

“It’s A Great Day For Scouting”

II. The Trained Leader

In our first year, our Cub Scout Den Leader and I took the current YP (Youth Protection), NLE (New Leaders Essentials), and CLS (Cub Leaders Specifics), training for our positions and earning our Trained Patch. Then, in May, several of our parents were ready to become DLs, and a transfer, a Deputy Sheriff, became one of our WLs (Webelos Den Leader). We brought the YP and NLS training to our CO’s facilities. In August, we also brought the CLS training for their positions to them too. In September, after our second “School Night for Scouting,” we recruited the one WL’s wife as our PT (Pack Trainer), and our Activities Chair, who, after returning from Iraq, became our CA#2, (Cub Master Assistant) for our Pack Operations. His wife, the Interim Activities Chair, became our Advancement Chair, and our first TL became our CA#1 as our Pine Wood Derby/Scouting for Food Chairs. Along with our PT, they all went through their training to earn their trained patch, and shortly later we recruited two couples each with two sons--one old enough for scouting, as our TLs for two Tiger Cub Dens, and they earned their trained Patch also. Our PT then made sure all new Leaders knew what training they needed, and when it was available. She also facilitated some of that training. Then she kept track of what all Leaders needed, like four Roundtables or “University of Scouting,” to earn their Square Knot for their position. Her husband, the WLs and our CA#2, both went to the “University of Scouting,” taking five classes, three shy of earning their bachelor’s degree. They both went through Wood Badge training in the spring of 2004, with several more planning to do the same. Six of our leaders earned

their first Square Knots, and several are in line for theirs. At the end of the first 15 months, we were the only Unit in our District of 77 who received the DC's 100% Trained Leader Award. One key to this is that our CC, CM, and CAs, and all of our Den leaders are uniformed leaders. We also have the one WL, his wife, and our PT, who are on the District's Roundtable staff. Our advancement chair is on the District's Religious Award Committee, after she first went through training on her own. These, plus our CA #2's family, were transfers from other Units, where none of them were leaders in those other Units, and they were without any Scouting experience. Now, both couples are trained Leaders. If we, as Commissioners, take all of the training available to us, and do the things we need, to earn our Arrowhead, Commissioner's Key, and the College of Commissioner Sciences, we will have all the tools we need to help our Units be a success. Our own success comes when we help those around us become a success. Then, if you have another opportunity, like I have, to start your own Unit, it will do as good as Pack #650 has done these past two years. First, take the current leader training that is available at the time, go to your District Roundtables with your Unit Leaders, and go to the University Of Scouting, each year, either to take classes, you haven't yet taken, or be on the University Staff. It is not only what we say, but what we do, that teaches young Leaders, the importance of using the resources, and take all the Training available to us. I had not been a CM in my 1st 40 years, so it was important for me to go through the current training, for that position, and earning the CM Award, after 2 years as their CM, motivated our other Leaders, including the one who replaced me, and now, the current CM. I also worked on my thesis, for my PhD, using the daily log I wrote during

my 2 years as the CM. I have since been working with National, to get a Square Knot for the PhD. It proves to other Volunteer Leaders, at all levels, that we are listened to, by our Professional Staff, also at all levels.