

Advancement News

November-December
2019

Vol. 9, No. 6

Prepared. For Life.®

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

Opportunities for Advancement Administrators

Florida Sea Base Conference: Just Around the Corner in January

Advancement is recognized as a key indicator of a successful unit. So, it is reasonable that learning how to enhance Scouts' advancement opportunities would be important. One way to do this is by increasing knowledge of BSA's procedures governing advancement. Thus, whether you are a volunteer or a professional in need of a refresher or you are new to advancement procedures, the opportunity you are seeking is available this January at the Sea Base in Florida.

The **Mechanics of Advancement** Conference, scheduled for January 19-25, will provide participants with an in-depth understanding of the essentials of advancement and an appreciation for the rationale behind the policies and procedures governing them. It will also steer participants towards a wealth of advancement resources available on the Web at www.scouting.org, and will engage them, through group discussions, on effective ways of resolving all types of advancement issues and challenges that may arise. Some specific topics that will be covered during the week-long conference will include:

Continued on page 2

In This Issue

Opportunities for Advancement Administrators: Florida Sea Base Conference: Just Around the Corner in January

On Increasing Advancement: Using Personal Growth in Your Scouting Program

From the Guide to Advancement: Building Council and District Advancement Committees

Cub Scouts BSA: Scoutbook: Den Leader Meeting Planning Resource

A Peek Ahead: Topics Planned for January –February

Scouts BSA: Advancement Is Based on Experiential Learning

Merit Badges: Merit Badge Counselor Lists: A Primer; Youth Protection Policies When Meeting with Merit Badge Counselors—A Clarification

Eagle, Summit, Quartermaster Highlights: Eagle Scout Rank Advancement: Explanations and Amplifications; Eagle Scout Application Processing Procedures

Sea Scouts BSA: A Scouting Success Story as Big as Texas

Scoutbook: Hands on Experience Opportunity

Worth Repeating: Blue and Gold Celebration Planning

Helpful Links:

Florida Sea Base 2020

Continued from page 1

- Using the *Guide to Advancement*
- The role of unit, district, and council advancement committees
- Digital advancement reporting
- Advancement related to Scouts with disabilities
- Service projects – including the *Eagle Scout Service Project Workbook*
- Merit badges in Scouts BSA advancement
- Cub Scout advancement and transition to Boy Scouting
- Earning advancement as a member of a crew or ship
- Venturing and Sea Scout awards and recognition
- Boards of review and the appeal process.



If you are concerned about stories about recent weather events in Florida, the word from the staff at the Sea Base is that the Keys and the Base are fully open and operational. In addition, the Base is making some structural and wireless updates to the facility. Meanwhile, the staff there are planning a super spouse program that includes paddle boarding, snorkeling, and kayak opportunities, a visit to the Turtle Hospital, shopping in Islamorada, boat tours, and more. So, be assured that it is OK to come to Florida and you will not want to miss this opportunity to attend a great conference and visit the Keys in January. We look forward to seeing many of you there and making new friends!

See the flyer with registration details at the end of this issue of *Advancement News*.

For registration information go to the Scouting.org website, and under Training for Adults scroll down to National Training Conferences to find [2020 Sea Base Volunteer Training Conferences](#). There you will find more information about this and other conferences offered, as well as a link to register for the January Mechanics of Advancement course. You can also register for the Mechanics course by following this link: <https://laserfiche.scouting.org/Forms/2020-Florida-Sea-Base-Volunteer-Conferences2>.

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, 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.

On Increasing Advancement

Using Personal Growth in Your Scouting Program

Every Scouting activity moves and motivates our youth toward our basic aims of character development, citizenship training, leadership development, and mental and physical fitness. We achieve mission fulfillment using the methods of Scouting: Ideals; Patrol Method; Advancement; Association with adults; Outdoors; Leadership development; Uniform; Personal Growth. None of these methods is a goal by itself. All work together. They reinforce and enhance each other.

