

# Advancement News

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Prepared. For Life.®

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

## Opportunities for Advancement Administrators

### Florida Sea Base—Advancement Treasure Hunt

**Mechanics of Advancement:** January 10-16, 2016

Ahoy, Scouters! Are you struggling with understanding how advancement should work, how to help youth succeed, or how to assist units to achieve proper and effective advancement? The answers to these golden questions—and so many others, such as “Does it snow in the Keys in the winter?”—are just waiting to be discovered at the Florida Sea Base Conference Center this coming January.



The *Mechanics of Advancement* curriculum that will be presented January 10-16, is for **all** advancement personnel, but is particularly directed at those who are new to advancement or are in need of some refreshing. The goal of this conference-style course is to create an advancement environment in districts and councils that will increase their rates of advancement and retention through proper advancement administration.

*Continued on page 2*

## In This Issue

- **Opportunities for Advancement Administrators:** Florida Sea Base—Advancement Treasure Hunt; Report from Philmont Training Center: Conference Highlights
- **On Increasing Advancement:** Boy Scout Requirements Changes Begin January 1, 2016; What’s Changing?
- **The Cub Scout Angle:** A Cub Scout’s Adventure—It Still Begins with Bobcat
- **Eagle Issues:** Avoiding Appeals and Extensions
- **Merit Badges - Enhancing Our Youth’s Competitive Edge:** Using the New Digital Merit Badge Pamphlets;
- **Best Practices for Approving Merit Badge Counselors; Using Web-based Tools in Merit Badge Instruction**
- **From the Field:** A Testimonial—Training Opportunities Make a Big Difference; Don’t Miss Out on These Great Training Opportunities in 2016!
- **From the Archives:** The Cub Scout Angle: The Inverted Percentage (October 2011)
- **A Peek Ahead:** What Is Planned for November-December
- **Helpful Links**

*Continued from page 1*

Every significant aspect of advancement, from Cub Scouts to Sea Scouts, lies “buried” in the curriculum, which will be presented by members of the National Advancement Committee and National Advancement Advisory Panel, who can be expected to bring more “treasures” from their own experiences, as well as the very latest updates on advancement issues and trends.

So, what are you waiting for? Make plans now to attend this fun and exciting opportunity. Information about the conference center, which also will be offering a very exciting spouse program during the week of January 10-16, 2016, is available at [www.bsaseabase.org/seabase.aspx](http://www.bsaseabase.org/seabase.aspx). Don't miss this chance to dig for advancement treasures in the Florida Keys in January!

## **Report from Philmont Training Center, June 7-13, 2015:**

### **CEAA Highlights**

In the July-August edition, *Advancement News* shared photos of the Conference on Education for Advancement Administrators (CEAA) held in June at the Philmont Training Center. The “rest of the story” is now in, and it confirms those early reports: the CEAA was a huge success!

While the conference's participants immersed themselves in serious discussions about many aspects of advancement, there were some additional highlights noted by attendees. On Monday evening and Tuesday morning, CEAA attendees conducted the training center's flag ceremonies, setting the standard for the other conferences for the remainder of the week. On Tuesday, the National Venturing President addressed all conference attendees and answered questions. On Thursday morning, CEAA welcomed instructors from other conferences who provided updates on their areas of expertise. On Thursday afternoon, CEAA took a field trip to the Rocky Mountain Scout Camp to be inspired by a beautiful part of the ranch.

All participants indicated that they were likely to recommend this conference to others once they returned home. A sampling of responses includes:

“The advancement course at PTC was informative and uplifting. I came away feeling so much more prepared to fulfill my position to help more youth succeed.”

“I totally enjoyed my experience at the PTC. The advancement training was very informative and the staff was very supportive. I will definitely let others know that this is a worthwhile use of their time.”

“I can't believe I waited so long to make it to Philmont!!! It was great to be able to contribute to national projects while at the same time learning so much.”



# On Increasing Advancement

## Boy Scout Rank Requirement Changes Begin January 1, 2016



With all the recent “buzz” about the new Cub Scout rank changes, some may have missed that at the beginning of next year, Boy Scout rank requirements will also undergo changes.

