

Advancement News

March-April
2016

Vol. 6, No. 2

Prepared. For Life.®

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

Opportunities for Advancement Administrators

Philmont Training Center – Mechanics of Advancement in June; Advancement Issues and Solutions in August



It's time for the next *Mechanics of Advancement* conference. If you or your fellow Scouters wish you had a better understanding of how advancement should work, or want to learn how to better assist units with proper and effective advancement, the Philmont Training Center is where you should be June 12-18.



Hosted at PTC, this information-packed conference is intended for anyone involved with advancement, but is particularly directed at committee members who are new to advancement or are in need of some refreshing. Every significant aspect of advancement from Cub Scouts to Sea Scouts will be covered. The goal is to empower the participants with the ability to create an advancement environment in their districts and councils that will increase the rate of advancement and retention through proper advancement administration.

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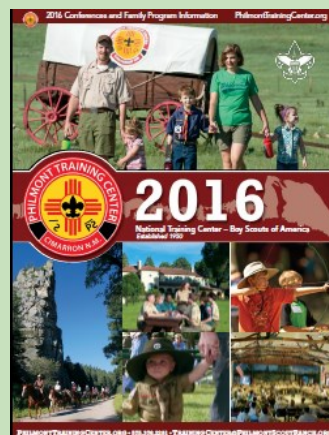
Don't Miss Out on These Great Training Opportunities in 2016!

So, what are you waiting on? Make plans now to attend this fun and exciting advancement conference at the PTC during the week of June 12-18. Better yet, bring your family with you for an unforgettable Western vacation at the Philmont Scout Ranch in New Mexico!

Can't get time off in June or maybe you are just looking for something a bit more advanced than the *Mechanics of Advancement* conference? The *Advancement Issues and Solutions* conference scheduled from July 31-August 6 at the PTC may be for you! Watch for more information about this conference in the next issue of *Advancement News*.

To get more information about either of these two great conferences now—and to sign up for one or both of them—visit <http://www.philmontscoutranch.org/PTC.aspx>

And please share the promotional flyer on page 15 of *Advancement News* at roundtables and other training events!



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The faculty for this conference will consist of members of the National Advancement Task Force and National Advancement Advisory Panel, all of whom are exceptionally experienced in advancement issues and are up to date on the latest advancement issues and trends information.



Florida Sea Base Course Comments: Mechanics of Advancement

The *Mechanics of Advancement* conference in January at the Florida Sea Base provided a great experience for Scouters. Here is just some of the feedback from the attendees of that conference:

- “Awesome instructors and really strong materials. I learned a lot from the class and my classmates.”
- “This conference surpassed my expectations.”
- “Awesome, dedicated, informative faculty with a clear passion for Scouting and their material.”
- “Best course I have ever attended”
- “Extremely well organized conference on advancement. It is obvious that a lot of time and effort were put into this.”

The next *Mechanics of Advancement* conference will be conducted at Philmont Training Center June 12-18, 2016.

On Increasing Advancement

Methods of Scouting: Eagle Scout Courts of Honor—The Difference Between the Cake and the Icing

As an advancement volunteer, it's a good idea to try to attend every Eagle Scout court of honor to which you are invited. Besides being inspired by a young man's accomplishments, you'll get to meet the unit-level volunteers who make Scouting happen. In addition, they usually serve cake!

Every meeting with unit volunteers is an opportunity to remind them that as exciting as courts of honor are, advancement is not the purpose of Scouting—it is merely one of our methods. Our aim is growth in moral strength and character; participatory citizenship; and development of physical, mental, and emotional fitness. Advancement is just one method that we use to achieve these goals. An Eagle Scout court of honor is a perfect place to remind leaders that advancement is not the cake itself, but rather the icing on the cake.

If units overemphasize advancement, they risk winding up with an unbalanced program that may be attractive to some boys in the short run, but not to all in the long run—which is what we are all about. Units should use all of the methods of Scouting to create and maintain a balanced, exciting program that will keep boys coming back for more. Advancement should follow as a natural outgrowth of the unit program, not the other way around.

A troop that sets advancement as its only goal may find that every meeting looks like a classroom with Scouts in rows of folding chairs facing someone lecturing on a subject. Scouts may lose interest, and more chairs become empty as boys drop out of Scouting.

