



## *The Dulaney District Cub Advancement Committee News*

9 June 2017

Most of the following items are excerpted from the Mar-Apr & May-June 2017 National Advancement News:

### **A. Internet Advancement:**

If your Pack missed the February Roundtable, and thus the Internet Training session and you need help in getting up-to-speed on Internet Advancement, please contact Christine Hurt, the District Champion for Internet advancement at [Hurtc111@gmail.com](mailto:Hurtc111@gmail.com)

### **B. Advancement: (By Don Walters-Cub Advancement Chairman)**

Advancement, Advancement, Advancement! A terrible death to die! A terrible death to die! A terrible death to not advance your scouts! A terrible death to die!

Beginning April 1, 2017, you may not purchase Cub Scout rank advancement patches or pins without an advancement report. No Fooling! The Scout shop will not sell advancement materials to you without an advancement report.

- Did you know that you are supposed to report your Pack's advancements on the tools on My.Scouting.org?
- Did you know that's where you will get your advancement report and shopping list? And
- If you email your report to the Scout Shop, they'll have it all ready for you at pick-up.

If you are not reporting your Tigers, Bobcats, Wolves, Bears, WEBELOS or Arrow of Light recipients, your Pack is not advancing! Yes, they may have their patches and pins but without accurate records with the district and council, it's as if it never happened. What's the big deal as long as they get recognized at the Blue and Gold or the Pack meeting? The big deal happens when a boy transfers units and there's no record to go with the boy. The big deal happens when you unit doesn't earn Journey to Excellence. The big deal happens when our district or council doesn't get credit for the hard work our units provide to these boys. If you're not reporting your advancements, it's like a big secret! Let's let the secret out---"Dulaney Lights the Way!"

If you need help navigating the internet advancement system on My.Scouting.org contact Don Walters at [don3039@gmail.com](mailto:don3039@gmail.com). I have all units log on information and can help you get started.

### **C. Advancement Changes: Putting the "Outing in Scouting" Still Begins in Cub Scouting:**

Cub Scout advancement centers on exciting and meaningful activities and requirements designed to teach each Scout life and outdoor skills. The recent advancement requirement changes allow some flexibility in the outdoor requirements, but they still emphasize the importance of beginning to "put the outing in Scouting" at the Cub Scout level. As dens begin to prepare their spring and summer calendars, the outdoors beckon; just remember that the new requirements became effective immediately upon their release.

A quick comparison of the original adventure requirements to the modified ones in the outdoor adventures shows how leaders' concerns about how to fit all of the previous requirements for advancement into their program year—in the face of weather, daylight, access, and even overnight camping issues—have been addressed to better support

advancement for Cub Scouts. Leaders should note that even though many of the activities are now “optional,” the activities not explicitly required for rank, e.g., field trips, will still help to create a full and exciting program for your Cub Scouts by helping our Cub Scouts explore the world around them.

For example, the Tiger-required “Backyard Jungle” and “Tigers in the Wild” adventures involve short hikes where Scouts can observe the sights and sounds of nature. The first of these originally had five requirements, but now has a minimum of three, including a required outside walk with an adult partner who has an option to choose two activities, such as building and hanging a birdhouse, planting a plant, shrub, or tree, or pointing out the birds in the area. Similar changes occurred to the “Tigers in the Wild adventure,” where the number of required activities was reduced from seven to four, and leaders can choose activities from options such as participating in an outdoor pack meeting or campfire program, identifying plants and trees that grow in the area, or visiting a nature center, zoo, or similar location.

The original overnight camping requirements for all units whose chartered organizations permitted Cub Scout camping—much less those who did not—were difficult for some units to achieve. The modified requirements for the Wolf-required, “Call of the Wild” Adventure and the Bear-required “Bear Necessities” Adventure now allow Cub Scouts to attend one of the following: a daytime or overnight campout with their pack or family, an outdoor activity, day camp, or resident camp. These options will pave the way for every unit to be successful in getting its Cub Scouts outdoors, regardless of circumstances.

Similarly, the Arrow of Light-required “Camper” adventure, which has been modified and renamed the “Outdoorsman” adventure, now has two options from which a den or pack can choose. Option A is for those units who desire den or pack camping in their outdoor plan, so their Scouts can participate in a campout, set up tents, and demonstrate knowledge of what makes a good tent site. Option B allows for an outdoor activity. Both options require learning about severe weather conditions, tying a bowline, and reciting the Outdoor Code and Leave No Trace Principles for Kids.

