

## **JANUARY – What Does The Family Program Look Like?**

### **Music Full then Under**

AARON: Happy New Year, and welcome to CubCast 2018. I'm Aaron Derr, Cubmaster and Senior Writer for *Boys' Life* Magazine. Joining me is my CubCast pal, the lovely Amy Hutcherson, Webelos Den Leader and International Scouting Program Specialist.

AMY: Thanks so much, Aaron, and what a fantastic way to start 2018, by talking about the new Family Program!

AARON: We know you've got a lot of questions about it so we're going to omit the opening banter and get right to it.

### **Music Fades**

AARON: And here to answer all these burning questions is Lee Shaw. As National Alliance Team Lead, Lee has had to work closely with all the various Chartered Organizations on ensuring a smooth transition into Scouting's new Family Program, so welcome to CubCast, Lee.

LEE: Thanks, Aaron.

AARON: All right, Lee. So, our pack leaders have already decided that they want to invite girls to join our pack. What do we do next?

LEE: What I want to do is instruct anyone who has not had the opportunity to have this conversation with their chartered organization or their COR which is the charter organization representative, to have that conversation with them first. That is the first thing that you must do because it is the charter organization who ultimately makes that decision in terms of how they want to move forward with the pack.

AMY: All right, Lee, so just to be clear, are packs required to allow girls to register or can a pack remain just all boys?

LEE: Thanks so much for asking the question, Amy. One of the things that I've really tried to help everyone understand is this is not a mandate. It is an option that we are now presenting, and this option is going to be here because we really believe that when we start talking about the Family of Scouting, what better way to be more inclusive, by allowing girls to join this wonderful program. So, to answer your question, it is not a requirement for a charter organization or for a pack to simply say, "Now we have girls and that is the way it's going to be." It is really up to that charter organization to make that decision of how they want to move forward.

AARON: So, is there any difference at all between establishing a new den under the new program versus the all-boy den?

LEE: No. That's a very short answer but, it is the correct answer.

AARON: The perfect answer.

AMY: So, say there are two girls and three boys of the Wolf age. Instead of two dens, one with two girls and one with three boys, could there be one den of five?

LEE: One thing that we want to be sure of because through all the research and everything that we've gone down his journey on, it tells us that being gender specific is still really important at this age and to be gender specific we're going to need to maintain the integrity of having all-boy dens or all-girl dens. Now, where the variety can come into play is for the pack itself. You can have a pack of mixed dens, both boys and girls, but we do not want and we are not recommending in any way that we mix the actual dens with boys and girls.

AMY: Okay, so I see. If there were the same situation with the Tiger den, maybe it'd be, make more sense to put two of the Tiger boys and three of the Wolf boys together to work on their requirements and then the same with the girls as well.

LEE: Keeping it gender specific is very important.

AARON: So, when it comes to adult leaders – Cubmasters, Den leaders, all these male leaders, are they allowed to lead girls or is there a concern in finding twice as many volunteers to be leaders?

AMY: Will the BSA offer a uniform cut styled specifically for girls?

LEE: Amy, you know I'm all about fashion, so I can really appreciate this question. What I can tell you is, initially there won't be a difference in the uniform, and when I say "initially" that means because we're still trying to make sure that we flesh everything out, and if we find that there is a need then we can do that. And sometimes there's not even a need but it is what people want. So, depending on supply and demand and how all that works, then it's something that we can visit as we move forward.

AARON: How can a chartered organization encourage Scouters to embrace this change, Lee?

