

Advancement News

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Prepared. For Life.®

Previous issues available at: www.scouting.org/GuideToAdvancement/Advancement_News.aspx

Opportunities for Advancement Administrators

New Educational Presentations to Be Released

Over the last year the national Advancement Committee's Webinars and Education task force has been busy producing a number of advancement presentations that should be very helpful in administering advancement at all levels. The following products have been released or are very nearly ready. They may be put to use at district committee meetings, roundtables, council and area conferences, and at any other forums as determined locally. They may also be viewed by individuals on a personal basis.

All of the presentations are based in PowerPoint and either provide a script for the presenter or feature a voice-over synchronized with the slides. Those with voice-over have been converted to a video format so they can be viewed without the installation of the PowerPoint application.

As the presentations become available they can be accessed at <http://www.scouting.org/BoyScouts/AdvancementandAwards/resources.aspx>. As they are completed and uploaded, the national Advancement Team will make an announcement, first via Twitter. If you don't already have a Twitter account it's easy to set one up at twitter.com. You can search for, and "follow," the national Advancement Team using "@AdvBSA."

Note that an expiration date appears on the title slide for every presentation. Upon expiration, the national Advancement Team will post replacement copies at the URL also shown on the title slide. Expired presentations are not to be used.

Internet Advancement

This new PowerPoint presentation with speaker notes and an FAQ sheet has been produced by volunteers for volunteers. Advancement reported through Internet Advancement goes directly to the correct location in the BSA system for the proper posting to the Journey to Excellence report. Using this presentation, a prepared instructor can, in 60 to 90 minutes, guide participants through methods to make effective use of the Internet Advancement software.

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Merit Badge Counselor Orientation

This new PowerPoint presentation with speaker notes helps merit badge counselors understand their role in the BSA advancement program and the proper methods to use in working with the youth. Intended for presentation on a face-to-face basis by a prepared presenter, this orientation takes 60 to 90 minutes to complete.

Guide to Advancement and Eagle Scout Service Project Workbook Overview

Nine presentations have been created so far to help orient volunteer advancement administrators with these fundamental publications of the Boy Scout advancement program. These PowerPoint presentations have voice-over converted to video format. They cover many very important and sometimes “sticky” issues to help build a better understanding of how BSA policies and procedures for advancement should be interpreted. The presentations are brief and easy to use on a variety of forums.

Nine Presentations With Voice-Over

1. Introduction to the *Guide to Advancement*
2. Judgment Calls (“Active,” Positions of Responsibility, Scout Spirit, and “Reasonable”)
3. The Merit Badge Program
4. Boards of Review
5. The Eagle Scout Service Project
6. The Eagle Scout Application Process
7. Eagle Scout Boards of Review
8. Boards of Review Under Disputed Circumstances
9. Appeals of a Board of Review Decision

Administration of Advancement (Full Day or Half-Day):

These two presentations—one lasting a full day, the other a half-day—are different from the others in that they will be presented in person by trainers who are members of the national Advancement Committee’s advisory panel and certified by the committee’s Webinars and Education task force. Councils, areas, or regions may submit requests for the presentations by sending a message to advancement.team@scouting.org. Scheduling depends on the availability of certified volunteers for the time and location indicated.

The Administration of Advancement presentations are designed to help all volunteers involved in advancement develop an in-depth understanding of how to lead a strong advancement program, solve advancement-related problems, and meet opportunities as they arise.

Last Chance: Sea Base Conference on Education for Advancement Administrators

The week of January 21–26 will provide a unique opportunity for advancement volunteers to preview and evaluate the new educational materials described above, which the national Advancement Committee is releasing. But not only is the opportunity unique, so is the location: the National High Adventure Sea Base in the Florida Keys. (Note that, by all accounts, it is warm there!)

This is a conference you will not want to miss. The registration form can be found on the last two pages of this issue of *Advancement News*. Fill it out, check “Advancement Conference (CEAA),” and send it in ASAP.

