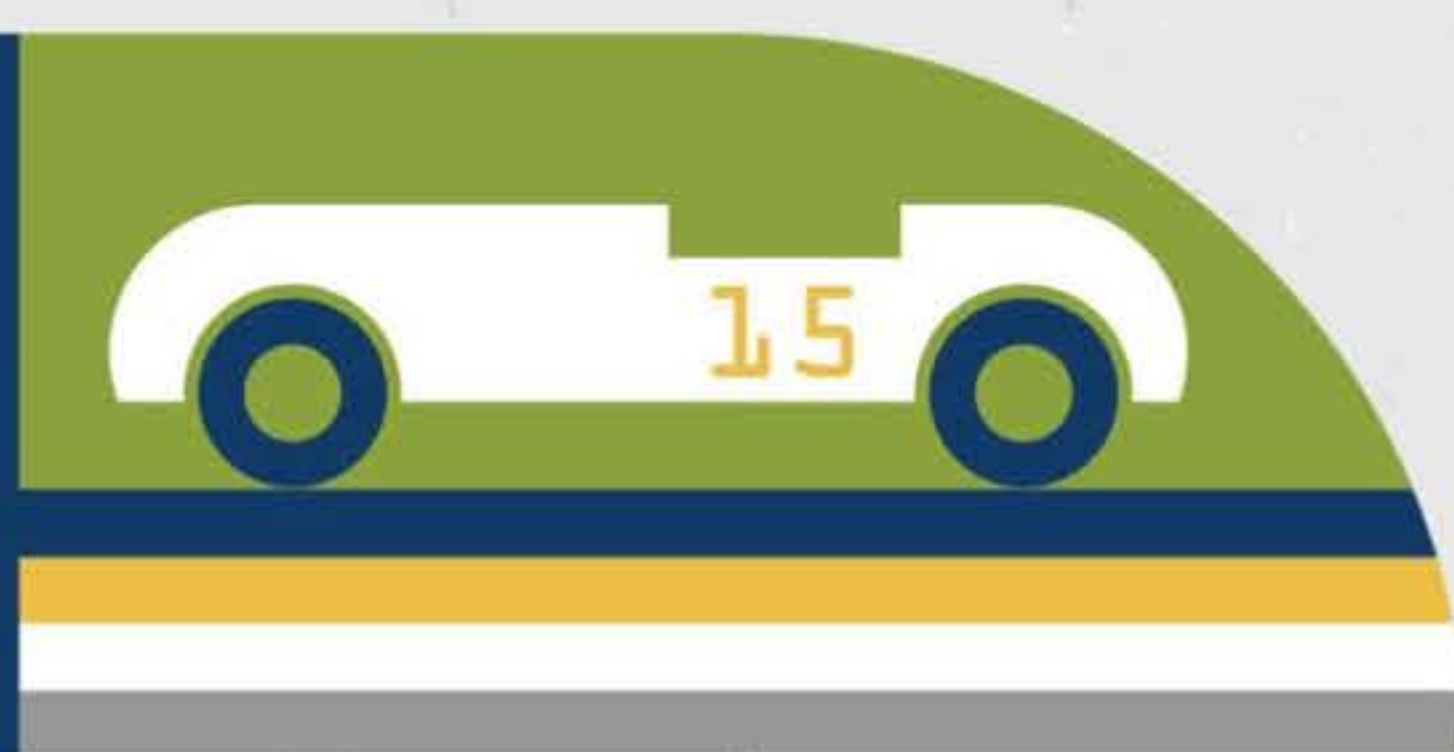
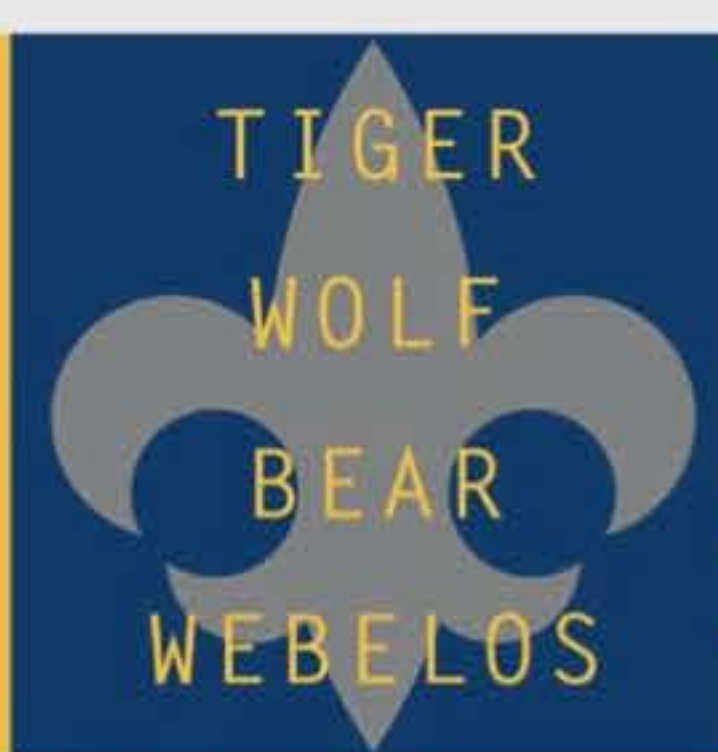