A troop that uses a balanced approach will look different. Early in the program year, the patrol leader's council might use the **patrol method**, as well as the methods of **adult association** and **leadership development**, in deciding to attend the district first aid meet later in the year. First aid review would become a part of **patrol** meetings throughout the year, focusing on Tenderfoot through First Class first aid requirements — which adds **advancement** to the methods employed. Merit badge counselors will be recruited to help Scouts work on the First Aid merit badge, leading to a campout that incorporates first aid scenarios, designed by an assistant Scoutmaster who also is a trained EMT—thus increasing the opportunities for **adult association** and incorporating the **outdoor** method. As Scouts earn their First Aid merit badges and receive them at courts of honor, the methods of **advancement** and **uniform** take their proper places in the program. Some Scouts will continue their **personal growth** by becoming troop instructors in first aid or may even go on to become First Aid merit badge instructors at summer camp.

Thus, using a balanced approach that incorporates all of the methods of Scouting, the troop ends up with a more exciting program, which sustains and renews itself by keeping boys in Scouting longer, giving them a greater chance of growing into the men Scouting hopes they will become. Now isn't that what we're all about?

Methods of Boy Scouting

- Ideals
- Patrol Method
- Advancement
- Association with Adults
- Outdoors
- Leadership Development
- Uniform
- Personal Growth

Cyber Chip and the Scout Rank

The new **Scout rank**, effective Jan. 1, 2016, includes a requirement intended to protect youth in our ever-changing cyber-community. That new requirement (#6) calls for Scouts to “earn the Cyber Chip Award for your grade.” There are four age-appropriate Cyber Chip Awards, with content based on a Scout's grade in school.

A transitioning Webelos Scout who holds an unexpired Cyber Chip card *for his current school grade* has fulfilled this portion of the Scout rank requirement as part of the Webelos “Scouting Adventure.”



- If his Cyber Chip card is currently valid, he should simply demonstrate his knowledge to his Scoutmaster or other designated leader after joining the troop. This is not a retest. If, however, the Scout has not grasped these concepts, they may be re-viewed (based on Cyber Chip requirements for the Scout's current grade) to ensure understanding.
- All Cyber Chip Awards expire annually, so if a new Scout's Cyber Chip card for his current grade has lapsed, he simply needs to “recharge” the chip by going back to the [Netsmartz](#) Recharge area.

For a youth joining Boy Scouts who was not a Cub Scout, the Cyber Chip award to be earned depends on his school grade while working on the Scout rank. If he has already completed the 5th grade, he would complete Cyber Chip requirements for grades 6-8, as would a Boy Scout joining in the 6th through 8th grade. If a youth joins Boy Scouts in the 9th through 12th grade, he would complete Cyber Chip requirements for grades 9-12.

Since technology and youth development are always changing, the Cyber Chip requirement must be completed again by all Boy Scouts for the Star rank regardless of any prior work. Which Cyber Chip Award requirements are to be completed for the Star rank likewise depends on that Scout's current grade in school.

Note that there is a *very limited exception* to the Cyber Chip requirements . . . “if your family does not have internet access at home AND you do not have ready internet access at school or another public place or via a mobile device, the Cyber Chip portion of the requirement may be waived by your Scoutmaster in consultation with your parent or guardian.” In that event, it is understood that the Scout does not have Internet access and does not have the ability to be online.

Internet Safety Pledge (for Cub Scouts)

1. I will tell my trusted adult if anything makes me feel sad, scared, confused, or uncomfortable.
2. I will ask my trusted adult before posting photos or sharing information like my name, address, current locations, or phone number.
3. I won't meet face-to-face with anyone I meet in the digital world.
4. I will respect the online property of others.
5. I will always use good “netiquette” and not be rude or mean online.

Internet Safety Pledge (for Boy Scouts)

1. I will think before I post
2. I will respect other people online
3. I will respect digital media ownership
4. I won't meet face-to-face with anyone I meet in the digital world unless I have my parent's permission
5. I will protect myself online.

From the *Guide to Advancement*

Advancement in Camp Settings: Feedback is a Gift—Use It

As council program and advancement committees begin formulating plans for the coming summer, it's a good time to review *Guide to Advancement* (GTA) topic 5.0.1.0, "Advancement in Camp Settings." Particular attention should be paid to the newly added item 11 under topic 5.0.1.2: "Collecting and making use of feedback on camp advancement program quality."

