

# Advancement News

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2016

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Prepared. For Life.®

Previous issues are available at [www.scouting.org/scoutsource/BoyScouts/AdvancementandAwards/advancement\\_news.aspx](http://www.scouting.org/scoutsource/BoyScouts/AdvancementandAwards/advancement_news.aspx)

## Opportunities for Advancement Administrators

### Philmont Training Center—Summer Is Just Around the Corner

Have you been thinking about attending a conference at Philmont Training Center but are unsure of what to expect or if it would be worth the effort? Here are some comments from a number of former attendees:

- “The advancement course at Philmont Training Center was so informative and uplifting. I came away feeling much more prepared to fulfill my position to help more youth succeed!”
- “I totally enjoyed my experience at PTC. The advancement training was very informative and the staff was very supportive. I will definitely let others know that this is a worthwhile use of their time.”

What advancement opportunities are available this summer at Philmont Training Center? Here are two informative conferences to consider:



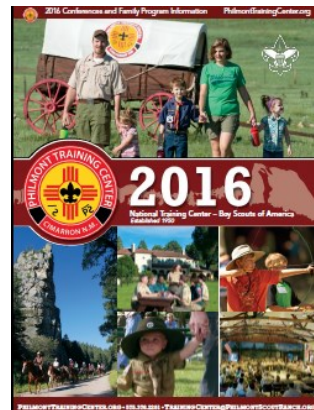
*Continued on Page 2*

### In This Issue

- **Opportunities for Advancement Administrators:** Philmont Training Center—Summer Is Just Around the Corner
- **On Increasing Advancement:** Troop Programming: The New Boy Scout Rank Requirements; New Position of Responsibility: 13<sup>th</sup> Edition, *Boy Scout Handbook*; New Position of Responsibility: Outdoor Ethics Guide;—Best Practices: Promoting Advancement Education Materials
- **The Cub Scout Angle:** STEM Adventures—To Advancement and Beyond!
- **Eagle Issues:** Processing Rank Appeals—Fair, Balanced, and By the Book; Processing Time Extension Requests—Fair, Balanced, and By the Clock
- **Merit Badges - Enhancing Our Youth's Competitive Edge:** Photography Merit Badge—New Focus for an Old Favorite
- **The Venturing Perspective:** Venturing Summit Award Meet the First Recipient
- **Special Necessities:** Serving ADHD Youth—Scouting Provides Structure and Focus
- **From the Field:** A Successful ADHD Strategy Outcome
- **From the Archives:** Scoutmaster Conference Myths (March 2012)
- **A Peek Ahead:** What is Planned for March/April
- **Helpful Links**

## Don't Miss Out on These Great Training Opportunities in 2016!

The Philmont Training Center schedule of conferences for next summer is available now at [www.philmontscoutranch.org/PTC.aspx](http://www.philmontscoutranch.org/PTC.aspx). Download a digital copy of the 2016 conference brochure now, or visit your local council service center for a copy.



*Continued from Page 1*

- **Mechanics of Advancement: June 12-18.** Are you or someone else in your district or council struggling with understanding how advancement should work or how to assist units with proper advancement? Then this conference is just the right place for you.

This curriculum will be relevant for **all** advancement personnel, but will be directed particularly at those who are new to advancement or are in need of some refreshing. Every significant aspect of advancement will be covered. Participants will learn how to create an environment in districts and councils that increases the rate of advancement and retention through proper advancement administration.

- **Advancement Issues and Solutions: July 31-August 6.** Are you more experienced and want to delve deeper into the “ins and outs” of advancement? This conference is your opportunity.

This curriculum will center on the kind of advancement issues commonly seen at the National level and how they are solved. Participants will engage in a hands-on experience to analyze, discuss, and solve case studies similar to those regularly dealt with by the National Advancement Task Force, including Eagle issues. Attendees will return home with a better understanding of the proper and effective use of the *Guide to Advancement* and the confidence to handle similar difficult issues in their home councils.

The faculty for both conferences will consist of members of the National Advancement Task Force and National Advancement Advisory Panel, who will share the latest on advancement information, issues, and trends. Register at [www.philmontscoutranch.org/PTC.aspx](http://www.philmontscoutranch.org/PTC.aspx).

P.S. An excellent family program is also available, so bring the family for a week of adventure they won't forget for a long time!

## 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 Task Force (formerly known as 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 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).

