

Cubmaster Advancement Newsletter

Issue 2, September 2003

Due to the release of updated Wolf, Bear and Webelos books, we are going to preempt our planned topic for this second newsletter. We have

Program Changes

to discuss. In preparing your Den Leaders for these changes, there are a couple key things you will need to know:

1. How and when are these changes being introduced?
2. In general, what is changing? Where can I learn the specifics?
3. What is this Character Connections™ that is now a very visible part of the programs?

The purpose of this newsletter is to encourage you to work more closely with their Den Leaders to foster and support a good advancement program.

Implementation

First, there is no need to panic. National has planned for the new material to be phased-in as follows:

1. The enhancements to the requirements in these books will not affect the advancement trails of boys who are using the current books. They are to continue using their current books until they have completed all requirements in those books.
2. Based on availability, Cub Scouting youth members may use either the current handbook or the new handbook during the phase-in period.
3. As boys enter the program or advance in rank by the dates indicated below, they are required to use the new books.
 - Boys who become Wolf and Bear Cub Scouts after **August 1, 2004**, will be required to use the new book for the corresponding rank.
 - Boys who become Webelos Scouts after **August 1, 2005**, will be required to use the new Webelos Scout Handbook.

A key point of this plan is do not change expectations of the boys mid-rank.

With the timing of the new books, most of your Scouts will have purchased the older edition books for the 2003-2004 Scouting season. This is the book that they should work from this year. For the boys that join mid-year, your den leaders (DLs) may run into a situation whereby the new Scout will have the new book. The DL should not alter their planned program. The new Scout may either

- a) complete the rank using the old program with the DL's help, or
- b) the DL can coach the Scout's parents on program differences and how to complete the minor differences outside of the Den meetings.

Option b) should be the simpler of the two. **Be sure to prepare your DLs for this possible situation!**

Note: As of a September 11th trip to the Burnsville Scout Shop, they are on the verge of being out of the old program books.

What is New?

The content of the current books has been updated for relevance to today's youth, appropriateness of content, ease of use, and perceived challenge to the reader. Most of the program elements have been proven successful and remain unchanged. Topics that have become dated and do not challenge today's Cub Scouts and their families have been eliminated. Some most significant revisions include:

- Integrated Character Connections (that draw on Cub Scouting's 12 Core Values) directly into selected requirements in each book.
- Infused age-appropriate outdoor program activities into both the requirements and the electives in each book.

- Enhanced the advancement and elective trails to create a progressively more challenging pathway that logically prepares boys for the next rank in Cub Scouting and prepares Webelos Scouts for Boy Scouting.
- Reformatted and enhanced the Webelos handbook; particularly, the Webelos badge and Arrow of Light Award requirements.

The specific changes in each book are too numerous to list in a newsletter, and many of them are very minor.

As an alternative to buying copies of each book, U.S. Scouting Service Project has compiled a complete set of programs, both old and new. And, they even have a red-lined version showing the detailed program differences between old and new. This is a great! resource and can be accessed on the web at <http://usscouts.org/advancementTOC.asp#club>

Character Connections and the 12 Core Values

Character Connections is now an integral part of Cub Scouting and something that every leader will become familiar with.

Character development should not be viewed as something done occasionally as part of a separate program, or as part of only one area of life. For in reality, character development is a part of everything a Cub Scout does. Character development lessons can be found in every aspect of the Cub Scouting experience.

In an effort to make character development an integral part of Cub Scouting, the twelve core values are being integrated throughout the boys' handbooks and advancement program. This was started with last year's release of the new Tiger Cub program and will be completed with the release of the Webelos book this fall.

Cub Scouting's 12 core values are

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|----------------|-----------------------|----------------------|
| 1. Citizenship | 5. Faith | 9. Positive Attitude |
| 2. Compassion | 6. Health and Fitness | 10. Resourcefulness |
| 3. Cooperation | 7. Honesty | 11. Respect |
| 4. Courage | 8. Perseverance | 12. Responsibility |

CC divides these up and presents them as follows:

Tiger

- Responsibility
- Citizenship
- Health and Fitness
- Respect
- Faith

Wolf

- Positive Attitude
- Respect
- Responsibility
- Cooperation
- Faith
- Courage

Bear

- Faith
- Citizenship
- Respect
- Courage
- Honesty
- Resourcefulness
- Compassion

Webelos

- Faith
- Honesty
- Perseverance
- Citizenship
- Health and Fitness
- Responsibility
- Respect
- Courage
- Positive Attitude

Bobcat Trail

- Honesty

As part of the achievement, a value will be presented. The material will ask the Cub to consider the following

What do I think or know? (What do I know about the core value, about the experience, about the context?)

How do I feel? (How do I feel about this value? What makes this difficult to do? How did this experience make me feel?)

What can I do? (How can I practice this value at school, at home, or with my friends?)



The following is an example of a requirement, taken from the new Wolf book:

Complete the Character Connection for Positive Attitude.

1. **Know**- Discuss with your family how a cheerful and positive attitude will help you to do your best at school and in other areas of your life.
2. **Commit**- Discuss with your family how gathering items for a collection may be difficult. How does a hopeful and cheerful attitude help to keep looking for more items? Why is a positive attitude important?
3. **Practice**- Practice having a positive attitude while doing the requirements for "Start a Collection."

In presenting this material, the goals of the Cub Scout leader are

- to seek out and maximize the many opportunities to incorporate character development
- to convince the young Cub Scout that character is important to the individual, to his family, community, country, world, and to God.

The presentation of these values will be incorporated into the leader specific training. In the mean time, you can help your den leaders feel more prepared in adjusting to the new portions of the programs.

These changes are very positive. With some simple communication and preparation, it should be very easy for your den leaders to adjust and incorporate these changes into their plan.

Till next month, yours in Scouting,
- Chad Cooper

In putting together this edition of the newsletter, my thanks go to Bill Smith, Carol Little, and the U.S. Scouting Service Project.