

Advancement News

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Prepared. For Life.®

Previous issues are available at <https://www.scouting.org/programs/boy-scouts/advancement-and-awards/advancement-news/>

Opportunities for Advancement Administrators

Philmont Training Center—July 2019: A Report

The Mechanics of Advancement and Scout Troop Advancement conferences held the week of July 21 - 26 were a resounding success. For much of the time, the conferences were held jointly to facilitate stronger group interactions. There is no better learning environment than the Philmont Training Center for Scouters to get together to study the intricacies of advancement at the council, district, and unit level. Thirteen participants and faculty spent the week in and out of the classroom studying advancement while also learning about some of the behind the scenes activities that keep the Philmont Scout Ranch operating. Participants also had plenty of free time for exploring historical sites around the PTC, including the new National Scouting Museum.



Topics covered during the course included the BSA's mission and aims and how to go about achieving them, and how to use the *Guide to Advancement* to improve a unit's programs. Also covered were the duties and responsibilities of council and district advancement committees, how to improve the effectiveness of the unit advancement coordinator, the mechanics of advancement for troops, crews, and ships, the merit badge program and

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the roles and responsibilities of merit badge counselors, organizing and conducting boards of review, Eagle Scout rank processes and procedures, and there even was a valuable live demonstration of Scoutbook.

While participants and faculty were all excited to be sharing their time in a great learning and educational environment, the focus of the conference week was discussing these important topics. Of equal importance was the opportunity to make new friends with other advancement administrators and share ideas for improving the advancement programs in their home councils. Participant comments expressed, reflected this value-added benefit:

- "training at Philmont is the best"
- "no matter how many times I come to Philmont, I always learn something new"
- "I have friends in my council that could benefit from attending this course"
- "our instructors were very informative and engaging"
- "I want to go back to Philmont, again."

Florida Sea Base Opportunities – January, 2020

2020 presents an amazing opportunity with an amazing venue for amazing learning and fun in the beautiful Florida Keys in January. The Mechanics of Advancement course will be offered January 19-25, 2020. More than just a training course, this week brings fellowship, friendships, and did we mention an amazing place for you (and your spouse) to start the new year?

The Mechanics of Advancement course itself is a MUST for advancement administrators in units, districts, and councils. Volunteers or professionals alike who are new to advancement procedures or just in need of a refresher will gain an in-depth understanding of the essentials of advancement and an appreciation for the rationale behind the policies and procedures governing them. Group discussions will focus on effective ways to resolve the related issues and challenges that arise on a regular basis. Staff members are very well-versed in advancement issues and have a full understanding of the *Guide to Advancement*.

Registration is now available <https://laserfiche.scouting.org/Forms/2020-Florida-Sea-Base-Volunteer-Conferences2>



Registration details for this and other FSB courses may be found on the Florida Sea Base informational flyer at the end of this edition of *Advancement News* (pages 16– 17)

Advancement Educational Materials Analysis

Thanks to the very hard work of our national information technology staff, in coordination with the national advancement team, analysis of advancement educational materials viewed can now be tracked on a monthly and yearly basis. A review of the number of times each of our current advancement educational PowerPoints are accessed, enables us to view which educational materials are in demand and needed by our councils and districts, and which educational materials are less needed. These evaluations allow the national advancement team to set priorities for updating materials, possible elimination of some materials, and for developing new educational information.

A review of the first six months of the 2019 Scouting year (February – July), indicate that advancement materials were accessed over 4,700 times. The top six, most popular advancement educational materials, representing 67% of accesses, were: The Essentials of Merit Badge Counseling; Introduction to the *Guide to Advancement*; The Merit Badge Program; Today's Advancement; The Eagle Scout Service Project Coach; and Effective Troop Advancement.

For the same period, the five least accessed advancement materials, representing 6.2 % of accesses, were: Judgement Calls; The Eagle Scout Application Process; The Eagle Scout Board of Review; Boards of Review Under Disputed Circumstances; and Boards of Review Appeals.