# On Increasing Advancement

## Troop Programming: The New Boy Scout Rank Requirements



### **Q:** Should troops anticipate a major shift in unit programming for 2016?

The short answer is **NO**. The Boy Scout rank requirements will be phased in. Boys registered in a troop, team, crew, or ship on or prior to Dec. 31, 2015, may choose to switch to new requirements on Jan. 1, 2016. For those who choose not to switch right away, here are the rules:

- Boys registered in a troop on or before Dec. 31, 2015, who are working on Tenderfoot through First Class ranks, may continue to use the old requirements through 2016, but they **must** convert to the new requirements upon attaining the First Class rank. As long as they have started on Tenderfoot requirements, they do not have to “go back” and earn the Scout joining badge or the Scout rank.
- Boys registered in a troop, team, crew, or ship on or before Dec. 31, 2015, who have completed the First Class rank may complete the rank they are currently working on with the old requirements through 2016, but then **must** convert to the new requirements for subsequent ranks.
- Any boy registering in a troop for the first time on or after Jan. 1, 2016, **must** use the new requirements, beginning with Scout rank.

Beginning Jan. 1, 2017, new requirements must be used for all ranks earned.

### **Q:** Does that mean that a troop might be juggling two rank requirement programs at the same time for 2016?

Yes, but the changes are very manageable. Most of the new rank requirements are the same or similar to the old ones, just organized in a different manner. So if a youth has been signed-off for a requirement that is now part of a different rank, those sign-offs are still valid unless a new element has been added to the requirement. Since Scout through First Class ranks are worked on simultaneously, changes to troop programming will be minimal, primarily to address only the brand new requirements. There is a side-by-side comparison of the old and new rank requirements at [www.scouting.org/programupdates](http://www.scouting.org/programupdates).

### **Q:** What are some of the new requirements that might affect troop programming?

- The camping requirement has doubled for First Class. Previously, three overnight camping trips were required, but six overnight trips will now be required for First Class rank advancement.
- Tenderfoot fitness requirements have been revised, including a one-mile rather than ¼-mile walk/run.
- Service hours are required at each rank except Scout. Half of the service hours at Life must be conservation relation
- GPS navigation is included at First Class in addition to map and compass.

The old rank requirements will be phased out entirely on Dec. 31, 2016. Thus, Jan. 1, 2017 ends the transition, and on that date, all Boy Scouts will be working under the new requirements.

## 13<sup>th</sup> Edition, Boy Scout Handbook

The new 13<sup>th</sup> edition of the Boy Scout Handbook is scheduled for release in late January. Content will support the new Boy Scout requirements for 2016, including those in the areas of camping, cooking, fitness, outdoor ethics, first aid, citizenship, service, and duty to God. See [www.scouting.org/programupdates](http://www.scouting.org/programupdates) for a list of 2016 rank requirements as they appear in the new handbook.

A new *Boy Scout Handbook*, while desirable, is not immediately needed for Scouts who will continue to work on their current rank under the old requirements (see article on page 3). An insert of new requirements is available for use with the current *Boy Scout Handbook* when boys begin working under the new requirements. See [scouting.org/advancement](http://scouting.org/advancement) to download a copy.



## New Position of Responsibility: Outdoor Ethics Guide

The new Boy Scout requirements introduce a new position of responsibility. Outdoor Ethics Guide will replace the Leave No Trace Trainer position. The following job description is provided by the BSA Outdoor Ethics task force:

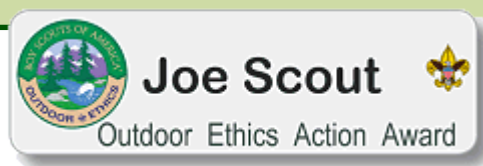


The outdoor ethics guide helps the troop plan and conduct an outdoor program that emphasizes effectively practicing the Outdoor Code, the Leave No Trace principles, and the Tread Lightly! principles. The guide works to help Scouts improve their outdoor ethics decision-making skills to help minimize impacts as they hike, camp, and participate in other outdoor activities. In particular, he should support Scouts who are working to complete the relevant requirements for the Tenderfoot, Second Class, and First Class ranks.

How does a Scout get position of responsibility credit if he is in the middle of his tenure as Leave No Trace Trainer on Dec. 31, 2015? The unit should simply credit him with time served in that position, and then begin his tenure as Outdoor Ethics Guide on Jan. 1, 2016.

