

# Advancement News

November-December  
2018

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Prepared. For Life.®

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

## Opportunities for Advancement Administrators

### The 2019 Conference on Education for Advancement Administrators (CEAA)

The Conference on Education for Advancement Administrators (CEAA) will be held at Florida Sea Base, Islamorada, Florida, January 20 to 26, 2019. New as well as past experienced participants are already signing up for this conference!

This conference targets council and district volunteers, and professionals who have some background in advancement and want to take their game to a new level! Participants will receive many updates and changes to share with others, but of significance is that they will review and participate in the update or completion of advancement educational tools that are used by units, districts, and councils across the country. Conference participants will view and discuss some existing advancement materials and make recommendations for tools that should be developed for the future. Participants will even have the chance to “test drive” some of those tools during this conference. This is your opportunity to be on the cutting edge of materials development as well as advance your education by learning through doing.

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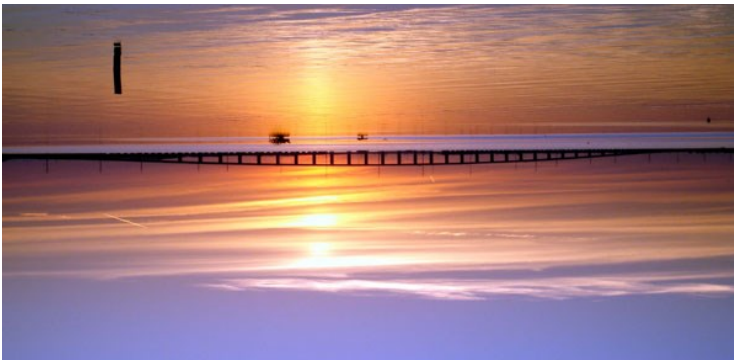
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Come and enjoy the moderate weather of the Florida Keys in January! Wear shorts and Hawaiian shirts, go diving, tour the scenic Keys, and forget about the snow and cold for a while. Bring your spouse as they will enjoy sunset cruise; stand-up paddle board kayaking; dolphin research center snorkeling; gallery tours; everglades; the turtle hospital, and other great adventures.

See the Florida Sea Base flyer at the end of this newsletter for information on both the CEAA course, as well as Leading and Strengthening New Troops.

Review the informational flyer complete with registration information and procedures, costs, deadlines, and details about other training opportunities in January. Information on conference housing facilities and items included in conference fees.

[www.bsaseabase.org/filestore/seabase/pdf/2019/2019FSBConfFlyer.pdf](http://www.bsaseabase.org/filestore/seabase/pdf/2019/2019FSBConfFlyer.pdf)



Register at this link – <http://ScoutingU.kintera.org/FSB2019>

For more information contact the Florida Sea Base at 817-430-5303.

## **Philmont Training Center Opportunities (July, 2019)**

It's not too early to sign up for one or even two great advancement training opportunities in July of 2019: Registration is now open for 2019 advancement courses at Philmont Training Center

<http://www.philmontscoutranch.org/PTC/conferencesO.aspx>

Advancement Issues and Solutions – Week 6, July 14-20, 2019

Mechanics of Advancement – Week 7, July 21-27, 2019

Scout Troop Advancement – Week 7, July 21-27, 2019



See the back page of this *Advancement News* for more detailed information regarding these three training conferences.

In the meantime, check out the many leisure activities that are available for participants and family members during your week at Philmont Training Center. Hiking, Nature Watching, Tours and Trips, Fishing, and Philmont Museums are just the start. Then in the evenings, you may be involved in Western Night, Opening and Closing Campfires, Ice Cream Night, Cobbler Night, and Movie Night. Do you want to craft a leather key fob using Philmont leather stamps and tools? Do you want to make a glass mosaic object d'art? How about a ceramic sculpture? The Craft Center has ideas for all ages.

# On Increasing Advancement

## Scouts BSA: Advancement Update

“On February 1, 2019, the Boy Scouts of America will begin admitting girls into Scouts BSA

One of the characteristics of Scouting-for over a hundred years-is that no matter when you join, however long you stay, or the rank you attain, the Scouting experience prepares you for life. And for some, the pinnacle of their Scouting experience is achieving the highest rank of Eagle Scout.

The policies of the BSA indicate that, except in extraordinary circumstances, a youth desiring to achieve the rank of Eagle must do so before the youth’s 18<sup>th</sup> birthday. This will continue to be our policy.