The data suggests we are working hard to train our volunteers on the advancement processes early on, thus reducing the need for training on the remedial aspects of advancement.

Further analysis will be conducted as we move through the remainder of 2019.

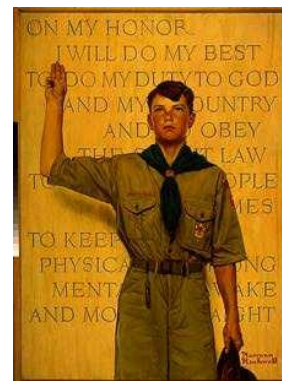
On Increasing Advancement

Using Leadership Development In Your Scouting Program

Every Scouting activity moves and motivates our youth toward our basic aims of character development, citizenship training, leadership development, and personal and mental fitness. We achieve mission fulfillment using the methods of Scouting. These methods are: Scouting's ideals, the patrols and the patrol method, the outdoors, advancement, personal growth, adult association, leadership development and the uniform. These methods are not goals by themselves. They are methods we use that work together to reinforce and enhance each other.

Many of us spend a lifetime learning to take responsibility for the activities in our lives. Through the magic of our Scouting programs, we teach our Scouts to take responsibility for their activities. Taking responsibility is called leadership, and leadership is about both following and leading. Scouting's lessons in leadership begin in the Cub Scout program.

Cub Scouts learn how to be good followers in den meetings where they learn to work and have fun in groups. Each Cub Scout also gets an introduction to leadership, often by doing things like being a denner or assistant denner, or leading the recitation of the Scout Oath and Scout Law or the Pledge of Allegiance.



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After crossing over into a troop as a patrol member, the youth's chances to be a good follower continue, but the chances to exercise leadership increase with every passing day. Initially, a Scout may be assigned the task of planning, cooking, and cleaning up after the patrol's campout meal. In time, that Scout gets increased responsibility as assistant patrol leader; patrol leader, and later in additional troop positions of responsibility. As a member of the Patrol Leaders Council (PLC), the Scout will then become responsible for planning and leading the program for their patrol or troop. Outside of the troop - on camp staff and in the Order of the Arrow - other opportunities for increased leadership will open up. Thus, the Scouting program provides leadership learning experiences that progress from Tiger until the Scout ages out of the program.

Making appropriate youth leadership opportunities a part of the unit's program, from Cub Scouts through Venturing, will increase advancement and keep Scouts in Scouting longer. We will thus fulfill our mission. Now, isn't that what we're all about?

From the *Guide to Advancement*

Volunteer Recognition

Human beings of all ages love recognition. We might not always want to admit it, or we might think some recognitions are silly, but we still want to be recognized for a good effort or a job well done. Research and leadership theory backs that up.

- The Gallup Organization says one of the most important elements of a successful team is when a member answers "Yes" to "Have I received recognition or praise for doing good work?"(1)
- One favorite learning organization, the Disney Institute, says: "Recognition can be empowering, often propelling people to higher levels of engagement." (2)
- The psychology blog *Exploring Your Mind* says, "If we are recognized and respected, our self-esteem blossoms. But be careful! Just as we accept it, it is also essential to know how to offer recognition to others."(3)

Baden-Powell recognized the value and importance of recognition for youth, e.g., badges of merit, as well as adults, e.g., a wooden bead on a leather thong, in Scouting from its earliest days. The founders of the Boy Scouts of America followed this concept, too.

Most of us are well aware of the elements and importance of youth recognition, but at times we forget the value of adult recognition. As advancement and recognition leaders we really need to make an effort to recognize our volunteers for their efforts. And, since many volunteers are not seeking recognition, other volunteers might have to be the ones who *make* it happen rather than let it happen or hope it happens.

Recognition is the "psychic paycheck" we seek when we volunteer. It keeps volunteers motivated and, in the case of recognition for units such as the Journey to Excellence, it helps to promote a good feeling among Scouts, leaders, parents, and the chartered organization regarding their Scouting program: "WE are a Gold JTE Unit!"

