

# 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

### What's Next in Advancement Education?

Following a super 2016 summer of great Advancement Conferences at Philmont Training Center, the Boy Scout Program Development Committee has set its sights on putting on a week full of Scouting University Volunteer Development Courses for Advancement, as well as Cub Scouts, Boy Scouts, Venturing, and Disabilities Awareness, at the Florida Sea Base during the week of January 16-21, 2017.



Each of these groups will be putting on 11 different 90-minute topics from which participants will be able to choose. Each individual can specifically focus on one of these topics and its week-long set of presentations, or can tailor a personalized curriculum from the more than 50 sessions offered that meets his or her specific training requirements. Wow!

The Advancement strand will include topics such as The Advancement Process; Advancement Resources; Boy Scout Advancement Issues; Boards of Review; Eagle Scout Advancement Issues; Advancement and Disabilities Issues; Advancement Administration; and much more.

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Just imagine taking advantage of all of these learning opportunities in January while being warmed by the tropical breezes of the Florida Keys. Information about these conferences and the Sea Base's facilities and spousal programs is available at this Sea Base webpage: [www.bsaseabase.org/filestore/training/pdf/2017\\_FSB\\_Conf\\_Flyer2.pdf](http://www.bsaseabase.org/filestore/training/pdf/2017_FSB_Conf_Flyer2.pdf). Once there, you also will find a link to the registration page for these conferences: <http://BSA.kintera.org/2017FSBC>. What are you waiting on? As it says on the Sea Base's website, "Don't miss the boat!"

If you just cannot get to Florida in January, don't despair. There will be three more conferences held at BSA high adventure bases later in the year. The first of these will be during the week of



June 18-24, when a *Mechanics of Advancement* conference will take place at the John D. Tickle National Training and Leadership Center at the Summit Bechtel Reserve in West Virginia. This conference will take place only a month before the 2017 National Scout Jamboree opens at the Summit, and will offer participants a unique opportunity to get a taste of the adventure and action sports opportunities that Jamboree

participants will find on July 19!

### **2017 Conferences**

**January 16-21: Florida Sea Base – Advancement** (along with Cub Scouts, Boy Scouts, Venturing, and Disabilities Awareness)

**June 18-24: The Summit Bechtel Reserve – Mechanics of Advancement**

**July 16-22: Philmont Training Center – Issues and Solutions Conference**

**July 23-29: Philmont Training Center – Conference on Education for Advancement Administrators (CEAA)**

The third and fourth conferences will be at the Philmont Training Center in New Mexico. From July 16-22, the PTC will host an *Issues and Solutions* Conference, followed by a *Conference on Education for Advancement Administrators* (CEAA), July 23-29.



More information about these three conferences will follow in future editions, but for now, "clip and save" this schedule of exciting 2017 Advancement training opportunities.

## **About *Advancement News***

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

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

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

[advancement.team@scouting.org](mailto:advancement.team@scouting.org).

## Philmont Training Center: July-August 2016 *Issues and Solutions Conference Feedback*

The *Issues and Solutions* conference held July 31-August 6 at the Philmont Training Center focused on the types of challenging advancement issues that are regularly brought before the National Advancement Program Team. Judging by their feedback, the 20 participants left the PTC with a better understanding of the effective use of the *Guide to Advancement*, and an improved ability to handle issues that arise in their home council related to advancement. Here is some of that feedback:

- The flow of ideas between participants was outstanding!
- Excellent course!
- It exceeded my expectations!

If you want to have that excitement about a week-long Scout training course – there's an opportunity for you and your own advancement team. This conference is scheduled again for July 16-22, 2017 at the Philmont Training Center—a great family destination, by the way!



## On Increasing Advancement

### Webelos to Scout Transition starts now

Until 1989, a large percentage of boys earning Arrow of Light failed to become Boy Scout. To reverse this, Scouting introduced the 18-month Webelos program, with graduations in February and immediate “bridging” or “crossovers” to troops. As a result, the retention rate flipped to 80% of February graduates becoming Boy Scouts, with most remaining with their patrols and troops to their 18<sup>th</sup> birthdays.