It is in the interests of the entire BSA, and in fact our nation, that all girls who join the BSA in 2019 should have an opportunity to earn their Eagle Scout rank should they diligently and promptly complete all requirements.

Accordingly, after carefully considering recommendations from stakeholders, including feedback from volunteers and professionals at the 2018 Top Hands Meeting, the National Executive Committee of the Boy Scouts of America has approved temporary transition rules (<http://t.email.scouting.org/r/?id=h9d68989,62dd242,62dd81e>) regarding extensions for youth over 16 but not yet 18 years of age on February 1, 2019, to complete the requirements for the Eagle Scout award.

To preserve the integrity of the Eagle Scout Award, no exceptions to or waivers of any of the requirements for the Eagle Scout Award are permitted under this limited exception, and all requirements must be completed while the individual is a registered member of Scouts BSA, or after achieving the First-Class Rank in Scouts BSA (as specified in the *Guide to Advancement*).”

### IMPLEMENTATION DETAILS FOR FEMALES ENTERING SCOUTS BSA

#### Temporary Transition Rules

Since the BSA has determined that the minimum period of elapsed time to complete the requirements of the Eagle Scout rank is approximately 19-20 months, the extension is not available to any youth who is under 16 years of age on February 1, 2019, (as they will have adequate time to earn their Eagle before turning 18), nor to any youth who has already turned 18 years of age on February 1, 2019, (as they will be ineligible to join Scouts BSA).

1. Youth 16 years of age or older, but not yet 18, on February 1, 2019 who register as members of Scouts BSA on or before December 31, 2019, may request extensions to complete the Eagle Scout Award requirements after they turn 18 years of age.

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2. Requests for extensions must be received no later than thirty (30) days after turning 18 years of age. Extensions must be in writing by submitting the designated form to the National Service Center and the form must be received no later than January 7, 2020. Only the National Council may grant extensions. The actual extension will be based upon the individual's registration date and age at the time of the request and will provide not more than twenty-four months from the date of initial registration to complete all requirements.
3. In the interest of fairness, these temporary transition rules apply to all youth joining Scouts BSA during 2019 – both girls and first-time joining boys.

### **Recognition**

In keeping with established policy, the Eagle Scout rank is earned when the candidate's award has been approved by the National Council.

The BSA will not recognize a first female Eagle Scout to avoid potentially introducing incentives for leaders, troops, or Scouts to prioritize expediency or engage in behavior counter to Scouting's values.

Instead, the BSA will officially recognize our Inaugural Class of Female Eagle Scouts in the fall of 2020, providing young women who join Scouts BSA the needed time to complete all requirements. This Inaugural Class will be celebrated nationally and collectively commemorated. It is our hope and expectation that local units will ensure substantial individual recognition of their first female Eagle Scouts in a manner befitting their great accomplishments.

### **Frequently Asked Questions**

**Q: Is the BSA changing the Eagle Scout requirements for girls joining Scouts BSA in 2019?**

No – the Eagle Scout rank requirements are not changing.

**Q: Can troops, districts, or councils amend or adjust the requirements/process?**

No. Eagle Scout requirements are set by the National Council and cannot be adjusted by a troop, district or council. In fact, the Eagle Scout rank is earned when it is approved by the National Council.

**Q: Will work completed while girls participated unofficially before the introduction of Scouts BSA count towards Eagle requirements?**

No. To preserve the integrity of the Eagle Scout Award, all requirements must be completed while the individual is a registered member of Scouts BSA, or after achieving the First-Class Rank in Scouts BSA (as specified in the *Guide to Advancement*, an individual after earning First Class Rank in Scouts BSA may transfer primary membership to Venturing or Sea Scouts and continue to work on Eagle Scout requirements).

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**Q: Will work that female Venturers or Sea Scouts completed count toward Eagle Scout requirements?**

To preserve the integrity of the Eagle Scout Award, all requirements must be completed while the individual is a registered member of Scouts BSA, or after achieving the First-Class Rank in Scouts BSA (as specified in the *Guide to Advancement*, an individual after earning First Class Rank in Scouts BSA may transfer primary membership to Venturing or Sea Scouts and continue to work on Eagle Scout requirements).

**Q: Will camping nights from current Venturing and Sea Scouts that count for requirements for the Order of the Arrow, also count for the Eagle Scout rank?**

No.

