

Advancement News

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Prepared. For Life.®

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

Opportunities for Advancement Administrators

Philmont Training Center Conferences – “Fun With a Purpose!”

Thumbing through those travel brochures looking for a summer vacation idea that is right for your whole family? Then search no more. Fun and adventure await you and yours at the BSA’s premier outdoor destination, the Philmont Training Center!

Lying in the shadow of the Tooth of Time, Philmont offers a full slate of training opportunities with daily age-appropriate activities for every member of your family. Check them out at www.philmontscoutranch.org/ptc.aspx.



First on your list might be the two conferences for Scouters involved in district or council administration of advancement. Each will involve program and advancement volunteers from across the country, and feature presentations from National Council guest speakers and high-level, energy-packed interaction.

Continued on Page 2

Visit www.philmontscoutranch.org/filestore/philmont/pdf/PTC8PGE.pdf to see the complete brochure for Philmont Training Center offerings.

In This Issue

- **Opportunities for Advancement Administrators:** Philmont Training Center Conferences: Fun With a Purpose!
- **From the Guide to Advancement:** Ends and Endings—There Is a Difference; Summer Camp Advancement Opportunities
- **Advancement Committee Mechanics:** Congratulations to Advancement’s Top 10% Councils for 2013; Pack Advancement Coordinator Highlights
- **Cub Scout Angle:** Pack Camping—What Are You Waiting For?; More Cub Scout Award Opportunities
- **Merit Badges—Enhancing Our Youth’s Competitive Edge:** Updated Swimming Merit Badge Pamphlet to Release in Time for Summer Camp; The Merit Badge Maintenance Task Force: At Your Service
- **Eagle Issues:** Time Aspects in Completing the Eagle Scout Rank Application
- **The Venturing Perspective:** The Venturing Award—What Is It?
- **From The Field:** Scout Training Pays Off
- **From the Archives:** May 2012, Helpful Hints on Special Needs Advancement Flexibility
- **Awards and Recognition:** Wearing Eagle Palms
- **Survey Says:** District Advancement Committee
- **A Peek Ahead:** What’s Planned for June/July
- **Helpful Links:** Accessing Advancement Materials

Registration information for both 2014 conferences can be found at MyScouting.org using the Events Registration tab. For more on these and other PTC conferences, as well as complete information about the family programs and leisure activities, visit www.philmontscoutranch.org/PTC/ConferencesE.aspx.

June 15-21—Increasing Advancement by Delivering Excellence

Topics will include: planning an advancement-rich program; the role of advancement committees; common violations of national procedures; the role of roundtables, commissioner service, and adult leader training; and how to initiate dramatic increases in district volunteerism. Also included will be a review of advancement educational presentation updates and a look at the new Advancement Manager tool, which will be replacing Internet Advancement.

August 10-16—Advancement Issues and Solutions Conference

Participants will analyze, discuss, and solve case studies similar to those regularly dealt with by the National Advancement Committee's Eagle Issues Task Force. At the same time, they will learn more about the inner workings of strong advancement committees, and receive updates on educational presentations and the new national BSA Advancement Manager tool.

From the Guide to Advancement

Ends and Endings—There Is a Difference

Twenty years from now it is quite likely that one of those 11-year-old Tenderfoot Scouts in your troop will still be playing an important part in your life. He may be your minister, doctor, lawyer, police officer, plumber, or letter carrier. He may even be your grandson's Cubmaster or Scoutmaster. If he is an Eagle Scout, that will be nice. But if he is a man who lives his life by the Scout Oath and Scout Law, that will be wonderful. The *Guide to Advancement*, Topic 2.0.0.1, reminds us that "advancement is simply a means to an end, not an end in itself."

