

Advancement News

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Prepared. For Life.™

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

Opportunities for Advancement Administrators

Last Chance for Philmont Advancement Training

Take advantage of the last chance this summer to attend the BSA's official Mechanics of Advancement training, July 29–August 4.

To register, go to www.myscouting.org and choose the "Events Registration" tab. The course begins with check-in at Philmont on Sunday afternoon and concludes the following Saturday after breakfast. See the April issue of *Advancement News* for more details. Learn how your entire family can be involved in the mystique and grandeur of Philmont.

Sea Base Course to Unveil New Advancement Training

Participants in the Mechanics of Advancement Course at the Florida Sea Base this January will feel more like they are attending a conference for volunteer advancement administrators than a training course. The national Advancement Committee's Education and Webinars Task Force is currently producing several advancement training presentations. They will be tested this fall in a number of councils. Those attending at the Sea Base will

have the opportunity to review the new material and offer comments and suggestions. A number of the presentations will be ready by then for general release, and those in attendance will receive copies they can use in their councils or districts.

The program will also feature the opportunity to give input that will provide the foundation for a few new educational presentations that will be developed during 2013.

The Sea Base conference will begin on Monday, January 21, 2013, and conclude the following Friday. The *Guide to Advancement* will remain as a major focus for the session, with the addition of the training review opportunity and coverage of several case studies that will help develop a better understanding of the intent of procedures outlined in the *Guide*.

Advancement educational materials in production currently include hot topics from the *Guide to Advancement*, administering the Eagle Scout service project, and Internet Advancement. The sessions will be in PowerPoint format of varying lengths, with either a script for the presenter or a voiceover recorded by members of the Education and Webinars Task Force.

Next Issue of *Advancement News* to Cover Two Months

The next issue of *Advancement News* will cover both August and September. We will be back to monthly issues for October and November.

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On Increasing Advancement

Making the Case for Reporting Advancement

The *Guide to Advancement* makes several references to the reasons for and the responsibilities and importance of reporting advancement:

- 3.0.0.1, No. 8: The council advancement committee should support and promote the BSA's Internet Advancement.
- 3.0.0.1, No. 9: The council advancement committee shares advancement statistics for use in council fundraising materials and for supporting membership recruitment and retention efforts and commissioner service.
- 3.0.0.2, No. 3: The district advancement committee maintains records and shares them with commissioners, trainers, and other district volunteers, pointing out units with little or no advancement.
- 3.0.0.2, No. 7: The district advancement committee should support and promote the BSA's Internet Advancement.
- 3.0.0.3, No. 9: The unit advancement coordinator keeps records and submits reports to the unit committee.
- 3.0.0.3, No. 10: The unit advancement coordinator uses the BSA's Internet Advancement to report advancement to the council.

The first thing to do, of course, is to obtain an advancement report for the council or district. Once that's in hand, then what happens? The reports will remain just numbers until the district or council advancement chair analyzes them and takes action. This involves identifying packs, troops, and crews with little or no advancement, or units with a less-than-ideal rate of advancement. Until someone asks what those numbers mean, nothing will happen. And the answers will not be found sitting around a conference table, but out in the units served. As the advancement committee and the commissioner staff look into the various problems, a number of different causes will surface.

- *Units don't see what all the fuss over reporting is about.* Start by explaining why reporting advancement is important to everyone involved, but most of all to the individual Scout. More than a few unit leaders new to Scouting leadership don't see the big picture. In such cases, training on the ease of reporting advancement—especially using the BSA's Internet Advancement reporting—may be all that is needed.
- *Units are awarding badges but just haven't gotten around to reporting advancement.* Start by asking

how they are getting the badges, which are restricted items and are only to be purchased when an advancement report has been filed with the local council (*Guide to Advancement*, 4.0.0.2). If non-reporting seems widespread, consider a campaign at roundtables and major training events to remind leaders about the importance of keeping up-to-date records, especially through the use of Internet Advancement. Remember, there is a certain level of turnover in unit leadership. This means training is not a "once and done" thing but has to be taken regularly. Alert the Scout executive as well, who could remind Scout shop personnel of their responsibility to collect advancement reports.