### What’s Changing?

#### Scout Badge Becomes Scout Rank

Beginning January 1, 2016, Scout becomes a rank and is no longer considered just a “joining badge.” As with all other ranks, each requirement now must be completed as a member of a Boy Scout troop. The Scoutmaster or designated leader must sign off each individual requirement as the boy demonstrates his knowledge or skill. There is no board of review for Scout rank— the Scoutmaster conference is considered sufficient adult interaction at this introductory rank.

#### Service : The Scout Oath in Action

In keeping with the Scout Oath and “helping other people at all times,” service is now a requirement at each Boy Scout rank except for Scout rank – one hour at Tenderfoot, two hours at Second Class, and three hours at First Class. The total hours for Star and Life remain the same at six hours each. But half of the hours for Life rank must now be conservation-related, emphasizing the importance of stewardship of the earth.

*Continued on page 4*

#### **When/Who?**

The new Boy Scout rank requirements become effective on January 1, 2016, subject to these transition guidelines:

- Boys registered in a troop on or prior to December 31, 2015, who are working on Tenderfoot through First Class may continue to work using the old requirements through 2016, but they must convert to the new requirements upon attaining First Class.
- Boys registered in a troop, team, crew, or ship, who have completed First Class rank on or prior to December 31, 2015, may complete the rank they are currently working on with the old requirements through 2016, but then must convert to the new requirements for subsequent ranks.
- Any boy registering in a troop for the first time on or after January 1, 2016, must use the new requirements.
- Beginning January 1, 2017, new requirements must be used for all ranks earned.

Continued from page 3

### **Scout Spirit and Duty to God: It's a Monologue, Not a Dialogue**

Scout spirit requirements are not meant to require a discussion or a two-way conversation about duty to God. The boy is simply to “tell” how he believes he has done his duty to God as defined by him and his family. The troop leader’s role is to listen. The intent is for the Scout to have a self-reflection about belief and reverence, for expression **by** the Scout **to** his leader.

### **Physical Fitness: Developing Lifelong Habits**

New requirements in Tenderfoot through First Class ranks are designed to encourage physical activity as a lifelong habit. Boys are challenged to set goals and work toward achieving them. This might include additional exercise or incorporating requirements for earning merit badges that encourage physical activity. Troop programs can make fitness activities a regular part of their program plan—which could lead to even higher goals, such as the SCOUTStrong® program or the Presidential Active Lifestyle Award (PALA).

### **Camping: Learning in the Great Outdoors**

Although the number of troop or patrol activities remains the same (10 total for First Class), the number of campouts required has doubled – one for Tenderfoot, two more for Second Class, and three more for First Class – for a total of six campouts. This increase will help ensure that First Class Scouts have sufficient camping experience to have developed and improved upon the outdoor skills that Scouting promotes.

### **Navigation: Using Handheld GPS Units**

Some navigation requirements allow the option of using a handheld GPS unit, GPS app on a smartphone, or other electronic navigation system. Map and compass requirements are still included as Scouts should “be prepared” for situations where electronic systems are not available. However, Scouting wants to train Scouts to use their resources, including electronic ones, safely and appropriately.

#### **Program Updates Web Page**

Watch the [Program Updates](#) web page for “Frequently Asked Questions” about the new Boy Scout requirements. Submit your own questions at [advancement.team@scouting.org](mailto:advancement.team@scouting.org). The FAQs will be updated periodically as new questions arrive.

[www.scouting.org/programupdates](http://www.scouting.org/programupdates)



# The Cub Scout Angle

## A Cub Scout's Adventure—It Still Begins With Bobcat



The new Cub Scout advancement program includes many exciting new adventures and many related advancement requirements, but one thing has not changed, even if the requirements have—a boy's personal adventure starts by earning the Bobcat badge.

Cub Scouts now use the Scout Oath and Scout Law. The first two Bobcat requirements are

1. Learn and say the Scout Oath, with help if needed.
2. Learn and say the Scout Law, with help if needed.

Note that each of these requirements ends with the phrase "with help if needed." Remember the Cub Scout motto is still "Do Your Best." This means that it is allowable to coach a boy as he recites the Scout Oath and the Scout Law. Completing these two requirements should be an inviting, fun experience. This is the start of the youth's Scouting journey. Understanding and perfection will come with time. The new Cub Scout will recite the Scout Oath and Scout Law hundreds, if not thousands, of times before he hopefully one day recites them at his Eagle Scout court of honor.