Per the *Den Leaders Guide*, “Every boy graduating from a Cub Scout pack deserves the opportunity to continue his Scouting experience... The purpose of the Webelos-to-Scout transition plan is to give every boy a sampling of the troop program, leadership, advancement opportunities, and the excitement of Boy Scouting. A key factor in (this) transition is the establishment of a working partnership between the Webelos Den and the Troop... every Webelos Den should be linked to a Troop.” In addition, every parent needs to be oriented toward this transition:

WEBELOS Den ➡	ARROW OF LIGHT Den ➡	Boy Scout PATROL
4 <sup>th</sup> Grade	5 <sup>th</sup> Grade	5 <sup>th</sup> Grade and Beyond
1 <sup>st</sup> 12 Months	Next 6 Months	To June, Summer Camp, and Beyond
September-June	September-February	February and Beyond

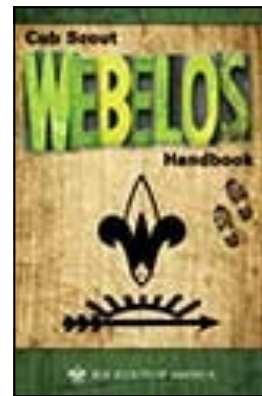
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The *Webelos Handbook* reinforces this. For parents, it advises, “Your son sees Webelos Scouting as... a step on the way to outdoor adventures in Boy Scouting... Help him move toward the Boy Scouting adventures.”

The new Webelos and Arrow of Light requirements are designed specifically to prepare these boys for Boy Scouting and their first step in their troop: Scout rank.

Ideally, the entire Webelos den will move as one into a troop, where they will become a new-Scout patrol with the guidance of an experienced Scout (the Troop Guide) who will help them adjust to the new adventures Boy Scouting offers. Their troop will likely also provide an Assistant Scoutmaster, who will oversee (but not “lead” the way their Den Leader did) their further bonding and overall success. This can lead to life-long friendships because these new Scouts will likely remain an intact patrol for the next seven years.



The Webelos Den Leaders’ most important responsibility is to encourage their Webelos Scouts to move on to Boy Scouting. Correspondingly, parents can reinforce this by helping their sons select the troop they’d most like to join, and then guiding this transition.

### **Outdoor Leader Skills for Webelos Leaders**

The *Arrow of Light* rank requires boys complete the Camper Adventure which includes a camping outing.

The question often comes up – “I’m a Webelos leader, and want to take my *den* camping, without the rest of the pack. Is that allowed?”

The answer is “ABSOLUTELY!” The training needed to make this happen is called “*Outdoor Leader Skills for Webelos Leaders*.” This training course is available in your local council or district. It may just be a one-day course, but is frequently offered as an overnigher. It may also be offered in conjunction with a “*Introduction to Outdoor Leader Skills*”, which would be the Boy Scout leader version of the training.

The OLSWL training is currently under revision and is expected to be available after the first of the year. The revision will include the *Basic Adult Leader Outdoor Orientation (BALOO)* material and will feature one training course that will cover all Cub Scout camping options.

Once the training is complete, Webelos leaders can provide opportunities for the boys to complete their Camper Adventure for the Arrow of Light rank and to be ready for the adventure of Boy Scouting.





# From the *Guide to Advancement*

## Extra, Extra, Read All About It!

Part of the job of a council advancement committee is to recognize significant youth achievements (*Guide to Advancement*, Topic 4.2.1.4), especially noteworthy accomplishments such as Eagle Scout or Quartermaster rank, the Venturing Summit Award, lifesaving and meritorious action awards, etc., via the media. (*GTA*, Topic 3.0.0.1 #20).

Today's media consist of much more than just the local daily newspapers and television newscasts. In addition to these outlets, there now are numerous smaller regional newspapers, many of which are published on a weekly basis, and thus have more room for local stories. Similarly, many community organizations and associations have their own monthly publications. Council advancement committees should easily be able to compile a list of these with the contact information and guidelines for districts and units.