Not only will CEAA participants get to preview materials that will be made available to councils for local use, but they will also be given the opportunity to provide feedback on the sessions, learn how to help councils announce and deliver the presentations, and assist in the development of the next wave of educational presentations to be produced.

New Advancement Issues and Solutions Conference Scheduled for Philmont Training Center

If you are an experienced volunteer advancement administrator, reserve the week of June 16–22, 2013, and take your game to the next level. The Advancement Issues and Solutions Conference is designed for you: the unit, council, and district advancement coordinators, chairs, committee members, and staff advisors. Offered for the first time, this conference will provide a hands-on experience for committed advancement administrators. Participants will also receive updates on many advancement issues, in addition to the chance to spend a week at Scouting’s premier destination—Philmont Scout Ranch.

Conferees will analyze, discuss, and solve case studies similar to those regularly dealt with by the national Advancement Team and Committee 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 local council level. To register, log on to MyScouting.org and select the “Event Registration” tab.

On Increasing Advancement

How Advancement Committees May Reach Out to Units

When we watched “M*A*S*H” on television years ago we learned about triage: the practice of sorting by priorities to maximize survivability. In the last edition of *Advancement News* we looked at advancement statistics to see how they could help us decide which units may need help with advancement. We then “triaged” our units to determine which ones were the “hurry cases” in most need of attention. The goal, of course, is to help units succeed and youth to successfully advance.

Once we determine which units need help to increase their rate of advancement, exactly what are we going to do? If you are on the council advancement committee, you will want to work with and through the district advancement committees. At the district level you will want to develop plans for meeting with unit leadership. Who will make the initial contacts? Who will make the visits? The answer to these questions will depend on how successful you have been at recruiting members to the council and district advancement committees.

The best way to do this is to reach out to actively involved unit advancement coordinators. If your committees’ strength isn’t there yet, then first focus on recruiting and orienting new members. Then you can begin to make a real difference in the lives of our members.

The initial step in delivering advancement support directly to units is to gain an understanding of the dynamics within the unit. The district commissioner or district executive should be able to give you some insight, as will the results from those initial calls to unit leaders. When talking with a district commissioner, be sure to find out which assistant district commissioner or unit commissioner is assigned to each unit. You will want to include them in any unit meetings.

When meeting with unit leadership, emphasize your intention is to help them succeed. Ask the leader to “help you understand” the situation; get them talking. This will help you understand their perspective and lead you to a solution. For example, if you are told the unit has not been turning in advancement reports, this may point to involvement from the council advancement committee’s Internet Advancement or training specialist.

The meeting with unit leadership should involve both “uniformed” adults who work directly with the youth and also unit committee members. If you take the time to help everyone understand that your mission is one of friendship and assistance, they should open up about the unit’s issues. The objective, then, is to *offer*—not dictate—a few practical and realistic solutions; for example, advancement procedural training or help with Internet Advancement.

Through this process, you may uncover a whole spectrum of issues beyond the initial reason for your visit. You may find the lack of advancement is a symptom of something deeper. Very often it relates to issues in how the program is presented. In turn, this may indicate, for example, that the need is in leadership training, or help with fundraising. This is when you must remember you are not alone.

The advancement committee doesn’t operate in a vacuum. There are other committees dedicated to helping units succeed. Don’t be shy about asking the commissioners, the camping committee, the training committee, and so forth, as appropriate, for help. All councils and districts exist to strengthen units.

The key is to make sure that units get whatever service is needed. As they said on “M*A*S*H,” to get it for them “STAT!” Translation: Immediately! The goal is to have healthy units that can keep youth in Scouting longer, and thus increase our influence on character, citizenship, and fitness. Isn’t that what we’re all about?

“On Increasing Advancement” Publication Released

Designed as a companion piece to “Recommendations for Regional and Area Volunteers Supporting the Advancement Program,” No. 512-048, “On Increasing Advancement,” No. 512-047, suggests a comprehensive approach for councils planning to make a significant difference in the rate of advancement, and thus increase membership retention.

