

Advancement News

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Prepared. For Life.®

Previous issues are available at http://www.scouting.org/scoutsource/BoyScouts/AdvancementandAwards/advancement_news.aspx

New Feature: Helpful Advancement Links

See the last page of this issue for convenient links to many of the tools you may need in the administration of advancement. Simply find the publication and click on it—you will be connected directly to that publication.

As always, the full set of these and other resources can be found at www.scouting.org/Advancement.

Opportunities for Advancement Administrators

Conference on Education for Advancement Administrators at Sea Base

Next January, when it is cold and snowy in many parts of the country, the Florida National High Adventure Sea Base will host the Conference on Education for Advancement Administrators (CEAA). Scheduled for January 12-17, 2014, the CEAA will provide a forum for experienced council, district, and unit advancement volunteers and professionals to review and evaluate the current educational material produced by the National Advancement Committee. They will also begin the process of determining and designing the next set of sessions. Participants will also learn about recent changes and updates to advancement procedures and also things to come.

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Reservations are now being accepted, so be sure to secure your spot for this fabulous opportunity. Spouses are welcome to attend and to participate in a super program that includes snorkeling, kayaking, and boat trips. All participants will have one afternoon off so they can explore the surrounding environment or just soak up some sun. We look forward to seeing you in the Florida Keys in January!

P.S. Don't forget to pack your sun block!

Advancement Educational Presentations Updated

If you're keeping track of the expiration dates on the educational presentations found at www.scouting.org/scoutsource/BoyScouts/GuideforMeritBadgeCounselors/Resources/advancement_presentations.aspx, you will note that several have been updated and that a few have been taken down. It is taking longer to update a few of the sessions due to new content in the *Guide to Advancement* 2013. We hope you will be patient as we work on them.

On Increasing Advancement

Encouraging Advancement and the Journey to Excellence

Both council and district advancement committee members are charged with implementing and facilitating advancement. Among the 18 specific areas of action and involvement listed in the *Guide to Advancement*, it is recommended that these committees “*establish objectives and action plans that stimulate advancement and lead to maximum success in Scouting's Journey to Excellence.*” With a little planning and a bit of work, converting this into meaningful actions can be just as simple as it sounds.

Monthly and quarterly unit advancement reports and unit Journey to Excellence data, in the right hands, is important in assessing the current situation and then planning further mileposts. The objective, of course, is to improve the lives of the youth we are here to serve, support, and encourage. In this way, these data points become useful tools, not merely tables of figures. So how is this done?

One way your committee can put unit advancement report data to work is by analyzing patterns. Do particular units have “holes” or “spikes” in their reporting schedule? If so, advancement may not be happening regularly, or it may be happening in an unusual direction. Is a pack earning belt loops by the pound but no Arrow Points, or is a pack advancing its youth members through multiple Cub Scout ranks in the same Scouting year? Do some troops seem to be focusing on merit badges to the exclusion of rank advancement? Any of these patterns could indicate a unit has program, leadership, or administration issues that need to be addressed.

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The Journey to Excellence checkpoints can also provide valuable information. The very first dimension tracked for all units is *advancement*. If a unit is not functioning at a bronze or higher level in this area, and this is not attributable to a lack of advancement reporting, it may signal weaknesses in the unit's overall program delivery. If advancement appears to be slipping this year relative to past performance, this could support such a conclusion—or it might be that the unit advancement coordinator just needs training. Usually, a quick look to see how the unit is doing in the other JTE areas will sharpen the diagnosis. Conversely, when the needle on a unit's advancement dashboard is moving upward, the unit should be complimented and encouraged to strive further, pushing a bronze level to silver, a silver level to gold—and once there, to maintain that gold standard.

That last point is critical. Advancement committees can analyze all they want, but analysis without action is simply mental gymnastics. Following each analysis, the district or council committee must reach out either directly or in concert with the commissioner staff to identify and help solve the root causes of the symptoms noted. They should also recognize and encourage solid unit performance. When this is done, all entities gain from one another: the council and district advancement committees; the commissioner staffs; and, of course, the units and the youth they serve.

