

Advancement News

January-February
2021

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Prepared. For Life.

The January/February newsletter reported the release of "virtual introduction to Leadership Skills for Troops (ILST) and introduction to Leadership Skills for Crews (ILSC) had been delayed. This was published in error. Virtual ILST/C courses are available. Please visit the Irraining Times for information about this training resource, along with other valuable information that can help keep Scouting vibrant during the pandemic.

Recent modifications:

COVID-19 FAQ has been updated *effective January 14, 2021*. The full FAQ may be found at <u>COVID-19</u> <u>FAQ</u>. Scouters will want to pay special attention to changes to rank advancement/camping requirements and limited time extensions that may be granted by local councils.

Correction: Please note on page 2, the boxed listing of titles of troop leadership positions that will fulfill requirement 4 of the Eagle Scout Award has been amended to correctly identify Assistant Senior Patrol Leader as one of those positions.

As programs and opportunities modify over time, your friends at *Advancement News* will be here to share these insights with you in a new format. *Advancement News* will be published directly to the <u>Advancement Resources</u> page of Scouting.org. Each bi-monthly edition will be found at the <u>Advancement News site</u>. As advancement changes regularly, note that the most current versions of items found in *Advancement News* supersedes previous versions. As always, the current edition of the *Guide to Advancement* as found online is the primary source.

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On Increasing Advancement

Positions of Responsibility: Troop Leadership

In this series of articles, we have been sharing some of the linkage between the Scouting aim of leadership development and the Scouting method of advancement via youth positions of responsibility.

The 2020 Eagle Scout Rank Application lists 15 troop leadership positions that will fulfill requirement 4 of the Eagle Scout Award. They are patrol leader, assistant senior patrol leader, senior patrol leader, troop guide, Order of the Arrow troop representative, den chief, scribe, librarian, historian, quartermaster, junior assistant Scoutmaster, chaplain aide, instructor, webmaster, and outdoor ethics guide.

Section 9.0.1.3 of *The Guide to Advancement* states, "Position of responsibility: Must be one of those listed in Eagle Scout rank requirement 4, and must relate to the unit where the Scout was registered and active at the time service was rendered."

Units do not have authority to require specific positions of responsibility for a specific rank.

Guide To Advancement Section 4.2.3.4.1

That section also mentions circumstances for youth who are in multiple units: "For example, 'SPL' would not be used by a crew member unless he or she was, or is, also registered in a troop. For a Scout who has transferred from a troop to a Venturing crew or Sea Scout ship, any qualifying position(s) held after the Life rank board of review in the troop shall count, and the six-month element of the requirement may be met through a combination of nonconcurrent positions served in the troop, crew, or ship."

Section 4.2.3.4 "Positions of Responsibility" will help to determine whether a Scout has fulfilled the requirement. This section will help you with Lone Scouts, authority to require a specific position (No!), leadership in a jamboree troop or Philmont crew, substitute positions for Star or Life, overlapping positions, meeting unit expectations, and "responsibility and leadership."

Advancement News has already shared thoughts on patrol leaders and den chiefs, and we will share on the other troop leadership positions in future editions.

We encourage you to promote and use these especially important positions of responsibility, as they are designed, in your area of service. They will not only help strengthen a Scouts BSA troop, they are a method which will give a Scout valuable experience which fulfills the leadership aim of the Scouting program.

Troop leadership positions – Requirement #4 of Eagle Scout Award

Patrol leader Librarian Webmaster

*Assistant senior patrol leader Historian Outdoor ethics guide

Senior patrol leader Quartermaster Order of the Arrow troop representa-

Troop guide Junior Assistant scoutmaster tive

Den chief Chaplain aide
Scribe Instructor

^{*} Notation: Assistant <u>senior</u> patrol leader is the correct leadership position referenced in *Guide To Advancement* Section 4.2.3.4.1. An earlier edition of Advancement News incorrectly identified assistant patrol leader in this list.

Cub Scouts

Blue and Gold Celebrations in 2021



A blue and gold is more than just a banquet or a ceremony, it can help define a community.

For many Cub Scout packs, February is blue and gold banquet month because the observance is associated with our Scouting Anniversary in early February. Units may certainly treat it as a birthday party for Cub Scouting.

The first recorded blue and gold banquet was held in the 1930s. At that time, the pack and all activities were run by the mothers of the neighborhood for their sons. To engage the fathers, a banquet was proposed. To be able to attend, fathers and sons had to create their own homemade utensils. The idea was to come up with an activity that father and son could do together. Sound familiar? The pack supports an activity that brings the family together.