To be sure, some part of the Scouting experience that each of those young men enjoyed played a part in making him the man he grew up to be. Maybe it was proudly wearing his Scout uniform. Perhaps it was being accepted into a patrol, learning from his patrol leader how to cook, then actually cooking for his patrol on numerous weekend campouts. And finally—as a patrol leader himself—teaching his new Scouts the same skill. Maybe it was learning to live by the Scout Oath and Scout Law by working with leaders such as you, who provided examples of how to live by those vital precepts. Most likely, it was all of the above—and more!

It was his total Scouting experience in a unit with a vibrant, exciting program that helped the boy develop into the man. Advancement was just one of the ways he kept score along his journey—and one of the tools you and the other adults involved in the program used to help that boy grow. Twenty years from now each of those young men hopefully will be making the world a better place, and you will have the satisfaction of knowing that you had a hand in making it happen. Isn't that what we're all about?

Summer Camp Advancement Opportunities

Summer camp is coming! Summer camp is coming! Spring is here, so it's time to point out a few things. Summer camp is a wonderful opportunity for not only adventure, but for advancement. As your council advancement committee is working with the camping committee to get ready for the camping season, we all need to remember that no changes to any advancement requirements are permitted just because we're at camp. If there is a requirement that can't be done at camp then it must be done elsewhere, either before or after camp. Unit leaders will appreciate notice of these requirements in a listing of prerequisites that have to be fulfilled before camp if a Scout expects to complete a particular merit badge. If a Scout is missing some requirements at the close of camp, he can be issued a "blue card" with the items he has done initialed. A Scout then has until he is 18 to finish the badge.

For the camping committee, getting ready for camp means hiring and training the camp staff. The advancement committee can help with the latter by offering to help with training on how to conduct merit badge activities. A visit to camp from members of the advancement committee during staff week, will be viewed as helpful if arranged ahead of time.

You will also want to take whatever opportunity arises (at roundtables, for example) to remind unit leaders that the training of camp staff is an ongoing process. If they have any concerns about the merit badges at camp, they should discuss them with the camp staff. You should also make unit leaders aware of the form, "Reporting Merit Badge Counseling Concerns," found in the *Guide to Advancement* appendix, and invite them to observe the merit badge work at camp and to help out if they have special expertise.

Remember once a merit badge is earned, it's earned and can't be taken away. In cases, however, where it can be established that a merit badge was not actually *earned*, there is a limited recourse outlined in the *Guide to Advancement*, topic 7.0.4.7.

Advancement Committee Mechanics

Congratulations to Advancement's Top 10% Councils for 2013

In this edition we spotlight the 2013 "Top 10%" of BSA councils in the rates of Cub Scout and Boy Scout advancement. There were 283 councils in the BSA at the end of 2013, so each of the tables below includes 28 councils. A special shout out to the following five councils that made both lists: Chester County, Colonial Virginia, Mecklenburg County, Northwest Texas, and Tidewater.



Continued on page 4

Based on December 2013 Journey to Excellence data, each Top 10% council in Cub Scouting advanced at least 75.4 percent of its registered Cub Scouts.

Cub Scout Ranking	Council Name	Council Headquarters	% Cub Scout Advancement
1	Suffolk County	Medford, NY	89.97
2	Chester County	West Chester, PA	87.88
3	Mohegan	Worcester, MA	87.20
4	Northeastern Pennsylvania	Moosic, PA	86.23
5	Northwest Texas	Wichita Falls, TX	84.98
6	Columbia-Montour	Bloomsburg, PA	84.53
7	Monmouth	Morganville, NJ	82.51
8	Knox Trail	Framingham, MA	82.08
9	Potawatomi Area	Waukesha, WI	81.57
10	Chief Cornplanter	Warren, PA	81.31
11	Jersey Shore	Toms River, NJ	80.26
12	Old Hickory	Winston-Salem, NC	80.03
13	Daniel Webster	Manchester, NH	79.59
14	Great Trail	Akron, OH	79.50
15	Tidewater	Virginia Beach, VA	78.89
16	Mount Baker	Everett, WA	78.55
17	Occoneechee	Raleigh, NC	78.52
18	Colonial Virginia	Newport News, VA	78.06
19	French Creek	Erie, PA	77.91
20	Central New Jersey	Dayton, NJ	77.54
21	Connecticut Yankee	Milford, CT	77.08
22	Rip Van Winkle	Kingston, NY	76.89
23	Nashua Valley	Lancaster, MA	76.85
24	Hudson Valley	Newburgh, NY	76.75
25	Northwest Suburban	Mount Prospect, IL	76.50
26	Voyageurs Area	Hermantown, MN	76.00
27	Mecklenburg County	Charlotte, NC	75.85
28	Catalina	Tucson, AZ	75.41