Such a plan, according to the publication, can lead to increases in advancement through the following approaches:

- A general increase in volunteerism
- Far-reaching unit service
- Fully functioning advancement committees
- Promotion and reinforcement of procedural compliance
- Purposeful management
- Increased reporting and proper data entry

Strategies for each of the above are detailed in the new publication.

“Recommendations for Regional and Area Volunteers Supporting the Advancement Program” outlines and details four essential responsibilities that area and regional volunteers could use with councils in driving increases in advancement:

1. Help councils increase the number of members who advance at least one rank annually.
2. Promote compliance with procedures set forth in the *Guide to Advancement*.

3. Establish regular communications with and between council advancement committee chairs.
4. Contribute to a general increase in volunteerism and service to units.

Both publications can be found at www.scouting.org/BoyScouts/AdvancementandAwards/resources.aspx.

Advancement Committee Mechanics

Council Advancement Committee Positions

For the past year *Advancement News* has been running a series of articles describing the responsibilities of 12 specialized council advancement committee positions that support not only the specific advancement committee duties defined in section 3 of the *Guide to Advancement*, but also quality advancement experiences across all Scouting programs.

Previous issues described duties of the district advancement coordinator, volunteerism specialist, advancement promotions specialist, advancement training and events coordinator, camping committee and outdoors program liaison, records keeper/statistician, Internet Advancement specialist, merit badge chair, Eagle Scout issues coordinator, and special needs specialist. We conclude this series with the final two positions.

Awards and Recognition Chair

This position focuses on promoting and presenting nonadvancement recognitions as determined in the local council, including those related to training, leadership, outdoors, conservation, and others. Examples include the William T. Hornaday Awards, Interpreter recognitions, and a variety of special interest and program-driven awards, such as the BSA's STEM-based Nova Awards program and emergency preparedness initiative. This position may also work with a committee of volunteers to ensure Scouts and Scouters deserving of lifesaving and meritorious action awards are nominated and recognized. The key to success is educating districts and units about these recognitions and awards and the requirements in order to encourage individuals to nominate others or to earn them.

About Advancement News

Advancement News is the official e-letter of the Boy Scouts of America national Advancement Team and the national Advancement Committee. Its intent is to support 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. The plan is to distribute *Advancement News* monthly, but we're flexible. It will go out when there is something important to say. Feedback, suggestions, and letters to the editor are welcome at advancement.team@scouting.org. Districts and councils may reprint articles from this publication.

Religious Emblems Coordinator

The religious emblems coordinator tracks and encourages religious emblems across the council and districts at all levels of the BSA program. This includes educating and motivating districts and units to include the position in their leadership structure and to ensure related information is readily available to both chartered organizations and BSA members.

The council REC may provide information through professional staff, commissioners, training programs, and other opportunities where Scouters can be made aware of the opportunities and encouraged to direct youth toward them. The council REC also works with the council's religious relationships committee to coordinate events, such as religious retreats, which may increase interest.

What's the Procedure?

Council Summer Camp Merit Badge Program (Part 1)

Scouts go to camp for a variety of reasons. Among them—at or near the top—is to earn merit badges. This is not only *their* own expectation, but it's also shared by Scoutmasters and certainly parents. "How many badges did you earn?" is often the first question Mom and Dad will ask when their son returns from camp.

Of course, merit badges are not the only reason Scouts attend camp, but their importance cannot be overlooked. Determining which merit badges are to be offered at camp—and *how* they're offered—is one of the most critical decisions key council volunteers will make in preparing for the summer months. But how?, one might ask. Is there a process we should use?

To establish a successful merit badge program—one that is both attractive and compatible with a camp setting—there are four key considerations: establishing the procedures, selecting the most appropriate badges, developing the counselor corps, and determining the best methods to use in presenting classes and related activities. This month we will address general procedures and selection of merit badges. Next month the topic will concern developing the counselors to present merit badges in a camp setting.