Reviewing the guidelines and procedural examples in this section will help key council volunteers and staff advisors to improve the quality of their advancement delivery system in camp settings, often by avoiding the trap of blindly continuing ineffective or unproductive activities or practices merely because "that's the way we do things here." Perhaps it is time to consider culling some of those traditions that may not be as effective as they were in the past.

Start by going to the files and reexamining last year's camper and staff evaluations—with an eye toward what you want to improve, what you want to drop, and what you want to keep intact. Applying Scouting's classic "Start-Stop-Continue" approach should lead you toward even better programs and delivery methods this year.

If you don't have files like these, plan to start them this year. Meanwhile, consider other feedback resources available. For example, evaluate the percentages of overall Cub Scout day camp attendance, Scout long-term camp rank advancements, or merit badges earned. Consider contacting last year's key staffers by email or phone for brief interviews, as well as camp and area directors. In all interviews, focus on what they would "Start, Stop, or Continue" by stressing you need their "boots-on-the-ground" perspective on what to "Keep, Improve, Fix, or Drop," even—and especially—if the thing that needs to be stopped or dropped can only be justified by asserting, "That's the way we do things here."

If the entire advancement committee shares this responsibility, the work will be light. Then bring whatever outside feedback you have gathered to your own roundtable and brainstorming session. You don't need statisticians; simply share the learnings around the conference table. Remember that your end-goal is to make the best decisions possible to improve your summer camp's programs for the Scouts.

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.

The Cub Scout Angle

The Blue and Gold Banquet – A Checkpoint for Advancement



The 106th anniversary of the Boy Scouts of America was on February 8, 2016. Many of our Cub Scout packs celebrated with birthday bashes most commonly known as blue and gold banquets. These special events bring families together for an evening of fellowship and well-deserved leader recognition.

Many packs traditionally award rank advancements to their members at their “blue and golds.” These events are especially appropriate for recognizing those Webelos Scouts who achieved their Arrow of Light Awards and will be crossing over into Boy Scouting. The impressive ceremonies that recognize their achievements should encourage every boy in the pack to follow in their footsteps.

While many packs target their blue and gold banquet for awarding the boys’ new badge of rank, there is no requirement to advance by an arbitrary date such as a blue and gold banquet. In fact, under the new adventures program, it is not always an achievable goal.

A Scout who entered the program as a new Cub Scout at round-up time in September will not have had the same opportunities for completing adventures as a Scout who transitioned to his new den at the end of the last school year. When leaders follow the rank-specific den leader guides, a Cub Scout will accomplish one adventure per month. If he begins in September, that means only five or six of the seven required adventures will be completed by the beginning of February—not quite enough to achieve rank. Likewise, packs that move boys through the program according to their birthdays will find it unrealistic for every boy to achieve rank by February.

The blue and gold banquet provides a good checkpoint for evaluating youth’s advancement progress. Leaders should continue to guide and support any boys (or dens) who are still working on rank requirements after the blue and gold banquet, encouraging them to complete their rank by the end of the school year. However, remember to keep things in balance. Advancement is just one of the methods of Scouting we use to achieve Scouting’s aims and desired outcomes and should not detract from the overall mission of Boy Scouts of America.



Eagle Issues

Eagle Scout Rank Applications: Local Forms NOT Authorized



Guide to Advancement topic 9.0.1.3 says that Scouts must complete the official Eagle Scout Rank Application (No. 512-728), and specifically states “No other form or application method is permitted.”

Some councils and districts have created special worksheets or spreadsheets with the intent of making improvements to the rank application process locally. Sometimes these sheets are used to generate “pseudo applications” when certain data is entered. Rather than simplify the process, this approach can create its own problems and can even require significant additional effort by the Scout and his leaders. Some specific problems with this approach include:

- The official application changes from time to time, and it may be difficult to ensure that a locally generated form remains current with those changes.
- Locally generated worksheets or spreadsheets do not have direct access to ScoutNET, so it is not possible to verify the information being included. Verification still must be done at the council office.
- Entering the data into a different system is redundant and time consuming. Not only that, but some spreadsheets can be fairly complex and daunting to work with, and often require additional work that has limited value.

Council advancement committees are responsible for ensuring that proper procedures are followed for every rank advancement or merit badge awarded, in particular the caution against adding or subtracting requirements locally. Requiring a Scout to use special worksheets and include paper or electronic copies of them locally is adding to requirements, which is not allowed. Every Scout should use the official Eagle Scout Rank Application (No. 512-728), and **only** that official application.