By making this first Bobcat requirement a time of welcoming for our new Cub Scout, "with help if needed," let us make sure we begin his Scouting journey with the joy of accomplishment not the stress of perfect performance. Our purpose is to instill the ideals of Scouting embodied in the Oath and Law so that they become a lifetime character beacon for our young Cub Scout. In this way we will get the opportunity over time to influence the character of the boy so that the man will embody the Oath and Law as a part of his life. Now, isn't that what we're all about?



### 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 Committee. Its intent is to provide and clarify procedures found in the *Guide to Advancement*, announce various changes and updates in advancement, and to assist advancement committees in making decisions that can help increase the rate of advancement. Therefore, districts and councils may reprint articles from this publication. Our plan is to distribute six issues of *Advancement News* annually, but special editions may go out whenever there is important information to share. Feedback, suggestions, and letters to the editor are welcome at [advancement.team@scouting.org](mailto:advancement.team@scouting.org).

# Eagle Issues

## Avoiding Appeals and Extensions

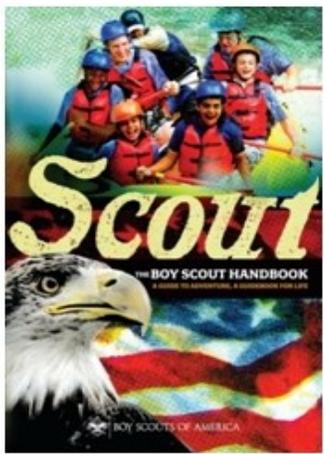
While processes are in place for submitting Eagle Scout rank appeals and time extensions, it is always best to avoid these situations, whenever possible.

In the past, appeals often resulted from a Scoutmaster's refusal to grant a unit leader conference or to sign the Eagle Scout Rank Application. Others occurred when the unit or the project beneficiary refused to sign final approval for the Eagle Scout service project. Fortunately, appeals for these reasons have sharply declined since the publication of the *Guide to Advancement* in 2011, and, with subsequent updates of the *GTA*, have become increasingly rare.

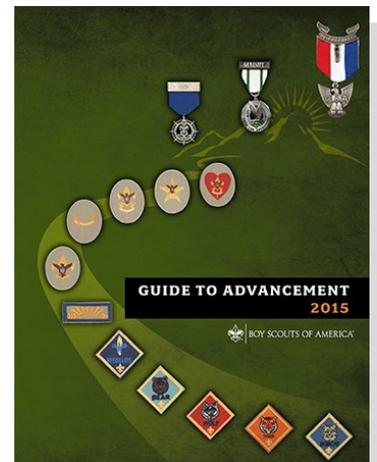
Not so rare are appeals where a Scout is denied advancement at his Eagle Scout board of review. In some cases, the denial is warranted; in others, it is not. The best way to ensure the appropriate decision is reached is to educate board members on proper board of review procedures, as explained in *GTA*, Section 8. This instruction may help avoid situations leading to appeals--such as contentions that board members did not follow proper procedures or that boards denied advancement for reasons not directly related to rank requirements.

The best way to avoid extension requests is to communicate regularly with the youth and develop with him a timeline for completing remaining requirements. Some Scouts may still, however, find themselves unable to complete all requirements before their 18th birthdays. Unexpected circumstances (such as sickness, injury, or family crisis) may arise. Or already recognized circumstances might be aggravated by other issues to the point where the Scout may not be able to complete all requirements in time.

Each case should be examined on its own merits. Before proceeding with an extension request, consider carefully the provisions of *GTA* topic 9.0.4.0, which explains the criteria for evaluating a request. For example, a request might cite "adult error" as the reason why an extension is necessary. In cases where this translates into "Nobody told me" or "I didn't know," the BSA assumes that any Scout working on Eagle rank has a *Boy Scout Handbook* and has read and understands the requirements.



In summary, the best way to help a Scout to avoid these situations is for involved adults to read the *Guide to Advancement*, subscribe to *Advancement News*, attend training and roundtables, and keep up-to-date on advancement requirements—after which they should make sure that they and every Scout with whom they are involved carefully read the *Boy Scout Handbook*.