The crown jewel and capstone of Scouting's methods is "Personal Growth." In all Scouting activities our Scouts gradually become aware of how Scouting is changing their lives, often in subtle ways. For example, as they recite and learn about the Scout Oath and Law, they recognize how these precepts are becoming meaningful in their personal lives. As they "do a good turn daily," they learn the joy that helping others can bring.

As they plan and execute their own, their patrol's, and their troop's outdoor activities, they learn that they can have consequential influence on their own life and the lives of others. They learn that they can accomplish things that they never thought were possible. With help, they can learn that failure is not the end of the world but an opportunity for learning life's lessons by overcoming adversity. As they move through the advancement system and accomplish goals that they set for themselves, they see that planning and hard work can accomplish wonders when they sew their new rank badges on their Scout uniforms and merit badges on their sashes.

Adult leaders need to be alert for those 30-second moments of opportunity when the right word of encouragement at just the right time can have a vast influence on a Scout's life. Structurally, Scoutmaster conferences provide these opportunities on a regular basis, but these moments may occur at any time, especially when the youth is participating in new adventures. Adults need to be alert!

Make youth personal growth a major part of your unit's program. Be aware of the important part this plays in our Scouting mission. Do this and you will increase advancement and keep Scouts in Scouting longer. We will thus fulfill our 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.

From the *Guide to Advancement*

Building Council and District Advancement Committees

Overview

Strong committees produce strong advancement programs. Councils and districts can best deliver the advancement program element when the responsible committees operate at maximum effectiveness. The pathway to success begins with solid collaboration between the head of program (council vice president-program, district program chair) and corresponding advancement chair, with professional staff advisory support. Success is more achievable when high-performing committee members understand foremost that the object of all advancement personnel is that of *gate-openers* for the ultimate youth we serve.

At both levels, these advancement chairs are responsible for staffing their committee with qualified, collaborative, and—especially—Scout-minded members. Two key resources for success here are the *Guide To Advancement* (Section 3) and the National Advancement Task Force training session: “Developing Council and District Advancement Committees” (see <https://www.scouting.org/programs/scouts-bsa/resources/advancement-presentations/>). Other resources are: *Selecting District People* (No. 34512), *On Increasing Advancement* (No. 512-047), and “Advancement News” (<https://www.scouting.org/programs/scouts-bsa/advancement-and-awards/advancement-news/>).

A top chair responsibility is selecting, recruiting, training, coaching, evaluating, and recognizing committee members (you will find the other responsibilities in the above-cited resources).

Whether council chair or district chair, your effectiveness will be assessed largely on your committee’s quality (personally and experientially), breadth, and depth. Here are a few helps for success:

Council Advancement Chair

Likely, your committee will include the district advancement chairs. This assures information passing efficiently, council-to-districts and vice-versa. However, you aren’t restricted to only these members. You can add a former advancement chair or committee member with special knowledge of the Life-to-Eagle process; or a Scouter knowledgeable about advancement for special needs youth; or one with awards-by-nomination experience, such as the Honor Medal, Heroism Award, or Medal of Merit; or a former member of the BSA National Advancement Advisory Panel. As you identify these kinds of special knowledge, skills, and experience that would add to your committee’s effectiveness, bring them aboard.

District Advancement Chair

Forming your committee has its own unique challenges. Unit-level Scouters (advancement coordinators, Eagle/Eagle Project coaches, etc.) might be excellent members. However, to avoid implications of bias, you will want to create a matrix of who will interface with which units. Like your council counterpart, you can seek out those with special knowledge, skills, and experience. One untapped resource is chartered organization “executive officers.” By bringing these people aboard you all will gain from their knowledge of youth from a different perspective.

Continued on page 5

Scouts BSA

Advancement Is Based on Experiential Learning



Baden-Powell: "The most important object in Boy Scout training is to educate, not instruct."

Once upon a time there was a very wise senior patrol leader and scoutmaster who worked together to make advancement an important part of all patrol and troop activities. These wise leaders had determined the culture in their troop would be that advancement was going to be as a *result* of the patrols' activities and not the *focus* of the patrols' activities. Learning necessary advancement skills was going to be a natural, necessary part of conducting their fun activities.