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- Do you make sure training and service awards are applied for and presented to deserving Scouters in your unit or units?
- Do you have an intentional plan for soliciting nominations for the District Award of Merit, Silver Beavers, and even Silver Antelopes, and Distinguished or Outstanding Eagle Scout Awards?
- Do you present some of these awards in public, or do you present them in private? Or worse – by mail? Banquets, pack meetings, courts of honor, and service area meetings are great venues for recognition. Use them or create events in your service area to facilitate recognition.

Furthermore, when volunteers who contribute in an outstanding way are recognized, we as advancement and recognition leaders who helped to make it possible, feel good too. We might not be the ones who get that certificate or square knot, but we know we played a role in making sure the right person did – and in seeing the good that will likely happen in the future because of the recognition.

Section 3.0.0.0 of the *Guide to Advancement* has some points on how you can recognize youth and volunteers. You can also find valuable information about the multitude of BSA awards available on [Scouting.org](https://www.scouting.org) on the Advancement and the Awards-Central pages.

Make sure you remember to recognize!

* * * * *

(1)*The Elements of Great Managing*, James K. Harter and Rodd Wagner, Gallup Press, 2006
<https://news.gallup.com/businessjournal/28270/The-Fourth-Element-of-Great-Managing.aspx>

(2)“Celebrate The Everyday And Beyond: The Value Of Consistent Recognition In The Workplace”; Disney Institute Blog, 2016
<https://www.disneyinstitute.com/blog/celebrate-the-everyday-and-beyond-the-value-of/>

(3)“The Need for Recognition, Cornerstone of Self-Esteem”; Exploring Your Mind, 2016
<https://exploringyourmind.com/need-recognition-cornerstone-self-esteem/>

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.

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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.

Cub Scouts BSA

Cub Scout Advancement 2019: A Useful Primer/Refresher

As the new program year begins, packs everywhere will be welcoming brand-new families into Scouting. It is always good to review how the advancement process works so we can help our families and volunteers to build a successful program.

All Cub Scouts complete several adventures to earn their advancement. With the exception of Lions, the [Advancement Trail](#) includes a combination of required and elective adventures. Cub Scouts complete the minimum number of required and elective adventures to earn their badge of rank. In addition, they may also choose to complete any number of elective adventures, for which there is no limit!



- The **Lion** program serves our kindergarten youth. Lions work with an adult partner to complete five adventures. Current resources for the Lion program are found [here](#).

- The **Tiger** program serves youth in the first grade. Tigers work with an adult partner to complete seven Adventures. Six are required and one is chosen from the available electives in the handbook or from the [Preview Adventures](#). Current resources for Tigers are found [here](#).



- Second graders work toward the **Wolf** rank. Wolves earn their rank by completing seven Adventures with six required and one elective. The elective Adventure is chosen from the those available in the handbook or from the [Preview Adventures](#). Current resources for Wolves can be found [here](#).

- Third graders work toward the **Bear** rank. Bears earn their rank by completing seven Adventures. Six are required and one is an elective. The elective Adventure is chosen from those available in the handbook or from the [Preview Adventures](#). Current resources for Bears can be found [here](#).



- **Webelos** are in the fourth grade. Their rank is earned by completing six adventures with five required and one elective. The elective adventure is chosen from those available in the handbook or from the [Preview Adventures](#). There is also an “active member” component. Resources can be found [here](#).



- **Arrow of Light** is the final rank in the Cub Scout program and is designed for youth in fifth grade. Rank is earned by completing four required Adventures and one elective. The elective Adventure is chosen from those available in the handbook or from the [Preview Adventures](#). In addition, there is an “active member” requirement. Resources can be found [here](#).



Every Cub Scout, except for Lions, earn their Bobcat award in their first year. First graders who began their journey as Lions will earn their Bobcat as Tigers. Additionally, all Cub Scouts will spend time with their parent or guardian to complete the exercises found in the *How to Protect Your Children From Child Abuse: A Parent's Guide*. Cub Scouts in ranks other than Lion may choose to earn their Cyber Chip or complete the [Protect Yourself Rules](#) Preview Adventure.