For further information, see *Guide to Advancement* 2013 section 3.

From the Guide To Advancement

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 advancement 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

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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.

Advancement Committee Mechanics

Eagle Scout Service Projects—Individualization vs. Standardization

From time to time we hear of districts or councils trying to "standardize" Eagle Scout service projects by establishing "minimum requirements," such as a quantity of "something," be it hours, participants, donations, or whatever. This practice is, in effect, adding requirements and is prohibited in both *The Guide to Advancement* and the *Eagle Scout Service Project Workbook*.

At first glance this practice can be understood because people want consistency. If there were minimum standards then a proposal reviewer—and later a board of review—could assure that every Scout put a certain uniform level of effort into his project. However, setting a minimum acceptable result for any service project, be it blood drives, trail maintenance, food or clothing collection, habitat restorations, and so forth, is no different than setting a minimum number of hours, which is clearly not allowed.

Minimum standards or hours are purposely excluded from the Eagle Scout service project requirement for good reason. Every Scout is unique, and so is every project. Even projects that may be similar are most likely somehow unique in the planning, development, or implementation stages. We do not want, nor do we expect, Scouts with differing needs, backgrounds, or experiences, to work toward arbitrary and unapproved standards to earn the Eagle Scout rank. Consequently, each project proposal must be evaluated on a case by case basis with every Scout's individual journey in mind, and without added requirements established locally.

Minimum standards can stifle creativity and inhibit the planning and development phases of the Eagle Scout service project. Scouts may be forced to think in terms of limits, instead of possibilities. A much better approach is to encourage the Scout's growth and development by helping him work with his adult leaders and the project beneficiary, to consider projects that will meet Eagle Scout requirement 5 through impact on our American society. It is not important that every project produce the same kind of final product or result. Rather the most important aspects are those of growth and personal development that the Scout experiences as he goes through the process of planning, developing, and giving leadership to others while executing his service project.

See *Guide to Advancement* 2013 topics 9.0.2.1 to 9.0.2.4 for additional information.

Cub Scout Angle

The Valuable Den Chief (Part 1)

Assuring a smooth, maximized transition from Cub Scouts to Boy Scouts requires cooperation among a variety of stakeholders. One time-tested way to bridge the gap is by putting to use the often misunderstood position of den chief. Councils serious about membership are encouraging a greater use of den chiefs because packs and troops, and Scouting in general, so obviously benefit. Some of the many advantages that den chiefs—especially those who are trained—may provide are:

- As they begin their Scouting journeys, Cub Scouts often relate better to older boys than to adults. They love to hear about the Boy Scout patches, camping trips, and the many activities. The den chief has stories to tell about his adventures as a Boy Scout and his previous exploits as a Cub Scout. Hearing first-hand about the fun and excitement that lies ahead makes it more likely the Cub Scouts will continue in the pack and much more likely they will cross over to Boy Scouts.
- Den leaders benefit from the training and knowledge the den chief provides. Plus den leaders gain another valuable set of hands to lead or assist Cub Scouts with songs, skits, games, sports, and ceremonies, etc. Den chiefs also provide skills that promote Cub Scout advancement, especially during field trips and outdoor activities. For Webelos den leaders, especially, the den chief can help create more of a “patrol method” approach with den activities.
- Den chiefs can assist the Cubmaster with pack activities, including songs, skits, games, sports, and especially ceremonies. The den chief’s influence can thus extend beyond the members of his den. Parents in the pack may see in him an example of the skills and confidence their sons can acquire as they become Boy Scouts.
- The valuable role a den chief plays back in his troop is often overlooked. Successful Scoutmasters know the den chief is not only a communications link to the pack and its leaders, but also that he should be a key participant in planning pack and troop joint activities or troop meeting visits. Thus, the Scoutmaster will strengthen the youth leadership skills of both the den leader and the entire troop and create further opportunities for advancement.

In the next issue of *Advancement News*, we will discuss how den chiefs are recruited and trained, and also cover useful resources.

About *Advancement News*

Follow the National Advancement Team on Twitter! BSA Advancement Team, @AdvBSA

Advancement News is the official e-letter of the Boy Scouts of America National Advancement Team and the National Advancement Committee. 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 eight or nine 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.