In addition to these traditional outlets, the media landscape now includes a wealth of community news webpages, Facebook pages, and e-newsletters. In fact, if our email inbox is any indication, it sometimes seems that nearly everybody has a webpage and/or e-newsletter, including our own councils and districts. Many chartered partners publish them for their local members, and often belong to regional or national organizations that welcome news about Scouting. Similarly, school districts will be happy to include good news about their students' accomplishments in their webpages and newsletters, as will businesses that support schools and/or sponsor Scouting events. Be sure to add these to your list. Regardless of the publication, every editor and webmaster is looking for good news stories to tell their local readers.

And if it is "good news" they are looking for, Scouting has plenty of it! Units generally will inform local papers about Scouts earning Eagle Scout and other significant honors, and units and individuals celebrating long-time service are certainly newsworthy. Local TV stations might even be interested in sending a remote crew to report on recognition ceremonies, Eagle Scout projects, and district and council events. The annual Eagle recognition banquet is news. In addition, council advancement committees should be sure to issue press releases for life saving and meritorious action awards, as well.

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### **A Note about "permissions" for photos and news regarding Scouting activities:**

When a parent/guardian signs the Health and Medical form (Part A), it provides the release for photos in BSA publications:

I also hereby assign and grant to the local council and the Boy Scouts of America, as well as their authorized representatives, the right and permission to use and publish the photographs/film/videotapes/electronic representations and/or sound recordings made of me or my child at all Scouting activities, and I hereby release the Boy Scouts of America, the local council, the activity coordinators, and all employees, volunteers, related parties, or other organizations associated with the activity from any and all liability from such use and publication. I further authorize the reproduction, sale, copyright, exhibit, broadcast, electronic storage, and/or distribution of said photographs/film/videotapes/electronic representations and/or sound recordings without limitation at the discretion of the BSA, and I specifically waive any right to any compensation I may have for any of the foregoing.

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On the subject of invitations, be sure to invite outlets to send reporters to summer camp, to Klondike derbies, or district camporees, to see Scouts in action. You never can tell, it might be a slow news day and your activity might be just the “feel good” story that the news director wants. Public service stations are begging for program ideas. Consider producing a local program on advancement, or even going on a local radio station to talk about Scouting with a program host.

Finally, there are bound to be many newsworthy events that even an informed council advancement committee will not be aware until after the fact. Therefore, not only should the council advancement committee reach out to the news outlets, but it should encourage and train districts and units to do this as well. Provide them with the contact information for making this happen, and also make expert advice available to district and unit volunteers on best practices for getting the good news about Scouting out.

All of this effort will encourage advancement and help ensure that our young people stay in the Scouting program longer, which will give us a greater opportunity to shape their character. Now, isn't that what we're all about?

## **The Cub Scout Angle**

### **Blue and Gold Celebration Planning: Fun and Food, but Don't Forget the Advancement!**



The annual Blue and Gold banquet may be months away, but now is the time for packs to be putting plans together so their Cub Scouts and families get the most they can out of this annual celebration of the founding of the BSA in 1910 and the Cub Scouts in 1930. Successful banquets may take two to three months to plan to ensure that all families are involved and that both Cub Scouts and their leaders will be recognized. Most packs hold this event as their February pack meeting, but because it is so much more, planning also must include out-of-the-ordinary details, such as date, location, time, decorations, menus and serving arrangements, engaging activities and programs, and special guests—especially those from the pack's charter organization.

Whether held in lieu of or in addition to the regular monthly pack meeting, the Blue and Gold banquet should not be overlooked as a special opportunity to help motivate and encourage Cub Scout advancement. In planning a Blue and Gold celebration, it is important to look at the needs of the individual Scout in the pack. Pack leaders should look at the individual Cub Scout adventures when planning their banquet to see if the activity could promote advancement. For example, Tigers could put on a magic show, celebrate their cultural heritage, or perform a puppet show. Bears could put on a carnival and help with leader recognition. Wolves and Webelos could celebrate their hometown heroes, while an Arrow of Light den might share information on the World Friendship Fund and Scouting in other countries.