Some sort of trick? If so, what these wise leaders were actually doing was to put one of Scouting's "best practices" into action. The concept is spelled out in the Section 2.0.0.2 of the *Guide to Advancement*, which says, "Everything done to advance—to earn ranks and other awards and recognition—is designed to educate or to otherwise expand horizons." The *GTA* goes on to explain, "Experiential learning is the key: Exciting and meaningful activities are offered, and education happens. Learning comes from doing." Finally, the *GTA* reveals "the trick" by telling its readers that "Advancement should be a natural outcome of a well-rounded unit program, rich in opportunities to work toward the ranks."

Our fictional wise leaders knew learning and practicing a skill through practical application in an experiential setting—as opposed to "classroom" instruction—would improve retention of the skill. Perhaps for a lifetime. So, they planned fun activities that just "happened" to result in advancement.

For example, a patrol leader who knew that second class Scout Richard needed to identify two ways to obtain a weather forecast for an upcoming activity might ask Richard during a patrol meeting to help him out by taking out his phone and looking at the local news station and national media forecasts for the date of the activity. The patrol leader should reinforce the lesson by asking Richard why he thought knowing this information might be important for the activity.

Or, the troop's leadership might plan an athletic field day that included a plan for Audrey and the other Tenderfoot Scouts in the troop to improve and follow up in 30 days, without ever mentioning the advancement requirements they would complete by doing so.

In either case, usually at the next patrol or troop meeting, the leader could ask for each Scout's *Handbook* and announce as they were signing off on those requirements, "Congratulations! You completed requirements X, Y, and Z last week because you did..."



You might ask, "Aren't the Star, Life, and Eagle Scouts wise to the 'trick'?" Of course, by that point they were in leadership roles and had become "insiders" in perpetuating the advancement culture of the troop. As the *Guide to Advancement* says, "Advancement is simply a means to an end, not an end in itself." It is one of several methods of Scouting, all of which are important.

Merit Badges

Merit Badge Counselor Lists: A Primer

Guide to Advancement Sections 7.0.2.0 through Section 7.0.2.3 describe the various council, district, and unit policies and procedures for merit badge counselor lists. In a nutshell, here they are:

1. It is the responsibility of the council advancement committee to maintain a current list of registered and approved counselors (although this may be delegated to the districts).
2. The council or district counselor list is reproduced for distribution to troops, crews, and ships. (Scouts should not have access to this list).
3. Units may establish their own list of counselors for those counselors who may or may not opt to work with youth in other units. (For counselor privacy these unit lists should also not be made available to the Scouts).
4. All merit badge counselors, including those serving only one unit, **MUST** be registered and be approved by the council (or district, if authorized) advancement committee.
5. Web-based counselor lists should only be placed on official council websites that conform to the National Council guidelines. Concern for protecting counselor privacy is a must. Scouts should not have access to these lists.
6. To locate a copy of the council or district merit badge counselor list for your unit, your unit's local unit commissioner or district advancement committee is the first place to ask.

Youth Protection Policies when Meeting with Merit Badge Counselors – A Clarification

Our last edition of *Advancement News*, September-October 2019, included a statement that was not all together factual. To be clear, the policy is that if a female Scout is meeting with a merit badge counselor (male), either parent (male or female) may be the second adult required for youth protection purposes. If the parent is male (e.g., the father), there does not need to be a registered female adult present.

Please refer to the *Guide to Safe Scouting*

(<https://www.scouting.org/health-and-safety/gss/gss01/>)

The editors apologize for any misunderstanding of this issue that may have arisen from the September-October edition of Advancement News.