**Q: Will this extension always be available for all youth that enter Scouts BSA?**

No. These are temporary transition rules and will not be available to any youth who is under 16 years of age on February 1, 2019, as they will have adequate time to earn their Eagle before turning 18.

**Q: Can the first female Eagle Scout be identified based on the earliest Board of Review date?**

No. The Eagle Scout rank is earned when it is approved by the National Council; that date will be noted to recognize this inaugural class.

## **Scoutbook—More than Recording Advancement**

### **Scoutbook will be free starting January 1, 2019**

In an effort to drive program consistency and deeper engagement with our youth and leaders, Boy Scouts of America is pleased to announce that effective January 1, 2019, Scoutbook will be free to all BSA units.

Scoutbook (<https://www.scoutbook.com>) is an online unit management tool that ensures that you never miss a Scouting moment—from tracking advancements to milestone achievements along the Scouting adventure. When units with a current Scoutbook account need to “renew” this fall, they will not pay any renewal fees effective September 1, 2018. When councils with Scoutbook accounts for their units need to “renew” their unit Scoutbook accounts this fall, they will not pay any renewal fees effective September 1, 2018.

Essentially, all current Scoutbook unit accounts have recently been extended--so they will not expire--at no cost to the unit or council. For units currently without a Scoutbook account, they can begin their free Scoutbook unit account on January 1, 2019.

Here are some FAQs about this announcement:

**Q. What is the new Scoutbook change?**

A. Effective January 1, 2019, there will be no cost for any new Scoutbook accounts.

Effective September 1, 2018, there will be no cost for any renewed Scoutbook accounts.

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**Q. I recently opened and paid for a Scoutbook account. Will I be reimbursed for any time that remains after January 1, 2019?**

A. No. There are no plans to reimburse anyone who has previously paid for Scoutbook accounts. This new Scoutbook change only applies to any new Scoutbook accounts created January 1, 2019 or later—and to any renewing Scoutbook accounts that would “normally” be paid between September 1, 2018 and December 31, 2018.

**Q. I recently opened a trial account to Scoutbook between August 1 and 31, 2018. So now that September is here, do I have to pay for my continued access to Scoutbook?**

A. No. You started a trial Scoutbook account in August 2018 at no cost. There is no cost to renew Scoutbook on or after September 1, 2018. Your Scoutbook account has been automatically extended so that it will not expire.

**Q: How does renewal of Council or Unit accounts expiring between September 1, 2018 and December 31, 2018 occur? Does an expiring Council or Unit need to act?**

A. No. All current Scoutbook unit accounts have been extended so they will not expire. If more unit codes are required, the Council must request them as needed.

**Q: How does renewal of Council paid Scoutbook unit accounts that expire in 2019 occur? Is action required?**

A. No. All current Scoutbook unit accounts have been extended so they will not expire. Unit Codes will no longer be issued—as they are no longer required—since all Scoutbook unit accounts will be free effective January 1, 2019.

**Q. How will the family plan in Scoutbook work in the future?**

A. The family plan is for families who want to share their Scout’s advancement records. The family plan is also for families with more than one Scout. Parents, grandparents, and leaders can all connect to the Scout(s) records. The Scout(s) in the family can also have access to their records with their own login account. The cost for this service was \$10/year for 2 to 5 Scouts or \$20/year for 6 to 10 Scouts. All current family plans in Scoutbook have been extended so they will not expire. On or after January 1, 2019, any new family plan for Scoutbook can be created at no cost.

**Q. I need to add a few more Scouts to my family plan in Scoutbook. What is the charge?**

A. There is no charge. All current family plans in Scoutbook have been increased to 10 Scouts.

**Q. As it is the fall and school is beginning, it is now “new member signup” time for my Cub Scout pack. My pack has 75 youth in Scoutbook with 15 open slots remaining. We expect to recruit well over that number next Tuesday night. Will we be able to extend our Scout numbers by that time?**

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A. It sounds like you have a current Scoutbook account. All current Scoutbook unit accounts have been extended so they will not expire. These unit accounts have been increased to an unlimited number of Scouts.

**Q. My unit had a trial that previously expired. Do I have to wait until January 1, 2019 to begin using Scoutbook again?**

A. Yes. Scoutbook will be free to all units beginning January 1, 2019. Meantime, please watch key BSA marketing channels for the release of Scoutbook Lite for all units later in 2018. This free online tool will provide a different UX (user experience) and will help your unit track advancements for all youth members.