# Merit Badges: Enhancing Our Youth's Competitive Edge

## Using the New Digital Merit Badge Pamphlets

New digital merit badge pamphlets promise to put advancement at a Scout's fingertips with a mere keystroke. With innovation comes the concern that Scouts will lose the "hands on" experience that most merit badges offer. Since this new technology will soon become an option for some merit badges, we need to be aware of the guidelines for its use in order to better counsel our Scouts as they work on merit badges.

- The introduction of this new format will be gradual. Expect to see the Eagle-required merit badge pamphlets to appear first in digital format, accompanied by a few optional ones, such as Photography, Animation, and Robotics.
- Digitally formatted pamphlets will not replace the traditional ones, but will be available *in addition* to the printed copy currently sold at your local Scout service center or trading post. Merit badge pamphlets in both print and digital formats will be available through the BSA National Supply Group ([www.scoutstuff.org](http://www.scoutstuff.org)).
- Digitally formatted pamphlets, while including all of the information found in the printed versions, will also incorporate videos, links to related websites, interactive activities, and many other subject matter-related enhancements not available in the standard merit badge pamphlet.
- All merit badge requirements are written—and will continue to be written—so they can be completed using only the material contained in the printed pamphlet. Any resource, link, or enhancement found in a digital pamphlet—or used in conjunction with a printed pamphlet, for that matter—should be considered "bonus" material, and as such, cannot be required viewing for any Scout. While the merit badge experience is enriched by offering these digital resources, counselors cannot add any additional requirements or "homework" because of its availability. Although most of our Scouts have moved into the digital-electronic era in school, not all Scouts have availability to "smart" phones and devices, or even access to the Internet, at home.

So click away. To find more information or order digital merit badges:

[www.scoutstuff.org/bsa/literature-media/interactive-digital.html](http://www.scoutstuff.org/bsa/literature-media/interactive-digital.html).

### Which merit badges are currently available in the digital format?



Animation



Communication



Cooking



Digital Technology



Family Life



First Aid



Personal Fitness



Robotics

*The remaining Eagle-required merit badges are expected to be available later in 2015.*

## Best Practices: Approving Merit Badge Counselors

*During the 2015 CEAA at Philmont, participants discussed “Best Practices” for various advancement topics. We now share the thoughts of those experienced Scouters with the hope that their efforts will be helpful to your councils or districts.*

### Are requests to become merit badge counselors automatically approved?

One of the responsibilities of the council advancement committee is to “see to an effective merit badge program administered at either council or district level that functions according to national procedures and recruits, **approves**, trains, and makes known sufficient counselors to meet the needs of the council” (GTA, 3.0.0.1, #11). So not everyone who applies to counsel a specific merit badge is necessarily approved.

For starters, all merit badge counselors must meet the basic qualifications (GTA, 7.0.1.1):

- Be at least 18 years old and of good character.
- Be registered with the Boy Scouts of America (position code 42).
- Complete Youth Protection Training.
- Be recognized as having the skills and education in the merit badge subjects covered and hold any required qualifications and training as outlined in the *Guide to Safe Scouting* or the *Guide to Advancement*—or use others so qualified.
- Be able to work with Scout-age boys.
- Complete a Merit Badge Counselor Information form ([www.scouting.org/filestore/pdf/34405.pdf](http://www.scouting.org/filestore/pdf/34405.pdf)).

The intent of the merit badge program is for Scouts to learn from those with an appropriate level of expertise. Everyone who applies may have good intentions, but do they actually possess the appropriate level of expertise?

In its role of approving merit badge counselors, the council advancement committee has the authority to decide what constitutes an appropriate level of expertise, and even to establish a higher minimum level of skills and education for any given merit badge (GTA, 7.0.1.1). For example, a council might

*Continued on page 9*

## Managing Subscriptions to *Advancement News*

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

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

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

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

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

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

require that a counselor for the Animal Science or Pets merit badge be a veterinarian.

Councils have authority to restrict the number of merit badges that an individual is approved to counsel (GTA, 7.0.1.4 ). This could result in an individual being denied when applying to counsel additional merit badges.