Little or no advancement or less-than-ideal advancement could also be a more serious unit program issue.

- In a Cub Scout pack, it could mean den leaders are not using the den meeting plans found in the *Den & Pack Meeting Resource Guide*. This will be an opportunity for the training committee to work with the pack to get more leaders trained. We also need to be sure that appropriate ceremonies are part of the monthly pack meetings. The pack advancement coordinator is the one who should be making this happen (*Guide to Advancement*, 3.0.0.3, No. 3).
- In a Boy Scout troop or Varsity Scout team, a low rate of advancement may point to an issue with advancement records and reporting, or to a generally weak program. Is the unit going camping? A troop or team without an exciting outdoor program won't have the kind of advancement you'd like to see. This will be an opportunity to work with the camping committee and the commissioner staff to improve the program. Strong troops and teams weave advancement opportunities into not only their camping programs but also into their meetings and other activities.
- In a Venturing crew, it may mean advancement is simply not emphasized or understood. Though there are good crews without a consistent advancement program, making use of the whole program package has definite advantages. Working with the crew advancement coordinator—if there is one—can help. If the position is vacant, this represents an opportunity to encourage the crew leadership to recruit one and to learn about the benefits of adding advancement opportunities.

Improving the rate of advancement will help keep youth in the program longer, giving us more opportunities to influence their character, citizenship, and fitness. Isn't that what we're all about?



Adopt-a-School

BSA Adopt-a-School is a program designed to begin proactively addressing community and school relationships. Implemented, it will be a win-win situation for both Scouting and our schools.

How does it work?

Units start with four volunteer projects agreed upon by the unit and school. The unit pledges to complete one of these projects per quarter over a yearlong period and registers them using an online pledge form. The unit then posts project hours and completion on the Internet so that this is counted toward their Journey to Excellence service hours.

All youth will benefit from the advancement opportunities Adopt-a-School presents, and the recognition elements range from patches to certificates of participation and Progress Toward Ranks advancement. Various Cub Scout achievements (e.g., Wolf achievement 7d, pick up litter) could be earned by participating in a project to benefit a Scout's school. Elsewhere, a First Class Scout taking part in service projects totaling at least six hours could use his Adopt-a-School time to achieve the rank of Star Scout.

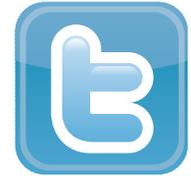
Units benefit in many ways, as well. Participation will show the community that Scouting is alive and well and will share the value of Scouting with the schools and the local community.

District and council advancement committee members should encourage unit advancement committees to explore these opportunities. Explain how teaming up with local schools can benefit advancement and increase community awareness of the rewards of Scouting. To learn more, see stories and pictures of successful projects at the Adopt-a-School website, www.bsadoptaschool.org.

The first step for a unit? Go to www.bsadoptaschool.org to register and complete an electronic pledge form. When projects are completed, return to the site and leave a blog about the accomplishments.

Advancement Team

Now on Twitter



The national Advancement Team is now on Twitter to send short messages to those interested. Topics will cover the FAQs received at the national office, clarifications on policies and procedures, and best practices in advancement.

If you already have a Twitter account, follow us "@AdvBSA" or "BSA Advancement Team." If you don't, it's quick and easy to set one up at www.Twitter.com. To limit incoming emails, you can select the Advancement Team as the only account you want to follow.

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.

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.

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The Cub Scout Angle

Time for the National Summertime Pack Award

Summertime is active time for Cub Scouting. The season brings a built-in advancement tool: the National Summertime Pack Award program.

How does it work? There are three levels of recognition for these summertime awards. First is the boy level. The Cub Scout participates in three activities—one in each of the summer months. June may be a pack picnic, hike, or trip; July, a Cub Scout day camp or resident camp; and August, a pack overnight or an afternoon gathering for fun and games and sports. After participating in one activity each month the boy is recognized with the National Summertime Pack Award pin (a sunburst).