LEE: I work with a lot of chartered organizations across the country and one of the things that as we've been able to have this kind of conversation and dialogue as it relates to girls and Family Scouting is that, at the end of the day, we want to provide a type of program that will be good for young people, whether a boy or a girl, then we can move forward in this manner. What is one thing you can find wrong with having a child say, "On my honor, I'll do my best to God and my country?" Whether it's a boy or a girl. So, when we have that kind of dialogue, the charter organizations - they do understand. I'm going to speak on the United Methodist Church in their response. Many times having a conversation with them, they were saying, "Okay, so when do we get started?" Because we've been talking about this for just a little bit but they're excited and they're ready to go. I can say this because charter organization is really the lifeblood of the organization and without those charter organizations we wouldn't exist as we do as the Boy Scouts of America, they know their role and in many cases they know the leverage in which they have in terms of having all types of programs with the Boy Scouts of America. For them to have the option, and like we mentioned earlier, Amy, it's not a mandate, but, for them to have the option to have a pack that could be all girls, it could be a pack that is all

boys, as it had been, or it could be a pack that is a mixture of the two. And once given that opportunity for the charter organizations to make their own decision, then it's really a no-brainer because they can continue to do what they've always done or they can move forward and try something that is vastly different. What we're hoping by doing this is just allowing people the opportunity to do what's going to work best for them, best for their families, best for their community.

AMY: Wow. That's so exciting to have so many options to be able to serve the family. We're likely to have some more questions after we finish, so, what resources are available if there are other questions or concerns about the unit structure of the Family Program?

LEE: All things Family can be found on one specific website, and as we continue on this journey, any new things or resources will also be able to be found on [scouting.org/FamilyScouting](https://scouting.org/FamilyScouting)

AARON: Great. Anything else about the new Family Program's Cub Scout unit structure that you think ought to be shared with our listeners, Lee?

LEE: We have a great group of volunteers in the Boy Scouts of America. We have awesome and dedicated charter organizations in the Boy Scouts of America. We get caught up maybe in the logistics of everything and can at times kind of lose sight of what's most important with in terms of helping the young people themselves. If we can find it within ourselves and our chartered organizations, certainly in our many, many volunteers can find it within themselves just to do what's best for young people, both boys and girls, and really trying to help the family together in terms of everything

that one has to be associated with in today's world of the fast-paced, many different activities, if we can make it more convenient for them to be part of this Scouting program then we're all going to win.

AARON: Absolutely. I don't think I heard anyone say that transitioning to the new Cub Scout Family Program is going to be easy, but it sounds like every piece of this puzzle has been accounted for to make it as smooth as possible for the chartered organizations and volunteers. Lee, thanks so much for starting the new CubCast year with us.

LEE: Thank you, Aaron.

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

### **Safety Moment – Unauthorized Activities**

AMY: Now for your 2017 Reminders and Tips. Family Friends of Scouting, also known as FOS, is an annual, council-wide presentation conducted in every pack, troop, crew, team, ship, and post between the months of November and March.

AARON: This campaign asks parents and families to consider financially supporting the Scouting program in an effort to offset the costs of providing Scouting to their children. So, if you haven't already done so, contact your District FOS chair for more details. Your support and participation in the Family FOS program is critical to your unit's success.

AMY: Have you finalized plans for your Blue and Gold Banquet? Many packs have it during Scouting Anniversary Week, which begins this year on February 4th with Scout Sunday and ends on the 10th with Scout Sabbath.

AARON: The Blue and Gold Banquet is discussed in great detail in the December 2012 CubCast. Check it out if you haven't already because careful planning is necessary to make it a fun and successful pack event.

AMY: Now, if there's something we can do to make CubCast a better resource for you, please be sure to let us know. Just send an email to [cubcast@Scouting.org](mailto:cubcast@Scouting.org) or tweet @Cubcast.

AARON: Be sure to take to take a look inside the famous Tournament of Roses New Year's Day Parade in the January issue of *Boys' Life* Magazine where you also might enjoy a fun roundup of other lesser-known and perhaps wackier parades from around the country.

### **BEGIN MUSIC UNDER**

AARON: So that's all for January CubCast. Thanks again for our guest, Lee Shaw, for joining us.

AMY: Be sure to come back next month as we explore camping and outdoor activities with the new Family Program. Until then, thanks for listening. I'm Amy Hutcherson.

AARON: And I'm Aaron Derr with one final tip: Go to your podcast app on your smartphone or tablet and subscribe to CubCast so you don't miss a single episode. And with the new Family Program starting this year you'll be so glad you did. And from all of us at CubCast, happy New Year!

**Music full to finish**