

# Advancement News

September-October  
2018

Vol. 8, No. 4

Prepared. For Life.®

Previous issues are available at <https://www.scouting.org/programs/boy-scouts/advancement-and-awards/advancement-news/>

## Opportunities for Advancement Administrators

### Advancement Issues and Solutions – Philmont Training Center, August 2018

The Philmont Advancement Issues and Solutions Conference, held August 6 – 10, 2018, was an outstanding success. Nine experienced advancement administrators and faculty members met to identify advancement issues which might arise and which might effect a Scout's ability to receive their next rank. Possible advancement issues impacting Cub Scouting, Scouting and Venturing were explored. For each issue identified, solutions were defined and developed to solve the problem.



Topics covered included: advancement education for new units in the Cub Scout, Scout and Venturing programs, ways to increase advancement, possible changes to the upcoming *Guide to Advancement*, advancement issues in Cub Scouting, advancement for Scouts with disabilities, advancement under disputed circumstances, time extension requests, belated requests, Scout advancement for Venturing members registered in both programs, and group merit badge counseling issues.

*Continued on page 2*

### In This Issue

- **Opportunities for Advancement Administrators:** Advancement Issues and Solutions—Philmont Training Center, August 2018; Sea Base Conference in January
- **On Increasing Advancement:** The Ideals of Scouting—More than Mere Words
- **The Cub Scout Angle:** Arrow of Light and Crossover Ceremonies—Important Changes to Order of the Arrow Participation Guidelines; Family Scouting for All
- **The Boy Scout Angle:** Den Chief—Training Syllabus for this Often Overlooked but Important Leadership Position Revised
- **Eagle Issues:** Eagle Scout Projects—Two-Deep Adult Supervision requirement; Project Proposal Reviews Face-to-Face Is Best
- **Venturing:** Duke of Edinburgh's International Award
- **From the Archives:** After the Scout Is Tested
- **A Peek Ahead:** What Is planned for November-December
- **Helpful Links:**

*Continued from page 1*

All attendees rated the conference as exceeding their expectations. Some of the comments included in the course's evaluations were: "Well organized in giving excellent application to the real world"; "third year attending, enjoyed it"; "one of the best conferences I've taken at Philmont"; "the course was informative, surprising, often emotional and delivered by exceptional staff"; and, "I have learned so much, including about myself, my own subjectivity, and expanded my knowledge of advancement in ways I didn't realize I was lacking".



## **Sea Base Conference in January**

**News Flash! News Flash! News Flash!**

**Conference on Education for Advancement Administrators (CEAA)**

**January 20-26, 2019**

**Florida Sea Base**

This conference targets council and district volunteers and professionals who have some background in advancement and want to take their game to a new level! Participants will receive lots of updates and have chances to share with others, but of greater significance, they will be asked to review and participate in the update or completion of advancement education tools that will be used by units, districts, and councils across the country.

Participants will view and discuss various existing advancement materials and will make further recommendations for tools that ought to be developed for the future. Scouters attending will begin working on some of those tools during this conference.

This is your opportunity to be on the cutting edge of materials development and advance your education by learning through doing while enjoying some winter sunshine in the Florida Keys! Conference Registration is available NOW at this web address: [www.bsaseabase.org/ConferenceCenter.aspx](http://www.bsaseabase.org/ConferenceCenter.aspx)



# On Increasing Advancement

## The Ideals of Scouting—More than Mere Words

Every Scouting activity moves our youth toward our basic objectives of character development, citizenship training, leadership, and mental and physical fitness. We achieve mission fulfillment using the **methods** of Scouting: Scouting's ideals, the patrols, the outdoors, advancement, personal growth, adult association, leadership development and the uniform. None of these methods are goals by themselves. They are merely methods that we use. But they all work together, and they all reinforce and enhance each other.

For example, we will have greater advancement if we make proper use of the ideals of Scouting. The ideals of Scouting are the Scout Oath, the Scout Law, the Scout motto ("Be prepared"), and the Scout slogan ("Do a good turn daily").