Establishing Procedures

The council advancement committee (CAC) establishes the procedures for summer camp advancement, which must comply with national procedures. This is a collaborative process—a partnership—involving the CAC, the council camping committee, and the camp director and program director. Following development of the procedures, the CAC should have the responsibility for regular visitations over the course of the summer camp season to assist the camp staff as it implements the procedures agreed upon. See the *Guide to Advancement*, "Advancement in Camp Settings," topic 5.0.1.0, for more details.

Selecting the Merit Badges

Because no two council camps are the same in setting, facilities, or staffing, neither the BSA National Council nor the national Advancement Committee has a standardized list of appropriate in-camp merit badges. Some, such as Lifesaving, Environmental Science, Swimming, Wilderness Survival, Canoeing, Forestry, Rowing, Pioneering, Rifle Shooting, Shotgun Shooting, Archery, Nature, and others, are logical and obvious first choices as facilities allow.

Others, such as Astronomy, Wood Carving, Pottery, etc., while often just as readily available “at home,” may nevertheless be appropriate in a camp setting. Those in a third group, including Camping, Hiking, and Backpacking, at first blush appear appropriate for a summer camp but really may not be because they are most frequently completed by Scouts in their ongoing patrol and troop activities through the balance of the year. Even so, the summer camp experience might support one or two of the requirements.

Finally, there are merit badges that should be considered inappropriate for a camp setting, because only a few requirements can be completed at camp, or they are simply not a good fit. These might include Scholarship, Personal Fitness, Home Repairs, Family Life, Personal Management, the Citizenship badges, and so forth.

Here is a set of criteria that a CAC might use to select the merit badge to be offered at camp:

1. Is it outdoor-oriented and thus logical for a camp setting?
2. Does the camp have the necessary resources, facilities, available equipment, and capacity for it?
3. Can the council identify sufficient qualified counselors to serve it?
4. Will counselors or camp staff require special training or certification, such as participation at a BSA National Camp School, to deliver it?
5. Will it be attractive to Scouts, i.e., will they want to sign up for it?
6. Can it be offered without additional individual fees?
7. If fees must be charged, are they reasonable and affordable?
8. If it has prerequisites, can these be accomplished while in camp?
9. Can it be completed at camp within the usual troop camping time frame, or will it most likely only result in “partials” for lack of time?

Note that one of the most common concerns voiced to the national Advancement Team has to do with Scouts receiving merit badges through summer camp experiences when, in fact, they did not complete all the requirements. Camp leaders, merit badge counselors, and staff must resist temptations to pass Scouts on requirements unless they have actually and personally fulfilled all of them. If any requirements are left undone, “partials” must be issued.

Eagle Scout Issues

Avoiding Delays in Requests for Extension of Time to Earn Eagle Scout Rank

First, and most important, the extension request form found at www.scouting.org/filestore/guidetoadvancement/pdf/11200_ReqExtTime.pdf must be used. The form will help ensure the national Advancement Team and the Eagle Issues task force have everything they need to consider a request. Incomplete forms or requests submitted without the form are returned.

The procedures related to applying for and processing a request for an extension of time beyond the 18th birthday to earn the Eagle Scout rank are documented in topic 9.0.4.0 of the *Guide to Advancement*. It describes five “tests” that are applied when evaluating an extension. To avoid rejections of requests or delays in processing them, a thorough understanding of this topic is critical. The national Advancement Team compares the tests to the facts for each case and then makes its decision based on the individual extenuating circumstances.

Requests can be granted for certain circumstances beyond the control of the youth member, but the question of when the circumstance occurred is extremely important. Consider the following scenario: A series of medical conditions may qualify a Scout for an extension, but if those conditions ceased to exist with enough time remaining for him to complete his remaining requirements, the request would not be granted.