### **How does a council go about approving an individual as a merit badge counselor?**

The process begins with the individual submitting a BSA adult application with position code 42. This application must be submitted even if the individual is registered in another BSA position. A [Merit Badge Counselor Information Form](#) (No. 34405, [www.scouting.org/advancement](http://www.scouting.org/advancement)) should be attached to the application, indicating the individual's interests and qualifications supporting the request.

The council advancement committee is responsible for reviewing merit badge counselor applications for both basic qualifications and expertise. An understanding should be established between the council advancement committee and council registrar on the handling of merit badge counselor applications and how the district or council will be notified. A mutually agreed upon process will help ensure that individuals are approved *prior* to being officially entered into ScoutNet.

The application review process may be delegated to an individual or a group of individuals at either the council or district level. Reviewers must understand the requirements of the merit badge being considered, including any required training or certifications (GTA, 7.0.1.0). Upon approval, the application package is returned to the council service center for background check and BSA registration entry. A procedure for tracking certifications and notification of expired certifications should also be instituted. Establish a method to notify the individual of the decision, whether approved or not.

## **Using Web-based Tools in Merit Badge Instruction**

In recent years, Scouting has experienced an increased presence of online merit badge courses. While the wonders of today's technology can make this an appealing method to many Scouts, care must be taken to ensure the integrity of the merit badge process.

These web-based resources can be helpful when there is no local subject matter expertise available, limiting a Scout's ability to earn a merit badge that interests him. However, digital instruction, including online workshops, should never constitute a Scout's primary merit badge experience. Instead, under the guidance of a qualified merit badge counselor, digital experiences should *enhance* or *broaden* his merit badge experience.

As with any type of merit badge group instruction, the guidelines presented in *Guide to Advancement*, topic 7.0.3.2, must be followed. Specific procedures for using Web-based tools in advancement are established by the council advancement committee in compliance with national procedures (GTA, 3.0.0.1, #15). Some examples of actions a council might consider:

Continued on page 10

- Merit badge **instruction** is not to be confused with merit badge **counseling**. When employing web-based technology, instruction should be followed up by a counseling session during which the Scout interacts face-to-face with a merit badge counselor to demonstrate his knowledge or skills. In many situations, both roles can be fulfilled by the same person, but it is difficult for the interaction to be successful when it's attempted in the same session.
- Counselors offering web-based instruction are approved by the council from which the instruction originates. Establish procedures for approving and monitoring merit badge counselors in your council who offer their services online. If a counselor is operating from another council, determine how to confirm with registration in the home council, as well as approval for the merit badges they counsel (GTA, 5.0.8.0).
- Create a council list of merit badges appropriate for web-based instruction.
- Develop and conduct training at the council level for anyone hosting an online class to assure standardization and quality control, as well as compliance to BSA youth protections and social media guidelines. (GTA, 5.0.8.0)
- Set limits on the class size of web-based sessions. Patrol-size is often best. Avoid conducting large sessions that can inhibit the ability of the instructor to interact with Scouts.
- Produce guidelines for technology- or Web-based merit badge instruction that places the actual testing in a personal setting (GTA, 5.0.8.0). Use of workbooks is not to be required in lieu of personal interaction (GTA, 7.0.4.8).
- Any fee charged should be limited to recovering the costs related to presenting the opportunity (GTA, 7.0.4.10).

The preferred merit badge experience is direct, face-to-face interaction that takes place between a Scout and his merit badge counselor, whose adult example is one of the key methods of Scouting. The use of digital instruction, interactive or not, should be the exception, not the rule, in a Scout's advancement journey. Online courses should be limited and monitored to ensure that web-based instruction does not become an easy way for Scouts to complete the greatest number of merit badges.



In all aspects of technology-based advancement, both adults and youth must adhere to **BSA Youth Protection guidelines** ([www.scouting.org/Training/youthprotection](http://www.scouting.org/Training/youthprotection)) as well as **BSA Social Media Guidelines** ([www.scouting.org/Marketing/Resources/SocialMedia](http://www.scouting.org/Marketing/Resources/SocialMedia))

The **Cyber Chip** program is also a critical tool in the protection of our youth. See [www.scouting.org/cyberchip](http://www.scouting.org/cyberchip).

## From the Field

### A Testimonial—Training Opportunities Make a Big Difference

“After serving as council advancement chair for two years, I decided to attend Philmont Training Center. I participated in the Mechanics of Advancement conference, which led participants through the 2011 *Guide to Advancement*.

