



The Order of the Arrow and Cub Scouts

Understanding YOUR Role in the Process

Jon Chester

Jeff Goldsmith

NER OA Cub Scout Task Force Chairman NER OA Cub Scout Task Force Adviser

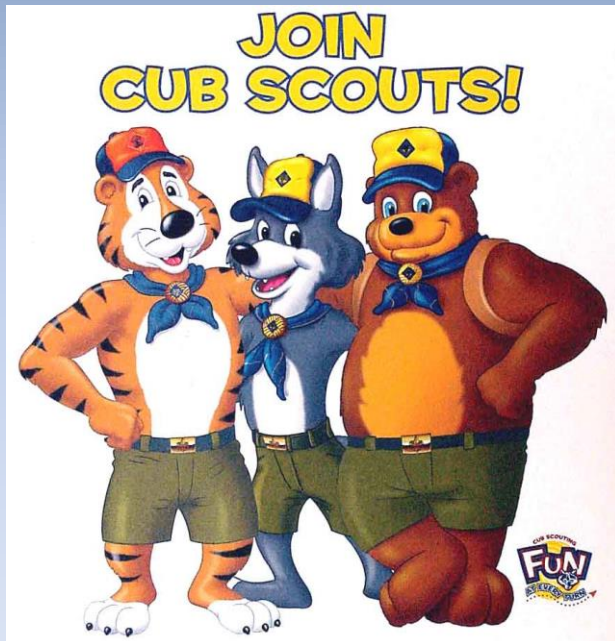
Dr. Geoff Zoeller

NER Area 5 Charter Partner Relationships Chair



Introduction

1. Welcome
2. House-Keeping
3. Importance and relevance of topic



**Total Cub Scout Membership has
dropped 40% in the past 15 years
from 2,114,420 at the end of 2000
to 1,261,339 at the end of 2015.**



Overview

1. Importance of OA/Cub Scout Relations
2. The Order's role in:
 1. Membership
 - Recruitment
 - Retention
 - Transition phase
 2. Finance
3. Strengthening collaboration between lodges and councils
4. Open Q&A





Cub Scout Basics— Understand Our Audience

- Started in the 1930, Cub Scouts is for boys who are in the first through fifth grades (or 7, 8, 9 & 10 years old). Tigers (first-graders), Wolves (second-graders), Bears (third-graders), and Webelos (fourth and fifth-graders) meet a few times a month in Dens. A Pack is a group of Dens and usually meets monthly.
- Starting in September 2016, Lions are a Pilot program for Kindergarteners (6 years old) which will participate in some but not all Pack activities.
- The Cub Scout ranks were revised effective 6/1/15, so if you were a Cub Scout or leader it is a new program!



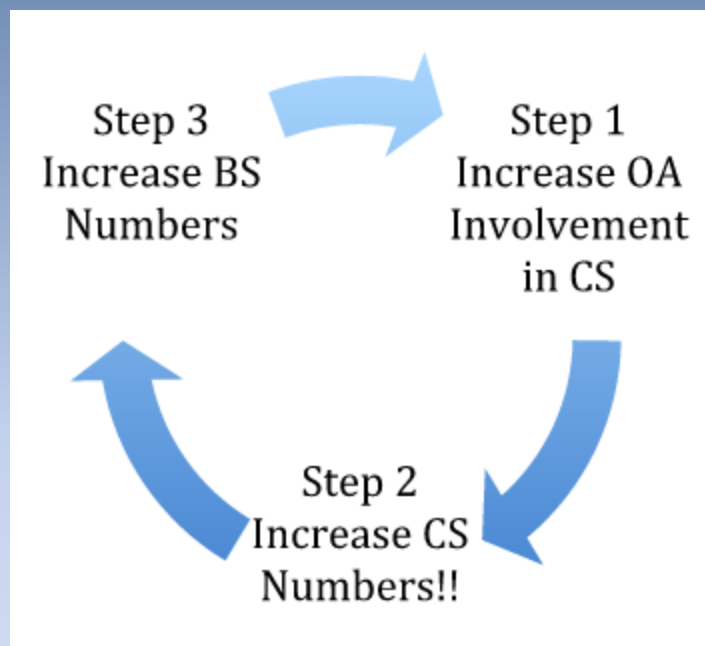
I. Importance of OA/Cub Relations





WHY Cubs Matter to the OA

1. Cubs provide longevity to the Order



2. Support the Boy Scout Program as the National Honor Society



II. Understanding the Role of the OA





Membership--Recruitment

- The Lodge experienced ***“positive growth in membership over the previous year.”***
- 2016 OA JTE Requirement 3
- 95 percent of all Boy Scouts were Cub Scouts.
Loss of Cubs=Scouts=Arrowmen
- ***“[OA] Key 3 meets with Scout Executive and lodge completes agreed upon projects.”*** and ***“Provide OA member staff support for council and district program events.”***
- 2016 OA JTE Requirements 13 & 14



Membership--Recruitment

- Lots of attention is given to retaining current members, but a stronger emphasis must be placed on bringing in new ones.
- The OA does not directly recruit Cubs, recruitment occurs at the local pack level.
- However, a lodge can assist in making existing recruitment strategies more successful.