Den Leader Scoutbook Aid For Planning Available

As mentioned in the last edition of *Advancement News*, a valuable tool for support of Cub Scout den leaders is now available in Scoutbook. Available only on [Scoutbook](#) for registered den leaders, the new feature will provide everything those leaders need to start delivering the Cub Scout program.

The first version of this new feature provides den leaders a predetermined order of den meetings that when completed will advance their den to their rank. These resources include photos, videos, and direct den leaders to other resources to ensure a quality program. Use of the den meeting plans will help den leaders conduct their meetings more easily. The goal is to make delivering the Cub Scout program easier for new and experienced den leaders alike as well as ease record keeping chores. When meetings are completed, the den leader takes attendance which then automatically updates completed requirements in Scoutbook. Other time-saving features include connection with parents on their child's progress at the meeting, as well as notification of what was missed if they were unable to attend.

Scouts BSA

Planning for an Advancement Plan

Summer Camp is concluded. School begins in August or September. The year ahead for Scouts BSA members holds opportunities galore. Now is the time to assemble the Patrol Leader's Council and review the calendar for the upcoming year with an eye to building advancement into the program ahead.



- Scouts will want to take stock of the merit badges which they were not able to complete at camp. With the advice of senior troop members and the advancement chair, merit badge counselors will be identified so that Scouts and Scoutmasters can have that information in hand when they are ready to complete the missing requirements.
- Rank requirements can be evaluated to be sure the plan-ahead has chances for service projects that will fit every rank need of the Scouts.
- Time constraints are evaluated and noted for those requirements which must take place over an extended period of time, along with critical deadlines.
- Positions of responsibility opportunities are presented to allow all ranks to fulfill this need for rank advancement at every level.
- Den Chief opportunities are identified. Coordination with the local packs will provide the ability for the Scouts to share their knowledge with younger Cub Scouts after taking the Den Chief Training offered in the local district or council.

With all the needs of the Scouts identified, the Patrol Leader's Council can use the information to schedule hikes, camping adventures, troop outings and trips, plus shared leadership for all troop members to be able to fulfill advancement needs.

Eagle, Summit, Quartermaster Highlights



An Eagle Candidate's Statement of Ambitions and Life Purpose - A Time for Reflection

One aspect of the Eagle Scout Rank Application process that causes concern and is subject to misinterpretation is the necessity for the Scout to attach "...a statement of your ambitions and life purpose and a listing of positions...." Attaching this statement is a part of the application process.

There are no set standards as to how this statement should be prepared. We simply ask for this statement along with a listing of positions held in this Scout's religious institution, school, camp, community, or other organizations, during which they have demonstrated leadership skills, and any honors and awards they may have received during this service. It is not for the unit leaders to tell the Scout what their life's ambitions are or how they should state them. What the Scout chooses to say and how they choose to say it is entirely up to them. While Scouts may ask a leader to review their statement and solicit their advice, it is not required that they do so. In fact, too much "guidance or direction" from adults may result in Scouts not writing what they want to say but rather what they think we want them to say.

To avoid this, councils, districts, units, or individuals are reminded that they must not add any requirements or expectations for submitting this statement. They must not require this statement to

- be typed. Legibility is important but it is not required that the statement be typed. The Scout is not going to be graded on the quality of their statement nor can it be a factor in deciding whether or not to advance the Scout to Eagle rank.
- be a minimum length. Length is left up to the Scout. A Scout may be able to clearly answer the question with just a few sentences or a couple of paragraphs. Requiring a minimum length simply results in the Scout adding unnecessary "puff" to meet the minimum document size. The statement is not about detailed future plans but rather about vision. Where do the Scouts see themselves heading in the future? Short explanations are better.
- be submitted for review by the unit leader or anyone else before the board of review. The Scout only needs to attach this statement to the rank application – everything else is left up to the members of the board of review.
- be required to participate in the candidate's unit leader conference. Neither the rank application nor this statement can be a prerequisite to conducting the unit leader conference. See *Guide to Advancement* topic 4.2.3.5

The purpose of including this statement with the rank application is not to create a document that will guide the Scouts for the rest of their lives. Chances are pretty good that most of the Scouts really don't have a carefully thought out idea of what their future might hold. Rather it is intended as an opportunity for the Scout to consider, perhaps for their first time, their thoughts about where their life MIGHT lead them and some of the things they hope to do on their journey.