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Thus, the Blue and Gold committee should actively seek input from the Cubmaster and den leaders as they put together the plan for this event. Den leaders, especially, will be valuable resources concerning what events will not only help the Cub Scouts have fun but will also accomplish tasks towards advancement. The Cubmaster also will be more aware of what adventures require activities to be accomplished or shared with members of the pack. Scout families are busy, but well-planned, well-run Blue and Gold banquets that offer advancement opportunities at the same time will benefit everyone involved with the pack.

## **Advancement Excitement at National Scout Jamboree**

### **Merit Badge Midway offerings for National Jamboree participants**

What are you doing next summer? If you've never been to a national Jamboree, or have been dying to go back, don't procrastinate any longer. The 2017 Jamboree needs you, and your skills as a merit badge counselor.

Imagine yourself in the midst of 30,000 Scouts and Scouters with the opportunity to mentor Scouts from all over the country as they work on some really fun merit badges in the Merit Badge Midway. Check out this list of offerings:

Animation, Archaeology, Architecture, Astronomy, Aviation, Chemistry, Chess, Collections, Electricity, Electronics, Engineering, Exploration (new), Family Life, Game Design, Genealogy, Geology, Insect Study, Leatherwork, Mining in Society, Moviemaking, Nuclear Science, Programming, Robotics, Signs, Signals, and Codes, Space Exploration, Stamp Collecting, Surveying, Sustainability, Traffic Safety, Welding, Woodcarving.



Forget what you might have heard from others about their Jamboree experience, come see for yourself and make your own memories. The Summit Bechtel Family Scout Reserve is now more established with lush green foliage, solar heated showers, and even shuttle service from staff housing to the various program venues.

What are you waiting for? Go to <http://www.summitbsa.org/events/jamboree/volunteers/>, and register now! Why let another four years pass by when you can be building memories next summer?

#### **Prepare Youth for the Merit Badge Midway**

Youth attending the National Scout Jamboree will want to start preparations now to decide which activities at the Merit Badge Midway they will want to visit and experience. Knowing what is available for merit badge opportunities will allow them to meet with their Scoutmaster, discuss the preparation that will help them be successful and obtain the all-important blue cards.

## Counselor's Corner

### ***Counselor's Compass* Now an Integral Part of *Advancement News***

In our previous edition we announced the decision made this past spring to suspend the production of the *Counselor's Compass* (written primarily for merit badge counselors) as a standalone BSA publication and to merge topics of importance and interest to merit badge counselors (MBCs) into *Advancement News*, which enjoys a wider circulation. Starting in this edition, we will begin entitling this new section "Counselor's Corner." There were several considerations driving this decision, both practical and beneficial, to the larger body of advancement-centric volunteers.

First, the basics of the merit badge (MB) program are covered very well in the *Guide to Advancement* (Topic 7.0.0.0), and the MB-specific resources available at [www.scouting.org/Advancement](http://www.scouting.org/Advancement). After the first five issues *Counselor's Compass*, the publication found it was repeating itself for experienced Merit Badge Counselors (MBCs)

Second, at the same time the National Advancement Program Team recognized that when "hot" new merit badge topics did appear they were often first being shared with its volunteers across the nation through the more frequently published *Advancement News*.

Nevertheless, the Team recognized that every year there is a mixture of new volunteers who join the MBC ranks who still need to learn the basics of merit badge counseling and veteran MBCs who need to be informed of changes in the program, especially new developments. The solution to this problem was simple: "If you can't beat 'em, join 'em!" *Advancement News* already had a section of merit badge developments that could be expanded. Not only would this ensure the specific MB-related needs of new and experienced MBCs would continue to be met, but would help both groups to better understand the context of MBs in the overall advancement program through exposure to the wider-ranging contents of the *Advancement News*—in other words, by giving them a 30,000-foot view of the bigger advancement picture.