The pack also receives recognition for these summer activities that helped the pack go and grow, especially by providing adventure for newly (spring) recruited pack families. Recognition is in the form of a National Summertime Pack Award streamer for the pack flag.

The third level is for the den. This recognition goes to each den that has 50 percent or more of its members attending each event. The recognition is a ribbon for the den flag. Cub Scouts can also be recognized individually if they attend at least one event per month. Those who do so are eligible for the National Summertime Pack Award pin, which comes in various colors depending on rank. Since the goal of this award is for packs to continue through the summer, the pin should match up with the Cub Scout's last rank, not the one they are working on for the next year.

Remember, throughout the summer the pack's Cub Scouts should have the opportunity to complete several achievements or electives. Part of the pack advancement committee's responsibility is to help build pack programming around advancement opportunities (*Guide to Advancement*, 3.0.0.3 "Unit Advancement Responsibilities," No. 2). In the summer, there are few limits to the types of activities that will promote advancement.

- Participate as a pack at day camp or resident camp.
- Conduct an overnight campout with a BALOO-trained leader as organizer.
- Have a pack picnic.
- Organize games at a park (active games such as volleyball, badminton, soccer).
- Schedule a swim outing at a pool with a lifeguard.
- Hike through the woods or a historical part of town.

- Visit the zoo or a nature center.
- Visit a museum.
- Attend a baseball game as a pack.

All these, and more, qualify for advancement recognition for Cub Scouts. To learn more, and to print the award form, visit www.scouting.org/cubscouts and click on the Pack Committee button for a list of resources that includes the form. Or, you can go directly to the form at www.scouting.org/filestore/pdf/33748.pdf.

When summer is over, plan a big ceremony to add the banner to the flag. Award the pins to the Cub Scouts at the first pack meeting of the fall. This will be a visible reminder of a summer of fun and friends.

Advancement Committee Mechanics

Advancement Committee Position Descriptions

In a series of articles, *Advancement News* is describing the responsibilities of 12 specialized council advancement committee positions identified in the October 2011 issue. These positions support the specific advancement committee duties defined in section 3 of the *Guide to Advancement* and quality advancement across all Scouting programs.

In the May issue, the district advancement coordinator and volunteerism specialist roles were examined. In this issue we look at the advancement promotions specialist and the advancement training and events coordinator.

Advancement Promotions Specialist

This member of the council advancement committee helps drive awareness of advancement as a means to encourage success. For Cub Scouts, this may include programs to ensure all den members are advancing annually through well-planned programs. At the Boy Scout level, promoting successful initiatives, such as "First Class in the first year," helps provide a quality advancement experience early in the program to help improve retention. This member may also coordinate media placements featuring Eagle Scout, Venturing Ranger, or Sea Scout Quartermaster awards, for example, to increase community awareness of Scouting's positive impact.

The advancement promotions specialist should also join in the effort to encourage packs and troops to use Internet Advancement to improve the rate of advancement reporting.

Advancement Training and Events Coordinator

This member of the council advancement committee ensures active advancement training at all levels, ranging from district advancement committee members to unit-level advancement coordinators. In addition to basic training needs, this member ensures advancement volunteers are current with all BSA program updates. This includes the *Guide to Advancement* and best practices to build quality programs at the unit level. Ongoing training can address specific needs, e.g., increasing use of online Internet Advancement, or promulgating best practices for Eagle project coaching.

From the Guide to Advancement

The *Guide to Advancement* is now available in an indexed online version, in addition to the downloadable PDF copy. For the web version, go to www.scouting.org/scoutsource/GuideToAdvancement.aspx.

For the PDF, go to <http://www.scouting.org/scoutsource/BoyScouts/AdvancementandAwards/resources.aspx>. Note that the *Eagle Scout Service Project Workbook*, the Eagle Scout Rank Application, and many other resources also can be found there.