Continued on page 5

The mark for Boy Scouts was advancement of 49.0 percent of traditional registered Boy Scouts and Varsity Scouts.

Boy Scout Rank- ing	Council Name	Council Headquarters	% Boy Scout Advance- ment
1	Northwest Georgia	Rome, GA	70.75
2	Northwest Texas	Wichita Falls, TX	61.61
3	Pee Dee Area	Florence, SC	61.57
4	Caddo Area	Texarkana, TX	54.33
5	Gateway Area	La Crosse, WI	53.96
6	Ohio River Valley	Wheeling, WV	53.26
7	Far East	Tokyo, Japan	53.19
8	Arbuckle Area	Ardmore, OK	52.66
9	Otschodela	Oneonta, NY	52.33
10	Mecklenburg County	Charlotte, NC	52.09
11	Bucks County	Doylestown, PA	52.01
12	Colonial Virginia	Newport News, VA	51.77
13	Westmoreland-Fayette	Greensburg, PA	51.36
14	Palmetto	Spartanburg, SC	50.98
15	Old North State	Greensboro, NC	50.89
16	Housatonic	Derby, CT	50.79
17	Baltimore Area	Baltimore, MD	50.59
18	Chester County	West Chester, PA	50.36
19	Hawk Mountain	Reading, PA	50.19
20	Buffalo Trace	Evansville, IN	50.18
21	Cape Fear	Wilmington, NC	50.16
22	Tidewater	Virginia Beach, VA	49.91
23	Alamo Area	San Antonio, TX	49.82
24	Tuscarora	Goldsboro, NC	49.68
25	Andrew Jackson	Jackson, MS	49.45
26	Yocona Area	Tupelo, MS	49.31
27	Capitol Area	Austin, TX	49.11
28	Georgia-Carolina	Augusta, GA	49.03

Pack Advancement Coordinator Highlights



I'm a New Pack Advancement Coordinator—What Do I Do Now?

Congratulations, new pack advancement coordinator! The *Guide to Advancement*, topics 4.1.0.2 and 3.0.0.3, will give you specific guidance, and the *Cub Scout Leader Book*, No. 33221, has more information. But here is the shorthand version: Your service can be broken down into four basic components: promotion, paperwork, special recognitions, and ceremonies.

Promoting Advancement

To help parents understand the advancement program, be sure to attend parents' meetings associated with new Cub Scout recruitment, and explain that advancement should be the natural result of participation in the program.

Then, work with the Cubmaster and den leaders to build advancement opportunities into your pack programs, especially overnights and events. For example, a pack picnic might include a nature hike (different trails for different ages and abilities) followed by games, a cookout or potluck supper, and a campfire (with s'mores)! Encourage each den to use the den advancement chart to keep track of their activities—in other words, their advancement—and to post these charts at den and pack meetings.



At pack meetings, promote attendance at Cub Scout day camp and Cub Scout resident camp where advancement opportunities abound. And be sure to encourage the dens to schedule their own summertime activities.

Paperwork

It is possible to get inundated with paper, but the two basic reports needed for Cub Scout advancement are fairly simple. The first, Den Advancement Report, No. 33847, should be turned in every month by every den leader. The second, the Unit Advancement Report No. 34403, is your responsibility. When you receive the den leaders' reports, compile their information on to the report and enter it into the pack's online advancement records. These reports also provide you with information to cover at pack committee meetings, and to create a "shopping list" of badges and other recognitions that must be purchased for the next pack meeting.