To initiate this new format of the **Counselor's Corner** we are including a quick-view index listing all the topics covered in the five issues of the now discontinued *Counselor's Compass*. These issues and their articles will remain available and can be accessed by clicking on the Counselor's Compass link at the Advancement Resources webpage ([www.scouting.org/Advancement.aspx](http://www.scouting.org/Advancement.aspx)). (Future issues of *Advancement News* will continue to publicize this link for the benefit of new MBCs as they begin their service to our youth.)

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Archived editions of *Counselor's Compass* will remain available at  
[www.scouting.org/scoutsource/boyscouts/guideformeritbadgescounselors.aspx](http://www.scouting.org/scoutsource/boyscouts/guideformeritbadgescounselors.aspx).



## **Index to Counselor's Compass Issues**

### Fall 2014

**From the Task Force:** Welcome to the First Issue of *Counselor's Compass*!

**Things to Do:** Make *The Essentials of Merit Badge Counseling* Your e-Learning Tool

**Steps for Success:** Counseling Tips; Show Me the Blue Card!

**Glad You Asked:** Web Page for Counselors; Completing Requirements as Stated Matters

**News You Can Use:** Mining in Society Gaining Momentum; Six Pamphlets

Now Available in Spanish

**Helpful Resources:** Publications in Print and Materials Posted on Scouting.org

### Winter 2015

**From the National Advancement Committee:** How We Support You

**Things to Do:** Understanding the Process of Counseling

**Steps for Success:** Promoting Signs, Signals, and Codes

**Glad You Asked:** Merit Badge Myths: Fact vs. Fiction; Fulfilling More Than One Requirement with a Single Activity

**News You Can Use:** 2015 Merit Badge Updates

**Helpful Resources:** Publications in Print and Materials Posted on Scouting.org

### Spring 2015

**Things to Do:** Changes Counselors Need to Know

**News You Can Use:** Interactive Digital Pamphlets Now on Sale at ScoutStuff.org

**Steps for Success:** Be Sure to Read the Notes

**Glad You Asked:** Merit Badge Myths: Fact vs. Fiction; Completing Requirements as Stated Matters; Beekeeping— A Part of Existing Merit Badges

**Helpful Resources:** Publications in Print and Materials Posted on Scouting.org

### Summer 2015

**Things to Do:** Small Group Sessions—The Ideal Teaching Approach

**Steps for Success:** Recommending Improvements to Merit Badges

**Glad You Asked:** Merit Badge Updating Process

**News You Can Use:** Frequently Asked Questions; Updates to *Essentials of Merit Badge Counseling*

**A Peek Ahead:** Topics Planned For Next Issue

**Helpful Resources:** Publications in Print and Materials Posted on Scouting.org

### Fall 2015

**Things to Do:** Prepare for New Boy Scout Rank Requirements

**News You Can Use:** Merit Badge Updates for 2016

**Glad You Asked:** Merit Badge Myths: Fact vs. Fiction

**Steps for Success:** Requirements: More Than Mere Words

**Helpful Resources:** Publications in Print and Materials Posted on Scouting.org

One final word about this section. As always *Advancement News* remains very receptive to any suggestions for topics of general interest to MBCs. Please feel free to submit those suggestions to [advancement.team@scouting.org](mailto:advancement.team@scouting.org) for possible inclusion in future editions of *Advancement News*.

## Eagle Issues

### Eagle Scout Board of Review Celebrates a Scout's Journey



Every board of review is an important step in a youth's advancement and very useful for improving a unit's overall program. While most unit leaders are familiar with the general requirements for conducting a board of review (*Guide to Advancement*, Topic 8.0.0.0), there are some aspects of the Eagle Scout board of review (BOR) that are unique and occasionally result in misunderstandings (See "Particulars for the Eagle Scout Rank," Topic 8.0.3.0).