**Q. What about the term “renewal” for Scoutbook?**

A. With Scoutbook becoming free for all users beginning January 1, 2019 and free for any current users renewing on or after September 1, 2018, you may see the term “renewal” not be used at all. In the future, we expect to just have Scoutbook users actively engaged in this online platform. The need to “renew” has become unnecessary.

**Q. In the future, what is the renewal process for Scoutbook?**

A. Scoutbook will be free effective January 1, 2019. Units with a current account can renew or add more youth at no cost—effective September 1, 2018. If a unit in Scoutbook is in sync, we expect that the unit in the future will not need to “act” to renew, as there is no reason to end an account—due to a payment that is no longer needed. If your unit has a current Scoutbook account and is in Sync, you do not need to take any action. Your Scoutbook unit account will stay live on and after the current end date.

**Q. How does this affect the development and roll-out of Scoutbook Lite?**

A. This Scoutbook announcement does not affect Scoutbook Lite, which will be rolled out later in 2018 and feature a new UX (user experience). Scoutbook Lite in its initial rollout will feature only advancement reporting.

**Q. Will Scoutbook performance be negatively affected?**

A. No. The performance of Scoutbook is not affected by this change. The BSA IT and Member Care teams will continue to support Scoutbook with their timely service and quality resources. Scoutbook performance enhancements have been implemented and performance is continually monitored. The platform that Scoutbook is built upon is very adjustable. If adjustments are needed in the future, they will be brought to bear as needed.

**Q. Are you not accepting any new Scoutbook accounts between September 1, 2018 and December 31, 2018?**

A. That is correct. We have chosen to remove the “signup” button off the home page of Scoutbook. This will allow us to improve the Scoutbook online tool, which will come back as a free product effective January 1, 2019.

**Q. So, I just started a new Cub Scout pack this fall. What are my options for tracking advancement in a digital way?**

A. You have several options now. You can use the online free tool—Internet Advancement to track your advancement at the unit level. Parents and families can download and use the free online “Scouting” app (available in the App Store and Google Play) to track their child’s advancement—essentially a digital handbook. When Scoutbook Lite is released later this year, you can use that free online tool to track advancements at the unit level. When Scoutbook returns in the New Year, you can use that free online tool to track your advancements—and much more to include tracking campouts, hikes, service projects and more.

**Q. I let my previous Scoutbook account expire. I now want to reactivate my expired paid Scoutbook account. What should I do?**

A. Please contact BSA Member Care to get the help you need. They can be reached at 972-580-2489 or [myscouting@scouting.org](mailto:myscouting@scouting.org).

**Q. My council paid in advance (before September 1, 2018) for all the units in our council to be able to use Scoutbook. I do not see where or how to add the unit code they gave me—so that my unit can get access to Scoutbook. What should I do?**

A. We are working on that issue now. When that capability is available, we will provide updated instructions on the Scoutbook page and other BSA marketing channels—so that your local council and your unit will be supported with Scoutbook.

**Q. I’m a parent of a youth member registered in a unit. So how does the “Scouting” app work? I thought you needed a Scoutbook account to activate this “Scouting” app.**

A. For all families that are seeking a digital solution for their child’s advancement tracking, they can download and use the free online “Scouting” app (available in the App Store and Google Play). Once the app is downloaded, it will redirect you to a Scoutbook.com webpage where you will click on the “FREE Advancement Tracking” banner to create a login and password. Your unit does not need a Scoutbook account—for you to use this free family app to track your child’s advancements. Please note that you must have a parent or guardian connection to a BSA youth member to login to this “Scouting” app.



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**Q. I have heard about a SSO (Single Sign On) option that will be available in the future for Scoutbook. Can you tell me more?**

A. We are working on the SSO now and will announce that update when this feature is available. We anticipate in the future that Scouters will be able to sign onto Scoutbook using their my.Scouting credentials. We expect that this change will make the online user experience easier, as there will only be one login and password to remember for my.Scouting and Scoutbook.