“It was such a good experience that my husband and I headed back to Philmont the following year to attend the Advancement Issues and Solutions conference. This conference was designed to analyze, discuss, and solve real case studies similar to those faced by the National Advancement Committee. It was easy to relate to many of the examples. Since the council in which I serve is one of the largest in the nation, just about everything you can imagine is seen—and more!

“What was really eye-opening was the Conference on Education for Advancement Administrators (CCEA), held at the Florida Sea Base in January of 2014 and 2015. Participants were organized into teams, each given the opportunity to preview and evaluate volunteer-designed and developed materials on topics from the *Guide to Advancement*. Teams then initiated the development and update of new advancement resources to help fellow Scouters present the advancement program as it is intended.

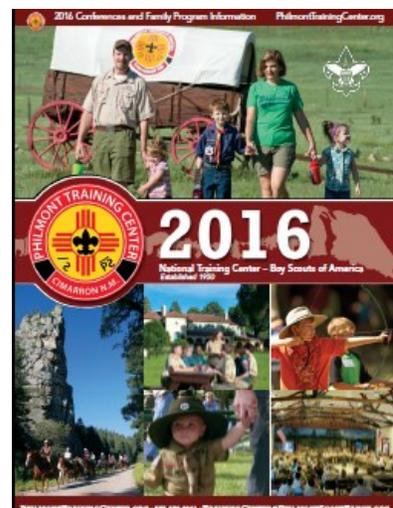
“When attending these conferences, I try to internalize what is taught, noting the changes that might help my home council. Lots of thought and prayer goes into how to implement those changes. Then, once back home, comes the work to make the improvements! These changes have helped strengthen the unity of our council advancement committee, which now works more as a team than ever before.

“**You** also can make Scouting better in your council by committing to attend Philmont Training Center or Florida Sea Base conferences in order to provide the best possible program for the youth in your care. Together everyone can make a bigger difference!”

***Have you seen an impact on a boy or a young man or woman as a result of an experience in the advancement program? Please send your story to [advancement.team@scouting.org](mailto:advancement.team@scouting.org). Provide your name, email, and general location so we may contact you if we have questions. No guarantees, but you just might see your story here.***

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

The Philmont Training Center schedule of conferences for next summer is available now at [www.philmontscoutranch.org/PTC.aspx](http://www.philmontscoutranch.org/PTC.aspx). Download a digital copy of the 2016 conference brochure now, or visit your local council service center for a copy. (**Hint:** If you cannot get to the *Mechanics of Advancement* course at the Florida Sea Base in January, check out the PTC's schedule for the week of June 12-18!)



## From the Archives

Earlier in this edition, we were reminded that the new Cub Scout program includes many exciting new adventures and many related advancement requirements, but one thing has not changed, even if the requirements have—a boy’s personal adventure starts by making Bobcat. As pointed out in the following article, this is precisely where the efforts of advancement committees at every level should be focused if that boy is to make Eagle Scout someday.

### **The Cub Scout Angle: The Inverted Percentage (October, 2011)**

Many council and district advancement committees spend most of their efforts on Boy Scout advancement and especially Eagle Scout issues. This is understandable; the processes are involved. When considering the percentage of Cub Scout membership, however, we find what some would call “the inverted percentage”: The vast majority of the advancement committee’s time is spent meeting the needs of a very small percentage of our membership.

Each year, about 5 or 6 percent of Boy Scouts and Varsity Scout—less than 2 percent of the total traditional membership of the BSA—earn Eagle Scout rank. However, Cub Scouts make up 60 percent of that total traditional membership. It would make sense then, that 60 percent of advancement committee efforts go to building Cub Scouting advancement—or if not that level, then at least significantly more than is now spent. This would contribute enormously to the retention of Cub Scouts, and since most Boy Scouts transition from Cub Scouting, we should see more Boy Scouts, and eventually more Eagle Scouts.

There are a number of ways to address the inverted percentage and support Cub Scout advancement to the degree it warrants. Here are just a few ideas.