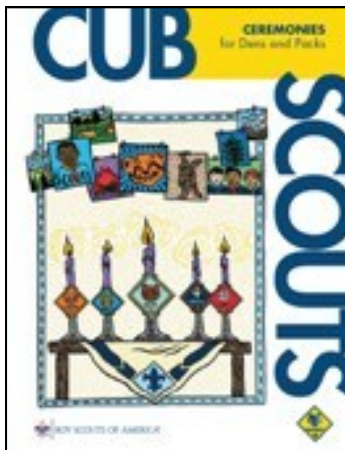
Encourage Special Recognitions to Promote Advancement

Den meetings are built around advancement, but there are other opportunities for advancement beyond the den. A good place to look for ideas is in a recent article in *Advancement News* (February 2014), entitled "After the Blue and Gold Banquet—Continuing the Journey," that listed some of the special recognitions Cub Scouts can earn. Forms and requirements for many of these awards are found at BSA Awards Central, www.scouting.org/awards_central. Special recognitions that can be earned by Cub Scouts are also highlighted in the *Guide to Awards and Insignia*, No. 614937.

Continued on page 7

Plan and Conduct Meaningful Ceremonies

It is important to recognize every Cub Scout when he advances or earns a special award. Make every ceremony special and meaningful, and each Cub Scout may remember it for the rest of his life.



Use *Cub Scout Den and Pack Ceremonies*, No. 33212, to get ceremony ideas as well as thoughts about ceremony equipment that can be used from month to month. Many district roundtables can be of assistance, too.

Here are some quick hints gleaned from those sources: Recognize each Cub Scout individually, rather than just reading a list of names. Involve parents and den leaders to help present the badges. Use “special effects” to enhance your ceremonies—something as simple as real or electric candles can add pizzazz. A Cub Scout will receive his badge of rank only once, so make the ceremony a great memory that he will share with his own son on the way to a pack meeting someday!

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.

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

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The Cub Scout Angle

Pack Camping—What Are You Waiting For?

Say the word “camping” to a Cub Scout, and he probably has many visions—a campfire, “s’mores,” sleeping in a tent, cooking breakfast, and maybe hiking or fishing.

What do these things have in common? Sure, they are all fun, but they are all related to advancement requirements, too, because Cub Scout pack overnight camping can and should be fun with a purpose.

While there are several types of Cub Scout camping, pack camping experiences may involve all of the dens in a pack—Tiger Cub, Wolf, Bear, and Webelos Scouts—as well as all family members. These pack over-nighters must focus on age-appropriate Cub Scout activities and be conducted at council-approved locations. If siblings participate, the event must be structured accordingly to accommodate them.

What does a pack need besides marshmallows to conduct an overnighter? For starters, at least one person who attends, and helps plan and conduct the event must complete Basic Adult Leader Outdoor Orientation training (BALOO, No. 34162). This day-long district or council course covers planning, health and safety, outdoor skills, campfires, resources, and program. In addition, at least one adult attending must have completed Planning and Preparing for Hazardous Weather training, which is found online at MyScouting.org.



A quick scan of the four Cub Scout youth handbooks and the *Cub Scout Academics and Sports Program Guide* will provide planners and leaders with dozens of campout activities that have advancement links for each rank. Although Tiger Cubs and Webelos Scouts have different requirements, planners should look for activities that are similar or “progressive.” For example, Tiger Cubs might fulfill “Take a hike with your den,” achievement 5G, while the Webelos Scouts may complete “Discuss with your Webelos den leader the things you need to take on a hike,” Outdoorsman 9, before joining the Tiger Cub on his hike. Similar “threads” can be found with nature, cooking, fitness, games, outdoor activities, and even crafts, but working on an academics or sports subject can be done by all levels of Cub Scouts.