**Q. What is the difference between Scoutbook, Scouting app, and Scoutbook Lite?**

A. See the chart below for more details.

	Scoutbook Unit Management Tool	Scouting App Individual Tracking	Scoutbook Lite IA Replacement
Users	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Leaders</li> <li>• Scouts</li> <li>• Parents</li> <li>• MB Counselors</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Parents (connected to active Scout)</li> <li>• Scouts</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Leaders</li> <li>• Advancement Chair</li> </ul>
Features	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Roster</li> <li>• Advancement</li> <li>• Track hiking, camping, and service hours</li> <li>• Calendar</li> <li>• Forums</li> <li>• Blogs</li> <li>• Reports</li> <li>• Unit Communication</li> <li>• MBC Assignment</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Profile</li> <li>• Advancement</li> <li>• Track hiking, camping, and service hours</li> <li>• Settings</li> <li>• Dashboard</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Roster</li> <li>• Advancement</li> <li>• Advancement Import</li> <li>• Reports</li> </ul>
Login	Scoutbook Credentials	Scoutbook Credentials	My Scouting Credentials
Type	Web Browser	Mobile App (offline capabilities)	Web Browser (Mobile, Desktop)

**Q. Where can I get more information about these changes in Scoutbook?**

A. For more info, please contact [Scoutbook.support@scouting.org](mailto:Scoutbook.support@scouting.org)

## 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.

## **The Ideals of Scouting – The Outdoors – One Means to an End, Not the End**

Every Scouting activity moves and motivates our youth toward our basic aims of: character development, citizenship training, and mental and physical fitness. We achieve mission fulfillment using the methods of Scouting. These methods are Scouting's ideals, the patrols, the outdoors, advancement, personal growth, adult association, leadership development, and the uniform. None of these methods are goals by themselves. They are merely the methods that we use. They all work together. They reinforce and enhance each other.

For example, we will have greater advancement if we make proper use of the outdoors. So, how does this work in our Scouting activities? Let's keep the "outing" in "Scouting" has long been solid advice for a good Scouting program. Therefore, some may come to think that the outdoors is the main purpose of Scouting. It is not; it is merely one method – an important one, to be sure, but not the only one – that we use to achieve our aims.

All the rank requirements involve outdoor activities. If your unit program involves lots of outdoors, then your advancement will come as a natural result. How do you achieve this? By proper planning, of course. Every unit should have an annual planning event. This might be part of several meetings devoted to putting together the next year's plan. Some units will have the troop leadership go on a special weekend trip to do the planning. Some units will have the whole unit participate in the annual planning weekend. By mixing fun with the serious business of developing the annual plan, an outdoor program is built that everyone can buy into. To make sure everyone gets a chance to get involved, use small breakout groups to plan parts of the overall plan and the report back to the unit. Make sure the plan includes a monthly outdoor event. By executing this annual plan, advancement will be a natural result. For example, if someone has a requirement to cook a meal, have them do it on the campout. Thus, their advancement is a natural outcome of the unit's program.

So, keep the "outing" in "Scouting." By making sure the outdoors is an integral part of your unit's program, you will increase advancement. With outdoors as the bulwark of our unit's program, we will thus fulfill Scouting's mission. Now isn't that what we're all about.

### **About *Advancement News***

**Follow the National Advancement Program Team on Twitter!**

**(BSA Advancement Team, @AdvBSA)**

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

[advancement.team@scouting.org](mailto:advancement.team@scouting.org).

## The Cub Scout Angle



### Lions Officially Part of Cub Scouting

Now that Lions are officially part of Cub Scouting what should I know?

Lions is the new program in Cub Scouting for boys and girls in Kindergarten, the year prior to 1<sup>st</sup> grade. There are some states that do not require children to attend Kindergarten which explains the need to clarify that it is for youth prior to their 1<sup>st</sup> grade year.

Lions, like Tigers, are required to have an adult partner with them at all events and activities. Adult partner is not a registered leadership position so adult partners do not count towards meeting required leadership for youth protection. In the pilot program Lion dens had a Lion Coach, to keep things simple when the program was fully adopted that term was dropped and Lions, like all other dens have a den leader.

Lions do not earn the Bobcat badge. The Lion program is designed to be simple and to welcome new families into Cub Scouting without overwhelming them. Lions have five required adventures;

- Lion's Honor
- Animal Kingdom
- Fun on the Run!
- King of the Jungle
- Mountain Lion

In addition to the five required adventures, Lions complete the *Protecting Your Child from Child Abuse; A Parent's guide* with their parent or legal guardian in order to earn their Lion badge of rank.

There are seven elective adventures, however Lions are not required to earn any elective adventures to earn the Lion badge of rank.