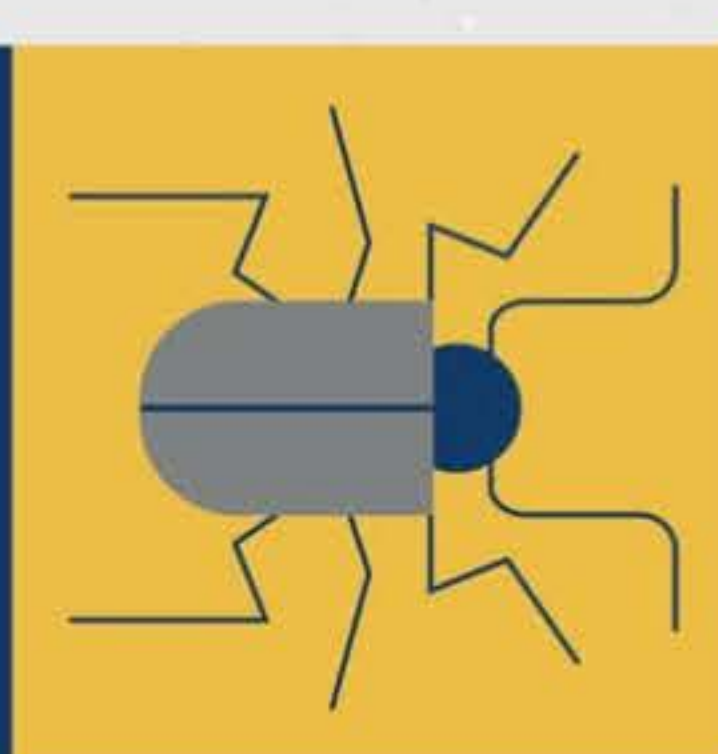
# Scouting



## CUB SCOUTS: THE NEW ADVENTURE



### Better! Simpler! More Fun! P. 24



#### How to:

- ▶ Create a Pack Handbook
- ▶ Teach the Personal Fitness MB
- ▶ Critter-Proof Your Campsite
- ▶ Survive Heat Exhaustion



LEAD

# Adventure Ahead!

BY MARK RAY • ILLUSTRATIONS BY SCOTT ROBERTS

**CUB SCOUTING** is changing.  
Here's everything you need to know.



**T**he Cub Scout motto is “Do Your Best,” but maybe it should be “Embrace Change.” Since Cub Scouting began in 1930, the program has changed frequently. Age limits have dropped. Tigers have been introduced. Lions have gone extinct. The Webelos Scout program has appeared and expanded. Den mothers have become den leaders, and men and women now serve as Cubmasters.

