, using the annual pack planning process, which the den and pack may rely on for years to come.
- The second, offers a path forward that recognizes some common areas between achievements and adventures.

Each has its strengths. However the annual pack planning process is recommended.

Annual Planning Meeting Approach.

Map out the required adventures (needed for rank advancement) over a twelve month period, starting on June 1. Add to that the additional elective adventures to round out the program year. One elective adventure is required for rank advancement for Wolf and Bear. Keep in mind also that one adventure – based on Duty to God precepts – is completed in the family.

A boy who continues in Cub Scouting after June 1 will experience parts of both the achievement-based program and the adventure-based program. Depending on the boy’s birthday, he will experience different proportions of the current program and the new program.

Help him have a great experience with *both* programs. At the pack meeting closest to his next birthday, he may be awarded his rank advancement. If, in the opinion of the family and the den leader, he has substantially met the requirements for advancement before his birthday, then it would be appropriate to award the rank advancement at that time. The focus, in all of Scouting, is to do what is best for a boy.

WOLF DEN ADVENTURE PLAN		WOLF DEN ADVENTURE PLAN		WOLF DEN ADVENTURE PLAN	
JUNE		JUNE	CALL OF THE WILD	JUNE	CALL OF THE WILD
JULY		JULY		JULY	FINDING YOUR WAY
AUGUST		AUGUST	COUNCIL FIRE	AUGUST	COUNCIL FIRE
SEPTEMBER		SEPTEMBER		SEPTEMBER	PAWS OF SKILL
OCTOBER		OCTOBER	HOWLING AT THE MOON	OCTOBER	HOWLING AT THE MOON
NOVEMBER		NOVEMBER		NOVEMBER	AIR OF THE WOLF
DECEMBER		DECEMBER		DECEMBER	MOTOR AWAY
JANUARY		JANUARY		JANUARY	CLUBS WHO CARE
FEBRUARY		FEBRUARY		FEBRUARY	CODE OF THE WOLF
MARCH		MARCH	PAWS ON THE PATH	MARCH	PAWS ON THE PATH
APRIL		APRIL	RUNNING WITH THE PACK	APRIL	RUNNING WITH THE PACK
MAY		MAY		MAY	GROW SOMETHING

\*DUTY TO GOD ADVENTURES ARE COMPLETED WITH THE FAMILY\*

**DUTY TO GOD FOOTSTEPS – AT HOME**

RED: REQUIRED ADVENTURES

BLUE: ELECTIVE ADVENTURES (ONE REQUIRED)

The second approach offers a path forward that recognizes some common areas between achievements and adventures. Using this approach, the den leader would substitute the new adventure for the current requirement where appropriate and fill in with new elective adventures. One example is provided below for comparisons of current Wolf rank requirements and upcoming Wolf rank requirements. Examples for Bear, Webelos, and Arrow of Light transition considerations are published at [www.scouting.org/programupdates](http://www.scouting.org/programupdates).

	<b>Wolf Rank (2014-2015)</b> <i>If your den completed this achievement during this month...</i>	<b>Wolf Rank (2015-2016)</b> <i>...then consider using these adventures during the next program year.</i>
<b>June</b>	Feats of Skill	<b>Running With the Pack</b>
<b>July</b>	Your Flag	ELECTIVE
<b>August</b>	Keep Your Body Healthy	ELECTIVE
<b>September</b>	Know Your Home and Community	<b>Council Fire</b>
<b>October</b>	Tools for Fixing and Building	ELECTIVE
<b>November</b>	Start a Collection	ELECTIVE
<b>December</b>	Your Living World	<b>Call of the Wild</b>
<b>January</b>	Cooking and Eating	ELECTIVE
<b>February</b>	Be Safe at Home and on the Street	<b>Howling at the Moon</b>
<b>March</b>	Family Fun	ELECTIVE
<b>April</b>	Duty to God	<b>Duty to God Footsteps</b> <sup>1</sup>
<b>May</b>	Making Choices	Paws on the Path

**WOLF ELECTIVE ADVENTURES...**

- Adventures in Coins
- Air of the Wolf
- Code of the Wolf
- Collections and Hobbies
- Cubs Who Care
- Digging in the Past
- Finding Your Way
- Germs Alive!
- Grow Something
- Hometown Heroes
- Motor Away
- Paws of Skill
- Spirit of the Water

**PICK AN ELECTIVE ADVENTURE THAT...**

- Is of interest to the boys in your den
- That takes advantages of local resources and opportunities
- That makes use of a skill possessed by a parent or other pack leader
- That looks like fun

The electives may change from year to year, depending on the interests of the boys in the den.

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<sup>1</sup> Duty to God Footsteps is designed as a family-based adventure. Your den may wish to carry out another elective during this program month.

