



BREAKING NEWS!

A SPECIAL EDITION OF THE CBD *CHAT*

FOR CUB SCOUT LEADERS...



The Boy Scouts of America has newly announced changes to Cub Scouting advancement intended to make the program more flexible for busy parents, den leaders and Cubmasters.

The BSA gathered feedback from den leaders who had delivered the new Cub Scouting program for a year. What they learned was that some den leaders had difficulty fitting into their program year all of the adventures required for advancement. This resulted in boys not advancing. After a thoughtful and deliberate review, the BSA has released some modifications to address this concern.

What are the modifications? Some adventure requirements that previously were mandatory will become optional, in a move intended to give Cub Scouters more control over their den program.

These changes took effect December 1, 2016 and were approved by the National Executive Committee of the Boy Scouts of America.

Some key points and frequently asked questions:

- **You will not need to buy any new materials.** At the bottom of this newsletter is a link to the free addendum that will supplement the handbooks and leader guides that are in current circulation.
- While Cub leaders have been positive about the new program, some den leaders said a number of the new adventures had **requirements that were too difficult for dens to complete within the Scouting year.**
- Frankly, national Cub Scout rank advancement rates have fallen and BSA has needed to react quickly to eliminate what might have become a roadblock for some dens. From a survey conducted in September 2016, only 36 percent of the dens with eight boys in a den completed the rank within the core program year.
- BSA's core solution is to **make more of the adventure requirements optional**, giving dens the flexibility to adjust their activity plans to meet their needs.
- The modifications are designed to ensure that **adventure requirements are achievable by today's Cub Scout dens within a program year.** A den should be able to complete the requirements for an Adventure **within approximately two den meetings.**



- Most of the modifications involve the number of requirements that must be completed, **reducing the mandate to a number achievable** within the limited time available to many dens. This is done while retaining the rich program options.
- These changes are to **give den leaders more options and increase den-level customization**. Units that can handle more content, perhaps because they meet more often or for longer periods, can — and should! — keep the optional requirements part of their program.
- The **transition should be seamless**, with leaders able to use revised requirements as the den begins any new adventure. These changes don't effect the program content in the Cub Scout's handbooks.
- The Cub Scouts will still get full credit for all of the work that they have previously completed; nothing should be repeated.
- A few adventure names have changed, including “Outdoorsman” replacing “Camper” and “Getaway” replacing “Castaway” in Arrow of Light. The adventure loops have not changed.
- For the Bear program there has been one elective that has now become a required adventure; “Baloo the Builder” is now required, and “Grin and Bear It” has become an elective. The change was the result of survey results and feedback from den leaders.
- As of this time, BSA has not indicated that they will be updating the individual Den Leader Guides (Tiger, Wolf, Bear, Webelos). All of the program plans in these Den Leader Guides are still valid – however, the den leader will now need to make more choices to structure their den meeting plans.

The new requirements are here:

http://www.scouting.org/filestore/cubscouts/pdf/CubScout_Advancement_Modifications.pdf

BSA has described these program changes in the following blog posts from Scouting Magazine:

<http://blog.scoutingmagazine.org/2016/11/30/cub-scout-modifications/>

<http://blog.scoutingmagazine.org/2016/12/03/answers-to-your-questions-about-the-cub-scout-modifications/>

You are encouraged to attend the Chief Black Dog Roundtable to share your experiences and success stories with your fellow leaders. If you have questions, please contact Chad Cooper at cbdtraining@charter.net.

Remember, these program changes are in immediately effect for your program use.