Merit Badges— Enhancing Our Youth's Competitive Edge

Blue Card Changes

In January 2013 new language was introduced on the familiar Application for Merit Badge, No. 34124, commonly called the “blue card.” On the front side of the card’s first tri-fold portion, the unit leader now signs that he or she has “discussed this merit badge with the Scout and recommended at least one merit badge counselor.”

Seen in this context, the Scoutmaster's job in signing a blue card is the same as his or her typical role in working with the Scouts in most every other aspect of the program—that of a coach and counselor. The new blue card language is meant to encourage this relationship. The Scoutmaster should have a discussion with the Scout about each merit badge he wishes to pursue and the challenges it may present. Such a discussion will give the Scoutmaster an opportunity to learn more about the boy by asking questions such as, Why are you interested in Shotgun Shooting, Aviation, or whatever? Do you and your parent enjoy fishing, working on automobiles, or whatever? And so forth...

If, for example, a young Scout who looks as if he may not be able to even *lift* a shotgun, wants to earn the Shotgun Shooting merit badge, the Scoutmaster would then have the opportunity to discuss shooting sports in general, and also talk about considerations that might limit the boy’s access to shotgun shooting facilities, such as minimum age rules at the council’s summer camp or at public shooting ranges. If these would preclude the Scout from working on the merit badge, the Scoutmaster might suggest the boy consider Rifle Shooting, where he would be able to sit at a bench with arm support.

Meanwhile, the Scoutmaster could arrange for a troop firearm safety presentation from an NRA-certified instructor. There the Scout could have a chance to pick up an unloaded shotgun. If it turns out he cannot lift the gun, then a lesson is learned, and the Scout will have developed a better relationship with the Scoutmaster—who did his best to let the Scout give it a try. Everyone profits from the experience: the troop’s program is richer; the Scout’s curiosity and enthusiasm are encouraged; and the Scoutmaster’s trust level among members of the troop is increased.

Programming and Sustainability Merit Badges Launched

Programming

Why Programming merit badge? Let’s face it—there is not much you can name that you do, touch, feel, see, or experience, today, that is not affected by programming. Thus, since Scouting is all about preparing youth for life, exposing them to the programming industry is an important step for the BSA. The launch occurred at the National Jamboree, where more than 800 Scouts earned the new badge.

The merit badge requirements include the usual safety, history, general knowledge, and career information



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we expect, but the others may seem daunting. Requirement 5, for example, says the Scout must write three different programs in three different languages, and in three different industries.

The good news is that there is a companion website that assists in the completion of requirement 5. This is the first time a merit badge has been released where you could not find everything you need in the merit badge pamphlet. How could you? Programming is an extensive subject and in a constant state of change.

On the Programming Web site, at www.boyslife.org/programming, there is a “Getting Started” section where one can select from a large range of programming languages and even filter by industry. Just click on the language of interest and a Web page is presented that shows everything needed, including where to get the programming software, how to install it, and a simple step-by-step example so you are up and running in minutes. As councils gear up to administer the Programming merit badge, the Web site will also be an important resource for new and prospective merit badge counselors to use.

Sustainability

The new Sustainability merit badge was also launched at the 2013 National Jamboree. For a description of the launch and a brief overview, watch a short video, available at

<http://www.scouting.org/sitecore/content/InternalCommunications/The%20Buzz.aspx>



The requirements for the badge can be found at this link:

<http://www.scouting.org/scoutsource/BoyScouts/AdvancementandAwards/MeritBadges/mb-SUST.aspx>

Since the release of the Sustainability, there have been many questions about how Requirement 2a can be accomplished by Scouts whose households do not receive water bills. To address this issue, the National Advancement Committee has approved an alternative to requirement to 2a, which will be published on at <http://www.scouting.org/scoutsource/BoyScouts/AdvancementandAwards/MeritBadges/mb-SUST.aspx>

Here is the alternative that may be used in place of Sustainability merit badge requirement 2a:

“Develop and implement a plan that attempts to reduce your family's water usage. As a family, discuss water usage. To aid in your discussion, if past water bills are available you may choose to examine a few. As a family, choose three ways to help reduce water consumption. Implement those ideas for one month. Share what you learn with your counselor, and tell how you think your plan affected your family's water usage.”