But perhaps the biggest changes lie ahead. Effective June 1, the BSA is making sweeping changes to Cub Scouting, changes that promise to make the program more fun and engaging. Read on to learn what you need to know about the changes.

## The Path to Change

In some organizations, strategic plans are little more than expensive paperweights and dust collectors. Not so in the BSA. The 2011-2015 National Council Strategic Plan laid out more than 100 goals designed to make Scouting's second century as successful as its first.

Perhaps the most important of those goals was to update

our programs to “reflect the findings of a thorough program review and assessment that clearly identifies those elements that are appealing, exciting and culturally relevant to today’s youth and families.” Dubbed “goal 411” — because it was the first goal of the first objective of the plan’s fourth pillar — this goal has led to sweeping changes to the Cub Scout program. Here’s the path from there to here.

**2010-2011:** Under the leadership of Utah volunteer Russ Hunsaker, a task force of roughly 75 volunteers from across the country evaluated how well Cub Scouting was addressing five desired outcomes: character development, participatory citizenship, personal fitness, outdoor skills and awareness, and leadership development. The report card was mixed. Cub Scouting offered plenty of fun, but there weren't enough connections between the program and the desired outcomes. There was too much passive learning and too few tools for den leaders.

**2012-2013:** The 14-member Cub Adventure Team, led by volunteers Nancy Farrell from Colorado and Ken King from Illinois, began building a revised Cub Scout program around the desired outcomes. The team, which included active Cub Scout leaders with special expertise in education, curriculum design and Scout-leader training, overhauled the advancement program. Separately, in October 2012, the National Executive Board approved a resolution to use the Scout Oath and Scout Law across all programs.

**2013:** Den leaders in 11 councils across the country tested the new advancement program, offering feedback that the Cub Adventure Team incorporated in its final product. The team continued tweaking the program and wrote new youth handbooks and den leader guides.