For **Frequently Asked Questions** on the Outdoor Ethics Guide position of responsibility, as well as on the Outdoor Ethics Awareness and Action awards, see

[www.outdoorethics-bsa.org/FAQs.shtml](http://www.outdoorethics-bsa.org/FAQs.shtml)





## Best Practices: Promoting Advancement Education Materials

*During the 2015 CEAA at Philmont, participants discussed “Best Practices” for various advancement topics. Two of the CEAA best practice summaries have been featured in the last two editions of Advancement News. We now share the thoughts of those experienced Scouters on the topic of “Promoting Advancement Education Materials” with the hope that their efforts will be helpful to your councils or districts.*

### Where can advancement education materials be found?

The direct web link is

[www.scouting.org/scoutsource/BoyScouts/Resources/advancement\\_presentations.aspx](http://www.scouting.org/scoutsource/BoyScouts/Resources/advancement_presentations.aspx).

However, an easier way to remember is to use the Advancement Resources web page as your index to all things advancement: Go to [Scouting.org/advancement](http://Scouting.org/advancement) and click the “Advancement Educational Presentations” link.

### What avenues are there for promoting advancement education materials?

The availability of these presentations can be promoted through council and district advancement committee meetings, training committee meetings, University of Scouting events, Colleges of Commissioner Science, roundtables, council and district newsletters and websites, Scout store flyers, unit commissioner-to-unit contacts, unit leader-specific contacts, or local conferences.

### What is the best approach for promoting them?

There are a number of ways, such as:

- The straightforward approach: Share where to locate advancement education materials on [scouting.org](http://scouting.org), and then show what is available.
- Provide information on position-specific topics, such as Eagle Scout service project coaches, boards of review members, advancement committee members, or special needs coordinators.
- Send update alerts via social media or newsletters about new or updated advancement education materials and where they can be found.
- Create “finding it” games, such as Jeopardy or bingo, which can be used to challenge event participants to answer advancement questions using [scouting.org/advancement](http://scouting.org/advancement) as the source of the answers.

### When should advancement education be promoted?

Anytime the opportunity is presented and as often as possible!

All advancement educational presentations are updated regularly and carry an expiration date to ensure that you are using the most current information. All 2016 updates have been completed and should be posted shortly.



# The Cub Scout Angle

## STEM Adventures—To Advancement and Beyond!<sup>1</sup>



"Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics—STEM, and therefore, STEM education—are vital to our future—the future of our country, the future of our region, and the future of our children. Besides, STEM is everywhere; it shapes our everyday experiences."<sup>1</sup>

The optional Cub Scout Nova awards are available for Cub Scouts to increase their understanding of STEM and are meant to be earned only after a Cub Scout has achieved his rank. There are seven Nova awards representing the different STEM areas:



Science Everywhere – Science

Down and Dirty – Science <sup>NEW</sup>

Nova WILD! – Science <sup>NEW</sup>

Out of This World – Science <sup>NEW</sup>

Tech Talk – Technology

Swing! – Engineering

1-2-3 Go! – Mathematics

Wolf, Bear, and Webelos Scouts are eligible to earn each of the awards. Parents and unit leaders may serve as Nova counselors. Each award has unique requirements that relate to the specific STEM area, so consult the *Cub Scout Nova Awards Guidebook* and [www.scouting.org/stem/Awards/CubScout](http://www.scouting.org/stem/Awards/CubScout) for specific requirements. But here is some general information everyone should know.

Cub Scouts will watch or read—or watch and read—material related to the STEM area of the specific Nova award, then make a list of at least two questions or ideas that arise from what was read or watched, which they will then discuss with a Nova counselor. They will also spend time exploring and investigating, going on field trips, and discussing with their counselor what they have learned.

Each award also requires a Cub Scout to complete an adventure he has not earned previously from a rank specific list. The selected adventures work with biology, paleontology, geology, numbers, logic, levers, the scientific method, ecology, nutrition, and many other areas that will increase a Cub Scout's knowledge of how STEM is used every day.

Completion of any Nova award earns the Cub Scout the right to wear the Nova award patch. Completion of each additional Nova award is recognized by a pi ( $\pi$ ) pin placed on the patch.