Eagle Issues

Eagle Project Proposal Approval: Keep It Simple, Make It Fast

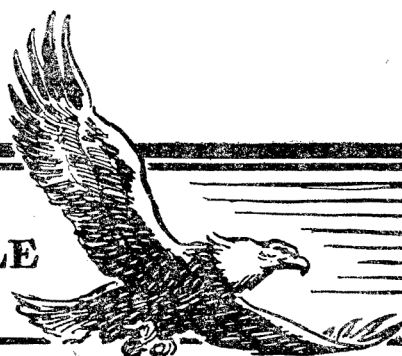
The Eagle Scout service project proposal is a major step toward completing Eagle Scout requirement 5. How approval is handled is critical to ensuring that the candidate has a positive experience while planning, developing, and leading his project. It sets the overall tone for the Scout about what he should expect. It is essential that this be a positive experience rather than a discouraging one. We want the Scout to remember and appreciate the value of community service, not unnecessary administrative delays. No one should hold back an enthusiastic Scout by demanding more information than is actually necessary to meet the requirement. Section 9 in the *Guide to Advancement* outlines the procedures and policies in detail.

The proposal is the *beginnings* of planning, and as such does not require extensive detail, scale drawings, an extensive materials list, etc. It only needs to include sufficient information to show reviewers that it meets the five tests found in the *Guide to Advancement* in topic 9.0.2.7. It is much more important at this stage, to be encouraging and inspiring rather than worrying about details that are unnecessary for proposal approval. While it is important that a Scout uses the workbook to help with his planning, reviewers must not let "technicalities" get in the way of approving the proposal. The proposal is about what the Scout is thinking about doing. It is not the *plan* of what he is going to do. That comes later *after* the proposal is reviewed and approved. Requiring more detail than necessary inhibits the whole process and may ultimately discourage a Scout from going forward with an otherwise worthy project. Sending a Scout back multiple times for rewrites of the proposal, especially for changes that are only editorial in nature, such as spelling, punctuation, etc., is unproductive. This is not only discouraging and demoralizing, but is contrary to the *Guide to Advancement*.

Therefore, reviewers at all levels should strive to approve proposals in one meeting if at all possible. If there is something truly important the Scout has considered but failed to write down, let him add the information right then and there. Give him a couple of minutes to handwrite the necessary information onto the proposal form, and then give him the approval. This way the Scout can get on with more detailed planning, and then execute his project. In the event there is a valid reason the proposal cannot be approved in one meeting, and it is necessary for the Scout to go back and put more effort into it, then the reviewer should provide a clear explanation, preferably in writing, of what needs to be done to gain approval.

See *Guide to Advancement* topics 9.0.2.1; 9.0.2.7 and 9.0.2.8 for additional information.

**BE PREPARED
TO HELP OTHER PEOPLE
AT ALL TIMES**



National Eagle Scout Association Questionnaire Now Part of ESRA

In an effort to keep Eagle Scouts engaged, NESA has designed a supplemental questionnaire that each Eagle applicant is now invited to complete. At first, this optional questionnaire was included as a third page to the Eagle Scout Rank Application. Toward the end of August, however, the information requested was transferred to an electronic survey, and the “third page” of the application became just a link to the questionnaire.

The data that Scouts provide is intended to improve the National Eagle Scout Association’s ability to maintain a long-term relationship with Eagle Scouts. This is especially important considering the majority of Scouts move away from home within five years of attaining the rank. The questionnaire also includes questions to help NESA determine the factors that contribute most to Scouts achieving Eagle. NESA will share these factors, which are non-personal in nature, with volunteers who may be able to help other Scouts on their trails to Eagle. Eventually, NESA hopes to use the answers provided by the questionnaire to help Eagle Scouts, both young and old, find one another for continued networking and mentorship—whether at their future college or vocation or wherever life’s adventures take them.