Meaningful District Merit Badge Counselor List, Part 3

As indicated in the April 2012 issue of *Advancement News*, to best support an active, functioning merit badge program, the first step is to create a comprehensive, meaningful, and up-to-date district merit badge counselor list. Every district should have one person (better yet, a team of dedicated Scouters) whose primary activity is to recruit merit badge counselors and maintain the merit badge counselor roster. The resulting more comprehensive list will be a big help to Scoutmasters and boys as they search for qualified merit badge counselors.

Here are some thoughts on adding additional merit badge counselors.

It is permissible to use volunteers who are not registered and approved merit badge counselors to serve as "guest speakers." These may be parents, friends, coworkers, or others with skills and education in various merit badges. After their success in a guest speaker capacity, give speakers positive reinforcement, tell them more about volunteer opportunities for merit badge counseling, and perhaps invite them to serve.

Some volunteers may have misgivings about the time involved in service as a merit badge counselor, or concerns about their expertise. Explain they can control the level of their involvement, counseling as many or as few Scouts as they like. The answer to the second cause for hesitation is that if they enjoy the subject, the Scouts will enjoy their counseling. Counselors must have skills or education related to their merit badges, although the requirements are set up in such a way that they are easy to understand or research.

Explain the merit badge process to prospective counselors. Avoid BSA acronyms, and use terms they can understand. Don't make it too complex, and don't go into all the pitfalls they may or may not encounter along their Scouting trail. Have a blue card handy to show them during the discussion, and refer to the *Guide to Merit Badge Counseling*, No. 34532. Keep it simple, make it fun!

As you discuss these topics with them and get them comfortable with the idea of merit badge counseling, be prepared with an adult application and merit badge counselor application for them to complete.

The final item to consider is Youth Protection training. Provide the link to the online training. Ask them to complete it when they get home and to email the PDF completion certificate to you. Encourage them to complete it right away, and explain that it generally takes less than 30 minutes from start to finish.

For more information about merit badge counseling, what to look for in a merit badge counselor, and how to build and maintain a merit badge counselor list, review the *Guide to Advancement*, topics 7.0.1.0 and 7.0.2.0.

Eagle Issues

Avoiding Issues for Eagle Scout Candidates

Occasionally a circumstance will arise where there is a difference of opinion regarding whether a Scout—especially an Eagle Scout candidate—has met the requirements to advance. To ensure all are treated fairly, an appeal procedure exists for those rare times when a board of review does not unanimously vote in favor of advancement.

The key to reducing or eliminating appeals is communication and a thorough understanding of the requirements and their application. The most common cause for appeals is the adding of requirements, which includes reading more into

them than is written. Vague and unsupported references to a “lack of Scout spirit” or “insufficient leadership” often lead to appeals as well, and do not help Scouts improve their performance.

Our goal as leaders should be to help Scouts achieve success. While pages and pages can be written about how adults can help youth succeed, perhaps a few examples of past Eagle appeals will provide insight to help avoid a number of problems.

In a recent case, the unit leadership declined to sign the Eagle Scout Rank Application or provide a board of review, citing the nebulous statement that the Scout needed to “demonstrate more leadership.” The 16-year-old Life Scout had completed all the Eagle rank requirements, including his project. During the next two years, even though he had held several different positions of responsibility, the response was always the same: He needed to “demonstrate more leadership.”

Eventually, the Scout turned 18, and his Scoutmaster advised him to contact the district advancement committee to ask them to convene a board of review. This was done, but the board decided against recommending the Scout for advancement. The Scout filed an appeal, which eventually came to the national Advancement Team. There it was determined the board of review had not established that the position of responsibility requirement had not been fulfilled, the decision was overturned, and the rank of Eagle Scout was granted. It was clear from the documents provided that the unit was applying a higher standard for this candidate than they were for other Scouts. In doing so, they were adding to the requirements.

Clearly the unit leadership did not give sufficient guidance and support to the candidate. Simply making statements such as needing to “demonstrate more leadership” without providing specifics of what needed to be accomplished did not serve the Scout well or help him improve his performance. In addition, the Scout had served in several positions of responsibility without any indication that his performance was not acceptable. Any concerns about a Scout’s performance in a position of responsibility need to be communicated to the Scout. For more information, see the *Guide to Advancement*, topic 4.2.3.4.5.

