

Cub Scout Program June 1 Updates & FAQs



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1. CUB SCOUT RANK BADGES OVERVIEW

Each badge of rank is associated with a grade level.

- **Webelos** is the Cub Scout program for **4th graders**.
- **Arrow of Light** is a stand-alone program for **5th graders** and is no longer associated with Webelos. It's designed to prepare Cub Scouts for joining Scouts BSA.

To earn each badge of rank, Cub Scouts complete **six required Cub Scout Adventures** and **two elective Cub Scout Adventures**.

- The **six required Cub Scout Adventures** for each rank are based on the aims and focus areas of the BSA. Character & Leadership, Outdoors, Personal Fitness, Citizenship, Safety, and Family & Reverence.
- **Bobcat** will become a required Adventure for each rank with a focus on character & leadership. It is designed to be the first required Adventure to be completed each year. The requirements for the Bobcat for each rank are different and designed to be age appropriate.
- New **elective Cub Scout Adventures** are being introduced, doubling the number of elective Adventures previously available. Cub Scout awards have been reimaged into elective Adventures ... simplifying the program and making the content and topics accessible to more youth.

Want to see the latest information around the updated program?
[Check out the Cub Scouts Program Update Archive by clicking here!](#)

2. GENERAL QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

- **Q: Why are the updates taking effect on June 1?**
 - **A:** In the BSA systems, all Scouts are automatically moved from one grade to the next. This is called “roll- over”. The effective date of June 1 coincides with grade roll-over. As a practical matter, June 1 is the beginning of the Cub Scout program year.
- **Q: Some schools release after June 1. Will Cub Scouts be able to complete their badge of rank that they are currently working on past June 1?**
 - **A:** Yes. Scoutbook allow for entering the advancement of the current program between June 1 - August 31.
- **Q: When will position-specific training be updated?**
 - **A:** All Cub Scout position-specific training will be updated before June 1, 2024.
- **Q: When will ScoutBook reflect the updated Adventures and rank requirements?**
 - **A:** ScoutBook will have the updated requirements for all Adventures and Badges of rank on June 1, 2024.
- **Q: Will I be able to enter advancement for the current Adventures or badges of rank past June 1, 2024?**
 - **A:** Yes. They can be entered up until August 31, 2024, for the current Adventures, Cub Scout awards, or badge of rank.
- **Q: How did you get feedback from 23,000 parents and volunteer Cub Scout leaders?**
 - **A:** Data was collected through several surveys including Voice of the Scout, and a feedback survey on Cub Scout Adventures that was sent to all registered Den Leaders at the time.
- **Q: How reliable is the data and research used?**
 - **A:** All survey data was collected through the official BSA Research Department. The survey data used has a 95% confidence level.
- **Q: Who was involved in making these updates?**
 - **A:** Primarily the National Cub Scouting Committee, which is made up of volunteers from across the country. As detailed above, updates were based on feedback from over 23,000 parents and leaders from various surveys in addition to other available data.
 - **A:** The committee also utilized subject matter experts, inside and outside of Scouting, to ensure requirements are age-appropriate, consistent with the best methods, and aligned with Scouting values.

2. GENERAL QUESTIONS & ANSWERS – CONT.

- **Q: Who are members of the National Cub Scouting Committee?**
 - **A:** During the development of these updates, the members of the National Cub Scouting Committee have changed as we try to keep a healthy rotation of individuals who are willing and able to actively participate.
 - **A:** Over ¾ of the members of the committee are active in a Cub Scout Pack, or with their local Council supporting Cub Scouting. Other members of the committee are active in their Council in key leadership positions.
- **Q: What subject-matter experts were used?**
 - **A:** Subject-matter experts inside and outside of Scouting were used to help develop the requirements for the Adventures. Internally, the Outdoor Program Committee and the following sub-committees were consulted:
 - Aquatics, Camping and Trekking, Conservation, Fishing, Outdoor Ethics, Range and Target Sports, and Wheels and Board Sports.
 - Additionally, the Disability Awareness, Safe Scouting, and Scouts BSA committees were integral to the development of the updates.
 - External, subject-matter experts included reviews from professors at four universities – Prescott College, Morningside College, University of Wisconsin, and Baylor University.