One other area of significant change concerns campfire programs. The original adventure requirements called for an annual pack campfire program that involved each of the ranks participating in activities that qualified for advancement. Leaders are free—and encouraged—to continue campfire programs as part of their annual pack plan because they do provide fun, fellowship, entertainment, and leadership opportunities.

In sum, although program modifications have made some outdoor activities optional, outdoor skills and awareness remain among the key program outcomes for the Cub Scout program. Cub Scouts need to learn emergency skills, nature and outdoor ethics, and to experience comfort, safety, and adventures in the outdoors. Leaders need to make the “outing in Scouting” a priority as they move forward in their spring and summer plans.

#### **D. End of Year Cub Scout Advancement:**

The Cub Scout year of rank advancement is often geared to finish at the blue and gold banquet in February. The timing is ideal for a large banquet and festivities to celebrate advancement for all boys and signal the time for Webelos Scouts to complete their transition to Boy Scouting and troop involvement.

Many Cub Scouts are unable to complete their rank advancement by this time, and are encouraged to continue working on adventures and electives. Some, however, do not complete their rank advancement by June 1, the traditional date when records change and each rank moves up—for example, Tiger becomes Wolf and Wolf becomes Bear. What happens to those boys who have been working but are not there yet?

The answer is in the *Guide To Advancement*, topic 4.1.0.4, which allows the pack committee to allow a few extra weeks after the end of the school year. The Cub Scout should not have to “stop cold”—he deserves the chance to succeed and the GTA ensures this chance.

The pack committee should meet during early May and get input from den leaders, parents, and Scouts. They should review advancement reports and see the health of the dens. Den leaders can identify boys who are finished, near to being finished, and those who are not as far in their advancement. Once those boys are identified, joint effort can be initiated to encourage and facilitate the successful completion of this Scout’s badge of rank. This will

give him the all-important sense of accomplishment and pride in a job well done. Then it's on to the next new Cub Scout advancement adventures.

### **E. Journey to Excellence: Advancement Is Just One Way to Keep Score:**

The JTE scorecard for each Scouting organization from the unit through council level has an advancement component. Section 3 of the *Guide to Advancement* provides the following guidelines for JTE areas of emphasis at the council, district, and unit advancement committee level.

- Unit #5 – Ensure Cub Scouts advance in rank annually by school year's end and are recognized in a meaningful ceremony.

The Journey to Excellence continuous improvement initiative helps units focus on details to provide the best Scouting program for youth. The 2017 JTE scorecards for each Scout organization can be found online at [www.scouting.org/jte.aspx](http://www.scouting.org/jte.aspx). While each has a line labeled "Advancement" the tracking of advancement progress is only one very important component of the overall score. It is important to recall that Scout advancement is not an end; rather, it is the sum of Scouting's other components—Planning, Membership, Program, and Leadership, all of which are also listed and measured on each JTE scorecard. Addressing these multiple, interrelated measures of advancement will help units, districts and councils to succeed in achieving positive results in this performance recognition program of the BSA.

Let's look at one example of ways that that district advancement committee can promote Cub Scout advancement. On the 2017 pack JTE scorecard, section #5 requires packs to calculate percentages of advancement during the year. There are multiple ways a district advancement committee might help the district and each of its units to achieve their mutual goal of increased advancement:

- The district committee, with the help of unit commissioners, can ensure that advancement reports that are being filed monthly, and can analyze these reports to identify areas where extra attention will be useful.
- Members of the district committee can identify areas of need (within the unit) and help with activities to promote advancement. For example, helping to provide den chiefs for packs by providing den chief training and encouraging troops to send suitable Scouts to this training.
- The district committee can promote communication with and among units encouraging participation in district activities that lead to advancement, ranging from Cub Scout day camp and district Webelos events to Boy Scout resident camp.
- Advancement committee members can assist the district training committee to develop, promote, and provide leadership training that ensures unit leaders are aware of the program outlines of the program support materials available for all levels of Scouting. Training will also encourage those leaders to present a program with multiple opportunities for including advancement activities. On an ongoing basis, they can encourage participation in monthly roundtables where leaders can get up-to-date information about upcoming activities.

One further note about JTE: remember that it is a journey, not a destination. Like a garden, it needs constant attention if it is to achieve its purpose, the growth of good citizens through Scouting.

Yours in Scouting;

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