*Continued on Page 7*

1. <https://www.sciencepioneers.org/parents/why-stem-is-important-to-everyone>

Science Everywhere	Down and Dirty	Nova WILD!	Out of This World	Tech Talk	Swing!	1-2-3 Go!
<b>WOLF</b>						
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Adventures in Coins</li> <li>Collections and Hobbies</li> <li>Digging in the Past</li> <li>Germes Alive!</li> <li>Grow Something</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Collections and Hobbies</li> <li>Digging in the Past</li> <li>Grow Something</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Digging in the Past</li> <li>Grow Something</li> <li>Spirit of the Water</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Air of the Wolf</li> <li>Collections and Hobbies</li> <li>Germes Alive!</li> <li>Motor Away</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Finding Your Way</li> <li>Motor Away</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Motor Away</li> <li>Paws of Skill</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Code of the Wolf</li> </ul>
<b>BEAR</b>						
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A Bear Goes Fishing</li> <li>Bear Picnic Basket</li> <li>Critter Care</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Critter Care</li> <li>Super Science</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A Bear Goes Fishing</li> <li>Critter Care</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Bear Picnic Basket</li> <li>Robotics</li> <li>Super Science</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Make it Move</li> <li>A World of Sound</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Baloo the Builder</li> <li>A Bear Goes Fishing</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Robotics</li> </ul>
<b>WEBELOS</b>						
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Camper</li> <li>Earth Rocks!</li> <li>Maestro!</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Adventures in Science</li> <li>Earth Rocks!</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Into the Wild</li> <li>Into the Woods</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Adventures in Science</li> <li>Engineer</li> <li>Game Design</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Build It</li> <li>Fix It</li> <li>Movie Making</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Adventures in Science</li> <li>Engineer</li> <li>Sportsman</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Game Design</li> </ul>

There are two Supernova awards. The Luis W. Alvarez Supernova can be earned by Wolf or Bear Scouts; the Charles H. Townes Supernova award can be earned by Webelos Scouts. These awards recognize superior achievement in STEM fields. All Supernova awards require working with a registered mentor and significant effort beyond the Nova awards.



For more information on the Nova and Supernova awards, see [www.scouting.org/stem/Awards/AboutNova](http://www.scouting.org/stem/Awards/AboutNova).

## REGISTERING AS A SUPERNOWA MENTOR—CUB SCOUTS AND BOY SCOUTS

To qualify as a Supernova awards mentor, you must

- Be at least 21 years old and of good character.
- Be registered with the Boy Scouts of America (position code 52).
- Complete Youth Protection training appropriate for the level you will mentor.
- Be recognized as having the skills and education in the award topics covered and hold any required qualifications and training.
- Be able to work with Scout-age youth.



Supernova Mentor Information Sheet: [www.scouting.org/filestore/stem/pdf/514-017\\_WB.pdf](http://www.scouting.org/filestore/stem/pdf/514-017_WB.pdf)

Supernova Mentor Training: [http://www.scouting.org/filestore/training/pdf/Supernova\\_Mentors\\_Guide.pdf](http://www.scouting.org/filestore/training/pdf/Supernova_Mentors_Guide.pdf)

# Eagle Issues

## Processing Rank Appeals—Fair, Balanced, and By the Book

*Guide to Advancement* topics 8.0.4.0 through 8.0.4.2 cover the procedures for filing and evaluating appeals if a Scout is not recommended for advancement. The National Council only reviews appeals for the Eagle Scout rank. Adverse decisions for the Star and Life ranks may only be appealed to the local council.



The specific steps for filing and processing an appeal are contained in *GTA* topic 8.0.4.1. It is very important to follow carefully all these steps to ensure a fair and impartial decision. The most important part of this process is to thoroughly research the case and interview those with pertinent knowledge. Every effort should be made to have balanced representation in the evidence that is gathered. In addition, only those involved with the appeal review and a need to know should review the evidence presented.

While a thorough investigation of the facts is clearly important to resolving the appeal itself, the information gathered may also point to areas where additional education is warranted. This might involve providing a better understanding of what the expectations are for completing certain requirements or the proper procedures for conducting boards of review at all levels. This has the potential for eliminating adverse rank advancement decisions that are not based strictly on the requirements themselves.

Appeal boards are not another board of review. They focus only on the issues that brought rejection at the lower level(s). For example, if a unit level rejection was based on requirement 1 (active participation) and requirement 4 (position of responsibility), then the district appeal board could only consider those two requirements. Similarly, if the district decided that the Scout had met requirement 1, but not requirement 4, then the council level appeal board could only consider requirement 4 during their review. In all cases, a majority vote is sufficient for a decision and a decision in favor of the Scout at any level is final.