Positions of responsibility, good turns, and going camping are all advancement requirements. Showing Scout spirit is part of all the rank requirements. We show Scout spirit by relating how we are living by the Scout Oath and Scout Law. So, how are some ways these elements can work together in our Scouting activities?

At every meeting the Scouts, either during an opening or a closing ceremony, recite the oath and law. During the meeting, because a "Scout is obedient," when the senior patrol leader raises his hand in the Scout sign, everyone responds by raising the sign and becoming quiet. Before the SPL sends the patrols off to patrol corners, they will remind the patrol leaders that at every meal on the campout someone will be asked to say Grace because a "Scout is reverent." During the patrol corners, each patrol leader might begin by saying, "Because a 'Scout is prepared,' we need to get our plans ready for this month's campout." Later, on that campout they might say, "Because a 'Scout is helpful,' we all need to work together to clean up our camp site," while the senior patrol leader encourages everyone to work together because a "Scout is cheerful."

In these and countless other ways, the troop can incorporate these ideals into its Scouting activities and individual Scouts make them part of their daily lives. Doing so helps the Scouts with their advancement requirements while making sure that the troop activities remain fun for everyone.

By making sure Scouting's ideals are an integral part of your unit's program, you will increase advancement. By reinforcing them at every Scoutmaster's conference for a Scout preparing to advance in rank, you will increase retention and further advancement. With Scouting ideals as the bulwark of your unit's program, you will fulfill Scouting's mission. Now, isn't that what we're all about.



# The Cub Scout Angle

## Arrow of Light and Crossover Ceremonies—Important Changes to Order of the Arrow Participation Guidelines



The Arrow of Light is the culmination of years of effort in the advancement of Cub Scouts, which should be recognized with an appropriate ceremony. (*Guide to Advancement* 2017, topic 3.0.0.3.) The recognition for Cub Scouts who earn the Arrow of Light Award “should be presented during an impressive ceremony involving Scouts from a local Scout troop.” (*GTA*, topic 4.1.1.3). These types of ceremonies often are conducted and benefit from the assistance of the local Order of the Arrow lodge and its chapters.

Recently the BSA National Order of the Arrow Committee revised its guidance for lodges and chapters concerning the types and details of ceremonies that will be permitted after January 1, 2019. Of particular note, Arrowmen in these ceremonies are to be in a Scout uniform and are no longer permitted to be done in American Indian regalia.



The newly approved official ceremonies may be downloaded from the OA Inductions Portal at <https://oa-bsa.org/resources/inductions>. The following links will provide groups with a list of the materials needed, as well as the detailed speaking parts for each ceremony:

### Arrow of Light Award Ceremony:

<https://oa-bsa.org/uploads/publications/OA-Arrow-of-Light-Ceremony-2018.pdf>

### Spirit of Adventure Crossover Ceremony:

<https://oa-bsa.org/uploads/publications/OA-Cub-Crossover-Ceremony-2018.pdf>

## Managing Subscriptions to *Advancement News*

**Advancement News** is designed for council and district advancement committees, advancement staff advisors, and Eagle processors. However, any Scouting volunteer or professional may subscribe.

**Subscribing.** Send a message to [advancement.team@scouting.org](mailto:advancement.team@scouting.org), with “SUBSCRIBE” in the subject line. Indicate your name, email address, and council in the message text.

**Unsubscribing.** To decline future issues please reply and enter “REMOVE” in the subject line. We will remove the subscription within the next two weeks.

**Receiving Multiple Copies.** If you receive *Advancement News* at more than one email address, choose the one to be removed and reply with “REMOVE” in the subject line. Include a message requesting that we remove only that email address.

**Duplicate Copies.** If you receive more than one copy of *Advancement News* at the same email address, please reply to all but one of them with “DUPLICATE” in the subject line.

**Address Change.** If you want *Advancement News* sent to a different address, reply and enter “ADDRESS CHANGE” in the subject line. In your message, enter your council name and the email address you prefer.