Did You Receive these Tweets?

July 11: A PDF of Guide to Advancement 2013 just posted: <http://www.scouting.org/scoutsource/BoyScouts/AdvancementandAwards/resources.aspx>

July 12: GTA 2013 changes intended to be effective immediately. But it's understood if units, districts, & councils need transition time until 1/1/14.

July 16: Updated Eagle Scout Rank Application includes Sustainability as option to Environmental Science MB

August 15: In a few weeks a GTA 2013 online version featuring internal navigation will be available, in addition to the PDF, at <http://www.scouting.org/scoutsource/BoyScouts/AdvancementandAwards/resources.aspx>

Hear it First on Twitter

If you want the news first, follow the National Advancement 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 time to take the plunge. It is a quick and easy process to set up an account at www.Twitter.com. To limit incoming emails (‘tweets’), you can select BSA National Advancement Team as the only account you want to follow.

The Venturing Perspective

Continuing Boy Scout Advancement in a Venturing Crew

If a registered Scout in a troop or team earns the First Class rank, he is permitted to continue earning Boy Scout advancement recognition as a Venturer until his 18th birthday.

If a Venturer maintains dual registration, the Scoutmaster and crew Advisor must determine which leader will manage the youth's advancement. It is best if this falls to the unit leader where the young man will be completing the "active" and position of responsibility requirements. When crew Advisors accept the advancement management responsibility, they should have a good knowledge of the Boy Scout advancement program and requirements, and be prepared to conduct the unit leader conference and arrange for boards of review. Any questions should be referred to the district advancement committee chair.

Awards and Recognition

New Commissioners Award of Excellence in Unit Service Now in Effect

Two years ago the new Commissioner Award of Excellence in Unit Service was introduced. Because this challenging award requires two years to complete, June 1, 2013, was the first date any registered commissioner could qualify. The award features a number of unit service-oriented requirements, including setting a unit performance improvement goal, taking action based on the goal, assessing results, and producing positive outcomes in terms of on-time rechartering and youth retention over two consecutive years.

Advancement administrators have the opportunity to encourage commissioners to earn this award and receive recognition for their dedicated efforts to improve unit service and quality program for boys. The more service units receive the more likely they are to experience increases in advancement.

The requirements and a progress record card for the Commissioner Award of Excellence in Unit Service appears on page 2 of the Summer 2011 Commissioner Newsletter, which is available at

http://www.scouting.org/filestore/commissioner/pdf/522-975_Summer2011_WB.pdf



From the Field

Webelos Scout Resident Camp: Perseverance Pays Off

JG from New Jersey relates the following first-hand account of a week at camp with his Webelos Scout son:

“My son is an active 9-year-old. We regularly attended Cub Family Camps, Cub Scout day camps and we even went to BSA camps for Spring and Fall pack camping trips. Then my son became a Webelos; and being unsure if he was ready, I signed him up for the five-night Webelos resident camp, and volunteered as a leader in case any issues arose.

“The first two days were tough; we had a massive nearby storm on our first night, requiring everyone to be evacuated from our tents late in the night to sleep in a small shelter. The next day a bit of homesickness set in. Then he took his swim test and could only get to the beginner level. He was the only one in his entire den not to get swimmer.

“He then settled in, first encouraged by a bulls eye in archery—after switching shooting arms—and then a bulls eye in BBs.

“On the next to the last day it rained. He wanted to do nothing and just go home. I asked my son if, instead, he would like to practice his swimming strokes. I went into water with him and the lifeguard instructed him from outside the pool. We then asked him to retry the swim test, with the lifeguard watching and me in the pool. We started the first lap, and after one and a half laps he wanted to give up; but we kept encouraging him. Then he went to the last lap as a backstroke and he floated as required. He had tons of encouragement, but did it on his own.

“He then was allowed to use the diving board in the swimmer area. He sheepishly approached the diving board, walked out, and then a fear of heights hit him. We said ‘just jump’ and he finally did. When he came up in the pool it was pouring rain but the only thing I could hear was him yelling ‘That was AWESOME!’