- Develop a clear understanding of “Unit Advancement Responsibilities,” section 3.0.0.3 in the *Guide to Advancement*. For Cub Scouting, the most important responsibility may be No. 2, “Educate parents, guardians, unit leadership, and committee members in ways to stimulate and encourage advancement.”
- Initiate communication with Cub Scout packs, and develop relationships with pack advancement coordinators. Some of them may be candidates for the council or district advancement committee, and could lead the charge in helping packs fulfill their responsibilities.
- Keep Eagle issues in perspective.

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### **The Cub Scout Learning Library**

Check it out at  
[www.cubscouts.org](http://www.cubscouts.org).

Currently includes den meeting plans for all required and elective adventures.



#### Cub Scouts Learning Library

Welcome to the new Cub Scout Learning Library, BSA's resource focused on supporting unit leaders. This initial launch provides information and tools for den leaders, with additional content to come for Cubmasters, committee members, charter organization representatives and parents/guardians. Check back often.

[GO TO THE LIBRARY](#)

## Hear It First on Twitter

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

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

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

## Did You Receive these Tweets?

- **June 17** - Now posted: Eagle Scout Service Project Coach Application, for optional use by councils. [www.scouting.org/advancement](http://www.scouting.org/advancement)
- **June 26**—What counts as a "camping night" for the Camping merit badge? [blog.scoutingmagazine.org/2015/06/24/ask-expert-isnt-camping-night-camping-mb/](http://blog.scoutingmagazine.org/2015/06/24/ask-expert-isnt-camping-night-camping-mb/)
- **July 1**—Understanding the Scoutmaster conference: [scoutingmagazine.org/2014/12/understanding-scoutmaster-conference/](http://scoutingmagazine.org/2014/12/understanding-scoutmaster-conference/)
- **July 3** - New 2016 Boy Scout requirements are now posted at [www.scouting.org/programupdates](http://www.scouting.org/programupdates).
- **July 7** - Just a reminder... Summer months count toward advancement time requirements. [blog.scoutingmagazine.org/2014/07/31/one-scoutmaster-says-advancement-time-pauses-summer-bsa-says](http://blog.scoutingmagazine.org/2014/07/31/one-scoutmaster-says-advancement-time-pauses-summer-bsa-says)
- **July 17** - What if my Scout can't complete the First Class swim test? [blog.scoutingmagazine.org/2014/03/10/ask-the-expert-what-if-my-scout-cant-compete-the-first-class-swim-test/](http://blog.scoutingmagazine.org/2014/03/10/ask-the-expert-what-if-my-scout-cant-compete-the-first-class-swim-test/)
- **August 15** - Tune into the August edition of Scoutcast to hear about the 2016 Boy Scout program updates: [www.scouting.org/Scoutcast/Scoutcast/2015.aspx](http://www.scouting.org/Scoutcast/Scoutcast/2015.aspx)
- **September 4** - Are you looking for den meeting plans for the new Cub Scout adventures? Check out the Cub Scout Learning Library: <https://cubscouts.org>

## 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 November-December

**Opportunities for Advancement Administrators: Florida Sea Base—*Mechanics of Advancement*: January 10-16**

**From the *Guide to Advancement*: Section 8: Boards of Review**

**The Cub Scout Angle: Cub Scout Learning Library**

## Helpful Links

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

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

- Cub Scout Advancement: Delivering Adventure
- Getting the Most From Internet Advancement
- The Essentials of Merit Badge Counseling (English and Spanish)
- The Eagle Scout Service Project Coach (English and Spanish)
- Effective Troop Advancement (English and Spanish)
- Including Scouts With Disabilities
- Videocasts on *Guide to Advancement*, selected topics
  - ◇ Introduction to the Guide to Advancement
  - ◇ Judgment Calls
  - ◇ Boards of Review
  - ◇ Boards of Review Under Disputed Circumstances
  - ◇ Boards of Review Appeals
  - ◇ The Eagle Scout Application Process
  - ◇ Eagle Scout Boards of Review
- Videos
  - ◇ On Increasing Advancement
  - ◇ Why Advancement?
  - ◇ Guardian of the Gate



### [Guide to Advancement 2015](#)

### [Eagle Scout Service Project Workbook](#)

### [Navigating the Eagle Scout Service Project: Information for Project Beneficiaries](#)

### [Eagle Scout Service Project Coach Application](#) **NEW!**

### [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](#)