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 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's quick and easy to set one up at www.Twitter.com. To limit incoming emails (tweets), you can select the Advancement Team as the only account you want to follow.

Another frequent misunderstanding is the difference between a time extension due to a circumstance beyond a Scout's control, such as the request above, and registration of a member beyond the age of eligibility (18 for a Boy Scout). The latter is described in section 10 of the *Guide to Advancement*. It explains how to qualify and register a special-needs member beyond the age of eligibility. Extensions of time to earn the Eagle Scout rank expire upon a given date. Registration beyond the age of eligibility allows a person to remain registered as a youth member indefinitely, regardless of his age.

Attention Council Eagle Processors: Credentials Now Processed in Charlotte

Effective April 1, the processing and mailing of the Eagle Scout rank credentials was moved from the national office in Irving, Texas, to the BSA National Distribution Center in Charlotte, North Carolina. Reprint requests for corrected, replacement, or duplicate Eagle Scout credentials—or questions about them—also should now be directed to NDC customer service by calling toll-free 800-323-0732, extensions 1458 or 1488, or emailed to eagle.certificates@scouting.org. Questions regarding Eagle Scout rank applications requiring manual processing or other special attention should be directed to Michael Lo Vecchio at the national Advancement Team in Irving, 972-580-2034, email michael.lovecchio@scouting.org.

Eagle Scout credential prices: Eagle Scout wallet card, \$5; Eagle Scout certificate, \$5; Eagle Scout letter, \$5; Eagle Scout packet (includes all three credentials), \$15; expedited new Eagle Scout credentials, \$50; expedited duplicate Eagle Scout credentials, \$25. Councils should expect to receive new Eagle Scout credentials within four to six weeks. Expedited Eagle Scout credentials, whether new or duplicate, are usually returned within five business days.

The Application for Duplicate Eagle Scout Credentials can be found at <http://www.scouting.org/filestore/pdf/58-600.pdf>.

From the *Guide* to *Advancement*

[illegible]

Merit Badge “Blue Card” Revised

A new version of the "Application for Merit Badge," No. 34124, commonly referred to as the "blue card," is being released later in January 2013. The availability of the new card will vary locally, and the old cards are still acceptable as councils exhaust their inventories. The new version will remain the old familiar blue and the change is a small one, but as it takes effect it will make a significant difference in the process.

On the front side (first tri-fold portion) above the unit leader's signature line, the statement with the word "qualified" is being changed to: "I have discussed this merit badge with this Scout and recommended at least one merit badge counselor." The wording change has been made due to confusion over the interpretations of "qualified," "approved," and "approval," as applied to when a Scout could begin work on a merit badge. With the new statement, the unit leader's signature indicates that he or she and the Scout have talked about the Scout's desire to work on the merit badge and that a merit badge counselor has been recommended.

The intent of the modification is to give the unit leader the chance to offer counseling as to whether or not the merit badge is a good choice for the Scout, based on his abilities and any prerequisites. The terms “qualified” or “approved” were never meant to indicate that the Scout needed to pass some sort of prequalifying test before pursuing a merit badge, or that the unit leader had pass/fail authority to allow—or to not allow—the Scout to undertake work on a badge.

Other than this single change, the good old “blue card” is the same as before. Unit leaders are requested to use this new approach now. With release of the revised *Guide to Advancement 2013* during the first half of the New Year, the practice will become mandated.

Merit Badges— the Competitive Edge

Jamboree Merit Badge

Midway Needs You!

The years 2011 and 2012 brought a flurry of new merit badges designed to introduce the skills of today to the Scouts of today. The 2013 National Scout Jamboree will provide them the opportunity to experience these brand-new merit badges at the once-in-a-lifetime jamboree adventure. You can be a part of that adventure by serving on the national jamboree staff. In doing so, you may be the person who introduces a Scout to his future career.