“It was a great week away with my son, who grew up a little bit as I watched. This is what Scout camp is all about!”

Thanks, JG, and good luck to you and your son!

Have you seen an impact on a boy or a young man or woman as a result of an experience in the advancement program? Please send your story to advancement.team@scouting.org. Provide your name, email, and general location so we may contact you if we have questions. No guarantees, but you just might see your story here.

The Survey Says!

Advancement in Camp

The Advancement in Camp survey saw the greatest response of all the *Advancement News* surveys we've conducted. More than 800 of you provided input! The findings presented a wealth of information that will guide advancement decisions.

One of the core survey questions asked respondents to select the five most important merit badges to offer in a camper's first, second, and third years of long-term camping. Below are the badges garnering more than 100 votes in each year's period. Swimming and First Aid were overwhelming choices for first-year campers, then the badges become more varied. The top five choices in each year are shaded. The list is sorted by total votes across the three years.

Merit Badge	First Year Responses	First Year % Responses	Second Year Responses	Second Year % Responses	Third Year Responses	Third Year % Responses	Total	Total %
Swimming	600	75%	195	24%			795	99%
First Aid	467	58%	209	26%			676	84%
Camping	181	23%	250	31%	160	20%	591	74%
Rifle Shooting	122	15%	230	29%	202	25%	554	69%
Lifesaving			254	32%	296	37%	550	69%
Wilderness Survival			251	31%	275	34%	526	65%
Cooking	219	27%	197	25%	106	13%	522	65%
Environmental Science			247	31%	261	33%	508	64%
Orienteering	138	17%	177	22%	160	20%	475	59%
Emergency Preparedness			204	26%	184	23%	388	49%
Canoeing			226	28%	145	18%	371	46%
Pioneering			186	23%	153	19%	339	42%
Archery	126	16%	148	19%			274	35%
Leatherwork	251	31%					251	31%
Shotgun Shooting					225	28%	225	28%
Basketry	193	24%					193	24%
Nature	179	22%					179	22%
Climbing					157	20%	157	20%
Woodcarving	144	18%					144	18%
Backpacking					135	17%	135	17%
Fishing	110	14%					110	14%
Hiking					104	13%	104	13%

Council advancement committees should make note of these preferences for future camp merit badge program planning. In addition, 67% of respondents indicated that badges with requirements that take a period of time to fulfill, such as 90-days, etc., should *not* be offered in camp. Similarly, there was strong opposition to offering the citizenship merit badges in camp.

Stay tuned to future issues of *Advancement News* for further results from this and other surveys.

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, 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.

What Do You Think?

Merit Badges Earned at a Fairs or Midways—Coming Next Week

The National Advancement Committee will be seeking your input about earning merit badges at “fairs” and “midways.” As a subscriber to *Advancement News* you will receive a link to the survey during the second week of September. We hope you will be able to take the time to provide your opinions.

Note: Anonymous responses are not accepted for any of the *Advancement News* surveys. This is because of the importance the National Advancement Team places on the ability to communicate with survey respondents, should more information be needed to consider their answers.

Thank you for your patience, and be on the lookout for your survey link!

Helpful Links

In this new feature we will post 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 page at www.scouting.org/advancement.

[Eagle Scout Rank Application](#)

[Eagle Scout Service Project Workbook](#)

[Educational Presentations](#)

[Guide to Advancement](#)

[Merit Badge Counselor Information](#)

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

[On Increasing Advancement](#)

If any of these links are not working, please let us know at advancement.team@scouting.org.

A Peek Ahead

Here is a glimpse of 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, especially to accommodate ‘late-breaking news’ of immediate importance to our subscribers.

Topics Planned for October

- **Opportunities for Advancement Administrators:** The Conference on Education for Advancement Administrators at the Florida Sea Base;
- **The Cub Scout Angle:** The Valuable Den Chief (part 2)
- **From the Guide to Advancement:** Reporting Merit Badge Counseling Concerns
- **Advancement Committee Mechanics:** Building an Advancement Committee
- **Merit Badges—Enhancing our Youth’s Competitive Edge:** Cooking Merit Badge as Eagle Scout required