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Another important purpose for this statement is that it helps the board of review members to get know the candidate a little better. By listing leadership positions they may have held outside of Scouting, and honors and awards they received for this service, board members can readily see that skills acquired in Scouting have taken hold. The board members can use it as a jumping-off point to ask more meaningful questions during their time together to learn more about what interests the Scout in and out of Scouting after becoming an Eagle Scout.

Preparation of this statement is not another test for a Scout to pass to earn the Eagle Scout rank. Don't make it one more hurdle that they must overcome before they can advance. The advancement hurdles are behind them. Taking the time to think about their future is much more important than what they actually say.



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. 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.

Did You Receive This Tweet?

August 26, 2019 – Registration for the Mechanics of Advancement Course at the Florida Sea Base is now available at <https://laserfiche.scouting.org/Forms/2020-Florida-Sea-Base-Volunteer-Conferences2> ... Register now and bring the family!



Merit Badges

Plan Ahead for Merit Badge Counselors to Serve Scouts

The end of summer and preparation of troop meeting plans for the year ahead go hand in hand. With that there will be a need to discover if there are particular merit badges that youth in the BSA troop have specific wishes.

Earning merit badges is an important part of the advancement process for Scouts. They meet with the Scoutmaster or designee to discuss the merit badge they wish to explore, receive the blue card for recording their progress and importantly, contact information for a qualified merit badge counselor. After a few words of encouragement and wisdom, they are on to the adventure.

Scoutmasters (or designated troop leadership) share counselor information, for a council pre-approved individual, along with instructions to ensure safety of the Scouts participating.

To qualify as a merit badge counselor, a volunteer must:

1. Must be registered as an adult BSA leader (submit a BSA adult application for the position of merit badge counselor which does not require payment of membership fees.)
2. Must complete YPT (Youth Protection Training) within two years and keep YPT current at all times.

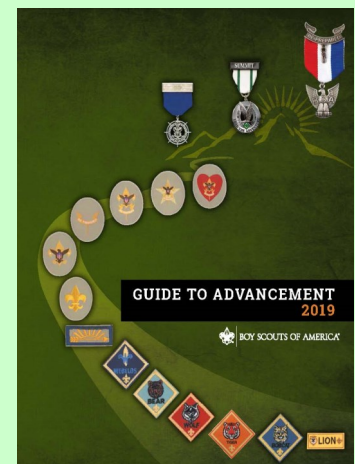
Additionally, a merit badge counselor needs to be:

- Be at least 18 years old
- Be of good character
- Recognized as having skills and education in the subject area
- Have a good rapport with leaders and Scout-age youth

Of special importance is the need for two deep leadership whenever a Scout is in a merit badge counselor interchange situation. The merit badge counselor may have the parent serve as the second adult. Of special importance in 2019 and beyond is that when the Scout is female, one of the adults must be a registered female leader over the age of 21. Please refer to the *Guide to Safe Scout* (<https://www.scouting.org/health-and-safety/gss/gss01/>)

New merit badge counselors are encouraged to review the Advancement Educational Presentation *The Essentials of Merit Badge Counseling* (<https://www.scouting.org/programs/scouts-bsa/resources/advancement-presentations/>).

Additional details related to the Merit Badge program may be found in the [Guide to Advancement](#), Section 7



Special Needs Interests

Advancement Help May Be “Right Down the Street”

One of the most frequently asked question the National Special Needs and Disabilities Committee receives from leaders and parents is: where do I go for help with advancement for my special needs Scout? Well, the best answer may be right down the street at the Scout’s school. In fact, meeting with your Scout’s school’s special education or reading specialist teacher could be the best answer, as well.