As the idea of a blue and gold caught on with other Packs, each created an event or banquet that best fit the needs of their community of families.

Precisely because the original intent of these events was to **build a community** among families. Blue and gold can be anything a unit wants it to be. There are no established requirements. Some units do not have a blue and gold. It is **not** a requirement.

If you want to have a meal and celebrate, work with the families in the pack and figure out the when, where and how. If you want to have a ceremony of some sort, then have a ceremony that fits with the pack community. Blue and gold should be about celebrating the unit, and reflect the wishes of the participating families.

There is nothing sacred about February. Blue and gold may take place anytime during the year. Some packs hold a blue and gold in May as a ceremony for rank advancement. This ensures that all the youth have ample opportunity to complete their adventures. Cub Scouts are young children who rely on adults to help them complete their activities. The goal is to create a path to success for them.

Another option is to hold an "end of the year" picnic in the park. It could be a barbeque to allow adults and youth time to simply enjoy being together, with no other objectives.

One additional thought. If February is the month that your unit would like to hold the event, consider the possibility of having it on a Saturday as a breakfast and invite your larger community, those outside your Scouting community. Show what Scouting families look like.

Now more than ever, families are looking for a way to connect with other families. Their children want to be around other kids. Many of our youth are attending school virtually or in a blended format. They really miss their social time with their peers. Adults are looking for contact with other adults. Blue and gold can be just the ticket to building a community using the Cub Scout Pack as the common bond.

For more information and thoughts about the blue and gold, check out the Cub Scout Breakouts found at the January roundtable resource pages.

Scouts BSA

BSA Distinguished Conservation Service Award



In 2020, the William T. Hornaday Awards program, which became a BSA award in the late 1930s, was discontinued and the new BSA Distinguished Conservation Service Awards program was launched in its place. This new program is a modernized, streamlined program designed to encourage more conservation advocacy and service.

There are three new award programs:

- 1. Youth Award BSA Distinguished Conservation Service Award
- 2. Adult Award BSA Distinguished Conservationist
- 3. Organization BSA Distinguished Conservation

Service Award Certificate

For requirements and deadlines, review the award program details at BSA site for

Outdoor programs.

The William T Hornaday Bronze Medal and Silver Medal were retired on October 12, 2020. The requirements for new awards and work on these must be completed by June 30, 2021. For those youth who were already working on these medals, BSA Distinguished Conservation Service Award, Bronze Honor and Silver Honor have been established.

The BSA Distinguished Conservation Service Award has separate requirements for Scouts and for Venturers and Sea Scouts.

In summary Scout Requirements are:

- 1. First Class Scout
- 2. Complete these five merit badges: Environmental Science, Fish and Wildlife Management, Forestry, Soil and Water Conservation, and Sustainability.
- 3. Earn two more of the flowing merit badges: Bird Study, Energy, Fishing, Fly-Fishing, Gardening, Geology, Insect Study, Landscape Architecture, Mammal Study, Nature, Nuclear Science, Oceanography, Plant Sci-

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About Advancement News

Advancement News is the official e-letter of the Boy Scouts of America National Advancement Program Team. Its intent is to provide and clarify procedures found in the *Guide to Advancement*, announce various changes and updates in advancement, and to assist advancement committees in making decisions that can help increase the rate of advancement. Therefore, districts and councils may reprint articles from this publication. Our plan is to distribute six issues of *Advancement News* annually, but special editions may go out whenever there is important information to share. Feedback, suggestions, and letters to the editor are welcome at

advancement.team@scouting.org.

ence, Pulp and Paper, Reptile and Amphibian Study, or Weather

4. Plan and complete two service projects from two different areas. It should be noted that one of these service projects could serve as the Scout's Eagle service project.

5. The areas are

- a. Air and water pollution control
- b. Energy conservation
- c. Fish and wildlife management
- d. Forestry and range management
- e. Hazardous materials disposal and management
- f. Invasive species control
- g. Pollinator management
- h. Resource recovery
- i. Soil and water conservation
- 6. Pass a board of review conducted by the council conservation committee

This new award and the new requirements should make it possible for more youth to be recognized for promoting conservation.

The BSA Distinguished Conservationist Award (the award for adults) and the BSA Distinguished Conservation Service Award Certificate (the award for organizations) are awarded by nomination only. Applications should be submitted to the National BSA Director of Conservation and will be reviewed by the National Conservation Awards Committee.

What is a Council Conservation Committee?