More Cub Scout Award Opportunities

The blue and gold banquet has been held and the last Webelos Scout has crossed the bridge into Boy Scouting. Summer is coming, and Cub Scout leaders often find the boys in their dens asking what is there to do now that they have finished their own rank advancement requirements. To make sure your Cub Scouts understand that your pack’s program is a year-round Journey to Excellence, get them involved in additional opportunities for adventures above those found in earning electives.



Academics and Sports Program (Belt Loops and Pins)

Academics and Sports belt loops are awarded for trying out a number of academic, career-awareness, and sporting subjects. For those Scouts with more serious participation, Academics and Sports pins can be earned. These awards are available to Cub Scouts of all ranks.

Continued on page 9



Religious Emblems

The religious emblems program offers a Scout the opportunity to study his faith in depth. Many faiths offer emblems, with the activities overseen by the Scout's religious leaders. These emblems are awarded by the religious organizations, but the Boy Scouts of America recognizes the achievement of these awards.

Merit Badges—Enhancing Our Youth's Competitive Edge

Updated Swimming Merit Badge Pamphlet to Release in Time for Summer Camp



A new edition of the Swimming merit badge pamphlet is scheduled to be released in time for this summer camp season. The new requirements give counselors a greater ability to teach Scouts the correct stroke mechanics and, keeping the spirit and intent of the badge intact, continue emphasizing basic water skills along with surface and elementary diving. Some previous requirements such as snorkeling and competitive swimming options have been removed.

The updates will enable Scouts to learn the strokes correctly, in good form, and with proper breathing technique. The goal is to learn to swim with greater ease and efficiency. The new changes will also ensure the safety of Scouts.

The revised pamphlet, featuring new colorful illustrations, will be a great resource for Scouts and counselors alike. It will be available soon for purchase at local Scout shops and through www.scoutstuff.org.

In an effort to support council advancement committees' and camp staffs' planning and preparation, the new requirements are provided below.

Requirements

1. Do the following:
 - a. Explain to your counselor how Scouting's Safe Swim Defense plan anticipates, helps prevent and mitigate, and provides responses to likely hazards you may encounter during swimming activities.
 - b. Discuss the prevention and treatment of health concerns that could occur while swimming, including hypothermia, dehydration, sunburn, heat exhaustion, heatstroke, muscle cramps, hyperventilation, spinal injury, stings and bites, and cuts and scrapes.
2. Before doing the following requirements, successfully complete the BSA swimmer test: Jump feet first into water over the head in depth. Level off and swim 75 yards in a strong manner using one or more of the following strokes: sidestroke, breaststroke, trudgen, or crawl; then swim 25 yards using an easy, resting backstroke. The 100 yards must be completed in one swim without stops and must include at least one sharp turn. After completing the swim, rest by floating.

Continued on page 10

3. Swim continuously for 150 yards using the following strokes in good form and in a strong manner: front crawl or trudgen for 25 yards, back crawl for 25 yards, sidestroke for 25 yards, breaststroke for 25 yards, and elementary backstroke for 50 yards.
4. Do the following:
 - a. Demonstrate water rescue methods by reaching with your arm or leg, by reaching with a suitable object, and by throwing lines and objects. Explain why swimming rescues should not be attempted when a reaching or throwing rescue is possible, and explain why and how a rescue swimmer should avoid contact with the victim.
 - b. With a helper and a practice victim, show a line rescue both as tender and as rescuer. The practice victim should be approximately 30 feet from shore in deep water.
5. Do the following:
 - a. Float face up in a resting position for at least one minute.
 - b. Demonstrate survival floating for at least five minutes.
 - c. While wearing a properly fitted U.S. Coast Guard–approved life jacket, demonstrate the HELP and huddle positions. Explain their purposes.
 - d. Explain why swimming or survival floating will hasten the onset of hypothermia in cold water.
6. In water over your head, but not to exceed 10 feet, do each of the following:
 - a. Use the feet first method of surface diving and bring an object up from the bottom.
 - b. Do a headfirst surface dive (pike or tuck), and bring the object up again.
 - c. Do a headfirst surface dive to a depth of at least 5 feet and swim underwater for three strokes. Come to the surface, take a breath, and repeat the sequence twice.
7. Following the guidelines set in the BSA Safe Swim Defense, in water at least 7 feet deep*, show a standing headfirst dive from a dock or pool deck. Show a long shallow dive, also from the dock or pool deck.