*Continued on page 9*

### 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.



*Continued from page 8*

*Guide to Advancement* topic 8.0.4.0 requires that all appeals to the National Advancement Team be forwarded through the local council. The council appeals coordinator is responsible for gathering the documentation necessary to provide a complete understanding of all the issues involved. This must include the Scout's Eagle Scout Rank Application and his service project workbook (if at issue), as well as all other available documentation. In addition, a cover letter from the Scout Executive must be included summarizing the facts and stating the council's reasons for not recommending advancement.

**The 2016 printing of the Eagle Scout Rank Application is now available at [scouting.org/advancement](http://scouting.org/advancement).**

## **Processing Time Extension Requests —Fair, Balanced, and By the Clock**

*Guide to Advancement* topics 9.0.4.0 and 9.0.4.1 cover the procedures for processing extension requests. All requests must be filled out and submitted by the council using the form 512-077, "Request for Extension of Time to Earn Eagle Scout Rank," found in appendix 11.2.0.0 of the *GTA* or on-line at [www.scouting.org/advancement.aspx](http://www.scouting.org/advancement.aspx).

As is the case with all Scout actions, complete and thorough documentation is vital to obtaining approval. This is particularly important in cases where mistakes or omissions by adults are stated as reasons why the request should be approved. All documents and letters need to have a date and either a signature of the preparer or other clear indication of who wrote the letter or prepared the document. To avoid delays councils should carefully review what they have prepared to ensure that all needed documentation is included and that it is legible and easily understood. Weeks can be lost in processing requests for which documents do not contain the information necessary to authenticate them—or which were not legible.

However, unlike appeals, councils do not have the authority to grant or deny an extension request; they only make a recommendation to the National Advancement Team. Although councils may not concur with granting the extension, they are obligated to send the request to the National Advancement Team for a final decision if the Scout requests it. Timeliness is critical because extensions are granted from the Scout's 18th birthday, not from the day they are granted. This is why it is preferred that extension requests be submitted before the Scout's 18th birthday. For example, if a request for a three-month extension is received one month after the 18th birthday and is granted, then the Scout will only have two months from the date of approval to complete the requirements.

Depending upon the time of year and the date of Scout's 18th birthday, especially following high school graduation, the Scout might have other obligations, such as college or military service, that will limit the time available to complete the requirements. Therefore, because time extensions are limited and other demands on the Scout's time may limit his ability to complete his requirements, *GTA* topic 9.0.4.0 states that a Scout should continue working on his requirements while an extension request is being processed.

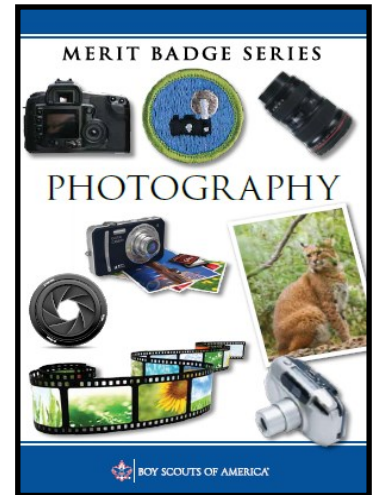
Adding additional time to the extension as a result of delays in processing the requests at the council level may not be considered when the request is reviewed, so it is always a good idea for the Scout to continue working on his requirements as processing occurs.



# Merit Badges: Enhancing Our Youth's Competitive Edge

## Photography Merit Badge: New Focus for an Old Favorite

While the Photography merit badge is not a new addition to the BSA merit badge library, the technological world of digital cameras, pixels, online printers, and photo software has made an old subject new again. The field of photography has undergone major changes in this age of computer technology. Today's processes go beyond simply capturing family memories, Scouting activities, vacation experiences, or other special events. New technologies offer new chances to be creative. As a result, requirements for the Photography merit badge are being revised to keep up with this new world of technology.



The “upgraded” merit badge requirements and supporting pamphlet still contain lessons about composition, how to choose a subject, the proper use of lighting, and depth of field, but also encourage a Scout's creativity by introducing stop action and blur motion techniques and the understanding of color as ways to help the Scout make his photographs into more than snapshots. The Scout will learn how to tell a story through pictures, while being led into the fun and discovery aspects of photography.

Scouts will find new images in the merit badge pamphlet, as well as new art work throughout the text of the publication. There also is a balanced discussion of the ethical side of photography relevant to the new social media world in which our youth live. Although the “phone” camera is mentioned because most of our Scouts own one, its use is not the essence of the skills being taught in the merit badge. There is a real difference between a thoughtful photograph and a grab shot, especially a “selfie.”

