

SCOUTS-L

RETAINING CUBS

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From: Barry C Runnels <Barry_C_Runnels@MMACMAIL.JCCBI.GOV>
Subject: Tigers and Webelo Retention

Hi all

Reading all the post about Webelos and Tigers, I notice some difference in opinions from post giving ideas for programs that keeps a boys interest in Scouting to post that explain the importance of giving awards to keep the boys interest.

I agree awards are a very important part of Scouting because they publicly recognize the Scout achievements. But if the award is the highlight of the boys year, then I think we miss the boat and will eventually loose the boy.

I have some great awards presentations that make every Scout stand in his deserved moment of glory. But when I go back to those Scouts and ask what was the best part of Scouting for them that year, I don't want to hear "When I got my Arrow of Light". I want to hear about the fun activities that help him earn the Arrow of Light.

Sure those beads and Tigers Paws are very important, and I know all the packs will figure out the best way to award these guys in a most honorable manner, but pay attention to the program. Those first graders better be having a great time or you will lose them and their parents. And our Pack learned several years ago that you better give the Webelos more responsibility in their Den and Pack or you lose them fast.

I was involved in starting a dead Troop two years ago. With the Scouts, we planned a program that was designed to be fun and challenging. We had 15 boys in the Troop and was hoping for another 6 to 8 new boys to continue the growth. We ended up with almost 30 in three months. A good problem I think. They said they joined because of the summer camp trip to Colorado and the canoeing trip, and the Repelling trip and so on.

Give the boys the award they deserve in a wonderful ceremony, but don't program to much emphasis on the awards. Put the emphasis on a program with fun and exciting activities.

I am always looking for new ideas to improve our programs. Scout L is one of best places for that. I enjoy reading some of the post from leaders like Kim and others who are focused on programs that creates a fun adventure for the boys. I am a new Webelo leader this year and I

will be watching Scout L.

Thanks

**Barry Runnels
"Mighty" Pack 339
Troop 386
Edmond OK**