These teachers work daily with students who have disabilities and they know the challenges and needs of these individuals. Most Scouts who are in a special education program may have an ‘IEP’, or Individualized Education Program. The IEP is a written document that is developed for each school child who is eligible for special education. It is created through a team effort and reviewed at least once a year. Parents have input into their child’s plan and Scouting can be a part of that plan. Many school districts see the importance of what is being learned in classrooms that can be applied to the Scouting program and vice versa.

Provided with a general understanding of the current program in which a Scout is enrolled, a special education or reading specialist teacher may be helpful in planning what that Scout can achieve and the pace at which that Scout can accomplish the work. These teachers may also be able to help a unit committee break down the steps needed for the Scout to achieve the next rank or award.

Once lines of communication have been opened, Scout leaders may find that in many cases special education teachers have been doing advancement-related activities in their own classroom. For example, the Cooking merit badge. Many high school special education students are learning lifetime skills and learning to cook is one. Students have to learn about a healthy diet, menu planning, how go shopping, and eventually cook a meal. The same skills special education teachers are teaching in the classrooms are being taught in Scouting which can reinforce the IEP for the Scout. Hand-in-hand, the unit committee working with special education teachers on a Scout’s IEP will enhance the Scout’s ability to learn and succeed in school as well as the troop.

Similarly, Scouts who have physical disabilities may be working at school with their physical education teachers on adapted physical education skills. These teachers may also help the unit learn the limits of what the Scout can do when it comes to the “physical” activities of many requirements. For example, physical activities such as Swimming, Personal Fitness, or Hiking will have certain challenges. This teacher might be able to set limits and goals that a Scout can reach in a reasonable amount of time that could help the Scout complete the requirement(s).

Finally, don’t forget to ask the parents for advice and help. They know their child the best. Elisabeth Shelby, who has a PhD in Special Education and is a member of the National Special Needs and Disabilities Committee mentions, “I used to say that the parents know their child, and educators know techniques.” Parents, unit committee members, and educators should combine these two ingredients to enhance a Scout’s ability to achieve the highest possible level of learning success at home, at school, in Scouting—and beyond.

Awards and Insignia

2019 Guide to Awards and Insignia

The *Guide to Awards and Insignia* has been updated for 2019, and is available now both in print ([stores](#) item 648215) and [online](#). Although minor updates have been made continuously online, this is the first new printing since 2015. The 2019 revision contains significant changes relating to and aligned with all program changes that have previously been rolled out.

If you're new to this document, the *Guide to Awards and Insignia* describes the uniforms of the Boy Scouts of America (BSA) for all programs -- Cub Scouts, Scouts BSA, Venturing, and Sea Scouts, and the proper wearing of all insignia and awards or recognition items. The guide articulates uniforms and insignia for youth and adults, including volunteers and professionals, which includes those outside a unit such as commissioners or Scouters at the council, area, region, or national level.

The Guide also contains a wide variety of useful information for Scouters and parents, including

- details on who is authorized to wear what awards, and when
- information on all nationally recognized award and recognition programs
- official policy with respect to uniforms
- Specifications for official flags of the BSA

Updates for a future printing of the guide are already in progress. If you have suggestions for changes, you may submit them [here](#). Questions can be submitted through Member Care at 972-580-2489 or send an email to myscouting@scouting.org



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.

Worth Repeating

From Advancement Committee Mechanics

Advancement Committee Goals, Part 2

(August-September 2014)

"In the June-July edition of *Advancement News* we discussed ways for councils or districts to reexamine and evaluate last year's advancement goals and results. We concluded with three options for setting goals for the coming year: continue the same goals; raise the bar by adopting new or more ambitious goals; or change course and work in a different direction.

While the ultimate advancement goal is to have more Scouts at all levels advance and get more out of the program, it is important to set goals for what your advancement committee is going to do to facilitate that result. For example, rather than set a goal that simply states, "Scouts in our council will earn five percent more merit badges next year," set a specific, measurable goal that may help you achieve the five percent. For example, "We will stage an event that provides 200 youth with opportunities to earn partials on 10 different merit badges." While the first appears to set a numerical measurement, it is really more of a passive hope than it is an actionable goal.

