

# Personally Speaking

## What A Month!

Never has one month been so packed with change for those of us in Scouting as has this September. Never has there been a month which affected so many boys, leaders and families.

In that month the word is going to spread like wildfire to about one and a quarter million families that their eight-year-old son doesn't have to wait impatiently any longer, that he can join the Cub Scouts now.

In the next few months a goodly number of the 1,163,000 eleven-year-olds in America will be knocking at the doors of Scout Troops, eager to prove to the older fellows that they will make good Scouts.

And in September new senior status will be given to 367,000 fourteen-year-olds, now Scouts in Troops. They will receive Explorer membership cards and will learn that they can get the new Explorer program either in a Crew in their present Troop or in a Post, Squadron, or Ship.

These three changes in age requirements immediately suggest to those of us who are Unit leaders new possibilities and at the same time, some things which we will have to work out to make a smooth transition. We talked about it in a Leaders' meeting of Pack One the other night and as a result are preparing a mimeographed letter to all parents of eight-year-olds. We are planning for considerable Den reorganization which will be caused by the influx of eight-year-olds and the graduation of eleven-year-olds. The Troop that gets most of our graduates has already told us that it is going to need help from a couple of dads before it can handle the additional load, and two of us are moving up with our boys.

Yes, there will be some adjustments to make in our Units, some adjustments in our thinking, too. Some will be enthusiastic, others will have reservations. This we all should keep in mind: the change was made in response to a widely expressed desire and it was made in full confidence that more boys would be better served by Scouting.

Dr. Schuck's announcement on page 4 shares with you the reasons for the changes and the series of studies which led up to the decision. The new Explorer program is explained on page 32, and there is further discussion of ways to put the changes into effect in each program section.

It's good to have a part in a movement which not only has a well-established and successful program, but which is dynamic, willing to make changes which will make the program even more effective. Yes, it's good to have a part in a movement that is really moving.

  
Managing Editor

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