



Assistant County/Area Commissioners (Cub Scouts)

CC: County/Area Commissioners

November 2007

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Dear Colleague

Re: Changes to the Balanced Programme

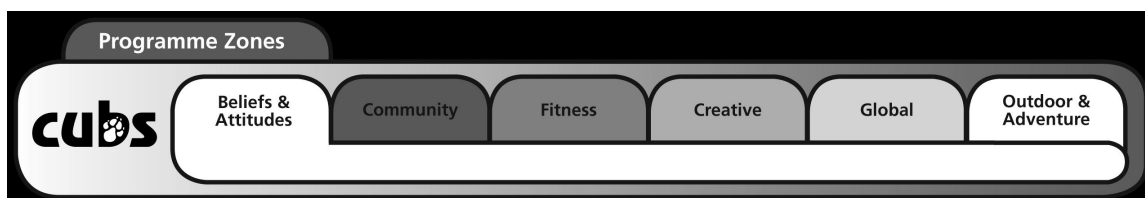
It seems hard to believe, but our current Programme was launched almost six years ago in the spring of 2002. Over the last 4-5 years, we have been listening to the views of the Movement and we are now about to introduce some refinements to the Balanced Programme. All the changes will be detailed in the December/January Cub Scout Supplement to Scouting Magazine, but we thought you might appreciate some prior notice so that you can help support the changes locally.

There are four areas of change and the first of these happened in October 2006, when we introduced three new Activity Badges and two new Staged Activity Badges for the Section. These appear to have been very well received. The next three areas of change will all be introduced from January 2008.

Area 2: New Programme Zones

It became apparent that for a programme that was supposed to run from 6 – 25 years it was unhelpful that each Section had a different number of Programme Zones many with differing names. We have now rationalised the number and all Sections from Beaver Scouts to Explorer Scouts now have six Programme Zones, all with similar names. (Scout Network members undertake a Balanced Programme, delivered through three Self-Development Areas which link to the Programme Zones used in the younger Sections).

Cub Scout Programme Zones



A Balanced Programme is delivered by regularly selecting activities from each of the Zones, so that over a given period, Cub Scouts will have enjoyed a good mix of activities from every one of the Zones.

The Scout Association

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Patron HM The Queen President HRH The Duke of Kent Founder Robert Baden-Powell OM Chief Scout Peter Duncan

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Area 3: New Challenge Awards

We are introducing three new Challenge Awards for the Cub Scout Section and at the same time increasing the number of Challenges required for the Chief Scout's Silver Award from three to six. On the face of it, this seems a significant increase, but each Challenge Award now links with a specific Programme Zone and much of the feedback told us that Cubs wanted more challenge from their Programme. The Fitness, Creative, Global and Outdoor Challenges remain and added to these is a new Community Challenge, and linking with the Beliefs and Attitudes Zone, a Promise Challenge. The Caring Challenge will be withdrawn, as the Community Challenge replaces it, but Cub Scout Leaders may continue to use it as one of the Challenges for the Chief Scout's Silver Award (while stocks last) until March 2009. The Personal Challenge, which has not proved popular, is being discontinued.

Cub Scouts will now need to gain all six Challenges for the Chief Scout's Silver Award and this requirement puts renewed emphasis on the importance of the Balanced Programme. While it is accepted that it will take a while for leaders to introduce all the changes, it is hoped that Cub Scout Leaders will be in a position to award all 6 Challenges by early 2009. In addition, we are introducing a 7th Challenge Award, called the Outdoor Plus Challenge. This is an optional Challenge designed specifically for the older Cub Scout. (The Adventure Activity Badge is being withdrawn, although it may continue to be awarded while stocks last. Leaders will notice that the requirements for the two awards are very similar).

Area 4: Joining In Badges

The final area of change is with the new Joining In Badges. There are now twelve and the new design of badges will be worn both by Beavers and Cubs, and also Scouts and Explorer Scouts (who call them Participation Awards). They can be awarded either on a young person's birthday or on the anniversary of when they first joined the Movement. The important difference is that young people can accumulate the badges on their uniform, and when a young person moves into a new Section; they take the highest number gained in the previous Section and then continue to add additional badges year on year. There is no longer a requirement to remove each badge as the next one is awarded. The current 'tumbling' number badges can continue to be worn (while stocks last), until 31st March 2009.

To support the changes a new series of bound publications in A4 format will be released by February 2008. We believe these are a significant improvement on the earlier publications and hope that they will be widely used within the section.

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| Pack Essentials: | An invaluable guide to the day to day running of a Cub Scout Pack, with chapters covering Leadership Teams, Young People, Everyday Adventure, Communications and Image, Routine Administration and with a large appendix crammed full of useful documents. | £5 |
| The Pack Programme: | Packed full of ideas, planning tools and techniques, this new publication brings together the full requirements of the Cub Scout Programme and lots of advice on building a challenging and inspiring programme for Cub Scouts. | £5 |
| The Pack Programme Plus: | This is a valuable supplement to Programmes Online and provides both a fresh and relevant selection of practical programme ideas, games and skill instructions for use with the Cub Scout Pack – all conveniently arranged into forty weekly programmes. | £5 |

**Charts, Posters &
Record Cards:**

A new badge chart showing all the awards and badges for the Section has been produced. In addition a large wall chart now allows Cub Scouts to plot their progress to the Chief Scout's Silver Award. The Record Cards have been significantly revised and now allow more room for recording individual achievement.

The Cub Scout Power Pack has been renewed and updated and now includes an extra 40 pages detailing all the badges that a Cub Scout can earn. We are also introducing a brand new 20-page Membership Pack, full of all the information a brand new Cub wants to know. The Pack includes a special poster, which will help them track their progress through the Cub Programme.

Full details of all publications can be found in the December/January Cub Scout Supplement.

As we consulted so widely with the movement, we are confident that these changes will improve the experience of children taking part in the Cub Scout Programme and will be welcomed by Cub Scout Leaders.

If you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact Steven Moysey, Programme and Development Adviser, using the details above.

Yours Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Graeme M. Hamilton". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping underline that extends to the right.

Graeme Hamilton
UK Adviser (Cub scouts)