- Game Design
- Chess
- Search and Rescue
- Welding
- Sustainability
- Programming

For more information about registering for the 2013 National Scout Jamboree as a merit badge midway staff member, visit the jamboree website at <https://summit.scouting.org/en/Jamboree2013/Pages/default.aspx>. Do it today! Be a part of something great!

Awards and Recognition

The Scout Law and Cybersafety/Cyberbullying

Units, districts, and councils are entrusted with the safety of our Scouts as they pursue advancement. Future planned introductions of computer-related merit badges and the Cyber Chip award are increasing our attention to vigilance. The Boy Scouts of America has released a pledge called the "Scout Law and Cybersafety/Cyberbullying" to be signed by a youth member, parent or guardian, and a leader. Here are the 12 points of the Scout Law interpreted for the cyber-world.

Trustworthy

Be truthful with others online, and be very careful of the information you share. Do the right thing when sharing other people's words or pictures. Make sure you have the owner's permission before sharing them.

Loyal

Share information about others only if you have their permission to share it. Uphold appropriate agreements you make with friends when you play games with them.

Helpful

Alert others to scams, cheats, and suspicious sites. Point them to reliable and accurate sources of information. Encourage people to report bad behavior online.

Friendly

Reach out to support others who are doing good things, like posting quality creative works. Support those who are bullied.

Courteous

Be polite and respectful. When you use other people's work, be sure to ask permission, follow fair use standards, and give credit to the people who created and own the work.

Kind

Treat people with respect when you are on social networks, playing games, talking or texting on a cell phone, or in other digital activities.

Obedient

When using digital devices, follow the rules set by your parents/guardians, teachers, and Scout leaders. Abide by the rules established by sites, services, devices, and games.

Cheerful

Use games, messaging tools, and social forums to build your relationships with others while having fun.

Thrifty

Be a smart consumer. Know your voice, text, and data plans and use them wisely. Be sure to study digital devices and services you want. Before buying them, make sure you're not overspending on functions and features you won't need. Be careful not to run up charges on apps and sites.

Brave

Stand up for what is right. Do not participate in mocking and bullying others, even if your friends are doing it. Report suspected abuse to a trusted adult, like your parent or leader; call 911 as appropriate or call the CyberTipline at 800-843-5678. If the incident involves any part of the Scouting program, call your council Scout executive immediately or email youth.protection@scouting.org.

Clean

Use clean language and discuss only appropriate topics when using digital devices to communicate with others.

Reverent

Respect the feelings of other people. Do not use digital devices to spread irreverent ideas.

To reprint the pledge form, with signature lines for the Scout, parent/guardian, and unit leader, visit www.scouting.org/cyberchip.aspx and click on the pledge.

The Venturing Perspective

Advancement Tracks for Sea Scouts

Sea Scouts—a part of Venturing—has a number of advancement opportunities. (See the *Guide to Advancement*, topic 4.4.0.0.) The traditional track takes a youth from Apprentice to Quartermaster, the highest award in the program. Young men who have earned First Class in a troop may go on to earn Star, Life, and Eagle in a Sea Scout ship, as long they are still under the age of 18. In addition, Sea Scout youth may earn all Venturing awards as well as others, such as the William T. Hornaday award.

Just as a Boy Scout has a Scoutmaster conference, a Sea Scout has a Skipper conference. In the Boy Scout program the conference need not be the last step before the board of review, and it is not a pass-or-fail event. In Sea Scouts, however, the procedure is a little different. The conference is held when a Sea Scout believes he or she has met the requirements for a rank. The recommendation for advancement is then passed to the ship's bridge of review composed of ship officers, committee members, and the ship's boatswain, who serves as the chair of the committee. If the bridge of review determines that all of the requirements have been met successfully, the rank will be awarded at a bridge of honor, the Sea Scouts equivalent of a court of honor.