Every goal must be measurable, not just the final result. For example, it is important to be able to quantify what is happening before, during, and after some new program is implemented. Setting goals for numbers of events, participants, or resources provided allows you to assess if you are doing what you planned to do, and to make corrections necessary to achieve the intended outcome.

The *Guide to Advancement*, in topics 3.0.0.1 and 3.0.0.2, can provide ideas for goal-setting: recruiting, record keeping, advancement promotion, processing award applications, advancement training, activities, the Eagle Scout process, and so forth. Each of these subjects represents an opportunity to set a goal to start or improve some action to stimulate and support advancement. Goals should be set, or at least considered, for each of these areas, for both the council and the districts.

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A Peek Ahead

Here is a glimpse at 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, and especially to accommodate "late-breaking" news of immediate importance to our subscribers.

Topics Planned for November-December

- **Opportunities for Advancement Administrators:** Sea Base opportunity three months from now
- **From the *Guide To Advancement*:** District Advancement Committee Responsibilities
- **Scouts BSA:** Experiential Learning

When setting advancement committee goals, look for ways to work with other council and district committees and volunteers. Efforts in support of advancement can range from Universities of Scouting to monthly roundtables. Both of these could include advancement-related training opportunities, such as sessions on Internet Advancement, pack advancement coordinator training, Eagle project coach training, merit badge counselor training, etc.

Likewise, the camping committee is responsible for Boy Scout, Cub Scout, and Venturing camp programs, but the advancement committee could help train staff members, and otherwise improve advancement opportunities. Elsewhere, the activities committee may be putting on special events, such as a camporee, where the advancement committee could help with program resources and merit badge counselors.

Remember the ultimate goal is always to improve for our youth, personal growth through Scouting experiences. Advancement is not that goal; it is simply one of the methods.”

Editor’s Note

This article, while written prior to the inclusion of girls in Scouts BSA, specifies district and council support for all Scouts. Gender-neutral references have been substituted where needed.



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.

General Resources

- Guide to Advancement 2019, No. 33088
- Advancement Educational Presentations (see list below)
- Advancement News
- Abilities digest
- Advancement Report, No. 34403
- Building Effective Advancement Committees, No. 510-756
- Eagle Scout Challenge, No. 542-900
- Friendstorming on Tour, No. 510-003
- Lone Scout Friend and Counselor Guidebook, No. 511-420
- On Increasing Advancement, No. 512-047
- Recommendations for Regional and Area Volunteers Supporting the Advancement program, No. 512-048
- Troop Resource Survey, No. 512-940
- Guide to Awards and Insignia, No. 33066
- Venturing Board of Review Guide, No. 512-940

Advancement Educational Presentations:

- Introduction to the *Guide to Advancement*
- Today's Advancement
- Cub Scout Advancement Delivering Adventure
- Developing Council and District Advancement Committees
- The Eagle Scout Service Project Coach
- The Eagle Scout Service Project
- Effective Troop Advancement
- Essentials in Serving Scouts with Disabilities
- The Essentials of Merit Badge Counseling
- The Merit Badge program
- Getting the most from Internet Advancement
- Including Scouts with Disabilities

Videos

- Guardian of the Gate



Additional resources include

Rank Advancement Information

(including the new 2019 Eagle Scout Service Project Workbook, 2019 Scouts BSA Rank Requirements, and various applications)

Merit Badge Counselor information

(including A Guide for Merit Badge Counseling, Merit Badge Group Instruction Guide and Merit Badge List)

2020 Sea Base Volunteer Development Conferences

Scouting U is partnering with Sea Base to provide participants with an amazing venue for learning and fun in the beautiful Florida Keys... in January!