This committee includes Scouting volunteers, professionals, and partner organizations that have an interest in maintaining the conservation program emphasis in Scouting. Find out more from The Council Conservation Committee Guidebook.

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. To subscribe to the Advancement News announcements, click here: <u>Subscribe</u>

Eagle, Summit, Quartermaster Highlights:

New Eagle Rank Extension Requests Policy/Procedures

Effective January 1, 2021, local councils will have the authority to grant limited extensions of time to complete Eagle, Summit, or Quartermaster requirements. Scouts or their representatives must make the request to their local councils for time extensions beyond their 18th birthday to work on their Eagle Rank requirements (for Venture Scouts or Sea Scouts to work on their Summit Rank or Quartermaster Rank requirements, respectively, beyond their 21st birthday).

The topics regarding the new policies and procedures can currently be found at www.scouting.org/
advancement and will later be included in the 2021 edition of the GUIDE (GTA), which will be published early in the year.

These extension are only available to youth members who qualify under the three tests listed in GTA topic 9.0.4.0. The process for requesting a time extension is outlined in topic 9.0.4.1. An appeal process is covered in topic 9.0.4.2. Related forms for requesting either a time extension (11.2.0.0) or an appeal (11.2.1.0) are also posted on the website.

The three tests extension requirement may be reviewed in the 2021 Guide To Advancement, which will supersede any similar topics in previous Guide to Advancement publications.

There is no plan to authorize future COVID-specific extensions as was allowed in 2020 beyond those updated January 14, 2021. COVID could become a circumstance that warrants a council-granted extension if it qualifies under the three tests listed in GTA topic 9.0.4.0. Note that existing COVID extensions granted between October 1, 2020, and December 31, 2020, will expire three months after they were granted.

Reminder: Upon turning 18, the Scout must complete an Adult Application, registering with Participation Code UP and Scouting position title Unit Participant, and complete Youth Protection Training.

Sea Scouts

Seabadge Opportunities

Current availabilities for Seabadge now include the following dates and contacts.

February 27-28 and March 6-7, contact Curtis Letson, curtis.letson@gmail.com
June 5-6 and 12-13, contact Emily Newell, emily99newell@gmail.com
October 2-3, and 9-10, contact Bryan Thompson, spumkittle@gmail.com



Special Needs Interests

Joining Conferences

Reprinted article from the Fall 2020 issue of Abilities Digest.

Special needs and disabilities are all around us. There are many of us who have disabilities, but by looking at us, one cannot tell. In the next few months, Scouts and Scouters will be either recruiting or joining a new unit. With that in mind, one of your personal goals shoud be getting to know each Scout, each family and the leadership better. You especial-



ly need to better understand, from either side of the table, when a Scout has a disability that presents the need for extra support. If so, after a Scout joins a unit, follow up with a joining conference!

Joining conferences are at the crux of a successful tenure in the Scouting program.

Here's how it works:

Rationale: A joining conference builds trust and rapport among the leadership and the parents as partners in delivering the Scouting program. Every Scout has unique attributes. The joining conference can help the unit play to the strengths of the youth, provide for his/her special needs, and help prevent conflicts with other members of the unit. The joining conference should take place within the first month after the Scout joins the unit. Keep in mind this conference is not a "job interview." Each young person has nothing to prove before joining a unit.

Attendees: One or both parents, preferably someone who is disabilities awareness trained who will have direct contact with the youth; in Cub Scouting the den leader should be included; in Scouts BSA, the youth could be included—but let common sense prevail.

Where: This is a candid, private conversation, so it should be held out of earshot of others. It is OK to do this at a regular unit meeting, but you might have to hold the conference at a different place or time in order to insure privacy.

Confidentiality: Parents decide what the leaders need to know. Assume confidentiality unless a parent gives permission for you to share with other key leadership. Ask if you are not sure what the parent wants. If you believe the youth will benefit from other key adult and youth leaders being brought into the loop, ask for permission.

Topics: The joining conference should be a friendly, informative, get-to-know you meeting. While listening and asking questions, it is critical to understand what is being said. The expertise of someone who has worked in the field of special needs can be very beneficial. Your council's Disabilities Awareness Committee could be a resource for you at the time of the conference. Generally, parents want the leadership to know and understand the youth. Listen and ask questions. The parents will tell you what you need to know. Ultimately, the goal is to form a team with the parents, in order to provide a growth oriented program for the young person. Keeping the lines of communication open should definitely be another goal. Begin with ask-

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ing about strengths and then the struggles. Find out how the youth manages them. As a parent, find out how the leadership could help in specific circumstances. As a leader, find out how the parents handle and work with the youth. Work together to come up with doable solutions. Understanding a specific diagnosis can be helpful, but not a necessary component. The main goal should be for the leadership and the parents to work together for the success of the youth with special needs and disabilities.