The Lion badge of rank is a rectangular badge, similar to the size and shape of the Arrow of Light. The design was chosen to keep the look and feel of the Cub Scout badges of rank on a blue uniform. With the move to all Webelos wearing a tan shirt the need for a diamond shaped Webelos badge of rank was eliminated. A child who is in Cub Scouting from Lion through Bear will have their left shirt pocket full and ready to move up to a tan shirt.

## The Boy Scout Angle

### All-Girl Troops: Ask Yourselves, Have We Done Everything to Be Prepared?

February 1, 2019 will be a red-letter day for the Boy Scouts of America as 11 to 17 year old girls will be joining Scouts BSA within an all-girl troop. They will be known as Scouts and will complete advancement and activities on the trail to their Eagle Scout rank (See Scouts BSA – Advancement Update article earlier in this newsletter.)

Prior to the launch in February, districts and councils will be organizing all-girl troops. The troop will need an official chartered organization and a designated troop committee. The chartered organization may serve both all-boy and all-girl troops with "linked troops," which means that the troop committee may be a shared committee for each of the separate all-girl and all-boy troops.

Troops that are "linked" under a single chartered organization may share troop numbers.

Regardless of the charter organization and committee arrangements, here are some *Continued on page 12*

preparations that every new unit needs to make:

- Meeting Place – Secure an appropriate meeting place for the all-girl troop and verify its availability
- Recruiting – Plan and publicize one or more “joining events” at that meeting place and bring plenty of youth applications.
- “Calendaring” – Prepare a preliminary calendar or a few ideas of activities to share with the girls and their parents.
- Volunteers – Review the types of activities you will plan to include and offer opportunities for parent involvement in the leadership/support of those activities and bring plenty of adult applications.

Here are a few other considerations to ensure that your council’s and district’s units are ready:

- Training – Are your key committee members trained (Youth Protection and position specific training) – contact your district committee for information on upcoming opportunities. There will also be a special opportunity in January at the Florida Sea Base to prepare new leaders. Come join the fun! <http://www.bsaseabase.org/filestore/seabase/pdf/2019/2019FSBConfFlyer.pdf>
- Leadership – Does the unit have registered, trained female leadership available for all activities for the all-girl troop? Check with the district to ensure that plans are in place for training opportunities and especially outdoor training.
- Advancement – The *Scouts BSA Handbook* will be the appropriate **youth** reference book, one for girls and one for boys, will be available early 2019. All advancement information will be identical in both publications.

The more we prepare in advance, the quicker everyone will be ready for the great experience the girls will have in their new all-girl troop.

### Hear It First on Twitter

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

If you already have a Twitter account, follow us at **@AdvBSA** or “**BSA Advancement Team.**” If you don’t have an account, it is a quick and easy process to set up an account at [www.twitter.com](http://www.twitter.com). To limit incoming emails (‘tweets’), you can select to have BSA National Advancement Team as the only account you want to follow.

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

### Did You Receive These Tweets?

- **September 20, 2018** – Say “Yes” to Florida in January! Register now and plan to attend Sea Base as a participant in the “Conference on Education for Advancement Administrators” or the “Leading & Strengthening New Troops” courses.
- **October 19, 2018** – Philmont registration for 2019 Advancement courses is now open. Register at [philmontscoutranch.org/PTC/conference](http://philmontscoutranch.org/PTC/conference) ... See You There!!

## Eagle Issues

### Eagle Scout Boards of Review: Not a Job Interview

Occasionally we hear of Eagle Scout boards of review that have been turned into something they were never intended to be. For example, some have said that the board of review is like a job interview – nothing could be further from the truth. The Scout has already “earned the position” of Eagle Scout by completing the requirements. They are not interviewing for the position.



All too often, the “job interview” analogy is used to justify a number of additional requirements that aren’t appropriate. Expecting the Scout to appear in “business attire,” grilling them on their qualifications, asking inappropriate questions intended to cause stress and anxiety may all seem justified as making the Scout better prepared for experience in the “real world.” However, the Scout is already in the “real world” of Scouting. The board of review is not about preparing the Scout for something but rather about celebrating their accomplishments.

While part of the board’s responsibility is to ensure that requirements have been met, it is not their responsibility to determine if those requirements met the board’s personal standards. Other youth leaders and adults who previously reviewed the Scout determined that the requirements were met when they signed off on the requirement, or merit badge, etc. It is not up to the board to decide that the standards used by those leaders were or were not sufficient.