** If your state, city, or local community requires a water depth greater than 7 feet, it is important to abide by that mandate.*
8. Explain the health benefits of regular aerobic exercise, and discuss why swimming is favored as both fitness and therapeutic exercise.

NOTE: Per *Guide to Advancement*, topic 7.0.4.3, the Scout has a choice about using the new Swimming merit badge requirements immediately. When merit badge changes are introduced after the January release of the *Boy Scout Requirements* book, the Scout has until the following January 1 to choose whether to use the old requirements or the new ones. If he begins the merit badge with the old requirements, he may continue using them until he has completed the badge—unless a deadline is announced by the National Council. Any Scout beginning the badge on or after January 1, 2015 must use the new requirements.

The Merit Badge Maintenance Task Force: At Your Service

The National Advancement Committee's Merit Badge Maintenance Task Force is dedicated to keeping the entire merit badge library up-to-date, relevant, and interesting for our Scouts. Experts in every field, both in and out of Scouting, are sought to review and make recommendations to improve each badge. However, we still need YOU!

Scouts and Scouters often write to merit.badge@scouting.org seeking answers to their merit badge questions, or to offer recommendations to improve certain badges. The suggestions—always welcomed—sometimes lead to changes in requirements and also to the information in the pamphlets that supports the requirements. And every now and then a series of suggestions may lead to a major overhaul, such as those included in the recently revised Cooking merit badge.

As comments come in, a staff member reads and acknowledges receipt of each message. Sometimes it may only entail an answer to a question, but in the case of recommended changes, it may be assurance that the idea or suggestion will be forwarded to the Merit Badge Maintenance Task Force for consideration. The task force reviews each submission, and occasionally may follow up to ask for clarification. Of course, not every suggestion is accepted, but all are reviewed and considered.

Although the members of the task force are located all over the country, they meet regularly via teleconference. When they agree that a change or revision to a merit badge is needed, the task force will present it to the National Advancement Committee for approval, or send it to another task force responsible for major overhauls. Changes approved by the National Advancement Committee are forwarded to the national editorial staff for inclusion in the next printing of the merit badge pamphlet and in the next annual *Boy Scout Requirements* book.

The process is thorough and thoughtful, but each begins with input or a suggestion from a volunteer somewhere in the country. Who knows? Maybe you will be the next person who suggests a better way that a merit badge can “enhance our youth’s competitive edge.”

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.

Did You Receive these Tweets?

April 5: Insignia Update: Youth members are now authorized to wear Palms on the Eagle Scout pocket rank badge as an alternative to wearing them on the Eagle Scout Award ribbon.

April 16: BSA's 2014 Fieldbook is now available, both hard copy and digital. <http://blog.scoutingmagazine.org/2014/04/15/2014-fieldbook-your-must-have-users-guide-to-the-outdoors/>

Eagle Issues

Time Aspects in Completing the Eagle Scout Rank Application



Section 9 of the *Guide to Advancement* describes the steps needed to complete and submit an Eagle Scout Rank Application. In topic 9.0.1.1, it says: “Confirm all requirements have been completed before the 18th birthday.” Then, later, in topic 9.0.1.4, it says to “Obtain Required Signatures” (referring to those of the unit leader and committee chair). Many interpret that these signatures must be obtained prior to the Scout’s 18th birthday. This is incorrect.