Eagle, Summit, Quartermaster Highlights



Eagle Scout Rank Advancement: Explanations and Amplifications

Time Extensions and Positions of Responsibility

Occasionally, due to circumstances beyond their control, a Life Scout may be granted a limited time extension to complete the requirements for Eagle Scout rank after their 18th birthday. (See *Guide to Advancement* topic 9.0.4.0.) In addition, under the current Temporary Transition Rules in effect since February 1, 2019, certain Scouts BSA members may be granted a one-time extension to complete the requirements for Eagle Scout. In these cases a Scout will continue as a Youth Participant (UP) once they reach the age of 18. Questions have been raised regarding which positions of responsibility may be used to fulfill this requirement.

Upon turning 18, Scouts who have been granted a time extension must remain registered as a “Unit Participant” (position code UP) by completing an adult application, including the Background Check Authorization, and completing Youth Protection Training, in order to continue participation in a youth program. Once so registered, the Scout may continue to complete any advancement requirements necessary to earn the rank of Eagle Scout, including serving in any of the youth positions of responsibility listed in the Eagle Scout rank requirements. An adult leader position, for example assistant Scoutmaster, cannot be used to fulfill this requirement.

Finally, while registered as a Unit Participant and serving in a youth position of responsibility, Scouts who have been granted a time extension must observe all adult Youth Protection policies like any other adult over the age of 18. Restrictions include, but not limited to, no one-on-one contact, tenting, or sharing toilet or shower facilities with Scouts under the age of 18.

Boards of Review for “Unitless” Scouts

As of December 31, 2019, the Boy Scouts of America's formal partnership with the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints will end, and the Church will discontinue its role as a chartered partner for Scout units. In some of those units Scouts might find themselves in a situation where they have completed all the requirements for rank advancement before December 31, 2019 but have not been able to appear before a board of review before the unit's charter expires—at which point the Scout will no longer be registered in a Boy Scouts of America program.

Note that Scouts must be registered through the time they are working on advancement requirements but need not be registered thereafter or when their board of review is conducted.

However, as explained in *Guide to Advancement* topic 8.0.0.1 (“Purpose and Timeliness of Boards of Review”) boards of review may still be conducted for these Scouts: “Note that Scouts must be registered through the time they are working on advancement requirements but need not be registered thereafter or when their board of review is conducted.”

In such cases, Eagle Scout rank boards of review that normally would have been conducted at the unit level should be arranged and convened by the former unit's local district in accordance with the provisions of *Guide to Advancement* topic 8.0.3.0.

Eagle Scout Rank Application Processing Procedures

December 31, 2019, the LDS Church is discontinuing Scouting as their youth program. Some units' adult and youth members will continue their Scouting journey in a new unit or with a new chartered organization. Some questions have been raised on how to handle perspective Eagle Scout rank applications for current Scouts in an LDS chartered unit. The short answer is that applications will be handled the same as they are today.

For Scouts whose Eagle application process may not be complete prior to the unit's charter expiring, the council's Eagle application processor must go to the Scout's person profile and initiate the Eagle Scout Form. This must be done **PRIOR** to the individual's registration expiring by selecting the Adv/Trng tab and clicking on the Eagle button, and then click OK at the prompt indicating the Eagle Scout record has been initiated. This will enable the council's processor to verify and subsequently certify the application electronically up to 60 days after the Scout's registration has expired. If this action is not taken prior to the Scout's registration expiring, the council's processor will not be able to verify and submit the Eagle application electronically.

Any Eagle applications the council's processor is not able to electronically verify because the form was not initiated or was received after the registration expired, must be manually verified (compare what is in ScoutNET to what the Scout has on their application). The Eagle processor can add any merit badges not listed in ScoutNET by clicking the Merit Badges button under the Adv/Trng tab and adding a record for the missing merit badge.

Once the application is verified as accurate, the council Eagle processor must sign the back of the application where it states BSA Local Council Verification and date it. The application and the other required documents (statement of ambitions and life purpose, Eagle Scout Service Project workbook, and the recommendations) are then submitted according to your local council's policies so a board of review can be scheduled and conducted.

After a successful board of review, the Eagle application is signed and dated by the board chair (and the District/Council Representative if the board of review is held at the unit level) and returned to the council service center. The processor obtains the Scout executive's signature and date approving the application. The completed application (including the completion of the upper right-hand corner) is then scanned and emailed to advancement.team@scouting.org for processing.