Advancement committees at every level should make every effort to minimize and simplify the processing of Eagle applications. Take a critical look at each step in your process and ask, “Is this really necessary? Does this step truly provide a significant value for the effort involved?” If not, then perhaps the step should be eliminated. This approach will benefit the Scout, his unit, and the council by eliminating unproductive work.

Downloading the Eagle Scout Service Project Workbook

Visit: www.scouting.org/Home/BoyScouts/AdvancementandAwards/EagleWorkbookProcedures.aspx

This workbook is not to be opened in a browser (i.e., Internet Explorer, Google Chrome, Firefox, Safari, etc.) or in programs such as Nuance PDF Converter. The workbook must be **saved to your computer** and opened with **Adobe Reader 9 or later**.

Select PC or Mac and follow the specific directions to correctly download the ESSPBW to your computer. This workbook is not compatible with any mobile devices (Smart phones, tablets, iPads, etc.).

Merit Badges: Enhancing Our Youth's Competitive Edge

Merit Badge Maintenance Task Force On the Job

With over 135 merit badges, the Merit Badge Maintenance Task Force takes its job very seriously! Their number one job is to keep the merit badge program vibrant, interesting, current and fun for our Scouts. Scouts will, of course, ultimately learn something along the way. They benefit, not only from the knowledge they acquire, but achieve personal growth as participants in the entire merit badge process. Learning how to associate properly with adults will strengthen social skills within a safe environment.

For all of this to work, each merit badge needs to tweak the inquisitive minds of our Scouts. Your help is always welcome. If you have a suggestion or comment regarding a merit badge requirement or information within a current pamphlet, please share your thoughts at merit.badge@scouting.org.

Recent Merit Badge Changes

Changes were recently announced for some very popular merit badges as a direct result of feedback from leaders across the country.

Cooking

For years, Scout leaders reported that there was not enough “cooking” in the Cooking merit badge, and it did not adequately represent all types of cooking. In 2014, the badge became an Eagle Scout-required badge once again, and these concerns were addressed. Almost immediately, feedback began to come in from leaders saying that although the new requirements were a great improvement, perhaps they went overboard. The badge had become more technical and science-oriented and the requirements could be better organized. The Merit Badge Maintenance Task Force heard you and got to work. In a very unusual move, an update was released this year to help our Scouts earn the badge without losing the original intent of the improvements. REMEMBER... A Scout can continue to use the older requirements should he choose to, or he can switch to the new. The choice is his. Both sets of requirements can be found at www.scouting.org/meritbadges.aspx.



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Managing Subscriptions to *Advancement News*

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

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

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

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

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

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

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Lifesaving

Several requirements were rewritten to reinforce safety and to clarify for Scouts and counselors what is expected. The pamphlet has greatly been improved with new text and photos.



Snow Sports

Scouts have previously been able to earn this badge by demonstrating their skills in skiing or snowboarding. Now, they will also be able to do so with a third option--snowshoeing. Many Scouts participate in snowshoeing at camp, and now they can earn Snow Sports merit badge by doing so.

You should always check for the most current and accurate merit badge requirements at:

www.scouting.org/MeritBadges.aspx

Awards and Recognitions

Cub Scouts Shooting Sports Awards – Take Aim at New Fun!

Cub Scout Shooting Sports Awards are here! To discover the new opportunities, visit the [Program Updates](http://scouting.org/programupdates) web page (scouting.org/programupdates), and see the details for the inclusion of BB guns, archery, and slingshots in Cub Scout programs.

These programs may only be conducted at a district or council level and by qualified range masters and supervisors. Boys will earn the shooting sports awards in a particular order:

1. Rank-level patch. Choose a discipline: BB gun, archery, or slingshot. Complete the Level 1 requirements for that discipline.
2. Discipline device (pin). Complete the Level 2 requirements for the same discipline in which the patch was earned.
3. Additional discipline devices. Earn pins for the remaining disciplines by completing the Level 1 and Level 2 requirements in those disciplines. (Note: Both Level 1 and Level 2 requirements must be completed for each successive discipline.)

SHOOTING SPORTS AWARDS



SHOOTING SPORTS AWARD PINS



Find the Cub Scout Shooting Sports Awards Requirements at

www.scouting.org/filestore/program_update/pdf/510-320_WEB.pdf

Special Needs

Youth with ADHD: Useful Tips for Scout Parents

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 youth 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.