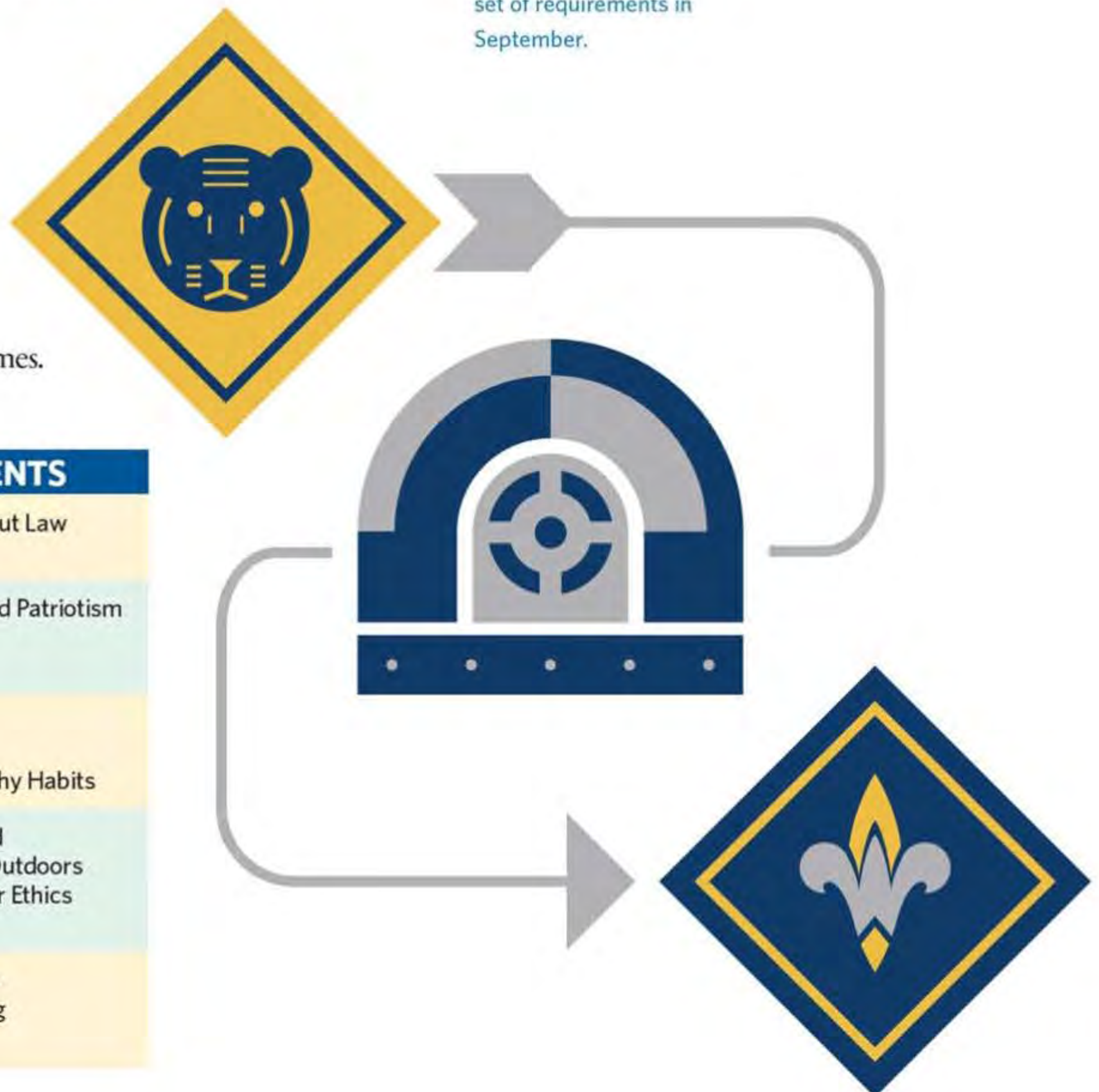
**2014:** Sessions at the National Annual Meeting and the Philmont Training Center (PTC) let volunteers give the revised program a test drive. More than 230 Cub Scouters attended six PTC sessions over the summer. Participants received booklets that included sample chapters from the new youth and adult publications. Additional feedback led to a final set of requirements in September.

**2015:** New publications and awards began appearing in Scout shops ahead of the official June 1 launch of the revised program.

## Desired Outcomes

The new Cub Scout program has five desired outcomes. Here's how the components align with the goals.

DESIRED OUTCOME	COMPONENTS
Character Development	Scout Oath and Scout Law Duty to God
Participatory Citizenship	Civic Awareness and Patriotism Service Stewardship
Personal Fitness	Physical Fitness Healthy Eating Wellness and Healthy Habits
Outdoor Skills and Awareness	Comfort, Safety and Adventure in the Outdoors Nature and Outdoor Ethics Emergency Skills
Leadership	Supporting Leaders Leadership Thinking Leading Others



CONTINUED>>>



## What's Not Changing?

Earlier this year, rumors flew around the Internet that the Cub Scout uniform was changing. It's not.

In fact, most things about Cub Scouting are staying the same, including den and pack structures, age and gender requirements, and the emphasis on fun and doing your best.

Cub Scouting will now have seven methods: Living the Ideals (which incorporates the former Making Character Connections method), Belonging to a Den, Using Advancement, Involving Family and Home, Participating in Activities, Serving Home and Neighborhood, and Wearing the Uniform.

All that's really changing is how the ideals and advancement methods are implemented.



## Updated Ideals

Cub Scouting has come a long way from the 1930s, when Cub Scouts pledged to be "square" (considered a good thing at the time!). Back then, the Cub Scout Promise simply read, "I, [name], promise to do my best to be square and to obey the Law of the Pack."

As part of the revised Cub Scout program, the Cub Scout Promise and the Law of the Pack have been retired, and boys will now learn the Scout Oath and Scout Law. This change emphasizes the unity of the Scouting movement and makes it a bit easier for Cub Scouting to live out Scouting's mission and vision statements, both of which refer to the Scout Oath and Scout Law.

