

4 Things to take note of:

- 1. Cub Scout Monthly Themes are back**
- 2. Cub Scout Leader Knots are being consolidated**
- 3. Fast Start is Recommended but No Longer Required**
- 4. This Is Scouting is Recommended but No Longer Required**

Cub Scout Monthly Themes are coming back.

Not sure if you have picked up on it, but the Themes are already back. Based on inputs from Pack Leaders and Roundtable Commissioners around the Nation, the consensus was that they missed the Cub Scout Monthly Themes. For information on this we need to stay up with the information that they are putting out each month on the

Cubcasts (<http://www.scouting.org/ScoutCast.aspx?a=2#cubcast>) Listen to the Cubcast titled New Cub Scout Delivery Method (Jan 2012)

Additionally as of October of last year, BSA has been releasing Supplemental Monthly Pack Meeting Plans

(<http://www.scouting.org/scoutsource/CubScouts/Leaders/DenLeaderResources/DenandPackMeetingResourceGuide/PackMeetingPlans.aspx>)

2011	Core Value	Monthly Theme
September	Cooperation	None
October	Responsibility	Jungle of Fun
November	Citizenship	Fifty Great States
December	Respect	Holiday Lights
2012	Core Value	Monthly Theme
January	Positive Attitude	Abracadabra
February	Resourcefulness	Turn Back the Clock *
March	Compassion	Planting the Seeds of Kindness *
April	Faith	
May	Health & Fitness	
June	Perseverance	
July	Courage	
August	Honesty	

*No published Pack Meeting Guide Yet

The plan will be to have 36 alternative pack meetings posted. (3 for each core value) This will provide four total pack meetings for each Core Value. The intent would be that leaders rotate through the four pack meeting plans for each Core Value to provide a program that is not the same each year.

The focus should still be the Core Value – the theme should be looked at as an enhancement. Of course like always Baloo’s Bugle addresses the monthly theme providing additional ideas to help everyone out. In November, Baloo’s Bugle started addressing the Monthly Themes. Follow

the link for the 2011-2012 issues of Baloo's Bugle: <http://usscouts.org/usscouts/bbugle2011-2012.asp>

Unfortunately at this current moment we have held our January Roundtables and they still have not published the February Pack Meeting Plan that addresses the Monthly Theme of Turn Back the Clock.

I guess I will need to monitor the Monthly Pack Meeting Plans Website to find out when they post the updates so that I can let the other leaders know.

Fast Start

From: <http://scouting.org/Training/TrainingUpdates/Archives/201108.aspx>

Fast Start training was dropped from the list of training courses that are required for a leader to be considered "trained" in ScoutNET in 2010. However, it has remained a requirement for a leader to earn the "Trained" patch and for other training recognitions because those have not been updated since then.

It is also a part of Journey to Excellence, but a simplistic rationale for Cub Scout packs is that Bronze is to complete required training and "orientation", Silver is to complete "basic," and Gold is complete the camping part of "supplemental" training. While this makes sense, it has caused some confusion.

In our research, the duplication between Fast Start and Specifics and the requirement to take four or five courses, has caused dissatisfaction among new leaders and a reluctance to take any additional training. With the availability of training on-line and the mentality in many councils that deliver Specifics via instructor-led courses within two weeks of volunteering, making a new leader go back and take Fast Start after they have completed Specifics is unnecessary. Or, taking Specifics just after taking Fast Start is duplication.

We are in the midst of updating literature and web sites to be consistent.

Fast Start was originally designed to be an orientation training for new leaders that would help them get started with meetings before "basic" training was available - back in the day when most districts did two courses a year and training was not available on line. It was not designed to be part of the "basic" process. However, it is still an important training for circumstances when immediate training is not available, so it will continue to be available. It is being removed from the "basic" list in our literature, and Fast Start will not be part of the JTE in 2012.

The "Trained" patch means that you have been trained for your Scouting role. That means Specifics.

This Is Scouting

From: <http://scouting.org/training/trainingupdates.asp>

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As a result of a research project that included both new leaders who have and have not completed “basic” training for their Scouting role, the BSA’s volunteer training committee has made a change in the set of courses necessary for a leader to be considered “trained” for 2012. Leaders told us that one of the obstacles to completing training was the number of different courses a new leader saw they needed to take to be trained. For den leaders, some lists had as many as four different courses, for Scoutmasters five! They also cited the duplication of some courses; and there was the “why did I need to take that?” factor.

Some tenured leaders among us like to think that new leaders should know everything we know. But what new leaders say *they* want is to know how to do what they have volunteered to do, and where to find the resources to do it better.

The research reinforced the decision in 2009 that *Fast Start* not be part of the basic set, and it recommended that *This is Scouting* become optional. Effective this month *This is Scouting* will no longer be necessary for unit-level leaders to be considered “trained” in the ScoutNET system. It is still important training that will still be available. Leaders who wish to learn more about Scouting and new leaders will be encouraged to complete the course.

Additional recommended changes in the content and delivery of unit-level leader training are being reviewed and included in updated training. More on that later in this *Times*.

These changes, and the ones in the unit Journey to Excellence and the training awards, will make all of the “requirements” for training more consistent for new leaders. Tenured leaders who have completed previous training for their current role will continue to be considered trained in all these areas.

Training Knots Update

from <http://scouting.org>

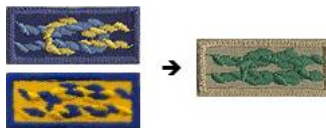
The National Council's awards committee recently conducted a review of the hundreds of awards presented to Scouts and adults in the BSA. Many recommendations were made to simplify and update procedures, and the awards themselves.

Among the recommendations was the update of some awards and/or the knots that represent them on the uniform. These include the training awards and the Cub Scouting awards.

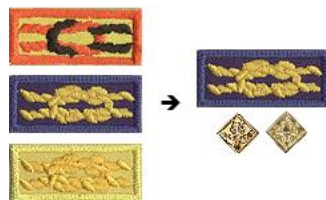
For example, to give the award the same recognition as the other top unit leader awards, the Cubmaster Award will become the Cubmaster’s Key and use the Scouter’s Key knot.



The Cub Scouter and Pack Trainer Awards will use the Scouter’s Training Award knot.



The Tiger Cub, Cub Scout, and Webelos Den Leader’s Awards will use the Den Leader’s Award knot.



Devices to be worn on the knots will be available to indicate which awards, and for which program awards were earned.



The training team is currently reviewing and updating the requirements for the awards. So watch here for news, but we expect the details in early 2012.

Just a personal observation: Now that there will be nine different ways to earn the Scouter’s Key Knot there will probably need to some guidance in the Insignia Guide on how many devices should be worn on each knot? I don’t think the patch is big enough to sport 7-9 device pins on it and

Scouter’s Key Award	Device worn
Scoutmaster’s Key	Boy Scouts
Varsity Scout Coach’s Key	Varsity Scouts
Venturing Advisor’s Key	Venturing Scouts
Skipper’s Key	Sea Exploring
Roundtable Commissioner’s Key	Commissioners – I guess once you get one Commissioner’s device, who needs another. Technically a person could earn the Commissioners device 3 times and wear all three of them.
District/Assistant District Commissioner’s Key	
Unit Commissioner’s Key	
District Committee’s Key	District Committee
Cubmaster’s Key	Cub Scouts

Please feel free to pass this information on to whomever might find it useful.

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