By the time a Scout has reached the Eagle Scout board of review they have already demonstrated their knowledge and skills, many times over. This candidate is by all intents and purposes an Eagle Scout when arriving at the board of review. Only in the most egregious cases where it was clear that the Scout could not possibly have properly completed a requirement would the board be warranted in determining that the Scout should not be advanced.

Therefore, make the Scout’s Eagle board of review a celebration of their achievement. Make it something to be proud to share with others, not something to be feared. It is not a job interview; it is a celebration of a job well done.

## Venturing



### Venturing Summit Award Project Examples

In order to earn the Venturing Summit Award, a Venturer must organize and provide leadership over the completion of a service project. The project is proposed, planned, and lead by the Venturer. As a guide, a Venturer must use the Venturing Summit Award Workbook found here: <http://www.venturing.org/assets/summit-project-workbook.pdf>

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The hardest part is often coming up with a project. Here are several service project examples that might work for Venturers:

Install a flag pole in an appropriate area

- Build bird houses
- Create a nature trail at a developing nature center
- Design and create a disc golf course
- Film a safety video
- Create a memorial
- Create care packages for kids in need or our armed forces
- Build a gazebo
- Install new equipment on a playground
- Host a toy drive

The ideas are endless! The important thing is to think of what the youth is passionate about and what they may be good at. Next, they can take that passion and apply it to a related project!

## A Peek Ahead

Here is a glimpse at what we are working on for the next issue of *Advancement News*. As always, actual content may vary somewhat based on a number of considerations, and especially to accommodate “late-breaking” news of immediate importance to our subscribers.

### Topic Planned for January-February

- **Opportunities for Advancement Administrators:** Videos and training available at the Advancement Resources pages
- **From the *Guide To Advancement*:** Merit Badge Counselor Lists
- **Scouts BSA:** February 1<sup>st</sup> is here – District Support for new units



# From the Archives

## From On Increasing Advancement

(November-December 2016)

### Webelos to Scout Transition Starts Now

Until 1989, a large percentage of boys earning Arrow of Light failed to become Boy Scout. To reverse this, Scouting introduced the 18-month Webelos program, with graduations in February and immediate “bridging” or “crossovers” into troops. As a result, the retention rate flipped to 80% of February graduates becoming Boy Scouts, with most remaining with their patrols and troops to their 18th birthdays.

Per the *Den Leaders Guide*, “Every boy graduating from a Cub Scout pack deserves the opportunity to continue his Scouting experience... The purpose of the Webelos-to-Scout transition plan is to give every boy a sampling of the troop program, leadership, advancement opportunities, and the excitement of Boy Scouting. A key factor in this transition is the establishment of a working partnership between the Webelos den and the troop... every Webelos den should be linked to a troop.” In addition, every parent needs to be oriented toward this transition:

WEBELOS Den ➡	ARROW OF LIGHT Den ➡	Boy Scout PATROL
4 <sup>th</sup> Grade	5 <sup>th</sup> Grade	5 <sup>th</sup> Grade and Beyond
1 <sup>st</sup> 12 Months	Next 6 Months	To June, Summer Camp, and Beyond
September-June	September-February	February and Beyond

The *Webelos Handbook* reinforces this. For parents, it advises, “Your son sees Webelos Scouting as... a step on the way to outdoor adventures in Boy Scouting... Help him move toward the Boy Scouting adventures.”

The new Webelos and Arrow of Light requirements are designed specifically to prepare these boys for Boy Scouting and their first step in their troop: Scout rank.

Ideally, the entire Webelos den will move as one into a troop, where they will become a new-Scout patrol with the guidance of an experienced Scout (the troop guide) who will help them adjust to the new adventures Boy Scouting offers. Their troop will likely also provide an assistant Scoutmaster, who will oversee (but not “lead” the way their den leader did) their further bonding and overall success. This can lead to life-long friendships because these new Scouts will likely remain an intact patrol for the next seven years.

The Webelos den leaders’ most important responsibility is to encourage their Webelos Scouts to move on to Boy Scouting. Correspondingly, parents can reinforce this by helping their sons select the troop they’d most like to join, and then guiding this transition.

**Note:** This article was written before girls were introduced into the Cub Scout program. Today, the Webelos-to-Scout transition applies to both boys and girls. Effective February 1, 2019, girls will be able to register in the new Scouts BSA program.