Appropriately, the new Photography merit badge pamphlet will be available in a digital version, which will contain all the content of the print version, as well as videos and “how to” resources that cannot be included in a print version. Both the printed and digital versions of the Photography merit badge pamphlet are slated for release in the first quarter of 2016.



### Can a Scout who has previously earned the Photography merit badge earn it again?

While he could choose to work through the requirements for fun and to experience a new dimension of photography, completion would not count as an additional merit badge.

# The Venturing Perspective

## Venturing Summit Award: Meet the First Recipient!

The first generation of Venturing Summit Award recipients has been recognized over the last few months. **Jeremy Felty** of Chief Seattle Council has the distinction of being the first recipient of the Venturing Summit Award, earned on February 16, 2015. Let's take the opportunity for Jeremy to describe, in his own words, his advancement highlights along the Summit trail:



**Pathfinder Award:** The adventure that I led for my Pathfinder Award was the National Jamboree at the Bechtel Summit in 2013. As President for my council contingent crew, my responsibilities included juggling trips home from Oregon to Washington to meet with my crew, recruiting new members, preparing to fly to West Virginia, as well as leading the crew while at the Jamboree. I also had to coordinate with the council that we partnered with, assist with fundraising, help people coordinate their program activities, and coordinate our tour.

**Mentoring another Venturer as they led an adventure:** I participated as a member of my crew's trek to Philmont 2014. I mentored the trek leader before and throughout the trek. It was great to impart some of the knowledge I had learned from when I had served as trek leader in 2011 and to share what I learned about in my time in Venturing. I shared advice about motivating others, teamwork, and responsibility. We had a very successful trek and our group bonded.

**Summit Award service project:** I organized and led a trail building project. The primary focus of the project was building a trail turnpike, which is a trail device used to manage run-off and prevent silt pollution. The entire project took a full day of work, with about 20-25 volunteers. All of the materials were donated by the Newberry Hill Heritage Group, which was a great help to my project. Much like the Eagle Scout service project, I was responsible for organizing, securing resources, and leading the project to completion.

**Summit Award lessons:** Earning the Summit Award taught me to work hard for my goals, because anything can be accomplished with the right amount of effort and dedication. I had to manage my schoolwork, job, and social life along with my Venturing commitments, which taught me good time management and balancing skills.

**What advice would you give to a new Venturer in the program as he/she strives to work their way through the Venturing Advancement structure?**

Time management is a huge aspect of Venturing, because you have so many things going on at this age, but you want to make sure that you devote enough attention to each. Make sure that you plan accordingly and you can achieve all of your goals, both inside and outside of Venturing.

Jeremy remains busy as a member of two Venturing Crews: Crew 1552 (Chief Seattle Council) and Crew 141 (Oregon Trails Council).

# Special Needs

## Serving ADHD Youth—Scouting Provides Structure and Focus

The mission of the Boy Scouts of America—“to prepare young people to make ethical and moral choices over their lifetimes by instilling in them the values of the Scout Oath and Law”—has provided a structure, challenge, and an outdoor physical focus that have helped many of these boys succeed. For that reason, Scouting has long been a great program for youth who have Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder, or ADHD, and for many, their successes have not just been while they are Scouts, but have continued throughout their lives.

### Why is Scouting a great program for youth who have ADHD?

First of all, Scouting is a well-thought-out, highly structured program that provides a step-by-step sequence of skills for Scouts to master. It promises fun, friendship, and adventure. Scouting offers frequent *positive* recognition and develops social skills and leadership skills. Scouting employs a leadership and training model, EDGE—Explain, Demonstrate, Guide, and Enable—which, through systematic Explanation, interactive Demonstration, and Guided practice, Enables Scouts with ADHD to discover and develop their unique strengths and interests.

### As a Scout leader, what if my unit does not have any ADHD youth?

In 2007, an American Medical Association (AMA) study showed that the cumulative incidence of definite ADHD based on DSM-IV criteria was 7.4% by age 19 years. Therefore, at some point virtually every Scout unit is likely to experience having a youth who has ADHD. For example, in a survey conducted in the Three Fires Council, headquartered in St. Charles, Illinois, in early 2014, the percentage of Scouts reported by units as having ADHD turned out, not surprisingly, to be 7%! It is important for leaders to be aware of this incidence and strategies they can use that will help facilitate a successful Scouting experience for these youth, their fellow Scouts, and the adult leadership.