The Cub Scout motto, sign, salute and handshake are not changing.

## What's an Adventure?

Perhaps the most important word in the revised Cub Scout program is "adventure." In Cub Scout terms, an adventure is a collection of themed, multidisciplinary activities representing enough engaging content for three den meetings and one pack meeting — about a month's worth of programming, in other words.

The word "adventure" emphasizes that Cub Scout activities should be fun and should take boys places they've never been. The adventures focus on learning by doing instead of learning by listening. Requirements are full of words like build, play, go, find, demonstrate and discover, *not* words like discuss, learn and share.

The Tiger, Wolf and Bear books contain 19 adventures each, while the *Webelos Handbook* (which covers two years) contains 27. That means there will be plenty of material for year-round fun, even in the Arrow of Light year.

## The Academics and Sports Program

Cub Scouts have been earning belt loops for individual and team sports since 1985 and for academic subjects since 1991, and it's no doubt they enjoyed the bling. Often, however, earning belt loops detracted from the advancement program as some boys (and leaders) focused on easy belt loops over more challenging — and meaningful — achievements.

With the introduction of the new advancement program, the Academics and Sports Program has been retired. However, many of its best elements have been incorporated into the new adventures, and the new adventure loops ensure that boys' belts will be as jangly as ever.

# Advancement

The old advancement program included a dizzying array of beads, badges, belt loops, arrow points, compass points and activity pins.

Now, each rank will follow the same format. To earn a rank, a boy must complete a mix of seven required and elective adventures.

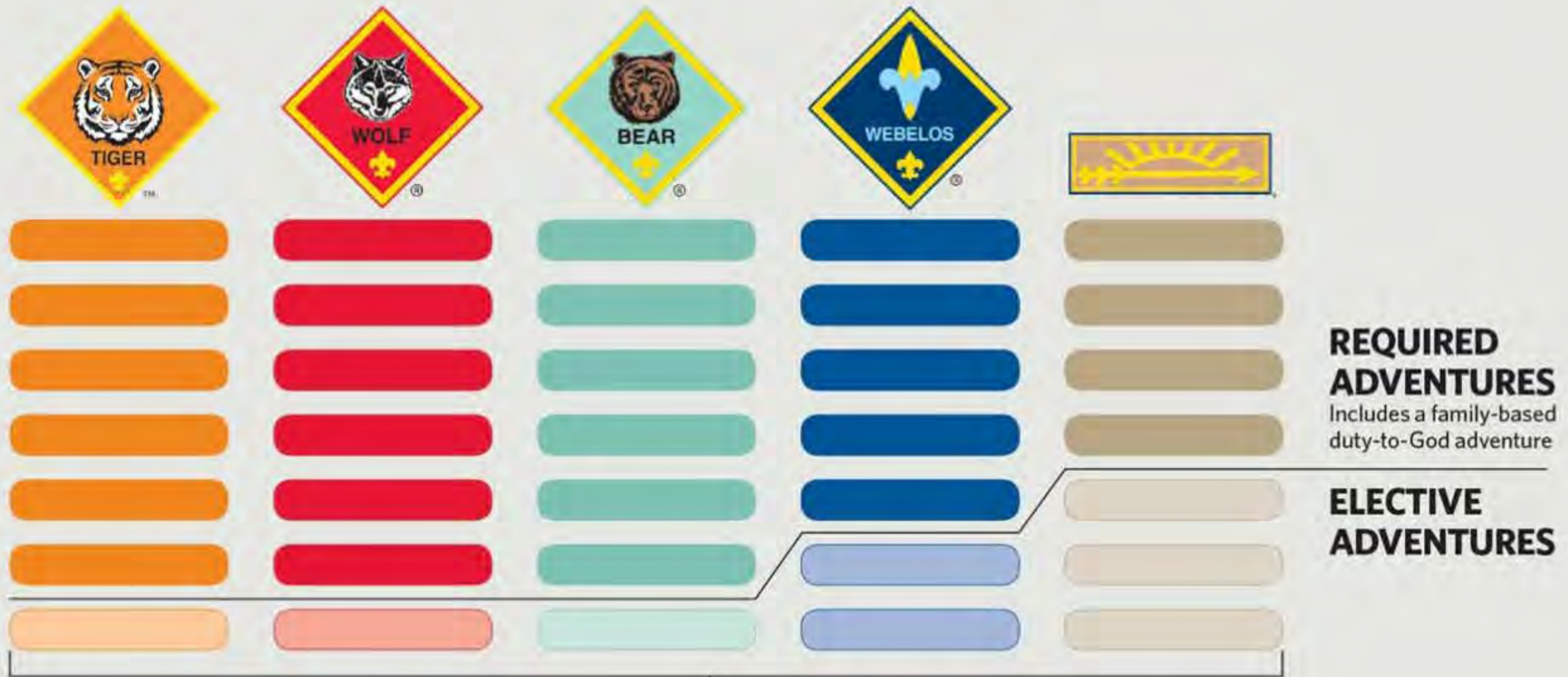
New Cub Scouts will continue to earn the Bobcat badge before working on other requirements. To