The requirements that must be completed before the Scout’s 18th birthday are requirements 1 through 6, which cover merit badges, service project, active participation, Scout spirit, position of responsibility, and unit leader conference. Nothing else needs to be completed prior to the 18th birthday, including the signatures of the Scout, unit leader, and committee chair. Specifically, the *Guide to Advancement*, topic 9.0.1.4, states: “There is no requirement that [these] signatures ... must be dated before the Scout’s 18th birthday.” In fact, there is no BSA stipulation that the application *itself* must be submitted before his 18th birthday. Therefore, the same date-related “non-requirement” applies to the written responses from the Scout’s references (requirement 2). If any of these is received after his 18th birthday, there is no penalty to the Scout.

Requirement 7, the board of review, may also be fulfilled after the 18th birthday. And now, as of January 1, 2014, (see 2014 edition, *Boy Scout Requirements*) the statement of ambitions and life purpose that Scouts attach to the application is part of requirement 7 and, thus, may be completed after the 18th birthday.

Certainly, everyone involved in advancement realizes that the chronology of an Scout’s path to the rank of Eagle Scout must occur in the right sequence. Thus, it is important to recognize that the order of some dates—especially those around the 18th birthday—are critical, and that others are not. With more than half of all Eagle Scouts completing their requirements during the three months before turning 18, it is incumbent upon us, who serve to support their efforts, to remember that no one is permitted to add extra requirements for any rank advancement, including that of Eagle Scout.

The Venturing Perspective

The Venturing Award—What Is It?

Over the next four issues of *Advancement News*, we will share details about the four new Venturing awards and how the awards provide a pathway to adventure, service, leadership, and personal growth. The requirements for each award are published in the new *Handbook for Venturers*.



The first award is appropriately named the Venturing award. Its purpose is to introduce Venturers to the program and its values. The award encourages prospective members to become active and to participate in various crew events outside crew meetings.

Continued on page 13

Experienced and older Venturers can play a large part in recruiting and welcoming new members who are working toward this first step in the Venturing advancement program. For example, the crew president and crew Advisor will conduct a relaxed interview or conference with the candidate to provide guidance for joining. Once a new member officially joins, the crew puts together an investiture ceremony at which the Venturing award is presented. The ceremony may be formal or informal, depending on the culture of the crew.

Venturers may then begin to discover the adventures that lie ahead as they work toward the next award in the sequence: the Discovery award.

Stay on top of changes to Venturing—and also Cub Scouting and Boy Scouting—at www.scouting.org/programupdates.aspx for the latest in program updates.

From the Field

Scout Training Pays Off



“Some years ago a man fell while hiking. He landed in a gully or dry river bed, as I recall. A group of hikers came on the scene soon after the fall. The man was in pain and his wife was trying to help. The hiking group broke itself into two teams. One went to fetch a ranger or other help from a station a couple miles away. The other stayed to help the man. It turned out he had a broken pelvis. The team that stayed to help immobilized him, treated him for shock, and did everything possible to make him and his wife comfortable. In due time, help arrived and got the man safely to the hospital.”

This report came from someone in the Chief Seattle Council. The hikers included members of a Boy Scout troop in that council. Fortunately, those Scouts had taken a back-country-oriented first aid course to prepare for the trip. The lead instructors for the course were Scouters, who, as you can imagine, were immensely pleased to hear the “good turn” their students had done with what they had learned.

Thanks to G.T. from Chief Seattle Council for sharing how the training this Boy Scout Troop received had an immediate application.

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

From the Archives

From May, 2012, Helpful Hints on Special Needs Advancement Flexibility

Section 10 of the *Guide to Advancement* contains an abundance of important information and can be very helpful for any leader of Scouts with special needs. In this issue of *Advancement News* we will focus on advancement flexibility.

For Scouts with special needs to get the most out of the program, a partnership must exist between the unit leaders, the parents, qualified medical professionals, and, as appropriate, the Scout's educational providers. Working together, all parties can gain an understanding not only of the disability and abilities involved, but also of the processes covered in the *Guide to Advancement*, which begin with topic 10.2.0.0.