Eagle candidates must be registered through the time they are working on advancement requirements but need not be registered thereafter or when their board of review is conducted (*Guide to Advancement* topic 8.0.0.1 and 9.0.1.1). The policy regarding boards of review to be conducted beyond the candidate's 18th birthday must be followed in accordance with the *Guide to Advancement* topic 8.0.3.1.



Sea Scouts BSA

A Scouting Success Story as Big as Texas!

Sea Scout Ship 405 was named the fourth-best unit in Texas this past September. That same month, the ship also celebrated another milestone: the two-month anniversary of its charter!



Yep, you read that right. The ship won a major award after only two months, i.e., 60 days or 1,440 hours, of activity. (That sort of thing has happened before, but the last time was in 1912, the year Sea Scouts was founded.)

Ship 405, *SSS Ascension*, was chartered this summer at Georgetown, Texas, near Austin, and met for the first time on July 7, 2019. On September 6-8, 2019, the unit finished fourth at the Minto Rendezvous Skills Competition, an annual, regional competition, run this year by the Sam Houston Area Council at the Bovay Scout Ranch near Navasota, Texas.

There are ships in Texas that are more than 50 years old—one is in its 95th year—and Ship 405 sailed past them in the annual state-wide competition. How in the name of the Dread Pirate Roberts did this happen?

Ship 405 Skipper Michael McAlister said the ship had some help from a troop. The youths in the new ship were somewhat familiar with Sea Scouts, as the core group already was in Scouts BSA Troop 405. The troop and the ship share the same chartering organization, Christ Lutheran Church. Eventually, youth from four troops made up the new ship; there are 15 active youth.

“When I think about that, it reminds me of a saying my dad had: ‘You can’t sell anything out of an empty wagon,’” McAlister, who doubles as Skipper of Ship 405 and Scoutmaster of Troop 405, said. “What helped us was to have a good foundation and not the ‘empty wagon.’” Troop members already had studied sailing, first aid, swimming, knot-tying, life-saving and other skills that apply to Sea Scouts during their normal Scouts BSA advancement work.

The core crew of the ship are Scouts who have been around each other for several years, ranging in rank from first class to Eagle. And in each of the past three summers, troop members have participated in an

event with Sea Scouts. Austin has a series of lakes and rivers surrounding the city, so when the opportunity came to start a new ship, many of the youth already had some sailing experience.

Michael McAlister sees similarities in program between troops and ships. “Personally, I believe that Sea Scouts is the best complement for a district to enhance the Scouting experience for the community,” the skipper said.



Continued on page 11

Continued from page 10

“This program takes so many skills learned in (traditional) Scouting and carries them further into more advanced uses and methods. It is the perfect outlet for an Eagle or a Life Scout to learn more and take that advanced learning back to their troop to be better teachers to the young Scouts of that unit. I know my son takes tidbits he sees as boatswain back to his PLC meetings and incorporates some of it into the troop. It has worked well, and all of our Sea Scouts remain active with the troop.”

When asked, other youths said the most fun of starting a new ship was the actual process. They chose the name of the ship, *Ascension*, i.e., the act or process of moving or rising up, a logo, a T-shirt design, and the other things that come with building a winning attitude.

“I like that we have the freedom to create the rules and start from scratch. I like to fix the boats up, and it is satisfying to watch them go from a beat-up donor boat to something we can sail,” said boatswain Conor McAlister. Added crew member Noah Bollinger, “When I joined the ship, I wasn't too interested. But gaining the ability to approach stuff head-on in Sea Scouts changed my perspective on how setting up the new ship was completely different from a troop. And that it was one of the greatest things I've taken part in in Scouts.”