## Family Scouting For All

Fall recruiting will be a particularly exciting activity as Cub Scouts will include boys and girls. The configurations of the packs will be established by the chartered partner organizations and may include a new all-girl pack, an all-boy pack, or one that includes girl dens and boy dens. All dens of Cub Scouts will be single gender – all boys or all girls.

A major question that arises is regarding the curriculum that girl dens will be pursuing – it will be the exact same advancement requirements and activities that are in effect for all Cub Scouts, girl dens and boy dens. The girl dens will be pursuing the same processes – for Tiger, Wolf, Bear, Webelos, and Arrow of Light and the handbooks outlining advancement are used for all Cub Scouts. For Lion dens, the *Adventure Book* will outline advancement opportunities as well. After all, the programs of the Boy Scouts of America support the values of the Boy Scout program – the mission, aims, and values of the Scout Oath and Law are appropriate for all individuals, regardless of gender.

As recruiting builds it will be important to present the advancement activities that Cub Scouts will complete and for parent interest, to highlight the process – Cub Scouts complete the activity, record in their handbook or adventure book, the den leader will record and as appropriate request the pack supply recognition, and that recognition is then bestowed upon the Cub Scout in a meaningful way.

As the den and pack leadership prepare for activities, the time is current to ensure that adequate leadership is trained with new Youth Protection Guidelines and completed BSA registration. These guidelines include the presence of female leadership at all activities when girl Cub Scouts are present.



To review the process of advancement, see Section 2.0.0.0 of the *Guide to Advancement*.

To review Family Scouting Questions and Answers, download the Q & A document at <https://www.scouting.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/06/FAQ-Family-Program-061218-FINAL.pdf>

## About *Advancement News*

**Follow the National Advancement Program Team on Twitter!**

**(BSA Advancement Team, @AdvBSA)**

*Advancement News* is the official e-letter of the Boy Scouts of America National Advancement Program Team. Its intent is to provide and clarify procedures found in the *Guide to Advancement*, announce various changes and updates in advancement, and to assist advancement committees in making decisions that can help increase the rate of advancement. Therefore, districts and councils may reprint articles from this publication. Our plan is to distribute six issues of *Advancement News* annually, but special editions may go out whenever there is important information to share. Feedback, suggestions, and letters to the editor are welcome at [advancement.team@scouting.org](mailto:advancement.team@scouting.org).

## The Boy Scout Angle

### Den Chief – Training Syllabus for this Often Overlooked but Important Leadership Position Revised

Leadership roles in the Scouting program are an important part of the advancement process. One significantly underused position of responsibility is that of the den chief.

*A den chief is a Scout, Venturer or Sea Scout who assists a Cub Scout den.*

As packs and troops begin to develop their programs for the next year, planning to train and support den chiefs is an important part of the Scouting process for leadership development. The Den Chief training syllabus, which was recently updated, is available at this web address:

[www.scouting.org/training/youth/](http://www.scouting.org/training/youth/)

How long and how effectively a den chief will serve depends upon how seriously the position is valued. If the adults rate the den chief position highly, the den chief will take their role more seriously.



Den Chief training is intended to build enthusiasm, develop higher morale among den chiefs, and provide the tools a new den chief will need to be successful. District and council level training for this role should be offered and units should be encouraging Scouts to attend. The den chief who completes this training will be better able to function in the position and will have unlimited opportunities to learn and grow as a leader and Scout.

## Eagle Issues

### Eagle Scout Projects—Two-Deep Adult Supervision Requirement

For most Eagle Scout projects, a certain amount of physical work is provided by those assisting the Eagle Scout. Boy Scouts of America is constantly reviewing and providing assessments to ensure that all Scouting activities are conducted safely for the youth members. Recently, the youth protection policy has been revised and becomes effective October 1, 2018.

Beginning on that date, adult supervision on “all Scouting activities,” which includes Eagle Scout projects, must consist of no less than two Youth protection trained, BSA-registered adults—both at least 21 years of age. Please refer to the Guide to Safe Scouting – Scouting’s Barriers to Abuse (<https://www.scouting.org/health-and-safety/gss/gss01/>).



