



The Dulaney District Advancement Committee *Venturing News*

1 November 2017

Venture Crew Leaders of Dulaney District:

All of the following is excerpted from the National Advancement News, Sept-Oct, 2017 issues:

1. Requirement Updates: How to Handle Them:

Advancement requirements across all BSA youth programs change from time to time. The 2017 *Guide to Advancement* provides information on how to deal with such changes in a couple of places: “Changes to Requirements” (Topic 4.0.0.1) and “What to Do” (Topic 7.0.4.3). Here is a brief rundown of the practical advice these topics provide. (As always, it is recommended that you review the topics themselves in the *Guide to Advancement*.)

For Cub Scouts, Venturers, and Sea Scouts, revisions to rank or award requirements are introduced in new editions of their respective handbooks, and unless that handbook says differently, the pack, crew, or ship member has until the next January 1 to decide which requirement—old or new—he or she prefers to use through completion of that rank or award.

2. New Whitewater Rafting Award:

Many Scouting units participate in rafting trips conducted by outfitters or councils. A new aquatics award, *Whitewater Rafting BSA*, recognizes the challenge and adventure of such activities.



The award is available to BSA youth and adults who are members of Boy Scout, Varsity, Venturing, or Sea Scout units.

Requirements for the award focus on safety and basic paddling skills on whitewater up to Class III. All instruction and skill completions are directly supervised by a professionally trained or licensed rafting guide. A qualified raft captain must be in each raft during the required trip. Participants help power and control the raft with paddles – simply riding in a raft rowed by a guide is not sufficient.

The new award was featured at the 2017 National Jamboree. An application with requirements and notes to the counselor can be found on the aquatics page of [scouting.org](http://www.scouting.org).

<http://www.scouting.org/scoutsource/OutdoorProgram/Aquatics.aspx>

Patches and pocket cards are in production and will be available at scoutstuff.org and in local Scout Shops later this season. A support brochure is also planned.

3. The Summit Award:

A. Focusing on the Leadership Component:

There are four components relating to earning the Summit Award: Adventure, Leadership, Personal Growth, and Service. Each component looks to challenge the Venturer seeking the Summit Award.

The Leadership component focuses on enhancing the skills of having responsibility within a team and mentoring others to become great leaders. A Venturer will complete Mentoring training and then focus on mentoring another member of the crew in preparing, planning, and leading an adventure for a group. A post-event review should also occur to evaluate the event and help to improve any shortcomings for future events.

In the realm of leadership, the Venturer must also take on a crew leadership position for six months, participate or serve on staff at a BSA-approved leadership event or course, or conduct an Introduction to Leadership Skills Course. These roles are meant to put the Venturer into action by practicing and enhancing his or her leadership skills.

A full listing of the requirements for the Summit Award can be found in the *Venturing Handbook*.

B. Venturing Summit Award Challenges: Tips from the Summit:

Every Venturer strives to climb to the top of the mountain to obtain the Summit Award. Each must overcome some challenges along the way. As more and more Venturers earn this award, here are some of the challenges they report having faced and some suggestions on how to overcome the challenges they have offered:

1. Paperwork and Organization. Paperwork is not the most interesting thing in the world but is a necessity in life. Keeping records of all requirements completed and having your crew advisor sign them off is the most important step in obtaining any award. Periodically review your requirements list and see what requirements you plan to complete on any up and coming outings or meetings. This could also serve as an opportunity to add a requirement to an any meeting or outing. Afterwards, bring the requirements to your crew advisor to sign. Many Venturers have completed the requirements in the advancement track for the Summit Award, but they simply have not recorded their successes. Being organized is essential!

2. Picking a Summit Award Service Project. “I don’t know what to do?” You do not have to come up with the project idea entirely by yourself. Try looking up various organizations in your community. Is there an organization that you like? Go to them and let them know your intentions of completing a service project. They may have a project list in mind and from which you can choose a project that interests you. They may even have a small budget to help provide supplies for or to fund your project.

3. Funding for Your Summit Award Project. Not every organization may have a budget to provide the supplies needed to complete a service project. In the planning process, price out the total cost of supplies needed. Present this information along with a donation request form to a local supply store and ask them to donate the supplies needed to complete your service project. Ask family and friends for a donation towards the project. Ask local companies and businesses for a donation towards the project.

Yours in Scouting;
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