

NOAC 2024

CU Boulder



SEEK NEW HEIGHTS

## THE YOUTH IN **BLUE** ARE OUR FUTURE!

*How to Integrate the OA into Cub Scout Programming*

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Japeechen Lodge / Jersey Shore Council

Guest Trainer - Dan Goldsmith, Lenapehoking Lodge

# Meet Your Trainer

- Jeff Goldsmith
- South Orange, New Jersey
- Former OA Section Adviser, Jersey Shore Council President, and CST Chair
- My son, who just finished two terms as lodge chief, and I are in two different lodges.



Jeff Goldsmith



# Session Outline

1. • Basics
2. • Goals
3. • Areas to Help
4. • Getting Involved
5. • OA Cub Scout Support materials



# Brief Overview of *Cub Scouts*

- Started in the 1930's, Cub Scouts is for youth who are in the Kindergarten through fifth grades.
- Lions (Kindergarten), Tigers (first-graders), Wolves (second-graders), Bears (third-graders), and Webelos (fourth-graders) and Arrow of Light (fifth-graders) meet twice a month in Dens.
- Arrow of Light is now specifically to get youth ready for Scouts BSA.
- A Pack is a group of Dens and usually meets monthly.



# Helping Our Siblings in Blue



Focuses on implementing the **OA's NEW Vision "To be why Scouts want to stay in Scouting"** and its emphasis on an active commitment to **Arrow of Light** to **Scouts BSA transition** and supporting age-appropriate **Cub Scout outdoor programs**.





# *Goals of OA Cub Scout Service*

**Mentoring**

**Membership**

**Arrow of Light to Scouts BSA**

**Transition**

**Outdoor**

**Programming**



# Mentoring- Den Chief

**A Scout BSA member who assists** a Cub or Webelos Scout Den . . .

- Assistant to the Den's leadership
- Attends Den Chief training
- Help with the Den meetings, events, Webelos and Arrow of Light Den overnight campout.

The Den Chief is a **mentor**, friend, **Elangomat**, role model and **guide** for the Den helping prepare the Cub Scout for a successful transition into Scouts BSA.



# *How Arrowmen help...*

- Cub Scout Membership Recruitment & Retention
- Cub Scout Outdoor Programs
- Webelos to Scout Transition





# Membership Recruitment & Retention

Cub Scout Membership has gone down **73%** in the past 23 years from 2,114,420 (2000) to 574,365 (2023).



# ***Lodge Performance Measurement Program***

- Membership Impact:** Experience positive growth in youth membership over the previous year.

  - 2023 PMP Requirement 3

  - 95 percent of all Scouts BSA members were Cub Scouts. Loss of  
Cubs=Scouts=Arrowmen

- Council Support:** Contributions to the Council (cash, materials, or both) and Measurable Service to the Council

  - 2023 PMP Requirement 13



# *Membership Recruitment & Retention*

- Help with membership/recruiting events by being a uniformed presence running games and demos for prospective Cub Scouts while parents learn.
- Mentoring New Units.
- Help at other council Cub Scout recruitment and retention activities.



# Cub Scout Outdoor Programs

- Keep in mind the differences between the development and skill levels of **Cub Scouts** and **Scouts BSA**.



- The Cub Scout outdoor program has **age-appropriate** activities and guidelines. Guide to Safe Scouting.



# ***Cub Scout Outdoor Programs***

- Cub Scouts are not small Scouts BSA members.

**Keep it Age Appropriate!**

- Promote, run, support and serve as staff at Cub Scout Outdoor Events, Camps, activities and help with promotion of these events.
- Where to Go Camping Guide for Cub Scouts.
- Help with Training- Trained leaders provide a Quality Program.





# Webelos and Arrow of Light At A Glance

## 2024-2025 Update

- Webelos will only be for 4<sup>th</sup> grade Cub Scouts and Arrow of Light will no longer be associated with Webelos. 4<sup>th</sup> grade Cub Scouts are referred to as Webelos and may NOT start working on Arrow of Light until they have completed the 4<sup>th</sup> grade. Webelos wear the blue Cub Scout uniform with the Webelos neckerchief, neckerchief slide, Webelos hat, blue Cub Scout bottoms, blue Cub Scout belt, and Cub Scout socks. They will have their own Webelos handbook.
- Arrow of Light will only be for 5<sup>th</sup> grade Cub Scouts and is no longer associated with Webelos. 5<sup>th</sup> grade Cub Scouts are referred to as Arrow of Light Scouts and are introduced to the patrol method. Arrow of Light Scouts wear the Scouts BSA uniform with blue shoulder loops on their epaulets. Arrow of Light Scouts have a requirement for the Bobcat Adventure to visit a Scouts BSA Troop making the timeline of a Troop visit in the early fall at the beginning of the Cub Scout program year. The Arrow of Light badge of rank and required Adventures are designed to prepare Arrow of Light Scouts to join Scouts BSA between January and March. Arrow of Lights will have a separate handbook.