### As a Scout with ADHD, what if my unit does not have any other ADHD youth?

From any youth’s perspective, the choice of Scouting unit will make a difference. The youth and his parents should look at several units in their vicinity and select one that best fits the youth’s particular strengths and interests. A unit where the volunteers understand disabilities and are comfortable working with youth who have them is often the best fit for youth who have ADHD.

*Continued on Page 13*

*Watch for tips for parents and tips for Scout Leaders of youth who are involved in Scouting in the March-April Advancement News.*



*Continued from Page 12*

### **What training is available?**

A training course for working with Scouts who have ADHD is currently provided to commissioners. This course can also assist unit leaders in planning a Scouting program that provides youth who have ADHD with opportunities to succeed. It is structured to provide practical tips to parents and to leaders, but the tips being given are not just beneficial for youth who have ADHD, but also for every youth in the program.

#### **ADDITIONAL RESOURCES:**

Commissioner Continuing Education course: “Special Needs Scouting-ADD/ADHD”

[www.scouting.org/scoutsource/Commissioners/training/ContinuingEd.aspx](http://www.scouting.org/scoutsource/Commissioners/training/ContinuingEd.aspx)

ScoutCast episodes on working with Scouts who have ADD/ADHD

[blog.scoutingmagazine.org/2013/03/06/add-adhd/](http://blog.scoutingmagazine.org/2013/03/06/add-adhd/)

Advancement Education course: “Including Scouts with Disabilities” (in both English and Spanish):

[www.scouting.org/Home/BoyScouts/Resources/advancement\\_presentations](http://www.scouting.org/Home/BoyScouts/Resources/advancement_presentations)

## **From the Field**

### **A Successful ADHD Strategy Outcome**

Scout Johnny was a youth who had ADHD. He was often disruptive during training activities. Often leaders would employ the “time-out” approach when disruption occurred, but with minimal effectiveness in the small meeting room. On one such occurrence, when the boys were learning about map reading, Johnny was disrupting the class. The Scoutmaster casually took Johnny aside and explained that his behavior was making it hard for his fellow Scouts to learn the skill. As an alternative, the Scoutmaster assigned Johnny to teach the map reading course the following week.

The following week, Johnny taught the class with such a degree of preparation and knowledge that everyone was spellbound—the Scoutmaster had accidentally found one of Johnny’s strengths, in so doing, had hit upon a strategy for troop success, as well!

P.S. Johnny went on to earn his Eagle Scout rank two years later.

Have you seen an impact on a boy as a result of his experience with the advancement program in action? Please send your story to [advancement.team@scouting.org](mailto:advancement.team@scouting.org). Please provide your name and council so we may contact you if there are questions. You may see your story here in a future edition of *Advancement News*.

# From the Archives

## Scoutmaster Conference Myths

(March, 2012)

**Myth No. 1:** *The Scoutmaster (unit leader) conference is the last step before a board of review.*

**Myth No. 2:** *A Scout can “fail” a Scoutmaster conference and be held back from a board of review.*

Topic 4.2.3.5 in the *Guide to Advancement* breaks both these myths. “While it makes sense to hold [a Scoutmaster or unit leader conference] after other requirements for a rank are met, it is *not required* that it be the last step before the board of review.” Some leaders hold more than one conference along the way, and any of them can count toward the requirement.

Requirements for each rank state, “Participate in a Scoutmaster conference.” This is not a pass/fail requirement. Topic 4.2.3.5 states, “[The conference] is not a ‘test.’ Requirements do not say he must ‘pass’ a conference.” If an Eagle Scout candidate’s conference is denied or the unit leader refuses to sign a candidate’s Eagle application, this becomes grounds for requesting a board of review under disputed circumstances (See *Guide to Advancement* topic 8.0.3.2).

A Scoutmaster conference should not become just another requirement for rank advancement. It should be a rewarding opportunity for a unit leader to form a bond with each member, whether advancing or not. It is more about using the Scouting method of positive adult association than it is about using the method of advancement.

Location is important to a good conference. While virtually any place that supports BSA Youth Protection guidelines is acceptable, some settings provide for more relaxed conversation. A unit leader may find that conferences held during outings are less subject to interruption than those held during regular meetings.

When we examine the four steps to advancement, the unit leader conference is the first part of the “Scout Is Reviewed” step. The second part is the board of review. However, neither is a retest of skills. A unit leader should plan conferences carefully. Trust is a vital element. Listening is another. Hearing about the Scout’s life outside troop activities is just as important as his experiences in the unit. Emphasizing the Scout Oath and Scout Law, setting goals, promoting additional responsibility, sharing ideas, and providing positive reinforcement should be reflected upon.

