

# Advancement News

March-April  
2015

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Prepared. For Life.®

Previous issues are available at [http://www.scouting.org/scoutsource/BoyScouts/AdvancementandAwards/advancement\\_news.aspx](http://www.scouting.org/scoutsource/BoyScouts/AdvancementandAwards/advancement_news.aspx)

## Opportunities for Advancement Administrators

### Philmont Training Center Registration Open



Have you heard other Scouters speak of PTC? PTC is the Philmont Training Center, a family Scouting paradise nestled in the foothills of the Sangre de Cristo Mountains of northeastern New Mexico near Cimarron. Each conference features the latest resources, audiovisuals, and techniques and is led by a faculty of experienced Scouters. This is your opportunity to have a one-of-a-kind, unforgettable experience with your family and Scouters from across the country. Of particular interest to volunteers involved with advancement administration in their unit, district, or council are two conferences led by members of the National Advancement Committee and advisory panel.

#### Conference on Education for Advancement Administrators (CEAA): June 7-13, 2015

##### A First at PTC

The CEAA is a learning experience for council and district advancement committee members, chairs, and staff advisors. Conference participants not only learn about the latest updates on advancement, but preview and evaluate volunteer designed and developed materials addressing topics from the *Guide to Advancement*.

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Participants are organized into teams to discuss and initiate the development or updates of advancement resources that will help Scouters present the advancement program as it was intended. Traditionally held at Florida Sea Base each January, this is the first CEAA to be conducted at Philmont.

### **Advancement Issues and Solutions: August 2-8, 2015**

If you are an experienced Scouting advancement administrator, consider taking your game to the next level at this exciting conference. It is a learning experience based on case studies designed for unit, district, and council advancement coordinators, chairs, committee members, and staff advisors. Conference participants not only learn about the latest updates on advancement, but more importantly, they also analyze, discuss, and solve case studies similar to those handled by the National Advancement Committee. As a result, attendees will have a better understanding of the effective use of the latest *Guide to Advancement* and the confidence to handle difficult issues in their home councils.

See the full brochure for a listing of all conferences available and family program information:

[www.philmontscoutranch.org/filestore/philmont/pdf/PTC8PGO.pdf](http://www.philmontscoutranch.org/filestore/philmont/pdf/PTC8PGO.pdf).

### **January 2015 CEAA**

The recent CEAA conference at Sea Base, Florida provided opportunities for Scouters to share and learn about advancement issues and explore case studies. But better to hear from them:

This is a great opportunity to develop knowledge and understanding for administration of the BSA advancement program. I highly recommend attendance at CEAA.

This conference is important because it inspires us and give us the energy and the tools to better provide the program to the Scouts and Scouters .



The conference has recharged my batteries. I am ready to go home and start the next phase of improvement in my council.

One of the best working conferences that I have ever attended. The meals were awesome!

# On Increasing Advancement

## Positions of Responsibility



A recent post on Scouting magazine's blog, *Bryan on Scouting* ([blog.scoutingmagazine.org/2015/01/27/honor-guard-patch](http://blog.scoutingmagazine.org/2015/01/27/honor-guard-patch)), highlighted the new Honor Guard patch available for Boy Scouts. It was noted the new patch is to be worn on the right sleeve, not the left, because it, like the Musician patch, is not a "position patch." After clarifying that "serving in the Honor Guard doesn't count as a position of responsibility needed for advancement," it was then asked: "What does count?"

The answer was provided later in the article where it explains that for Boy Scout troops, the position of responsibility patches that may count toward rank and go on the left sleeve are "patrol leader, assistant senior patrol leader, senior patrol leader, Venture patrol leader, troop guide, Order of the Arrow troop representative, den chief, scribe, librarian, historian, quartermaster, bugler, junior assistant Scoutmaster, chaplain aide, instructor, troop webmaster, or Leave No Trace trainer." Note, however, that only those positions specified in the most recent edition of the *Boy Scout Requirements* book may count toward a Scout's Star, Life, and Eagle position of responsibility requirements.

Advancement is one of the eight Scouting methods used to help a youth develop and grow, and positions of responsibility are part of that process. Unit leaders should strive to align a Scout's strengths and skills with a position of responsibility that enables him to grow while serving the needs of his troop. A Scout's developmental needs will more likely be successful when he receives guidance, support, and coaching from his unit leaders in fulfilling these requirements (*Guide to Advancement*, topic 4.2.3.4.4).

For example, a 17-year old Eagle Scout candidate that is very active in sports, school, community, and church, may not need to be selected as the troop's senior patrol leader to develop his leadership skills. On the other hand, a 12-year old Scout may have very different needs and exhibit significant growth and responsible behavior by serving in a position everyone counts on such as troop librarian.

Furthermore, unit leaders do not have the authority to require Scouts to hold specific position of responsibility to advance to a particular rank. For example, a Scout cannot be required to serve as senior patrol leader to obtain the Eagle Scout rank (*GTA*, 4.2.3.4.1). The senior patrol leader position is actually elected by all members of the troop, and each troop can determine its own schedule of elections for this position.

A Scout could hold a number of different positions to fulfill the position of responsibility requirement, as long as the total time adds up to the time required. Depending on the Scout's personal journey, these positions may not necessarily be consecutive (*GTA*, 4.2.3.4.2).