Uninformed adult leaders can sometimes create circumstances that waste critical time and teach our Scouts the wrong lessons. In one such case a young man remained a Star Scout for three years due to a high level of activity in educational, social, religious, and athletic activities beyond Scouting. He finally achieved Life Scout just after his 17th birthday, and eventually completed his Eagle-required merit badges

and his service project. He did not take a position of responsibility, however, because the Scoutmaster advised him this would not be realistic, due to his outside activity. Instead, he was told his outside leadership would be taken into consideration when he applied for Eagle.

Unfortunately, when the young man submitted his Eagle application, the council pointed out he had not fulfilled a position of responsibility, and therefore was not qualified to advance. The Scout appealed, but since there is no alternative to serving in a position of responsibility in his unit, the appeal was denied—even though the candidate had been given incorrect information by his Scoutmaster. While in some cases, incorrect information from an adult may provide mitigating circumstances beyond the youth’s control, the Eagle candidate bears some responsibility to read and understand the requirements.

When considering candidates for the Eagle Scout rank, it is important for boards of review to carefully consider the accuracy and relevance of the information they have been provided. In another case, a Scout completed all of his requirements just before his 18th birthday and submitted his Eagle application with all necessary signatures. A district board of review was scheduled, but it did not vote unanimously to advance the Scout to Eagle rank. The letter to the Scout stated in part “Some members felt you were not living the Scout Oath and Law in your daily life.” However, no specifics were included as to why the members felt that way.

The Scout eventually appealed the decision to the national Advancement Team. Further research determined the decision to deny advancement was based on a family issue related to an incident outside of Scouting that had occurred several years earlier. This incident was investigated by appropriate authorities and found to be unsubstantiated. Interestingly, the incident was not brought up during his Star and Life Scout boards of review. One wonders why it became an issue several years later at the time of his Eagle board of review. As a result, the national Advancement Team overturned the decision and granted the rank.

See the *Guide to Advancement* (8.0.0.0) for more information on boards of review.

What’s the Procedure?

Reviewing the Eagle Scout Board of Review

While it is acceptable and appropriate for council advancement committees to allow Eagle Scout boards of review at the unit level, most are conducted by the district. Regardless, the same basic procedures apply.

1. The council advancement committee decides at which level Eagle Scout boards of review are administered.
2. At least one member of an Eagle Scout board of review must be a representative of the district or council advancement committee.
3. The review board must consist of at least three and no more than six participants, all at least 21 years old, who have an understanding of the Eagle Scout rank and the purpose of the board of review.
4. The board of review may not occur until after the local council has verified the application.
5. A chair is appointed to schedule times, places, and review board members.
6. If references are slow in coming, the board of review cannot be denied or postponed.
7. If the unit leader or unit committee chair does not approve an application, a board of review is still granted; however, the reason for their action may be considered in the decision. (See *Guide to Advancement*, topic 8.0.3.2.)
8. The board members should meet prior to the introduction of the candidate to review his application, references, service project documents, and statement of ambitions and life purpose.
9. Once the candidate is introduced, the review should last about 30 minutes and not longer than 45 minutes.
10. While a board of review may be adjourned and reconvened at a later time, a candidate has only one board of review. Any subsequent actions fall under the appeals process.
11. Only *after* the credentials are returned from the national Advancement Team may medals and patches be purchased, or a court of honor scheduled.

Finally, always bear in mind that one of the eight methods of Boy Scouting, "association with adults," is put to use when any board of review is properly carried out. An Eagle Scout board provides the unique opportunity for a Scout to discuss common interests with adults, and to thus improve his confidence and communication skills.