These building blocks paid off at Minto, which had 24 areas of competition, including heaving line, Rules of the Road, paddle-less canoe rowing, nomenclature, knot-tying, putting together a small sailboat while blindfolded, first aid and a skit. The best competition, according to Ship 405 was the Flotsam Flotilla, where participants before the competition put together “boats” that were made of cardboard, glue, bailing twine, and a plastic cover. Some “boats” negotiated the water with the deft touch of a mariner, and others took on copious amounts of water and fell into Davey Jones’ Locker at the Bovay pool. Ship 405, which received the Innovation in Design Award from race officials, was able to complete the course and finished fourth in the Flotsam Flotilla.



“Minto was a fun experience for us, and as Skipper I am very proud of how well they performed,” Michael McAlister said. “When pressed about what the leaders have done to make it fun, it was the boats. We had

“What helped us was to have a good foundation and not the ‘empty wagon,’ Troop members already had studied sailing, first aid, swimming, knot-tying, life-saving and other skills that apply to Sea Scouts during their normal Scouts BSA advancement work.”

Scoutbook

Hands-on Experience Opportunity

A demonstration environment has been established where you can get a hands-on experience for the new Scoutbook for den leaders without disrupting the real business of your den.

To access, please visit <https://leaderpp.scouting.org>. At the log in page, a set of credentials to choose from is presented to you in the top-left corner. Simply select a user and click “log in”. The experience is best accessed and viewed from your smart phone.

For an app-like experience that provides you immediate access, be sure to “add to home screen” from your device. Instructions are below.

For iOS Users:

1. In your Safari browser, click the upload symbol.
2. Scroll to the right until you find “Add to Home Screen”.
3. Click “Add” in the top right corner.

For Android Users:

1. Click the Create Bookmark icon.
2. Click the “Add to” drop down and select “Home Screen”.
3. Click “OK”.

A quick note, as this is a demo environment with multiple people accessing, you may see some changes or find some meetings may be moved, etc. This is to be expected. A how-to-guide can be found here <https://help.scoutbook.com/knowledge-base/den-leader-experience-demo-environment-sb/> There are also pre-setup den meetings. You can see the walkthrough via the guide.

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. 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.

Did You Receive This Tweet?

- **August 26: Registration for the Mechanics of Advancement course at the Florida Sea Base is now available at [Laserfiche.scouting.org/Forms/2020-Flo...](https://laserfiche.scouting.org/Forms/2020-Flo...) Register now and bring the family!**

Worth Repeating

The Cub Scout Angle

Blue and Gold Celebration Planning: Fun and Food, but Don't Forget the Advancement!

(November-December 2016)

The annual blue and gold banquet” may be months away, but now is the time for packs to be putting plans together so their Cub Scouts and families get the most they can out of this annual celebration of the founding of the BSA in 1910 and the Cub Scouts in 1930. Successful banquets may take two to three months to plan to ensure that all families are involved and that both Cub Scouts and their leaders will be recognized. Most packs hold this event as their February pack meeting, but because it is so much more, planning also must include out-of-the-ordinary details, such as date, location, time, decorations, menus and serving arrangements, engaging activities and programs, and special guests—especially those from the pack’s charter organization.

Whether held in lieu of or in addition to the regular monthly pack meeting, the blue and gold banquet should not be overlooked as a special opportunity to help motivate and encourage Cub Scout advancement. In planning a blue and gold celebration, it is important to look at the needs of the individual Scout in the pack. Pack leaders should look at the individual Cub Scout adventures when planning their banquet to see if the activity could promote advancement. For example, Tigers could put on a magic show, celebrate their cultural heritage, or perform a puppet show. Bears could put on a carnival and help with leader recognition. Wolves and Webelos could celebrate their hometown heroes, while an Arrow of Light den might share information on the World Friendship Fund and Scouting in other countries.

Thus, the blue and gold committee should actively seek input from the Cubmaster and den leaders as they put together the plan for this event. Den leaders, especially, will be valuable resources concerning what events will not only help the Cub Scouts have fun but will also accomplish tasks towards advancement. The Cubmaster also will be more aware of what adventures require activities to be accomplished or shared with members of the pack. Scout families are busy, but well-planned, well-run blue and gold banquets that offer advancement opportunities at the same time will benefit everyone involved with the pack.