earn Bobcat, boys must learn about the Scout Oath and Scout Law and the Cub Scout sign, handshake, motto and salute; they must also complete the exercises described in the pamphlet *How to Protect Your Children From Child Abuse: A Parent's Guide*.

Boys receive an adventure loop (previously called belt loops) for each adventure at the Tiger, Wolf and Bear levels, and an adventure pin (worn on the Webelos colors or Webelos cap)

for each adventure at the Webelos and Arrow of Light ranks. The recognition items for required adventures are full-color, while the ones for elective adventures are monochromatic. Once a boy completes seven adventures for a given rank, he receives the pocket patch.

To maintain consistency across ranks, boys entering the program in the fifth grade no longer must earn the Webelos badge as a prerequisite for Arrow of Light.



**7** Complete seven adventures to earn each rank (and then go on to earn more electives for a fun year-round program)

## Staying in the Loop (and Pins)



Cub Scouts get an adventure loop for each adventure they complete as a Tiger, Wolf and Bear. (That's the Tiger required adventure "Team Tiger" at left.) They get an adventure pin (see examples above) for each adventure at the Webelos and Arrow of Light levels. Note: The loops and pins here are shown at actual size.

CONTINUED>>>

## Putting Principles In Action

Remember those desired outcomes of Cub Scouting from page 25? Here's how one sample adventure, **WEBELOS WALKABOUT** (at right), supports all five.



- CHARACTER DEVELOPMENT:** Character Compass items in the *Webelos Handbook* connect Scout Law values with the activities boys are doing.
- PARTICIPATING CITIZENSHIP:** Boys complete a service project as part of a den hike.
- PERSONAL FITNESS:** Boys plan a nutritious lunch and complete a den hike.
- LEADERSHIP:** During the den hike, each boy serves in a leadership role like trail leader or lunch leader.
- OUTDOOR SKILLS AND AWARENESS:** Boys discuss outdoor ethics, create a hike plan and assemble a hiking first-aid kit.

### SNAPSHOT OF ADVENTURE

Hiking is walking with a purpose. It is great exercise and a fun activity to do with your den or family. In the *Webelos Walkabout* adventure, you'll learn how to prepare for a hike, what you should bring along, and what you should do if there is an emergency. During your den hike, you'll also have the chance to do a service project.