The Council Advancement Committee and Merit Badges at Camp

Boy Scouts return from summer camp with backpacks full of dirty socks and uniforms smelling of evening campfires, and also miscellaneous awards, questionable treasures, and quite often, partially completed merit badge blue cards. Those "incomplete" or "partial" blue cards show the Scout did, in fact,

complete certain requirements, and there is no need for him to repeat those requirements (*Guide to Advancement*, topic 7.0.3.3). A partial blue card becomes a starting point toward completion of a merit badge. Unit advancement coordinators should conduct a post-camp inventory of the cards and work the incomplete merit badges into program plans for the fall.

Whether completed at camp, a district or council event, or at the unit level, the goal is to follow BSA-mandated procedures and present consistent, quality merit badge instruction. What a Scout does to earn the merit badge in a group instructional setting must be the same as done in an individual setting with a merit badge counselor. The council advancement committee has the responsibility to control the process and establish practices for camps and merit badge events that comply with national group instruction procedures (*Guide to Advancement*, topic 7.0.3.2). Camp directors and those presenting merit badge midways, clinics, colleges, etc., should be informed of the procedures and be sure their programs follow them. This is best done when a council advancement committee forges partnerships with those other concerned Scouters.



Merit Badges—What's New?

Kayaking

Question: What is one thing that must always be worn while paddling? (The answer is below, but here's a hint: It's in the patch above.)

What, you haven't seen that patch before? That's because it's new! The much-anticipated release of the Kayaking merit badge became official with its ceremonial launching at the National Annual Meeting in May.

As one would guess, the emphasis for this merit badge begins with safety and basic skills proficiency in solo kayaking. Scouts will first learn about likely hazards they may encounter, and not all of those are water-related. The young men will also be dealing with weather and situations that might require first aid.

Boats used for the merit badge should be hard-shell kayaks with large, open cockpits from which the Scout can easily perform a wet exit, but may be sit-on-tops or even inflatable kayaks. Preferably they should be solo boats, because all testing should be done with the Scout as a solo paddler. While reviewing the various types of kayaks available, boys will learn the parts of the craft, review design differences, and understand the advantages and disadvantages of materials commonly used. They will also review the proper care, maintenance, and storage of kayaks.

With the basics reviewed, Scouts head to the water to practice strokes and control of the kayak. To earn the merit badge, each boy will need to demonstrate how to paddle, turn, pivot, start, and stop his craft.

Many summer camps have anticipated the addition of the Kayaking merit badge to their camp programs and have prepared their counselors with the necessary orientation and training. Units can help their youth by encouraging familiarity with the requirements and the merit badge pamphlet. Then once at camp, boys will get more from the adventure of kayaking and will progress more quickly toward the new badge.

Have you guessed it? What must you wear when kayaking? A life jacket, of course. Requirement 3a for this merit badge states that a Scout must do the following: Review the characteristics of life jackets most appropriate for kayaking and why one must always be worn while paddling. Then demonstrate how to select and fit a life jacket.

The *Kayaking* merit badge pamphlet is now available in Scout shops or through www.scoutstuff.org.



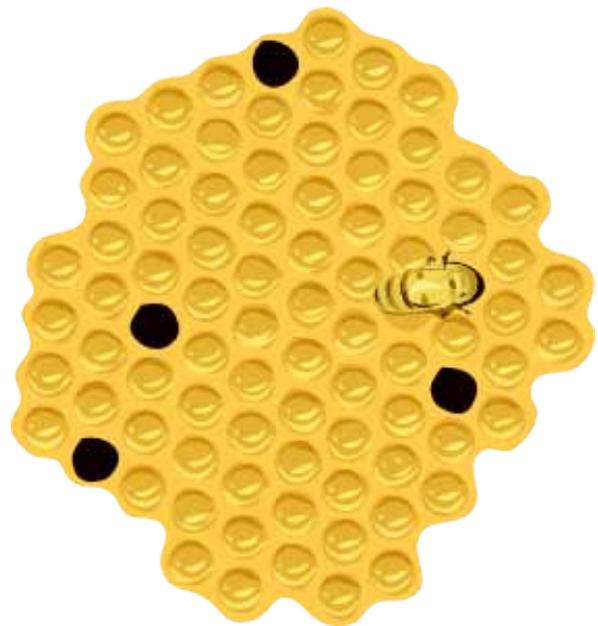
Search and Rescue

Another exciting adventure-based merit badge is expected to make its debut during the late summer or early fall of 2012: Search and Rescue! Appropriately, the Search and Rescue merit badge's public launch

took place at the recent National Search and Rescue Conference at Lake Tahoe. Requirements and pamphlets are expected at Scout shops around the end of August.