Editor's Note

This article, while written prior to the inclusion of girls in Scouts BSA, specifies a pack blue and gold activity for all Scouts. Gender-neutral references have been substituted where needed.



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.

General Resources

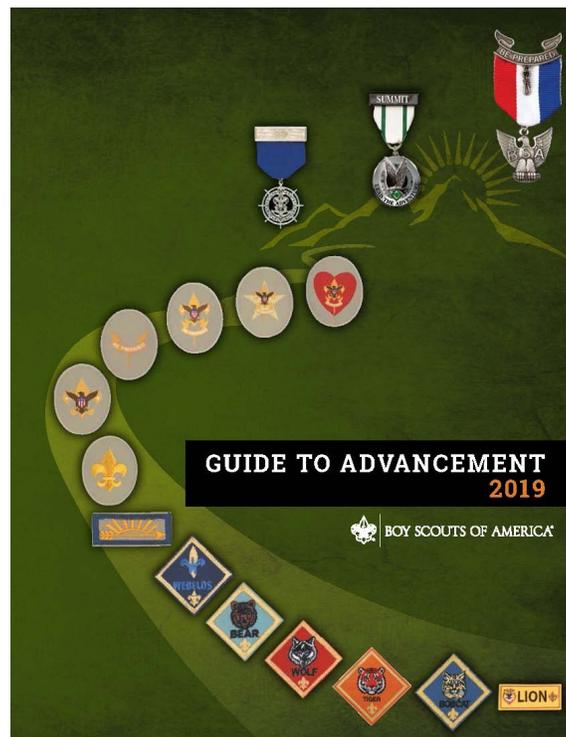
- Guide to Advancement 2019, No. 33088
- Advancement Educational Presentations (see list below)
- Advancement News
- Abilities digest
- Advancement Report, No. 34403
- Building Effective Advancement Committees, No. 510-756
- Eagle Scout Challenge, No. 542-900
- Friendstorming on Tour, No. 510-003
- Lone Scout Friend and Counselor Guidebook, No. 511-420
- On Increasing Advancement, No. 512-047
- Recommendations for Regional and Area Volunteers Supporting the Advancement program, No. 512-048
- Troop Resource Survey, No. 512-940
- Guide to Awards and Insignia, No. 33066
- Venturing Board of Review Guide, No. 512-940

Advancement Educational Presentations:

- Introduction to the *Guide to Advancement*
- 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 in Serving Scouts with Disabilities
- The Essentials of Merit Badge Counseling
- The Merit Badge program
- Getting the most from Internet Advancement
- Including Scouts with Disabilities

Videos

- Guardian of the Gate



Additional resources include

Rank Advancement Information

(including the new 2019 Eagle Scout Service Project Workbook, 2019 Scouts BSA Rank Requirements, and various applications)

Merit Badge Counselor information

(including A Guide for Merit Badge Counseling, Merit Badge Group Instruction Guide and Merit Badge List)

2020 Sea Base Volunteer Development Conferences

Scouting U is partnering with Sea Base to provide participants with an amazing venue for learning and fun in the beautiful Florida Keys... in January!



January 2020 conferences (descriptions on back)

Week 1: January 12-18

- ★ Becoming an Excellent Council Training Chair, District Training Chair, or Training Committee Member
- ★ Applying Technology in Unit Service
- ★ DIVERSEability and DisABILITY: How to Develop and Grow Scouting with Special Needs in Your Council

Week 2: January 19-25

- ★ Venturing Commissioner and Council Venturing Service Conference
- ★ Mechanics of Advancement
- ★ Scouting Alumni and Friends

NOTE: Due to the conference and Sea Base schedule, early arrival and/or late departure might require that you find off-site housing.