3. MERCHANDISE QUESTIONS

- **Q: When will Local Councils stores (connected to National Stores) be able to purchase the new handbooks and insignia?**
 - **A:** In order to stock-up for the official April 15 retail sales start date, Council stores can begin pre-ordering handbooks and insignia on February 15 using our [B2B website](#).
 - **A:** Insignia orders will be fulfilled immediately.
 - **A:** Handbook orders will be fulfilled in March-April.
- **Q: How long will the current patches/pins be available to purchase?**
 - **A:** Dropped insignia will be available for purchase until the end of the year, or while supplies last.
- **Q: Will the Oath, Law and Motto be part of the Bobcat each year?**
 - **A:** No. The Bobcat requirements are different for each badge of rank to ensure that they are age appropriate.
 - **A:** There are requirements related to the Scout Law for each badge of rank's Bobcat.
 - **A:** The Scout Oath is introduced at Tiger.
 - **A:** Arrow of Light Scouts learn the Scouts BSA motto instead of the Cub Scout motto.

3. MERCHANDISE QUESTIONS – CONT.

- **Q: Will existing Scouts still be allowed to wear previous/current awards (outdoor activity, and STEM)?**
 - **A:** Yes, once a Cub Scout earns an award, Adventure, badge of rank, or any other recognition, they may still wear the recognition associated with that, ideally following the Uniform and Insignia Guide. From the BSA Uniform and Insignia Guide: “Discontinued Boy Scouts of America uniforms and insignia may be worn in keeping with the applicable uniform and insignia guidelines as of the time of their production, so long as the condition of original insignia does not detract from the neatness of the uniform.”
- **Q: Will there be new advancement charts for the Cub Scout levels?**
 - **A:** No. We encourage the use of den doodles or of homemade charts as a way to highlight advancement among Cub Scouts.
- **Q: If we don’t have an Arrow of Light hat and scarf, what will Scouts wear?**
 - **A:** Arrow of Light is designed to prepare Cub Scouts to join Scouts BSA. Like Scouts BSA, hats and neckerchiefs are options.
- **Q: Will the change in the Webelos colors only be name?**
 - **A:** The difference between Webelos Colors and Adventure Colors is on the item. Where it says “Webelos” it will be replaced with the word “Adventures”.
- **Q: What products will be added to the line to help display adventure loops from past levels (backpacks, display boards, etc.)?**
 - **A:** We are adding items to the assortment to help with the storage and display of adventure loops and pins. Stay tuned!
- **Q: Will existing Cub Scouts be allowed to still wear the Bobcat patch in the current diamond order?**
 - **A:** Existing Cub Scouts do not need to change their uniform or patch placements if it is different.
 - **A:** The only uniform change is for Webelos who will remain in Blue and Arrow of Light who will be in a Scouts BSA uniform (see the Webelos/AOL section above).
 - **A:** Badge of rank placement officially can be in any order. The update is to simply make it easier by suggesting that the badges of rank are placed on the uniform in the order they are earned.



4. SCOUT SHOP RETURN POLICY

Wholesale accounts will be able to **receive credit** at the Supply Group's Distribution Center in Charlotte, NC, for the applicable rank emblems and handbooks below towards replacements through **August 1, 2024**.

Handbooks	Rank Emblems & Other Items
Handbook CS Webelos Coil 2021 (656130)	Bobcat rank emblem (370)
Handbook CS Tiger (656837)	Lion rank emblem rectangle (646287)
Handbook CS Wolf (656888)	Lion Kit 2018 (644816)
Handbook CS Bear Coil 2023 (659165)	

To complete the return process, we ask the you follow normal process to initiate the return using our [Wholesale Return Requests & Freight Claims Form](#). Once fully approved, shipments of returning items must include the emblems and the **back cover of each old handbook**.

5. REQUIRED ADVENTURE QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

Adventures Available for All Ranks

BOLD indicates new adventure
Italics indicate existing adventure



Kindergarten



1st Grade



2nd Grade



3rd Grade



4th Grade



5th Grade

Activity						
Pinewood Derby	Race Time - Lion	Race Time - Tiger	Race Time - Wolf	Race Time - Bear	Race Time - Webelos	Race Time - Arrow of Light
Fishing	Go Fish	Fish On	A Wolf Goes Fishing	<i>A Bear Goes Fishing</i>	Catch the Big One	Fishing
Cycling	On a Roll	<i>Rolling Tigers</i>	Pedal with the Pack	Bears on Bikes	Pedal Away	Cycling
Swimming	Time to Swim	Tigers in the Water	<i>Spirit of the Water</i>	Salmon Run	Aquonaut	Swimming
Camping	Let's Camp - Lion	Let's Camp - Tiger	Let's Camp - Wolf	Let's Camp - Bear	Let's Camp - Webelos	Outdoor Adventurer*
Conservation	Champions for Nature - Lion	Champions for Nature - Tiger	Champions for Nature - Wolf	Champions for Nature - Bear	Champions for Nature - Webelos	Champions for Nature - AOL

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5. REQUIRED ADVENTURE QUESTIONS & ANSWERS – CONT.