# Arrow of Light – Scouts BSA Transition

- Serve as Den Chiefs.
- Perform Webelos Crossover Ceremonies.
- Scouts visiting Packs to explain a Troop.
- Host a Pack. Be visible as Arrowmen.
- OA troop representatives could become liaisons to the feeder packs.
- **Nationally, about one out of two Webelos makes the transition to Scouts BSA (at or under 50% since 2009).**
- **More transition resources are at:**  
<https://www.scouting.org/programs/scouts-bsa/troop-resources/recruitment-marketing/webelos-to-scouts-transition/>



# Official Order of the Arrow Webelos to Scouts BSA and Arrow of Light Ceremonies

- The Cub Scout ceremonies were developed to provide lodges the ability to assist Cub Scout Packs in conducting appropriate ceremonies marking the transition from a Cub Scout earning their Arrow of Light badge and transitioning to the Scouts BSA program. These are nationally approved ceremonies that are to be performed by Scouts wearing the Scout uniform. These ceremonies may be freely used by any Scouts BSA troop or representative, district or council. If an Order of the Arrow lodge, chapter, or ceremony team is invited to perform, these ceremonies are the only ones authorized to be used.
- <https://oa-bsa.org/resources/inductions/cub-scout-ceremony-resources>**



## Webelos to Scout Transition-Finding the Right Troop

- Is the troop the right **size** for me?
- Can I attend the weekly **meeting day** and time?
- And is the meeting place **close enough** to my home?
- Am I **interested** in participating in a troop program like this one?
  - Where are my friends going?



# *How To Get Organized?*



## ***The Order's Involvement With Cub Scouts***





# **Lodge Organization**

- Lodge may appoint a **Cub Scout Chairman**. A position under the lodge (chapter) program element of the organization, would communicate with the Chapter/Lodge and District/Council personnel on a regular basis.
- The Lodge may also **sponsor awards** for Cub Scouts at Camp and for those Arrowmen/Chapters which host Cub Scout activities.
- Invite Cub Scouts to OA **fun events**.
- Works closely with the ceremonies team, scheduling and arranging **Arrow of Light cross-over ceremonies**. The Cub Scout Involvement Chairman support Council sponsored program events for Cub Scout Packs.



# **How can your Lodge help Cubs?**

**Let's break up into small groups and brainstorm how the OA can help Cub Scouts:**

- With Year Round Outdoor Programs?
- With Summer Programs?
- With Recognition?
- With Arrow of Light cross-over preparation and ceremonies?
- What else?



# "Before They Wore the **Sash** . . . They Wore the **Blue**"

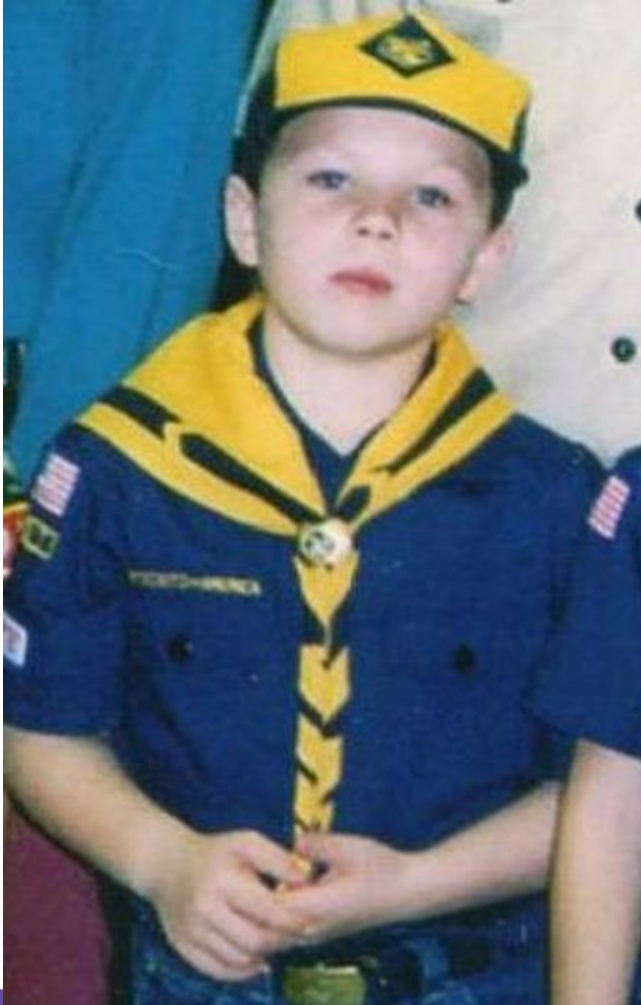
- Quickly recognizable **marketing campaign** to be used in OA media.
- Emphasizes the fact that most OA members were Cub Scouts (since 2019 about 60% of Scouts BSA were previously Cub Scouts).
- Easily replicated at the local level.
- Clearly communicates role the OA should play in Retention, Cub Scout Outdoor Programs and Webelos to Scout Transition.



## "Before They Wore the Sash . . . They Wore the Blue"

Eric Bush 2012 Northeast Region Chief:

Joined Cub Scouts in 1998 and crossed over into the Scouts BSA in 2005





## Matthew Carlson 2023 Eastern Region Chief





PRESTON MARQUIS, 2012  
NATIONAL VICE CHIEF



# Donald Cunningham, 2001 National Chief



# Scott Beckett, 1994 National Chief





# Clint Takeshita, 1991 National Chief



# Chris Grove, National OA Comm. Chair





# Cortland Bolles, National OA Director



J. Dan McCarthy, Former  
BSA Summit Bechtel  
Reserve Group Director





# Bill Chin, National OA Committee



# Could he be next?





## ***Before She Wore the Sash... Her Son Wore the Blue***

•Kaylene Trick was a Cub Scout Leader with her son Nicholas before he crossed over into Scouts BSA and she followed. She later became a member of the National OA Committee.



# After He Created the **Sash** . . . His Son Wore the **Blue**.

- Founder of the Order of the Arrow, Dr. E. Urner Goodman, and his Cub Scout son George.





# Takeaway Challenge

Make time for Cub Scouts as they are  
the OA's Future!



# ***Questions & Comments***

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# Thank you!

Please take a moment to fill out the feedback form.