## 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).

[Merit Badge Group Instruction Guide](#)

[Advancement Educational Presentations:](#)

- Today's Advancement
- Cub Scout Advancement: Delivering Adventure
- Developing Council and District Advancement Committees
- The Eagle Scout Service Project Coach
- The Eagle Scout Service Project
- Effective Troop Advancement
- Essentials of Serving Scouts with Disabilities
- The Essentials of Merit Badge Counseling
- The Merit Badge Program
- Getting the Most From Internet Advancement
- 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 2017](#)

[Eagle Scout Service Project Workbook](#)

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

[Eagle Scout Service Project Coach Application](#)

[Eagle Scout Rank Application](#)

[Merit Badge Counselor Information](#)

[Reporting Merit Badge Counseling Concerns](#)

[Quartermaster Rank Application](#)

[Quartermaster Leadership Service Project Workbook](#)

[Venturing Summit Award Service Project Workbook](#)

[Venturing Board of Review Guide](#)

[Individual Scout Advancement Plan](#)

[Lone Scout Friend and Counselor Guidebook](#)



**January 20-26, 2019**

### **Leading and Strengthening New Troops**

This conference, is intended for Scouters providing leadership to new troops and current troop leaders who want to learn the keys to establishing a successful and sustainable unit. Available resources will be explored, and an emphasis will be placed on developing a program for the critical beginnings of a new troop. Scouters will learn best practices related to program planning, recruiting youth and adult leadership, along with troop administration. Current Cub Pack leaders, especially Webelos den leaders, won't want to miss this opportunity. This conference will give you the opportunity to interact in person with other new leaders from all around the country. Scoutmasters, Assistant Scoutmasters, Committee Members, including New Member Coordinators, or anyone planning to organize a new troop, will find this to be an invaluable experience.

### **Conference on Education for Advancement Administrators (CEAA)**

This conference targets council and district volunteers and professionals who have some background in advancement and want to take their game to a new level! Participants will receive lots of updates and chances to share with others, but of significance is that they will review and participate in the update or completion of advancement education tools that are used by units, districts, or councils across the country. Conferees will view and discuss various existing advancement materials and make recommendations for tools that should be developed for the future. Participants will begin some of those tools during this conference. This is your opportunity to be on the cutting edge of materials development and advance your education by learning through doing!

Use this link to register: <http://ScoutingU.kintera.org/FSB2019>

For more information: <http://www.bsaseabase.org/ConferenceCenter.aspx>



**2019**

## **ADVANCEMENT ISSUES AND SOLUTIONS—Week 6: July 14-20**

If you are an experienced volunteer Advancement Administrator, consider taking your game to the next level. This case study based conference is designed for Unit, District, and Council Advancement Coordinators, Chairs, Committee Members, and Staff Advisors. If that's you, start making plans now to take advantage of this opportunity to share ideas with other committed Advancement Administrators at Scouting's premier destination.

Conference participants will not only learn about the latest updates on advancement issues, but more important, they will analyze, discuss, and solve case studies similar to those regularly dealt with by the National Advancement Team and the Eagle Issues Task Force. The result will be a better understanding of the effective use of the Guide to Advancement and also the confidence to handle difficult issues at the Council level.

## **MECHANICS OF ADVANCEMENT—Week 7: July 21-27**

This course is a MUST for Advancement Administrators in Districts or Councils, whether they be volunteers or professionals just in need of a refresher or new to advancement procedures. Conference attendees will gain an in-depth understanding of the essentials of advancement and an appreciation for the rationale behind the policies and procedures governing it. Group discussions will focus on effective ways to resolve the related issues and challenges that arise on a regular basis. Staff members are very well founded in advancement issues and have a full understanding of the Guide to Advancement.

## **SCOUT TROOP ADVANCEMENT—Week 7: July 21-27**

Are you a Troop Leader, Committee Member, or Unit Advancement Coordinator needing to increase your knowledge of how advancement drives the Scouting program and is effectively administered? Perhaps you have just finished or are in the process of starting a new troop. If so, this is the course for you. All aspects of advancement will be addressed as it relates to the troop and the success of our youth. Topics covered will include Scoutmaster Conferences, electronic reporting, merit badge issues, service projects, boards of review, disability issues, Eagle issues, and more. See how program planning leads to strong advancement. Meet like-minded volunteers and share in building the capacity to strengthen your unit and its youth!

Registration available at

<http://www.philmontscoutranch.org/PTC/conferencesO.aspx>