Just like Eagle Scout candidates, youth aspiring to the Quartermaster rank must complete a service project. However, if a young man plans to earn both the Eagle Scout and Quartermaster ranks, he must complete a separate and distinct project for each rank. To complete the Quartermaster project, a young person follows the guidelines and uses the *Quartermaster Service Project Workbook*, No. 420-011, which can be found at www.seascout.org/downloads/Advancement/QM_project_workbook.pdf. When all the requirements for the rank have been met, the process outlined in the Quartermaster Award Application, No. 420-015, is followed. The application can be found at www.seascout.org/about/program/advancement/quartermaster_application.pdf.

What Do You Think?

Survey for December 2012/January 2013

Improving Advancement News

The national Advancement Committee is beginning the volume 3 series of *Advancement News* and seeks your input regarding the publication. We want to know which features are most useful, and what additional information will help you deliver the best Scouting experience possible. Completing the survey should take about eight minutes. Just click on the link below to begin. Thanks in advance for your time and feedback.

http://scouting.us.qualtrics.com/SE/?SID=SV_OPp8aAweh7xrBR3

Note: Anonymous responses are not accepted for any of the *Advancement News* surveys. This is because of the importance the national Advancement Team places on the ability to communicate with survey respondents, should more information be needed to consider their answers. We want to know what you think!

A Peek Ahead

Here is a glimpse of what we are working on for the next issue of *Advancement News*, which will be released the first part of February. 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 February

Opportunities for Advancement

Administrators: Highlights of New Advancement Educational Materials

On Increasing Advancement: Requirement Changes for 2013

The Cub Scout Angle: Blue and Gold Banquet—a Celebration of Advancement

From the *Guide to Advancement*: Revised *Guide to Advancement* on the Horizon

What’s the Procedure?: Council Summer Camp Merit Badge Program (Part 2)

Merit Badges—the Competitive Edge: Merit Badge Revisions—an Ongoing Process

Managing Subscriptions to *Advancement News*

This issue of *Advancement News* has been distributed through a commercial service, which saves Scouting dollars. You may subscribe or unsubscribe, etc., as indicated on the cover email message from Constant Contact, or you may follow the instructions below.

Advancement News is designed for council and district advancement chairs, 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.



2013 Florida Sea Base Volunteer Training Conferences

Each conference is staffed by experienced and informed professionals and volunteer Scouters, with ample time in the schedule to enjoy the climate and beauty of the Florida Keys.

Conference fees include:

- Bunk-style housing
- Meals
- Bedding and towels
- Course materials

January 13 – 18, 2013

- ☐ The Unit Commissioner
- ☐ Venturing, The NEW Vision
- ☐ Conducting Advanced Leadership Training
- ☐ How to Grow and Sustain Venturing

January 21 – 26, 2013

- ☐ Focusing on the "Main Thing"!
- ☐ Advancement Conference (CEAA)
- ☐ FBI—The Faith-Based Initiative
- ☐ Delivering Training to Unit Leaders
- ☐ Venturing in The Ward

Don't Be Left in the Cold!

To register, mail the completed registration form below and your check to

Boy Scouts of America
Volunteer Development, S209
1325 W. Walnut Hill Lane
P.O. Box 152079
Irving, TX 75015-2079

All registrations must be received no later than December 15, 2012. Once your registration is received, a confirmation letter will be sent along with additional conference information and medical forms.

Due to limited housing, early arrival and/or late departure will require you to find off-site housing. Daily programs will be provided for spouses.

Questions?

Registration and course content: 972-580-2417
Facilities and accommodations: 305-664-4173



Remember what it was like at your place on January 19, 2012?



This was the scene at our place that day.

Name _____ Spouse (if attending) _____
Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Telephone _____ Email _____
Scouting Position _____ Conference Choice _____
Council Name _____ Council No. _____
Conference Fees Enclosed: ☐ \$400.00 – Participant ☐ \$300.00 – Spouse

Please make checks payable to Boy Scouts of America. Add "Acct. No. 62052-8760" in the memo.