## Project Proposal Reviews – Face-to-Face Is Best

The project proposal is a critical step in a Scout's successful planning, developing, and executing of an Eagle Scout service project. Because of their importance these reviews are intended to be done personally and individually between a Scout and the district/council adult reviewer. They are not intended to be a committee review at this level, nor are they intended to be done in any way other than face-to-face with the Scout, following required Youth Protection policies.

Face-to-face provides a great opportunity for Scouts to associate and interact with adults whom they may have never previously met. This will help them to further develop confidence in themselves as they describe their proposed project. It also will provide the adults involved an opportunity to learn more about the Eagle Scout candidates, which may be valuable later when the Scouts attend their respective Eagle Scout board of review.

Therefore, asking a Scout to drop off the proposal for review and picking it up days later or emailing it without the opportunity for personal interaction between the Scout and the reviewer should only be done in rare cases where it is essentially impossible for the Scout and the reviewer to meet face-to-face. For example, in geographically large councils where a Scout and a reviewer might live many miles apart or where a Scout might be away from home for a long period of time, an alternative approach might be acceptable, but these should be rare exceptions. Under these circumstances, an electronic discussion via Skype or similar application would be better than simply emailing documents back and forth.

Should the Scout present a seriously incomplete proposal, asking the candidate to return at a later date is not a good use of time for both the Scout and the adult reviewer and further delays execution of the project. This is especially a problem for Scouts who are nearing their 18th birthday. Sending letters is also not a good solution since they may not be easily understood, further adding to the delay in getting the proposal reviewed. Only in rare cases should a Scout be required to return at a later date with an updated proposal, and even in those cases an effort should be made to meet with the Scout as soon as possible rather than delaying the meeting several additional weeks. If some information is missing or not clear, the reviewer should take a few minutes during the meeting to immediately make the corrections or additions. There is no reason to send a Scout back to type in additional information when it can simply be added by hand during the review. In this way both the reviewer and the Scout can be assured that all the necessary information is included, and they have reached an understanding.

Whatever the circumstances, reviewers must keep in mind that the proposal is the beginning stages of planning, and in no way is the proposal intended nor required to be a complete project plan at this point. Reviewers must not require more information or documentation than is reasonably necessary to meet the five tests listed in *Guide to Advancement* topic 9.0.2.7. Further information on expectations and procedures for conducting project reviews can also be found in *GTA* topics 9.0.2.1 and 9.0.2.3.



# Venturing

## Duke of Edinburgh's International Award

The Boy Scouts of America has partnered with The Award USA to offer The Duke of Edinburgh's International Award! This award, which has been around for more than 60 years internationally, but never offered in the BSA until now, allows Scouting achievements to be recognized worldwide by providing unique international accreditation of a Venturers' experiences.

For the Venturing program, the award provides a structure that Venturers can use for their program development while increasing retention, STEM exploration of the outdoors, and BSA high adventure camp participation.

There are a few items to note about the award:

- The award is open to Venturers (and other youth) between the ages of 14 and 24.
- The award has 3 levels – bronze, silver, and gold. These awards, similar to the BSA advancement program, are progressively more challenging.
- The award concentrates on 5 key areas of focus – service, skills, physical recreation, adventurous journey, and residential project (gold level only).



More information about this award can be found at <https://usaward.org/about/>.

## From the Archives

### From the Guide To Advancement

**(August-September 2013)**

### After the Scout Is Tested

As outlined in the *Guide to Advancement 2013*, topic 4.2.1.2, once the Scout has been “tested and signed off by someone approved to do so, the advancement requirement has been met.” However, the question often arises: what if the Scout is signed off, but later it is discovered he did not truly learn the skill, or if he did, he has forgotten it? The *Guide to Advancement* provides two answers.

First, a callout box appearing with the topic reiterates that a Scoutmaster can help avoid the issue by ensuring that all of those who have “sign off” authority in the troop are trained to maintain a quality advance-



*Continued on Page 9*



ment standard. Even so, a sign-off does not necessarily indicate indefinite mastery, so Scouts should be encouraged to refresh a signed-off skill as they continue to develop other new or related skills.