- **Q: Are the required Adventures changing?**
 - **A:** Yes. All required Adventures have been updated and new required Adventures have been added across all badges of rank. There are six required Adventures for each badge of rank. These six required Adventures for each badge of rank are focused on Character & Leadership, Outdoors, Personal Fitness, Citizenship, Safety, and Family & Reverence.
- **Q: Why do the required Adventures topics repeat each year?**
 - **A:** The required Adventures are based on the aims of the BSA and focus areas. The aims of the BSA are character development, leadership, citizenship, and personal fitness. The focus areas are the outdoors, safety, family involvement, and reverence.
 - **A:** We want to ensure that we are fulfilling these aims every year in Cub Scouting regardless of when a child joins. Requirements for these topics change each year to be age appropriate.
- **Q: How will the updated required Adventures be easier for multi-rank Dens, small Packs, or new Packs?**
 - **A:** Cub Scout Packs that do not have full Dens of each grade have formed multi-rank Dens. Multi-rank Dens have Cub Scouts in different grades working on different ranks. Required Adventures have fun hands-on activities that are a requirement across the ranks (for example, Outdoor Adventures have a requirement to take a walk outside across the ranks). This makes it easy for the pack to plan a walk for all the Dens. It will also help small or new Packs get started as the they could plan and deliver the required Adventures as Den Leaders are being identified. This change will also make it easier for Den Leaders of multi-rank Dens to plan and deliver Den meetings and activities.

6. ELECTIVE ADVENTURE QUESTIONS

- **Q: Are the elective Adventures changing?**
 - **A:** Yes. All current elective Adventures have been updated.
 - **A:** Requirements for all Adventures have been simplified by removing optional requirements such as “Complete requirements 1 and 2 plus at least two others.”
 - **A:** Requirements were also simplified to focus on the outcome (adventures now have on average five requirements).
- **Q: How are Cub Scouts supposed to wear all those Adventure loops on their belt?**
 - **A:** The number of Cub Scout electives Adventures is designed to give Cub Scouts, Dens, and Packs plenty of options to explore subjects that are fun, engaging, and consistent with Scouting values.
 - **A:** The number of elective Adventures is not restricted to the waist size of an average Cub Scout.
 - **A:** Cub Scout Adventure loops should only be worn for the current badge of rank the Cub Scout is working towards.

6. ELECTIVE ADVENTURE QUESTIONS – CONT.

- Q: Are Cub Scout awards going away?**
 - A:** Yes. However, the subject-matter that was part of the award is not.
 - A:** Cub Scout Awards have been reimagined into elective Adventures. The important aspect of Cub Scout awards was that the content subject-matter of the award was experienced by as many Cub Scouts as possible.
 - A:** The subject-matter is staying, but how we deliver that subject is changing.
 - A:** With these awards now being Elective Adventures, they will be in the handbooks ... increasing the exposure to STEM, camping, and conservation.
- Q: Why are the Cub Scout Awards being reimagined into Elective Adventures?**
 - A:** On average, only 1.5% of Cub Scouts will earn an award. On average, 15% of Cub Scouts will earn any given Elective Adventure in their rank.
 - A:** By reimagining awards as Elective Adventures, more Cub Scouts will be exposed to the content of those awards and make it easier for Leaders to deliver the content as an Adventure that can count towards the Cub Scout's badge of rank.
- Q: What is happening to STEM Nova and Supernova?**
 - A:** In June of 2022, the STEM Nova and Supernova Awards were retired as National Awards. Local Councils had the option to continue them as Local Council Awards (these awards were no longer supported nationally).
 - A:** New Elective Adventures have been created in each badge of rank to ensure there is an elective Adventures for science, technology, engineering, and math.

STEM Adventures

BOLD indicates
new adventure
Italics indicate
existing adventure



Kindergarten



1st Grade



2nd Grade



3rd Grade



4th Grade



5th Grade

STEM						
Science	<i>Ready Set Grow</i>	<i>Sky Is the Limit</i>	<i>Digging in the Past</i>	<i>Forensics</i>	<i>Earth Rocks!</i>	<i>Into the Woods</i>
Technology	Everyday Tech	Tech All Around	Computing Wolves	Top Chef Tech	Tech on the Trail	High Tech Outdoors
Engineering	<i>Gizmos and Gadgets</i>	Designed by Tiger	<i>Air of the Wolf</i>	Baloo the Builder	Modular Design	<i>Engineer</i>
Math	Count on Me	Stories in Shapes	<i>Code of the Wolf</i>	Balancing Bears	Math on the Trail	Estimations