January 2020 conferences (descriptions on back)

Week 1: January 12-18

- Becoming an Excellent Council Training Chair, District Training Chair, or Training Committee Member
- Applying Technology in Unit Service
- DIVERSEability and DisABILITY: How to Develop and Grow Scouting with Special Needs in Your Council

Week 2: January 19-25

- Venturing Commissioner and Council Venturing Service Conference
- Mechanics of Advancement

NOTE: Due to the conference and Sea Base schedule, early arrival and/or late departure might require that you find off-site housing.

Registration fees: \$495 per conference participant

\$350 per non-conference-attending spouse

Click here to register for Week 1: <https://laserfiche.scouting.org/Forms/2020-Florida-Sea-Base-Volunteer-Conferences>

Click here to register for Week 2: <https://laserfiche.scouting.org/Forms/2020-Florida-Sea-Base-Volunteer-Conferences2>

Available Spouse Opportunities

Sunset Cruise
Stand-Up Paddle Board
Kayaking
Dolphin Research Center
Snorkeling
Gallery Tours
Everglades
The Turtle Hospital

Conference Housing

Although the Sea Base has a vast program facility (the Atlantic and the Gulf of Mexico!), it has a limited land base. Therefore, housing for ALL participants will be in the SCUBA dorms which consist of separate male and female bunk-style beds with common bathroom/shower facilities. The dorms are quite comfortable, but they were built with the occasional summer or fall tropical storm in mind which means they are on the second story and do not have elevator access.

Conference fees include...

...housing, meals, snacks, bedding and towels, meeting facilities and course materials, and a sunset cruise (weather permitting).

Questions?

Conference-related: Cynthia.Polman@scouting.org
Facilities-related: Matthew.Reineck@scouting.org

Becoming an Excellent Council Training Chair, District Training Chair, or Training Committee Member

For district training chairs, district training committee members, and council training chairs, this conference will help you to understand your role in your council's/district's training program. You will learn how to meet and exceed the training needs of your district/council. You will discuss everything your position entails including meetings you are expected to attend; trainings you are expected to provide; how to recruit and lead your training team; how to plan, organize, and implement a unit/district/council training plan; and much more. Online and instructor-led courses, basic leader requirements, and how to access and update training records will be discussed. Best practices and training challenges will also be shared.

(Jan. 12-18)

Applying Technology in Unit Service

Conference attendees will have the opportunity to learn about the suite of tools available to commissioners including Commissioner Tools, Member Manager, Training Manager, online registration, online charter renewal, Scoutbook, etc. Participants will have extensive engagement with Commissioner Tools in a hands-on learning environment. This will be an opportunity to provide meaningful feedback on the technology and will allow participants to expand their networks of Scouters to enable broadening the use of technology. This conference will have extensive use of presentation, guided discussion, and hands-on experiential learning.

(Jan. 12-18)

DIVERSEability and DisABILITY: How to Develop and Grow Scouting with Special Needs in Your Council

This course is for volunteer Scouters, professionals, chartered partner leadership, school district partners, and parents that have a passion for helping Scouts with disabilities become involved in and benefit from all that Scouting has to offer. This course will help you to start or strengthen a Disabilities Awareness Committee within your council and will show Scout leaders proper procedures, modifications, resources, and supports that can help our Scouts with special needs experience the outing in Scouting. Learn how you can help Scouts advance at all levels, experience excellent program, help their communities, and feel included and empowered to make a difference in the lives of others.

(Jan. 12-18)



Mechanics of Advancement

This course is a MUST for advancement administrators in units, districts, and councils, whether they are volunteers or professionals in need of a refresher or new-to-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 on a regular basis. Staff members are very well-founded in advancement issues and have a full understanding of the *Guide to Advancement*.

(Jan. 19-25)

Venturing Commissioner and Council Venturing Service Conference

This conference will focus on how commissioners, council Venturing volunteers, and council professionals can support Venturing crews and Venturing officers' associations. Using the new Venturing roundtable guides, A.L.P.S. program support guides, and Venturing advancement, participants will be able to develop a new toolbox filled with ways to help grow and support local units. Open to Commissioners (all levels), Venturing volunteers, and professional Scouters who support and want to grow Venturing.

(Jan. 19-25)