Second, a new perspective to the issue of “refreshing” skills was added in the *Guide to Advancement 2013*, in topic 4.2.1.5, “After the Scout is Tested and Recognized.”

This topic reminds unit leaders that a well-organized unit program will provide ample opportunity to practice new skills, continue the learning process, and further develop a Scout’s capabilities. Unit meetings, activities, outings, games and projects, and teaching other Scouts all present excellent opportunities for Scouts to apply new skills and build confidence. Repetition is a key element—it builds retention. If we recall topic 2.0.0.3 in the *Guide to Advancement 2013*, the primary goal of advancement is personal growth and development. By providing opportunities to use—and maybe relearn—skills that Scouts may otherwise forget, we help the youth to recognize that, although they have learned something once, they may need a refresher. This sort of introspection represents another way we can influence growth. As a Scout refreshes his memory and practices signed-off skills anew, his skills will become better ingrained, and he will have an easier time with recall in the future.

### Hear It First on Twitter

If you want the news first, follow the National Advancement Program Team on Twitter. Topics cover the FAQs received at the national office, clarifications on policies and procedures, news on changes and new releases, and best practices in advancement.

If you already have a Twitter account, follow us at **@AdvBSA** or “**BSA Advancement Team**.” If you don’t have an account, it is a quick and easy process to set up an account at [www.twitter.com](http://www.twitter.com). To limit incoming emails (‘tweets’), you can select to have BSA National Advancement Team as the only account you want to follow.

**Note:** Advancement questions should be directed to [advancement.team@scouting.org](mailto:advancement.team@scouting.org).

### A Peek Ahead

Here is a glimpse at what we are working on for the next issue of *Advancement News*. As always, actual content may vary somewhat based on a number of considerations, and especially to accommodate “late-breaking” news of immediate importance to our subscribers.

### Topics Planned for November-December

**From the Guide To Advancement:** Counting Service Hours

**The Cub Scout Angle:** Lions—Advancement Highlights

**The Boy Scout Angle:** Preparing for female troops

## Helpful Links

Here are some links to the most current materials of interest for Scouters who are involved in the administration of advancement. These and many more resources are available via the **Advancement Resources** web page at [www.scouting.org/advancement](http://www.scouting.org/advancement)

### [Merit Badge Group Instruction Guide](#)

#### [Advancement Educational Presentations:](#)

- Today's Advancement
- Cub Scout Advancement: Delivering Adventure
- Developing Council and District Advancement Committees
- The Eagle Scout Service Project Coach
- The Eagle Scout Service Project
- Effective Troop Advancement
- The Essentials of Merit Badge Counseling
- The Merit Badge Program
- Including Scouts With Disabilities
- Videocasts on *Guide to Advancement*, selected topics
  - ◊ Introduction to the Guide to Advancement
  - ◊ Judgment Calls
  - ◊ Boards of Review
  - ◊ Boards of Review Under Disputed Circumstances
  - ◊ Boards of Review Appeals
  - ◊ The Eagle Scout Application Process
  - ◊ Eagle Scout Boards of Review
- Videos
  - ◊ On Increasing Advancement
  - ◊ Why Advancement?
  - ◊ Guardian of the Gate



### [Guide to Advancement 2017](#)

### [Eagle Scout Service Project Workbook](#)

### [Navigating the Eagle Scout Service Project: Information for Project Beneficiaries](#)

### [Eagle Scout Service Project Coach Application](#)

### [Eagle Scout Rank Application](#)

### [Merit Badge Counselor Information](#)

### [Reporting Merit Badge Counseling Concerns](#)

### [Quartermaster Rank Application](#)

### [Quartermaster Leadership Service Project Workbook](#)

### [Venturing Summit Award Application](#)

### [Venturing Summit Award Service Project Workbook](#)

### [Venturing Board of Review Guide](#)

### [Individual Scout Advancement Plan](#)

### [Lone Scout Friend and Counselor Guidebook](#)