The BSA’s National Disabilities Awareness Task Force provides some tips to share with parents of Scouts with ADHD:

1. If your Scout has ADHD, let your Scout leader know. Tell him or her what works well **and** what does **not** help.
2. If your Scout takes medication to help him focus at school, it may also help him focus better during Scout activities. You may want to discuss this issue with your Scout’s physician.
3. Make sure your Scout knows that his medication is meant to help him *focus*, not to make him behave or “be good.”
4. Be sure to tell the Scout leader what your son’s needs are, whether he is going on a day trip, a weekend camping trip, or a week at summer camp. There are many things the leader can do to help your Scout be successful and have fun—if he or she is informed.
5. Consider getting trained to be a Scout leader yourself.

Note: Medications are a serious concern for Scout leaders. The following guidance is provided from **Guide to Safe Scouting**: “Prescription medication is the responsibility of the individual taking the medication and/or that individual’s parent or guardian. A leader, after obtaining all necessary information, can agree to accept the responsibility of making sure a Scout takes the necessary medication at the appropriate time, but the BSA does not mandate or necessarily encourage the leader to do so.” Also, “if state laws are more limiting, they must be followed.”

Tips for Scout Leaders of Youth with ADHD:

The National Disabilities Awareness Task Force further provides some tips for Scout leaders:

1. Try to let the Scout who has ADHD know ahead of time what is expected. When activities are long or complicated, it may help to write down a list of smaller steps.
2. Repeat directions one-on-one when necessary, or assign a more mature buddy to help him get organized.
3. Compliment the Scout whenever you find a genuine opportunity.
4. Provide frequent breaks and opportunities for Scouts to move around actively but purposefully. It is NOT helpful to keep Scouts with ADHD so active that they are exhausted, however.

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5. When you must redirect a Scout, do so in private, in a calm voice, **unless safety is at risk**
6. Whenever possible, sandwich correction between two positive comments.
7. Be aware of early warning signs, such as fidgety behavior, that may indicate the Scout is losing impulse control. When this happens, try a **private, nonverbal signal** or **proximity control** (move close to the Scout) to alert him that he needs to focus.
8. During active games and transition times, be aware when a Scout is starting to become more impulsive or aggressive.
9. Expect the Scout with ADHD to follow the same rules as other Scouts. ADHD is **NOT** an excuse for uncontrolled behavior.
10. Offer feedback and redirection in a way that is respectful and that does not embarrass the Scout. When Scouts are treated with respect, they are more likely to respect the authority of the Scout leader.
11. **Keep cool!** Don't take challenges personally. Scouts with ADHD want to be successful, but they need support, positive feedback, and clear limits.
12. Find out about medical needs. Make sure you have what your council requires to ensure the Scout's medical needs can be met, **or** have the parent come along.
13. Offer opportunities for purposeful movement, such as leading cheers, performing in skits, assisting with demonstrations, or teaching outdoor skills to younger Scouts. This may improve focus, increase self-confidence, and benefit the pack or troop as a whole
14. Scouts with ADHD are generally energetic, enthusiastic, and bright. Many have unique talents as well. Help them use their strengths to become leaders in your troop.

For more information on working with Scouts with disabilities, subscribe to "**Abilities Digest**," the quarterly newsletter of the National Disabilities Awareness Task Force. To subscribe, send a message to disabilities.awareness@scouting.org, with "SUBSCRIBE" in the subject line. Indicate your name, email address, and council in the message text.



From the Archives

Advancement Committee Mechanics: Sources for the Recruitment of District Advancement Committee Members

(February 2012)

In the October and November [2011] issues of *Advancement News*, we presented articles on how the membership of a council or district advancement committee might look. These articles discussed the needs for large “healthy” committees and even suggested a 12-person (minimum) membership list for a council advancement committee. A reference to topics 3.0.0.0–3.0.0.4 in the *Guide to Advancement* was also cited to help readers further learn about establishing these committees. But what about makeup of the district advancement committee, and how might you go about recruiting the diversity of volunteers for the team?

The question then arises, “Where do districts look to recruit the array of talent needed for their advancement committee?” The first place to start the search would be where advancement is successfully occurring: in the units with the highest rates of advancement. Those monthly advancement reports from the council advancement committee will really help. If districts were to rank their packs and troops by advancement earned per Scout, they might identify not only where to find “best practices” ideas but also identify the outstanding unit volunteers who make this happen and who might also be a good fit for a district committee assignment.