National Scout Jamboree Needs YOU!

The release of the Kayaking and Search and Rescue merit badges will bring the total of new badges released in the last two years to five, including Robotics (April 2011), Chess (September 2011), and Welding (February 2012). The 2013 National Scout Jamboree will need merit badge counselors to provide expertise on each of these new offerings. For more information about this and other jamboree staff opportunities, visit the jamboree website at <https://summit.scouting.org/en/Jamboree2013/Pages/default.aspx>.



Beekeeping "Buzz"

In recent years, Scouts and Scouters have expressed a desire for the Beekeeping merit badge to be reinstated. They have been concerned about the vital role bees play in our ecosystem and that Scouts seem increasingly unaware of the problems honeybees face today.

After a great deal of research and consideration, much of the old Beekeeping merit badge requirements and related activities and lessons will soon be incorporated into several existing badges. Those affected include Environmental Science, Forestry, Gardening, Insect Study, Nature, and Plant Science. As a result, more Scouts will be exposed to honeybee issues than if the merit badge were reinstated. Look for more information this fall.



Awards and Recognition

Cyber Chip and Youth Protection

To help families and volunteers keep youth safe while online, the BSA has teamed with NetSmartz®—part of the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children—to create the Cyber Chip. This exciting new communication tool addresses the issues of cyberbullying, cellphone use, texting, blogging, gaming, and identify theft.

Visit www.scouting.org/cyberchip to learn more about how units can incorporate this imaginative Youth Protection resource and help Scouts earn a Cyber Chip patch. Along with information on how each Scout can earn a pocket card certificate and patch appropriate to different grade levels, the website provides links to grade-appropriate videos and support materials that can be integrated into Scouting programs.

Cyber Chip patches, which can be earned by any youth in any BSA program, are available for purchase at www.scoutstuff.org. Other materials available include a pocket card and *Power Pack Pals* booklets that cover Internet safety and bullying (English and Spanish).

Please help promote the Cyber Chip to unit leadership and parents through newsletters, meetings, activities, and other services provided by your district and council; for example, roundtables, training, and commissioner service.



What Do You Think?

Survey for July/August 2012

What Do You Think About Advancement News?

This month's survey seeks your input regarding the content and quality of *Advancement News*. The national Advancement Committee wants to know what features are most useful for you in your Scouting position and what additional information will help you provide the best Scouting experience for youth. The estimated time to complete this survey is 10 minutes.

Note that anonymous responses are not accepted for this survey. This is because of the importance the national Advancement Team places on the ability to communicate with survey respondents should more information be needed about their answers. Please click on the link below. Feedback is a gift; we'd like to know what you think. Please note that you may need to copy the link to your browser.

http://scouting.us.qualtrics.com/SE/?SID=SV_4GHd5SggwH3sWpe

A Peek Ahead

Watch this regular feature for a glimpse of what is slated for our next issue. Please understand, however, that the actual articles may vary somewhat based on a number of internal considerations.

Topics Planned for August/September

The next issue of *Advancement News* will be distributed in late August for the months of both August and September. Here are a few highlights on what you may see.

On Increasing Advancement: Advancement for the Lone Scout

The Cub Scout Angle: Day Camp and Resident Camp Advancement Processes; Focus on Bobcat: The First Advancement for New Cub Scouts

Advancement Committee Mechanics: Advancement Committee Position Descriptions

From the Guide to Advancement: Service Projects: An Important Part of the Scouting Experience

Eagle Issues: Working With the Eagle Scout Service Project Workbook

What's the Procedure?: The Post-Summer Camp Board of Review

Awards and Recognition: Procedures for Lifesaving and Meritorious Action Awards