7. BOBCAT QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

- **Q: Is the Bobcat badge going away?**
 - **A:** Yes. The Bobcat badge is updated to a required Adventure for each rank.
- **Q: Why change the Bobcat?**
 - **A:** Originally when the Bobcat was introduced into Cub Scouting, it was a pin that was not to be worn on the uniform, it was designed for “civilian” wear. The purpose was to introduce new members to the ideals and methods of the Cub Scout program. During this time, Cub Scouting only served three ages, so one set of requirements was adequate.
 - **A:** Later the Bobcat was changed to a cloth badge to be worn on the uniform.
 - **A:** Now Cub Scouting serves youth from kindergarten to 5th grade, and one set of requirements is ineffective in meeting the objectives. How to effectively introduce the values of Scouting (character & leadership) to a Cub Scout in Kindergarten is vastly different than how to do so with a Cub Scout in the 4th grade.
- **Q: Do Cub Scouts earn the Bobcat one time?**
 - **A:** No. Cub Scouts earn the Bobcat Adventure for their rank each year. The requirements for Bobcat are similar yet different for each badge of rank to make them age appropriate.
- **Q: Can we continue to do Bobcat ceremonies?**
 - **A:** Yes. We strongly encourage celebrating the accomplishment as this will be the first Adventure most Cub Scouts will earn at the start of the program year.

8. WEBELOS AND ARROW OF LIGHT QUESTIONS

ATTENTION ALL 4TH GRADE WEBELOS

With the update to the Cub Scout program, the Arrow of Light becomes a separate program from Webelos. For this reason, it is important that current 4th-grade Webelos do **NOT** start any work on any Arrow of Light requirements.

- Work on current Arrow of Light requirements will **not count** for the updated Arrow of Light badge of rank requirements that take effect on **June 1, 2024**. Current 4th grade Webelos **instead** should focus on earning elective Adventures.
- Elective Adventures will no longer be shared between 4th-grade Webelos and 5th-grade Arrow of Light. The following Adventures will only be available to 4th-grade Webelos after June 1, 2024. It's recommended that current 4th grade Webelos focus on these elective Adventures; Aquanaut, Art Explosion, Aware and Care, Build It!, Earth Rocks!, and Modular Design.

- **Q: Why the changes to Webelos and Arrow of Light?**
 - **A:** The Webelos program confused parents, leaders, and even professional staff. Webelos officially referred to all Cub Scouts in 4th and 5th grade, which was different compared to the other ranks where each rank is specific to one grade. Several leaders started using the terms Webelos I and Webelos II to identify which group was working on the Webelos badge of rank and which group was working on the Arrow of Light badge of rank.
 - **A:** The purpose of the Webelos program was to prepare Cub Scouts to join Scouts BSA. After reviewing the program, it wasn't clear how the current two-year Webelos program was accomplishing this objective, aside from the required Arrow of Light Adventure – Scouting Adventure.
 - **A:** It was also identified that it was not necessary to take 18 to 24 months to prepare a Cub Scout to join Scouts BSA. This is what led to the decision to make the Arrow of Light a stand-alone badge of rank to prepare Cub Scouts to join Scouts BSA.
- **Q: How does the Arrow of Light badge of rank prepare Cub Scouts to join Scouts BSA?**
 - **A:** Many of the requirements for the updated required Adventures for Arrow of Light are designed to prepare Cub Scouts to join Scouts BSA. In the Bobcat Adventure for Arrow of Light, Cub Scouts learn about the patrol method, they learn the Scouts BSA sign, salute, and handshake.
 - **A:** In the outdoor required Adventure, Outdoor Adventurer, are required to go camping.
 - **A:** In Personal Fitness Cub Scouts are introduced to tracking their progress over a period of time.
- **Q: Will Webelos and Arrow of Light share Elective Adventures?**
 - **A:** No. Elective Adventures will be specific to the badge of rank. Elective Adventure pins will change from the current oval design.
 - **A:** Electives for Webelos (4th grade) will be diamond-shaped and electives for Arrow of Light (5th grade) will be arrowhead-shaped.
 - **A:** It is suggested that they focus on the Elective Adventures that will not be available to them next year as an Arrow of Light. Those elective Adventures are Aquanaut, Art Explosion, Aware and Care, Built It, Earth Rocks, and Modular Design.
- **Q: What will happen to the Webelos colors?**
 - **A:** The Webelos colors will simply be renamed the “Adventure Colors” and used by both Webelos and Arrow of Light Scouts to display their Adventure pins.
- **Q: What do we do with current 4th graders who are Webelos during the 2023-24 program year?**
 - **A:** Current 4th grade Webelos should focus only on Webelos required Adventures and not start any work on Arrow of Light.
- **Q: What uniform changes are there for Webelos and Arrow of Light?**
 - **A:** Webelos will remain in a blue Cub Scout uniform including the Webelos hat, neckerchief, and neckerchief slide.
 - **A:** Arrow of Light Scouts will wear the Scouts BSA uniform (with blue shoulder loops and tan/green numerals). There will not be an Arrow of Light hat, neckerchief, or neckerchief slide.