**Registration fees: \$495 per conference participant
\$350 per non-conference-attending spouse**

Click here to register for Week 1: <https://laserfiche.scouting.org/Forms/2020-Florida-Sea-Base-Volunteer-Conferences>

Click here to register for Week 2: <https://laserfiche.scouting.org/Forms/2020-Florida-Sea-Base-Volunteer-Conferences2>

Available Spouse Opportunities

Sunset Cruise
Stand-Up Paddle Board
Kayaking
Dolphin Research Center
Snorkeling
Gallery Tours
Everglades
The Turtle Hospital

Conference Housing

Although the Sea Base has a vast program facility (the Atlantic and the Gulf of Mexico!), it has a limited land base. Therefore, housing for ALL participants will be in the SCUBA dorms which consist of separate male and female bunk-style beds with common bathroom/shower facilities. The dorms are quite comfortable, but they were built with the occasional summer or fall tropical storm in mind which means they are on the second story and do not have elevator access.

Conference fees include...

...housing, meals, snacks, bedding and towels, meeting facilities and course materials, and a sunset cruise (weather permitting).

Questions?

Conference-related: jaquelyn.sullivent@scouting.org
Facilities-related: Call Sea Base at 305.664.4173.

Becoming an Excellent Council Training Chair, District Training Chair, or Training Committee Member

For district training chairs, district training committee members, and council training chairs, this conference will help you to understand your role in your council's/district's training program. You will learn how to meet and exceed the training needs of your district/council. You will discuss everything your position entails including meetings you are expected to attend; trainings you are expected to provide; how to recruit and lead your training team; how to plan, organize, and implement a unit/district/council training plan; and much more. Online and instructor-led courses, basic leader requirements, and how to access and update training records will be discussed. Best practices and training challenges will also be shared.

(Jan. 12-18)

Applying Technology in Unit Service

Conference attendees will have the opportunity to learn about the suite of tools available to commissioners including Commissioner Tools, Member Manager, Training Manager, online registration, online charter renewal, Scoutbook, etc. Participants will have extensive engagement with Commissioner Tools in a hands-on learning environment. This will be an opportunity to provide meaningful feedback on the technology and will allow participants to expand their networks of Scouters to enable broadening the use of technology. This conference will have extensive use of presentation, guided discussion, and hands-on experiential learning.

(Jan. 12-18)

DIVERSEability and DisABILITY: How to Develop and Grow Scouting with Special Needs in Your Council



This course is for volunteer Scouters, professionals, chartered partner leadership, school district partners, and parents that have a passion for helping Scouts with disabilities become involved in and benefit from all that Scouting has to offer. This course will help you to start or strengthen a Disabilities Awareness Committee within your council and will show Scout leaders proper procedures, modifications, resources, and supports that can help our Scouts with special needs experience the outing in Scouting. Learn how you can help Scouts advance at all levels, experience excellent program, help their communities, and feel included and empowered to make a difference in the lives of others.

(Jan. 12-18)

Mechanics of Advancement

This course is a MUST for advancement administrators in units, districts, and councils, whether they are volunteers or professionals 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*.

(Jan. 19-25)

Venturing Commissioner and Council Venturing Service Conference

This conference will focus on how commissioners, council Venturing volunteers, and council professionals can support Venturing crews and Venturing officers' associations. Using the new Venturing roundtable guides, A.L.P.S. program support guides, and Venturing advancement, participants will be able to develop a new toolbox filled with ways to help grow and support local units. Open to Commissioners (all levels), Venturing volunteers, and professional Scouters who support and want to grow Venturing.

(Jan. 19-25)

Scouting Alumni and Friends

Need help...? A successful alumni program can help you:

- Better your council JTE scores
- Increase active volunteers
- Increase adult and youth membership
- Create current and future fundraising opportunities
- Diminish workloads for staff and volunteers
- Reconnect with Scouting alumni who are looking for a way to help that fits their life
- Increase your council's visibility, in-depth knowledge, and community support

Experienced faculty will provide you with the tools, techniques, and best practices to create or improve your alumni engagement activities and strategies. Through Scouting Alumni and Friends (SAF) and its various affiliate groups such as NESAs, American Wood Badges, and others, you can significantly impact the performance of your council. Come and learn how to find them and what to do with them after you do. Your council will never be the same...! **(Jan. 19-25)**