Eagle Scout BORs are not typically conducted at the unit level. It is the local council's responsibility to decide how Eagle Scout BORs are organized and conducted, and then to disseminate that information. However, the council must not place any responsibility on the Scout to arrange or otherwise organize his own BOR. Adult Scouters are entirely responsible for organizing each BOR; the Scout is only a participant.

For most ranks, a BOR is generally made up of three to six unit committee members. However, the membership of an Eagle Scout BOR is open to the inclusion of other community members who understand the rank and the purpose and importance of the BOR. If large numbers of Scouts are earning the Eagle Scout rank, then consideration should be given to increasing the size of the pool of individuals who serve on those BORs. Elected officials, community leaders, school officials, business leaders, and sports figures, among others, are all encouraged to participate.

Councils and districts should make every attempt to ensure that Eagle Scout BORs are conducted within two weeks of the council verifying the Eagle Scout Rank Application. Making a Scout wait longer can negatively impact his ability to earn Eagle Palms. Therefore, the BOR must not be denied or delayed due to lack of reference letters, i.e., the Scout must not be required to provide a minimum number of reference letters in order for his BOR to be held. The Scout's only responsibility is to provide contact information, or perhaps deliver a brief note to each contact. Beyond that, it is an adult responsibility to gather any references that might be submitted.

Eagle Scout BORs may be a little longer than for other ranks; however, 30 minutes should generally be sufficient for the board members to make an informed decision regarding the Scout's advancement. The board of review is intended to be a celebration of the Scout's journey, not a marathon review of that journey. Keep it light and make it fun for everyone.

### Updates in process

Both the Eagle Scout Rank Application and the ScoutNET system are in the process of being updated. This revision will reflect a number of positions that have been updated to qualify as Eagle Scout positions of responsibility. A listing follows.

In that list, please note that several are new entries in the area of Sea Scouting and Venturing. Also notice one position name change—changing Leave No Trace Trainer to Outdoor Ethics Guide.

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## Positions of Responsibility

### Boy Scouting

Troop Patrol Leader  
Troop Assistant Senior Patrol Leader  
Troop Senior Patrol Leader  
Troop Guide  
Troop Order of the Arrow Representative  
Troop Den Chief  
Troop Scribe  
Troop Librarian  
Troop Quartermaster  
Troop Webmaster  
Troop Outdoor Ethics Guide  
Troop Junior Assistant Scoutmaster  
Troop Chaplain Aide  
Troop Instructor  
Troop Historian

### Varsity Scouting

Team Captain  
Team Co-captain  
Team Program Manager  
Team Webmaster  
Team Outdoor Ethics Guide  
Team Squad Leader  
Team Secretary  
Team Librarian  
Team Historian  
Team Quartermaster  
Team Chaplain Aide  
Team Instructor  
Team Den Chief  
Team Order of the Arrow Representative

### Venturing

Crew President  
Crew Vice-president  
Crew Secretary  
Crew Historian  
Crew Den Chief  
Crew Treasurer  
Crew Guide  
Crew Quartermaster  
Crew Chaplain Aide  
Crew Outdoor Ethics Guide

### Sea Scouting

Ship Boatswain  
Ship Storekeeper  
Ship Boatswain Mate  
Ship Purser  
Ship Yeoman  
Ship Crew Leader  
Ship Media Specialist  
Ship Specialist  
Ship Den Chief  
Ship Chaplain Aide

## The Boy Scout Angle

### **January 1, 2017 All Scouts Must use New Requirements.**

In May, 2015, new requirements were released to allow unit leaders adequate time to plan their Scouts' transition. Starting in January 2017 the new requirements must be used regardless of rank.

To review Boy Scout Requirements for 2017 and beyond, visit the [Program Updates Page](#)

# Venturing

## Eighty-three Have Earned Venturing Summit Award

Since the creation of the Summit Award only two years ago, 83 intrepid Venturers have earned Venturing's pinnacle award, which is similar to that of the Eagle Scout rank for Boy Scouting or the Quartermaster Award for Sea Scouting.