8. WEBELOS AND ARROW OF LIGHT QUESTIONS – CONT.

- **Q: If I already purchased a Scouts BSA uniform for my Scout who is not in 5th grade, do I have to revert to a blue Cub Scout uniform?**
 - **A:** No. Uniform updates are intended to simplify the program, not to create a burden on Cub Scout families.
- **Q: Why the change to 4th grade Webelos in blue Cub Scout uniforms?**
 - **A:** The majority of 4th grade Webelos in Cub Scouting were active in Cub Scouting as a 3rd grader ... and already have a blue uniform. This allows Cub Scouts to get the most use out of their Cub Scout uniform.
 - **A:** The Arrow of Light rank is designed to prepare a Cub Scout to join Scouts BSA ... making it the best time to convert into a **tan** Scouts BSA uniform.
 - **A:** This also allows a family to get the most out of the tan Scouts BSA uniform.
- **Q: When should a Cub Scout purchase a **tan** Scouts BSA uniform?**
 - **A:** When to convert to a Scouts BSA uniform is ultimately the decision of the family.
 - **A:** It is recommended that a Cub Scout convert to a Scouts BSA uniform when they have either earned their Webelos badge of rank, or when they complete the 4th grade and are now an Arrow of Light Scout.
 - **A:** Another factor is, any growth spurt during this stage of development. (For example, if a Cub Scout is in 4th grade and has outgrown their blue uniform ... it is perfectly acceptable for them to transition into a Scouts BSA uniform when purchasing a new uniform.)

9. KNIFE SAFETY

One of the highlights of the Cub Scout experience has been the Bear Claws Adventure and the Whittling Chip program ... where Cub Scouts are introduced to pocketknife safety.

Knife Safety

 3rd Grade

 4th Grade

 5th Grade

Whittling	Chef's Knife	Knife Safety
		

Whittlin' Chip is retired

To use a knife a Cub Scout must complete the Adventure for their rank even if they completed a knife safety Adventure previously

The Adventure pocket card can be used as proof of completing the Adventure.

- Improvements to the Cub Scout program include a focus on knife safety with **three new elective Adventures**.
 - To use a knife in Cub Scouting, the Cub Scout must first complete the Knife Safety Adventure for their rank, even if they earned the knife safety Adventure in a previous rank.
 - This replaces the Whittling Chip and introduces continuous certification for the use of a knife.
- For **Bear Cub Scouts** (3rd-grade), the adventure is called Whittling and is similar to the Bear Claws Adventure with a focus on pocketknife safety.
- For **Webelos** (4th grade), the Adventure is named Chef's Knife and the focus on knife safety is centered around kitchen knives.
- For **Arrow of Light** Scouts (5th grade) the Adventure is named Knife Safety and has requirements for pocketknife and kitchen knife safety.
 - When Arrow of Light Scouts crossover into Scouts BSA, they will be required to earn the Totin Chip to use a knife.
 - The Totin Chip program in Scouts BSA also includes proper use of axes and saws.

10. SUMMERTIME FUN

Prepare now for your Cub Scouts to earn the new Summertime Fun Adventure! The National Summertime Pack award has been reimagined into an elective Adventure named Summertime Fun. This new Adventure may be one of the simplest Adventures, it has one requirement and that is: anytime during May through August participate in a total of three Cub Scout activities.

PLAN NOW for Summer Time Fun

1 st Grade	2 nd Grade	3 rd Grade	4 th Grade	5 th Grade
				
Summertime Fun	Summertime Fun	Summertime Fun	Summertime Fun	Summertime Fun
				

One Requirement

1. Anytime during May through August participate in a total of three Cub Scout activities.

Earning Adventure is not dependent on other's participation.

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- As the National Summertime Pack award was evaluated it was deemed a valuable method to promote summer activities such as Cub Scout Day Camp and Cub Scout Resident Camp. It was also determined that requiring a percentage of participation for the National Summertime Pack award was unfair to those who attended when the percentage of participation was not achieved.
- The new Summertime Fun elective Adventure is available for Tiger through Arrow of Light. Lions do not begin Cub Scouting until they are attending Kindergarten in the fall so there are no summertime activities for Lions.