Membership--Recruitment

How to accomplish this goal...

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



Mentoring—Den Chief

- A Boy Scout who assists a Cub or Webelos Scout Den . . .

- Assistant to the Den's leadership; Attends Den Chief training; Helps with the Den meetings, events, Webelos Den overnight campout.



- The Den Chief is a mentor, friend, Elangomat, role model and guide for the Den helping prepare the Webelos Scout for a successful transition into Boy Scouts.

- An AoL Den Chief may become a New Scout Patrol Troop Guide to aid transition.





Mentoring—Unit Leadership

- As well-trained and experienced members of the Scouting Community, OA brothers are excellent resources to use when training leaders of a new developing pack.
 - Meeting program, structure, agenda, etc
 - Leader training (engages OA adults)
 - Implementation of ideas (parents respond well to OA youth involvement)

*****On-boarding parents is KEY*****



Parental On-Boarding

- Use experienced OA youth during parent orientations
 - Scripted presentations
 - Means more coming from the youth
- Triage recruitment in non-active areas as compared “normal” recruitment in active areas.



Recruitment--Recap

- No need to reinvent the wheel, just grease the bearings and make sure it turns properly.
- OA help with existing recruitment measures does not require new ground-breaking programs to be effective.
- Use programs already in place but be thinking of ways to utilize the OA to make them more effective.



Membership—Transition Phase

- Largest membership drop occurs between Bear year and first year of Boy Scouts.
- Target age group to ensure retention.
- OA members can help support pack activities for these “transition scouts.”





Membership—Transition Phase

- New Cub program creates a “pre-patrol” troop preparatory atmosphere.
- Must function as a patrol to earn Arrow of Light.
- Fosters collaboration between pack and troop units.
- *The OA can help lead Webelos to Scout transition orientations.*



Coming soon . . .

- Nation script for OA to use during Crossover Ceremonies





Membership--Retention

- Activity breeds activity—provide opportunities for the Cubs
 - Cubclave*
 - Pinewood Derby
 - Nature Walk
 - Webelos Woods
- Limitless possibilities for retention-based programs sponsored by the OA
- OA Camp Chief at Cub Camp





Cubclave

- Cubs at Conclave
- Promotes to parents leadership opportunities available to their kids.
- Promotes to Cubs the fun activities that await them in Boy Scouts.
- Creates link between OA and Cubs





Finance

- Costs can sometimes inhibit an interested child from joining.
 - Lodge sponsored camperships
 - Lodge sponsored uniform bank
- OA help at FOS presentations
- Where to Go Cub Camping 'guide' put together by OA members familiar with the various family friendly camping facilities throughout the area with age appropriate activities.



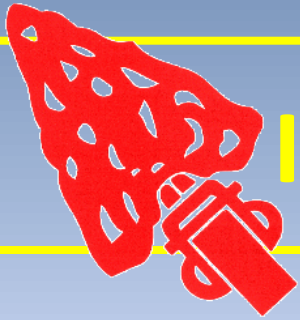
III. Council/Lodge Collaboration





Council/Lodge Collaboration

- Connecting and communicating with the lodge is key in order to garner their support.
- When called upon for help, sometimes a lodge falls short...
 - Lodge leaders need time and advanced notice of staff requests in order to adequately promote and put together help.
 - Make sure your lodge is on board and familiar with the importance of OA/Cub relations and their role in supporting the council.
- Develop a strong relationship with the lodge
 - Building a stronger relationship is a 2 way street



III. Questions and Answers





Closing

- Strengthening OA/Cub involvement is crucial for sustaining membership and fighting off the ongoing loss of participants.
- A written report of the webinar will be distributed early fall for everyone's record and to serve as a content refresher coming out of summer camp season.
- Resources are available at the NE Region OA's Cub Scout portal
- We want to hear your ideas, please share your Best Practices.



Questions or Comments

Jon Chester, Chair
Jeff Goldsmith, Adviser

NER OA Cub Scout Taskforce
Cubscouting@northeast.oa-bsa.org

<http://northeast.oa-bsa.org/resources/cub-scout-support>