## OTHER QUESTIONS

**Q: I am a day camp director. What should I do about my camp program for this summer?**

**A:** See this helpful set of suggestions, located at this link:

<https://www.ncsbsa.org/resources/daycamp/Day-Resident%20Cub%20Camp%20Final%2012.3.14.pdf>

### CUB SCOUT DAY CAMP and CUB RESIDENT CAMP

To prepare for your Cub Scout Day Camp and Cub Scout Resident Camp programs in 2015, keep in mind these two points:

- First, all of the FUN of Cub Scouting is still there!
- Secondly, we encourage you to plan camp activities for the experience boys receive being outdoors and learning new skills.

### PROGRAM AREAS:

- The current Sports and Academics program recognition devices you may have used for program areas will still be available for use in 2015 camp programs. You are welcome to use these as recognition devices as long as inventory remains.
- Working with your professional camp advisor, check with your local supply store Sports and Academic recognition inventory. Let them know your needs for your camp plan.
- A council may choose other ways to recognize a scout for participating in camp program areas. A camp patch, for example, may be the recognition of choice for participating in all camp program areas.
- If your camp program has historically recorded meeting advancement requirements as part of the camp program, please review the new adventure requirements and implement them effective June 1, 2015.
- Requirements are available via <http://www.scouting.org/scoutsource/programupdates.aspx>
- Keep in mind that Arrow of Light candidates have an option for one year following June 1, 2015 to continue using the current program advancement requirements. As an alternative, boys may use the new AOL adventure requirements beginning on June 1, 2015 instead of the current program materials.
- ☑ Work with your local District and Council program teams and gear your camp offerings to fill in where your units may have challenges implementing the new adventures.

**Q: What about the Cub Scout STEM Nova award program?**

**A:** The requirements for the Cub Scout Nova awards are currently under revision (as of January 15) and are expected to be released by the end of the first quarter, 2015. Updated documents will be available by June 1, 2015.

**Q: Is a new shooting sports recognition available for use at council-sponsored day camps and resident camps?**

**A:** A new recognition is under development. It will be announced through the National Camping Schools in fall 2015. In the meantime, the belt loops used for the current academic and sports program may be used until the supply is exhausted.

**Q: Will other awards such as World Conservation Award, the Outdoor Activity Award, National Den Award and the like be available in the new program.**

**A:** Yes. Requirements are being updated and will be released in the new program materials in May.

**Q: What about “mother pins”**

**A:** These will continue to be available.

**Q: What is the Cyber Chip award?**

**A:** Cyber Chip is an online safety program for Cub Scouts, Boy Scouts, and Venturers. The information is available here:

<http://www.scouting.org/Training/YouthProtection/CyberChip.aspx>

How it is used in the new ranks is explained here:

[http://www.scouting.org/filestore/program\\_update/pdf/Appended%20Requirements.pdf](http://www.scouting.org/filestore/program_update/pdf/Appended%20Requirements.pdf)

**Q: How will the program changes affect our local council day camp and resident camp?**

**A:** Camping programs are managed at the local council or district level. Please contact your local council camp director.

**Q: With a new shooting sports award under development, will this mean that there is not going to be BB shooting and archery at camp this summer?**

**A:** No – those are great program features and should continue to be a part of your camp’s program. Recognition devices are a bonus – the real fun is in the activity. In the meantime, you may continue to use the archery and BB-shooting sports recognitions from the current Academic and Sports program.

**Q: The belt for the Boy Scout uniform is larger than the blue web Cub Scout belt. Does this mean that the adventure loops earned as a Cub Scout will not fit on the Boy Scout belt?**

**A:** Yes. Wearing the adventure loops with a Boy Scout uniform is not appropriate.

**Q: The use of the belt loops will produce a massive “hit” on our pack.**

**A:** For some units and families who either do not currently use the Academics and Sports program or do not purchase the belt loops, a detailed discussion of the situation at your annual pack planning conference is appropriate. If budget is unavailable to purchase the adventure loops and pins, which the boys love, a low cost pocket certificate has been developed to offer an alternative approach to recognition.

**Q: I noticed that Ethan looks different in the different adventures in the handbook sample chapters posted on the program updates web page. Why is that?**

**A:** Ethan is to serve as a peer and guide to the boy reading the book. In each handbook, he is one year older than the boy reading the book. He helps, through his narration, to emphasize the fun and adventure of Cub Scouting and encourages them to continue the adventure as Boy Scouts.

**Q: Academic and Sports program recognition devices were used at our camp in the past. Is that no longer the case?**

**A:** Camp is about fun and adventure – recognition and advancement are encouraged as an outcome of a rich program, but should not serve as the focus. While the academic and sports program will no longer be supported as a program feature of the BSA after June 1, councils, districts, packs and dens may use the *activities* associated with the program if it serves the needs of boys. And while inventory remains available, packs and dens may award the devices until the supply is exhausted.

Requirements for the new adventures will likely be met through the camp program. Your camp staff leadership is encouraged to review the requirements for adventures and document when they are achieved during camp experiences.

**Q: If a boy is working on a current Nova award, how long will he have to finish?**

**A:** That information will be shared by the end of the first quarter, 2015, when the new requirements are released by the BSA STEM committee. You should expect that a boy will have the opportunity to finish the award with a minimum of interruption.