First, everyone must realize that the ability to satisfy requirements is vastly different in Cub Scouting than in Boy Scouting. For Cub Scouts, the standard measurement is, "Has he done his best?" For those working on Boy Scout advancement, the young man is "expected to meet the requirements—no more and no less—and he is to do exactly what is stated." That quote from the *Guide to Advancement* should not make one think that advancement in Boy Scouting is not possible for those with special needs, but it does mean leaders need to do some planning to develop an understanding of how alternative requirements can be approved and used.

We want to ensure that every person who joins Scouting can participate in the advancement program. Section 10 is a great resource to help you find the answers that will make the program for special needs youth an enjoyable process for all involved.

Awards and Recognition

Wearing Eagle Palms

Until recently there were two ways that Eagle Palms could be displayed—on the ribbon of the Eagle medal and, for adults, on the Eagle square knot. A third option has now been approved. As of January 1, youth may also wear Eagle palms on the Eagle Scout rank emblem (patch), which is sewn on the field uniform. For details, see blog.scoutingmagazine.org/2014/05/01/now-theres-a-new-third-way-to-wear-eagle-scout-palms.



The Survey Says

District Advancement Committees

The November 2013 *Advancement News* survey focused on council and district advancement committees. In the last issue of *Advancement News*, we summarized results for council advancement committees. We continue in this issue with a review of the data on district advancement committee composition.

As with the data related to council advancement committees, certain functions in district advancement committees were assigned a high importance, but there exist many opportunities to increase volunteerism on the committee and to improve overall advancement service to units. The first column in the table on the next page, shows the percentage of respondents who rated a position as “Important or Very Important.” For example, Eagle, training, and merit badge-related positions were all rated high in importance.

The second column shows the percentage of respondents who said the function was being addressed in their districts. The third column indicates whether or not the position was assigned to one person or to someone who was serving in multiple positions.

Thus, while respondents indicated that both Eagle and merit badge positions were often addressed by a volunteer in that role, only 42% of the survey participants reported a volunteer position dedicated to training in the district. At the same time, 69% of surveys reported that the religious emblems coordinator was being handled as a separate position, but only 43% assigned it high importance. In eight of the 12 roles, responses indicated that fewer than 50% of districts handled the duties by way of a separate position.

In many cases, the survey comments indicated that unfilled roles were being addressed by the district advancement committee chair. In other cases, duties were being addressed by another individual or another committee, rather than by way of a dedicated advancement committee role, such as with the camping and outdoors liaison role. In both cases, the recommendation for a specific volunteer assigned specific duties helps to support better service to units and high quality program.

Districts are strongly encouraged to review the duties of the district advancement committee as detailed in topic 3.0.0.2 of the *Guide to Advancement*. Topic 3.0.0.5 details several advancement-related positions and recommends volunteers are recruited to perform those roles.

Continued on page 16

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 June-July

Opportunities for Advancement Administrators: Two New Advancement Education Tools

Eagle Issues: Impact of New Merit Badges on Eagle Scout Application Process

The Venturing Perspective: Pathfinder Award

Position	Important or Very Important	Functions are being addressed	Is it a separate position?
District Advancement Chair Coordinator	58%	61%	30%
Volunteerism Specialist	36%	37%	27%
Promotions Specialist	51%	74%	30
Records Keeper	55%	65%	37%
Eagle Issues	91%	96%	65%
Special Needs	57%	67%	36%
Training & Events Coordinator	60%	64%	42%
Camping & Outdoors Liaison	43%	43%	42%
Internet Advancement Specialist	52%	52%	49%
Awards & Recognition Chair	54%	48%	57%
Religious Emblems Coordinator	43%	32%	69%
Merit Badge Chair	70%	65%	69%

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 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](#)

[On Increasing Advancement video link](#)

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