#### REQUIREMENT

Do all of these:

Approved by

1. Create a hike plan. \_\_\_\_\_
2. Assemble a hiking first-aid kit. \_\_\_\_\_
3. Describe and identify from photos any poisonous plants and dangerous animals and insects you might encounter on your hike. \_\_\_\_\_
4. Before your hike, plan and prepare a nutritious lunch. Enjoy it on your hike, and clean up afterward. \_\_\_\_\_
5. Recite the Outdoor Code and the Leave No Trace Principles for Kids from memory. Talk about how you can demonstrate them on your *Webelos* adventures. \_\_\_\_\_
6. With your *Webelos* den or with a family member, hike 3 miles (in the country if possible). \_\_\_\_\_
7. Complete a service project on or near the hike location. \_\_\_\_\_
8. Perform one of the following leadership roles during your hike: trail leader, first-aid leader, lunch leader, or service project leader. \_\_\_\_\_

100 • Webelos

## Transitioning to the Revised Program

The revised program goes into effect on June 1. Boys who join on or after that date will complete the new Bobcat requirements and then start on the appropriate rank for their age group (Tiger, Wolf, Bear, *Webelos* or Arrow of Light). Similarly, returning Cub Scouts will move to the next rank in the revised program when their program year starts. (The transition works a little differently in packs chartered to the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. See the guide posted at [scouting.org/programupdates](http://scouting.org/programupdates) for details.)

Boys who have earned the *Webelos* badge and are moving to Arrow of Light this summer or fall have two options: (1) they may continue to work out of the current handbook and complete the old Arrow of Light requirements, or (2) they may begin using the new *Webelos Handbook* for Arrow of Light.

If they choose option 2, they must complete the four required adventures; their three electives may come from the new adventures or from activity badges they earned under the old program but did not use to fulfill *Webelos* rank requirements.

JUNE 1



## Introducing Ethan

Boys are aspirational by nature. They long to become like their big brothers, their older cousins, and the kids who are a grade or two ahead of them in school.

Starting this year, many Cub Scouts will aspire to be Ethan.

Ethan is a new character who appears in all four Cub Scout handbooks and speaks directly to the reader about what he's been doing in Scouting. In each handbook, Ethan is a year or two older than the boys he's addressing. (In the *Tiger Handbook*, he's a Wolf, while in the *Webeles Handbook*, he's a Boy Scout.)

Ethan introduces each of the required adventures, shares tips from his own experiences and previews what boys can look forward to as they progress in Scouting. While Ethan is a good Scout, he's not a perfect one. He struggles to master the square knot, he gets scared by a spooky ghost story, and he forgets the jelly for PB&J sandwiches. But he always has fun and is always ready for his next adventure.

## New for 2015: Den Leader Guides

The revised program comes complete with four printed den leader guides that complement the youth handbooks. More comprehensive than the old *Den & Pack Meeting Resource Guide*, these books offer the following resources for each adventure:

- ▶ The rationale for the adventure
- ▶ Takeaways for Cub Scouts (learning objectives)
- ▶ A list of the adventure requirements
- ▶ Planning and implementation notes
- ▶ Detailed meeting plans (including supply lists and handouts)

Meeting preparation should be easier because the guides are self-contained — there's no need to search through other publications for games or song lyrics, for example. Leaders who pilot-tested the adventures found that it took them about 45 minutes to prepare for an hourlong meeting.

**What About Akela?** In the revised Cub Scout program, Akela will still be a special term for any leader, and the Cub Scout sign will still resemble the attentive ears of a wolf. Cub Scouting's use of characters from *The Jungle Book* will be mentioned in the youth handbooks but, beyond that, the TC, Akela and Baloo characters won't show up. (Keep in mind that *The Jungle Book* was published in 1894 and that most people's frame of reference is the Disney movie that came out 48 years ago.)

## Back to the Future

As the first Wolf handbook proclaimed, Cub Scouting was born at a time of adventure: "where we read in the morning papers what was done at the South Pole yesterday — where music and speech circle the globe 'on the air' — where airplanes wing their swift flight."

The adventure has only increased in the ensuing 85 years, but the hope described in that long-ago book remains the same: that Cub Scouts "find fun and joy in doing and ... give back to the world a life useful and worthy."

The revised Cub Scout program promises to make that hope a reality for millions of boys. ✦

FIND MORE INFORMATION AT [scouting.org/programupdates](http://scouting.org/programupdates).