A link to past issues of ***Advancement News*** may be found at the Advancement Resources web page:

[www.scouting.org/scoutsource/BoyScouts/AdvancementandAwards/resources.aspx](http://www.scouting.org/scoutsource/BoyScouts/AdvancementandAwards/resources.aspx)

## 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 March-April

**Opportunities for Advancement Administrators:** Philmont Training Center Awaits You

**On Increasing Advancement:** The Methods of Scouting—A Quick Review

**Special Necessities:** Tips for Parents and Tips for Scout Leaders for youth with ADHD

## 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 do not, it is time to take the plunge. Setting up an account is a quick and easy process at [www.twitter.com](http://www.twitter.com). To limit incoming emails (‘tweets’), you can select 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).

## Did You Receive these Tweets?

**January 19: 2016:** Update to “Getting the Most from Internet Advancement” PPT is now posted: [www.scouting.org/Home/BoyScouts/Resources/advancement\\_presentations.aspx](http://www.scouting.org/Home/BoyScouts/Resources/advancement_presentations.aspx)

**January 8:** A new 2016 Application for Alternative Eagle Scout Rank Merit Badge is now available. [www.scouting.org/advancement](http://www.scouting.org/advancement)

**January 8:** The revised 2016 Eagle Scout Rank Application is now available. [www.Scouting.org/Advancement](http://www.Scouting.org/Advancement)

**January 6:** All Eagle-Required Interactive Digital Merit Badge Pamphlets Are Here! [Scoutingwire.org/all-eagle-required-interactive-digital-merit-badge-pamphlets-are-here/](http://Scoutingwire.org/all-eagle-required-interactive-digital-merit-badge-pamphlets-are-here/)

**January 1:** These FAQs provide answers concerning the new Boy Scout requirements that are effective today! [www.scouting.org/filestore/pdf/2016BoyScoutrequirementsFAQs.pdf](http://www.scouting.org/filestore/pdf/2016BoyScoutrequirementsFAQs.pdf)

**December 31:** First Class Camping Requirements to Double in 2016. [scoutingwire.org/first-class-camping-requirements-to-double-in-2016/](http://scoutingwire.org/first-class-camping-requirements-to-double-in-2016/)

**December 30:** New Boy Scout requirements put more emphasis on physical fitness. [blog.scoutingmagazine.org/2015/12/03/new-boy-scout-requirements-put-more-emphasis-on-physical-fitness/](http://blog.scoutingmagazine.org/2015/12/03/new-boy-scout-requirements-put-more-emphasis-on-physical-fitness/)

**December 29:** Scouts to Complete ‘Duty to God’ Requirement in 2016. [scoutingwire.org/scouts-to-tell-about-duty-to-god-at-each-rank-beginning-in-2016/](http://scoutingwire.org/scouts-to-tell-about-duty-to-god-at-each-rank-beginning-in-2016/)

**December 28:** What You Need to Know About Service Requirement Changes in 2016. [scoutingwire.org/boy-scout-service-hour-requirements-to-change-in-2016/](http://scoutingwire.org/boy-scout-service-hour-requirements-to-change-in-2016/)

**December 27:** Check out the new printable insert of 2016 Boy Scout requirements for use with the current Boy Scout handbook. [www.scouting.org/filestore/boyscouts/pdf/524-012\\_BS\\_Requirements\\_Insert.pdf](http://www.scouting.org/filestore/boyscouts/pdf/524-012_BS_Requirements_Insert.pdf)

**December 26:** Scout rank to replace Scout joining badge on January 1. [blog.scoutingmagazine.org/2015/10/19/scout-currently-joining-badge-become-rank/](http://blog.scoutingmagazine.org/2015/10/19/scout-currently-joining-badge-become-rank/)

## 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).

### Advancement Educational Presentations:

- Cub Scout Advancement: Delivering Adventure
- Getting the Most From Internet Advancement
- The Essentials of Merit Badge Counseling (English and Spanish)
- The Eagle Scout Service Project Coach (English and Spanish)
- Effective Troop Advancement (English and Spanish)
- 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 2015](#)

### [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 Concerns](#)

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

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

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

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

### **NEW:**

### [2016 Boy Scout Rank Requirements](#)

### [2016 Boy Scout Rank Requirements-Printable Insert](#)