Ask questions such as:

- 1. What are the youth's unique strengths? Struggles?
- 2. How are the struggles managed at home? At school?
- 3. Does anything trigger emotional outbursts? How can this be prevented? What strategies can be used to deescalate?
- 4. Are there warning signals for overwhelming situations? Meltdowns? Anxiety?
- 5. Are there any concerns with reading, writing, comprehension?
- 6. What strategies can be used within small or large groups to help the youth participate?
- 7. What different strategies are used at school or at home to facilitate learning?
- 8. What could the parent/leadership need to work out in order to ensure success?

Don't stop with just this one conference. Keep an open door policy. Building relationships with the Scout and his/her family is critical. Communication is paramount. Scouting is for everyone. Together we can all be successful!

Venturing

Venturing Youth Trainings Available

Venturing offers a variety of training options available to youth. During these times of COVID-19, some additional measures have been taken to ensure that training options are still made available to those who need them. (For example, in October 2020, the



National Council released an online version of the Introduction to Leadership Skills for Crews course, which is available in your training profile on www.myscouting.org.)

The first training that a Venturer can take is the Introduction to Leadership Skills for Crews (ILSC) which is similar to Introduction to Leadership Skills for Troops (ILST). This training <u>replaces</u> the former Venturing Leadership Skills Course. ILSC helps Venturers in leadership positions understand their responsibilities and will equip them with organization and leadership skills. Completing ILSC is a requirement for the Discovery Award.

Venturers completing this training, are then eligible to advance their training by attending National Youth

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Leadership Training or NYLT within their council. After this, they can attend National Advanced Youth Leader Experience at Philmont or The Summit. ILSC is also a prerequisite to attend Kodiak, which is a week-long or two weekend long, outdoor trek-based training course where Venturers are given five commissions. After this, the Venturer can attend Kodiak X where the commissions from Kodiak are further explored and they learn about two additional commissions. Kodiak X is also an outdoor trek-based training course.

Here is more information on these two training programs:

- National Youth Leadership Training (NYLT) is conducted at the council level. Some councils may have this course "on hold" while other councils have developed safe practices to allow completion amidst the pandemic. When you check with your local council, they can advise you as to the status of this training within your council. Many councils are planning to conduct the training in 2021. However, being able to complete ILSC now online, will make youth prime candidates to be able to attend soon. Hopefully, this can occur within your home council. Attending NYLT in another council is always an option, too! National Youth Leader courses are currently scheduled for the summer of 2021 at both Philmont and The Summit. Additional details and registration can be found on www.scouting.org. Rest assured, safe practices relating to COVID-19 will be followed during the events to ensure the safety of all.
- Kodiak and Kodiak X are both outdoor courses and designed to be done locally among a crew. It is very possible to complete these training sessions during the pandemic. They can be an excellent adventure to take during the times of COVID-19. The course is mostly outdoors and COVID-19 safe practices can easily be injected during the trainings including social distancing and sanitization. Kodiak and Kodiak X can help to supplement a general crew weekend campout and will help to bring a crew together in Venturing as well as the valuable commissions the program instills in Venturers. These two courses can also be a great way to bring a crew together and reconnect in person, outdoors, in a safe environment especially for a crew which might have been strictly meeting virtually.

It is important to continue to complete training, but it is also important to keep everyone safe and healthy during the times of COVID-19. Being cautious and taking additional steps to ensure health and safety while still completing the training syllabus are important steps to take. Certain modifications might need to be taken to continue the goals and spirit of the training while also keeping everyone safe.



The *Guide to Awards and Insignia* may be found at the following Scouting.org site:

https://www.scouting.org/resources/insignia-guide/

Worth Repeating

November-December 2017

Eagle Issues

Revised Eagle Palm Requirements: Effective August 1



After additional consideration the BSA has announced changes to the Eagle Palm requirements that were effective August 1, 2017. The revised requirements read as follows:

"Effective August. 1, 2017 (Revised October 2017).

After successfully completing your Eagle Scout board of review on or after August 1, 2017, and being validated as an Eagle Scout by the National Service Center, you will be entitled to receive an Eagle Palm for each additional five merit badges you have completed before your Eagle Scout board of review beyond those required for Eagle. In addition, all current Scouts who completed their Eagle board of review and who had not passed their 18th birthday before August 1, 2017, are entitled as well. For these Palms only, it will not be necessary for you to complete the requirements stated below.