Another tip is to monitor the record of Tour Plans filed with the council. A little research here will point out those units with above-average programs that have calendars filled with high adventure treks, a high level of participation at council events, etc. This undoubtedly leads to higher advancement numbers. These units may be a source of quality advancement committee prospects.

Outside of the unit there are a number of other resources for advancement committee recruitment. Savvy roundtable commissioners and unit commissioners can always have an eye out for and an ear tuned in for that undiscovered assistant Scoutmaster or den leader who exhibits a talent for the advancement process and mission. Veteran Eagle Scouts, merit badge counselors who express an interest in doing more, and former summer camp staffers all are good prospects. Utilizing the approach outlined in *Friendstorming On Tour*, No. 510-003, has been proven to be effective, as well. And finally, parents. Don’t forget the parents. Many just have to be asked to help.

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

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 May-June

Opportunities for Advancement Administrators: What Happens During a Week at Philmont Training Center?

The Cub Scout Angle: District Committee Support

From the *Guide to Advancement*: Training is the Foundation for Successful Advancement Leadership



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. 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.

Did You Receive these Tweets?

January 19: Update to “Getting the Most from Internet Advancement” PPT is now posted: www.scouting.org/Home/BoyScouts/Resources/advancement_presentations.aspx

February 3: Ready...Aim...Fire! Announcing the New Cub Scout Shooting Sports Awards! www.scouting.org/programupdates

February 21: Snowshoeing joins downhill skiing, cross country skiing, and snowboarding as a 4th option to the Snow Sports MB. blog.scoutingmagazine.org/2016/02/10/theres-now-a-fourth-way-to-earn-snow-sports-merit-badge

February 21: Have you seen the new 2016 requirements for Cooking, Photography, and Lifesaving merit badges? www.scouting.org/MeritBadges.

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.

[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](#)

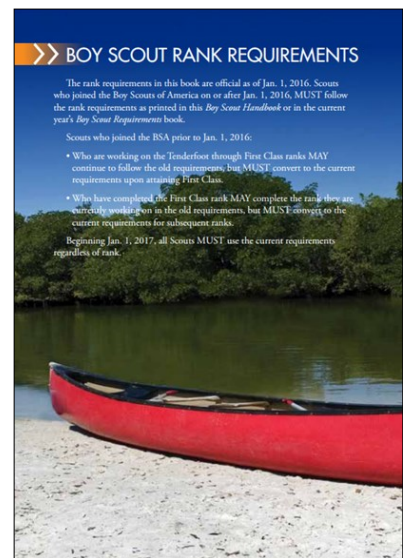
[Individual Scout Achievement Plan](#)

[Lone Scout Friend and Counselor Guidebook](#)

NEW:

[2016 Boy Scout Rank Requirements](#)

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





Philmont Training Center 2016

Mechanics of Advancement

June 12-18, 2016

The Philmont Training Center will host the 2016 **Mechanics of Advancement** conference for unit, district, and council volunteers and professionals June 12-18, 2016.



This course is a **must** for new advancement administrators or those just in need of a refresher on advancement procedures. Conference attendees will gain an in-depth understanding of the essentials of advancement and an appreciation for the rationale behind the policies and procedures governing it. Group discussions will focus on effective ways to resolve the related issues and challenges that arise. Presentations will come from members of the National Advancement Task Force and its Advisory Panel.

Advancement Issues and Solutions

July 31- August 6, 2016

If you are an experienced volunteer advancement administrator, consider taking your game to the next level at the Philmont “Advancement Issues and Solutions” conference. This case study-based conference is designed for unit, district, and council advancement coordinators, chairs, committee members, and staff advisors. If that’s you, start making plans now to take advantage of this opportunity to share ideas with other committed advancement administrators at Scouting’s premier destination.

Conference participants will not only learn about the latest updates on advancement issues, but more important, they will analyze, discuss, and solve case studies similar to those regularly dealt with by the National Advancement Team and Task Force and its Eagle Issues Task Force. The result will be a better understanding of the effective use of the *Guide to Advancement* and also the confidence to handle difficult issues at the council level.



Share the beautiful Philmont Scout Ranch with your family and new Scouting friends from across America.

For more information on conferences and family programs, see www.PhilmontTrainingCenter.org.

Register at www.philmonttrainingcenter.org and click the “Register For PTC 2016” button.