To attain the Summit Award, each Venturer must first work their way up through the prerequisites and earn in sequence the Venturing, Discovery, and Pathfinder awards. The Summit Award itself then focuses on four distinct areas revolving around adventure, leadership, personal growth, and service. By design, the award is meant to challenge a Venturer, provide a mentorship opportunity for the Venturer, and personally grow the Venturer's abilities.

Both Venturing youth and adult leaders can help to support members of a Venturing crew to earn this prestigious award. Most crews provide a program structure that already fits into the awards model for Venturing. Leaders should help ensure that each award requirement is understood so that as the crew's planned program structure is carried out and individual requirements are completed, those requirements can be signed off as appropriate for each crew member in attendance. A helpful tracking template is available at

[www.scouting.org/scoutsource/Venturing/Awards.aspx](http://www.scouting.org/scoutsource/Venturing/Awards.aspx)

One recommended best practice is to review this chart or spreadsheet with each crew member periodically during the year to see what is still left to be completed.

Imagine the success of the Venturing crew with having multiple Summit Award recipients able to provide a mentorship aspect to the crew's younger members? Not only that, but it helps to keep the youth members engaged in the program, and the longer they are engaged, the longer they will remain in the program.

### 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.

## Awards (Sea Scouts)

### Quartermaster Rank Materials Updated

A critical component of completing the Quartermaster rank in Sea Scouts is the completion of a service project. Before beginning the planning process, it is recommended that the youth read the [Sea Scout Quartermaster Award Fact Sheet, 420-012](#), 2016 printing. A youth must use the [Quartermaster Leadership Service Project Workbook, 420-011](#), 2016 printing to record the progress of the project from the proposal and acquiring the necessary permissions to documenting the completion of the project.



Once all the requirements have been completed for Quartermaster Rank, the [Quartermaster Application, 320-015](#), 2016 Printing must be used. A significant change in the 2016 version of the Quartermaster Application is that the application will no longer be sent to the National Sea Scout Director's Office for approval. The application will now be sent to the [National Advancement Program Team](#) just as Eagle and Summit Award applications.



### Hear It First on Twitter

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

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

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

### Did You Receive this Tweet?

**October 18:** Advancement will be an important part of the FSB Volunteer Development Conference. Join us Jan 16-21, 2017



## From the Archives

### Advancement Committee Mechanics – Growing the District Advancement Committee

(November/December 2014)

Do you have so many people active in your district advancement committee that you cannot find jobs for all of them? Perhaps not, but most any committee can use more willing volunteers. Here is an idea that can benefit both units and districts.

Each unit should have an advancement coordinator whose primary focus is youth advancement. Their responsibilities are outlined in the *Guide to Advancement*, topic 3.0.0.3. Find out who each unit's coordinator is and make an effort to get to know them. Accomplish this not just by reading their reports, but by meeting with them to share ideas about ways the district advancement committee can help increase advancement.

Find out which issues create problems for unit coordinators, and do your best to assist. For example, help them to use the Journey to Excellence scorecard to see how they are doing, and review reports to see which boys may be lagging behind. Your local council registrar may be able to help you with statistical information to analyze these performance issues. More importantly, provide units with ideas on how to increase advancement and make sure they see you as a resource.

As you work with unit advancement coordinators, you will come to know their strengths and interests, and they will come to see the district and council advancement committees as resources they can trust. When you identify unit volunteers who have a passion for advancement, ask them to help others in the district with a specific project. Make sure it is something they can do at the district level while remaining active with the unit. In this way, we introduce them to district work without transferring their allegiance from the unit to the district.

When unit coordinators are ready to pass their advancement role on to others, consider formally inviting them to join the district or council advancement committee.

### 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 January-February

**Opportunities for Advancement Administrators:** Advancement Educational Presentations

**Cub Scout Angle:** Arrow of Light Adventures

**Counselor's Corner:** Highlights of archived Counselor's Compass publications

## Helpful Links

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

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

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

- 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 Achievement Plan](#)

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