After becoming an Eagle Scout and receiving the Eagle Palms you were entitled to, you may earn additional Palms by completing the following requirements:

- 1. Be active in the Boy Scouts of America for at least three months after becoming an Eagle Scout or after the last Eagle Palm was earned. *
- 2. Since earning the Eagle Scout rank or your last Eagle Palm, demonstrate Scout spirit by living the Scout Oath and Scout Law. Tell how you have done your duty to God and how you have lived the Scout Oath and Scout Law in your everyday life.
- 3. Continue to set a satisfactory example of accepting responsibility or demonstrating leadership ability.
- 4. Earn five additional merit badges beyond those required for Eagle Scout or your last Eagle Palm. **
- 5. While an Eagle Scout, participate in a Scoutmaster conference.

Editor's Note

Editor Note: This article referenced was written before girls were introduced into Scouting programs. Therefore, minor modifications to the original article have been made to reflect gender references. The terminology Scouts BSA has been substituted for all references to Boy Scouts. Varsity Scouting references have been removed.

As always, refer to the Guide to Advancement for all current requirements.

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Notes: For Venturers working on Scouts BSA requirements, replace "Scoutmaster" with crew Advisor." For Sea Scouts working on Scouts BSA requirements, replace "Scoutmaster" with "Skipper."

What has changed since August 1?

The requirement has been modified to allow current Scouts who earned the Eagle Scout rank and had not yet turned 18 years old before August 1, 2017, to immediately apply for Eagle Palms as well. Only the additional merit badges earned before the Scout's Eagle board of review may be considered for this option, if they have not already been applied to a previously awarded Palm.

Answers to your questions about the changes

Following are some questions and answers regarding this revision to the August 1, 2017 requirements. These were provided by the National Boy Scouting Subcommittee.

- Q: Can an Eagle Scout who successfully completed their board of review before August 1, 2017, but passed their 18th birthday on or after August 1, 2017, apply for Palms under the new provision?

 A: Yes. Any Eagle Scout who completed their board of review before August 1, 2017 but had not passed their 18th birthday before August 1, 2017 is eligible to receive Palms under the revised requirements.
- Q: If a Scout earned Eagle rank before August 1, 2017, and then turned 18 years old before August 1, 2017, can the Scout apply for Palms under the new provision?
 - **A:** No. Any Eagle Scout who turned 18 years old before August 1, 2017 is not eligible to receive Eagle Palms under the new provision.
- Q: Can merit badges earned after a Scout's Eagle board of review, but before August 1 be applied toward receiving Palms immediately?
 - **A:** No. Only merit badges earned before a Scout's Eagle board of review can be used in applying for Eagle Palms under the new provision. Any merit badges earned after a Scout's Eagle board of review can only be used to earn Palms by completing the five requirements listed above.
- Q: How many additional Palms would a Scout be entitled to under the new provision if they earned Eagle rank at the age of 16 on February 1, 2016, and they had completed 50 additional merit badges at the time of their board of review?
 - **A:** Assuming the Scout had remained continuously active and earned Palms in the normal manner under the previous requirements, they would be eligible to immediately receive four more Palms. That is based on counting 30 merit badges toward six Palms during the 18 months from February 1, 2016 to July 31, 2017.
- Q: Using the previous example, if a Scout had earned an additional 20 merit badges after their Eagle board of review, how many Palms would they be eligible to receive on August 1, 2017?
 A: The Scout would still only be eligible to receive four more Palms. The 20 additional merit badges earned could be applied toward additional Palms by completing the five requirements listed above.

^{*}Eagle Palms must be earned in sequence, and the three-month tenure requirement must be observed for each Eagle Palm.

^{**}Merit Badges earned any time since becoming a Scout may be used to meet this requirement.

Helpful Links

The most current materials of interest for Scouters who are involved in the administration of advancement are located in one handy place. Many resources are available via the Advancement Resources page at www.scouting.org/Advancement

Troop Resource Page

This very effective document is designed to include adults in the plans for the future outings and activities of a Scouts BSA Troop. As youth join throughout the year, their accompanying adult can be welcomed into the troop and asked to share their interests. This is a great place to start, or continue, their journey in supporting the Scouting program for their youth. This is also a great place for the troop to find out the hidden talents of the adults involved, and perhaps recruit some new merit badge counselors or fill additional support positions for the troop.