Credit card payments can be processed by calling us at (972) 580-2449



The Unit Commissioner

This conference features topics including: effective monthly unit visits, unit self-assessment and action planning, coaching skills, charter renewal, annual service plan, commissioner priorities, unit problem-solving, leader development, Journey to Excellence award program, and commissioner unit “lifesaving” techniques. For unit commissioners who want to set a positive example in quality service to chartered organizations and their Scouting units. (Jan 13-18)

Conducting Advanced Leadership Training

Just what you’ve been asking for, a conference designed to help councils conduct advanced leadership training courses such as Wood Badge, National Youth Leadership Training, Kodiak Challenge, and Powder Horn. If you have lots of experience, or are new to the leadership training world and want to get started, this session of idea sharing, best practices, and policies will help you serve youth and adults. Primarily for staff advisers, course directors and council and district training chairs. This will count as a course director conference for approved course directors of upcoming courses. (Jan 13-18)

Delivering Training to Unit Leaders

Learn how to train leaders, not run training courses! Trained unit-level volunteers increase retention among youth, deliver the most impactful Scouting programs, and have more fun! The conference will discuss new training being rolled out by the Volunteer Training Committee, best practices in training, and idea sharing leading towards getting all unit leaders trained in every service area. For district and council training chairs, and trainers. (Jan 21-26)

How to Grow and Sustain Venturing

Want to know how to incorporate proven techniques “Best Practices” into your district’s or council’s operation to grow and sustain your Venturing membership? You will see how successful districts and councils have attained sustained growth without having negative impact on other Scouting programs. Whether it is leadership training, recognition, activities, council or district organization or program planning for the Venturing crew, this is the conference for you. (Jan 13-18)

Venturing in the Ward

If you’ve ever asked yourself how Venturing can best be used in crews chartered to the LDS church to accomplish the aims of Scouting and the purposes of the Aaronic Priesthood, you won’t want to miss this conference. Find out the latest changes in the Venturing program, how they relate to quorum functions and how to implement an exciting and meaningful program under the direction of Priesthood leadership and within church policies and guidelines. (Jan 21-26)

Venturing, the NEW Vision

After more than a decade of innovative and exciting programs, what can Venturing possibly do to improve this older youth experience? Come and find out. Be among the very first to hear about and discuss the latest changes in Venturing. You can help your crew be on the cutting edge of a new, more challenging, more meaningful and fun Venturing program. (Jan 13-18)

Focusing on the “Main Thing”!

Need to grow Cub Scouts? Are there enough Troops in your council? Do you know how to recruit Venturers? Where are the opportunities for more Scouting in my area? Join us to hear about the latest resources created to engage volunteers and staff in the strategies that lead to growth in the BSA. Remember increasing Scouting is the “Main Thing”! (Jan 21-26)



FBI – The Faith Based Initiative

The Faith Based Initiative is a course designed to equip professionals and volunteers in local councils and congregations to reach their shared goals of reaching young families and building sustainable membership. Among the topics to be covered are: religious emblems as a linchpin for faith based organizations and Scouting; Scout parents as a tool for engaging families; enhancing communication between faith based organizations and Scouting; and organizing sustainable units which positively impact participants, their families, the congregation and the council. Participants will return home with specific action plans for helping grow the council and the congregation as well as fulfilling key elements of the Journey to Excellence. (Jan 21-26)

Conference on Education for Advancement Administrators (CEAA)

The CEAA is a learning experience for council and district advancement volunteers and professionals, but more importantly, it is an opportunity to assist the national Advancement Committee to test and develop new educational presentations. National volunteer task forces have been building “beta” presentations based upon topics from the *Guide to Advancement*. Conferees will view and discuss the presentations, provide formal evaluations, and then assist in developing additional sessions to be released later in the year. Copies of the presentations will be provided as part of the course fee, and though the primary intent is to evaluate and build the educational experiences, learning will take place as participants consider the content. (Jan 21-26)