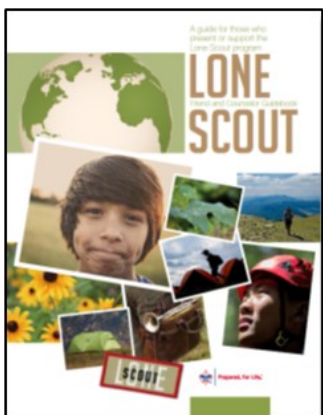
Speaking of reviews, remember that advancement is a tool used to help a boy grow, and thoughtfully assigned positions of responsibility can and will help the Scout to develop into the man we hope he will become. Now isn't that what we're all about?



Participation in an Honor Guard does not qualify as a position of responsibility for Star, Life, or Eagle ranks.

## New Lone Scout Friend and Counselor Guidebook Released

The guidebook for Lone Scouts and their counselors has been completely rewritten and can be found at [scouting.org/advancement](http://scouting.org/advancement). It replaces the publication by the same name, which was last updated in 2009. The guidebook will be available only online.



A special National Advancement Committee task force of experienced Lone Scouting volunteers set out to update the previous edition last year, resulting in a well-organized, clearly written booklet. The new *Lone Scout Friend and Counselor Guidebook*, No. 511-420, briefly describes the program's history and provides well-defined district and council volunteer roles supportive of the program. It describes how Lone Scouting may be the appropriate program for a boy who does not have access to traditional Scouting units because of circumstances in his life. Lone Scouts and their counselors can work together to achieve the best possible outcome when Lone Scouting is the right choice.

The guide discusses how to register with the appropriate local council. It also emphasizes the importance of the BSA youth handbooks and stresses the need for safety and youth protection as outlined in the *Guide to Safe Scouting*, and the value of training for the friend and counselor. Thoughts on resources and potential activities at the local, national, and international level are provided, as well as ideas for connecting with other Scouts.

Rank advancement opportunities in Cub Scouting and Boy Scouting, including the merit badge program, are described in general, with references to the appropriate BSA literature for the details. The flexibility allowed in advancement for Lone Scouts is also covered.

Nationally, at the end of 2014, there were 250 Lone Cub Scouts and 421 Lone Boy Scouts. They are scattered all over the country, of course, but the largest percentage live overseas where their military and civilian families are assigned to U.S. bases. Perhaps with a set of clear and up to date guidelines there will be more.



### About *Advancement News*

**Follow the National Advancement Team on Twitter! BSA Advancement Team, @AdvBSA**

*Advancement News* is the official e-letter of the Boy Scouts of America National Advancement Team and the National Advancement Committee. 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

## Cub Scout Adventure Program Transitional Information

The new Cub Scout program will be launched on June 1, 2015. Two of the most significant changes are in two of the methods: ideals and advancement.

The change in *Living the Ideals* is based on the use of the Scout Oath and Law for all programs of the Boy Scouts of America. Venturing has adopted that change as of January 1, 2015, and Cub Scouting will also begin that change on June 1, 2015. Additional changes are related to the *Using Advancement* method. These are based on how advancement takes place in the Cub Scout program. New handbooks for boys and leaders have been developed and will be released in May. The new den leader guides provide a detailed curriculum for den leaders to use in delivering a program that is “more fun for boys...and easier for adults to deliver.”

More transitional information on the Cub Scout program will be shared in *Advancement News* and other venues over the next twelve months. To prepare unit leaders, den leaders, and district and council leaders who support Cub Scouting, the timeline below will help them be aware of some of the new materials that will support the launch of the program on June 1.

PROJECTED DATE	CONTENT	WHERE TO FIND
January	Cub Scout Program Update Webinar (archived)	<a href="#">Program Updates</a>
January-July	Monthly Cub Scout roundtable training sessions	<a href="#">Program Updates</a>
March	STEM/ Nova requirements	<a href="#">Program Updates</a>
March	Training Updates	<a href="http://my.Scouting.org">my.Scouting.org</a>
April	Pack meeting plans (2015-2016, 2016-2017)	<a href="#">Program Updates</a>
May	Tiger, Wolf, Bear and Webelos handbooks Den leader guides for Tiger, Wolf, Bear, and Webelos <i>Cub Scout Leader Book</i>	<a href="http://Scoutstuff.org">Scoutstuff.org</a> Local scout shop
PROGRAM ACTIVE: JUNE 1, 2015		
June	Recognition devices Remaining program support materials	Local scout shop

The most accurate program information is always available at [www.scouting.org/programupdates](http://www.scouting.org/programupdates).

For questions, contact [myscouting@scouting.org](mailto:myscouting@scouting.org).

## Program Updates – 2015 and Beyond

Stay on top of the latest changes to Cub Scouting, Boy Scouting, and Venturing by visiting [www.scouting.org/programupdates](http://www.scouting.org/programupdates)

- Cub Scout Frequently Asked Questions—updated March 6, 2015
- Cub Scout Transition Guidelines (Webelos and LDS)—updated March 2, 2015
- Day camp guidelines—February 20, 2015
- LDS transition guidelines—February 20, 2015
- Cub Scout webcasts—January 17, 2015
- Venturing Program FAQs—updated January 27, 2015



New den leader guides are slated for release in May, along with youth handbooks.

## Hear it First on Twitter

If you want the news first, follow the National Advancement 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 time to take the plunge. 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 BSA National Advancement Team as the only account you want to follow.

## Did You Receive these Tweets?

**February 26** - New advancement education presentation "Cub Scout Advancement: Delivering Adventure" posted at [www.tinyurl.com/kgpboyr](http://www.tinyurl.com/kgpboyr)

**February 8** - New version of *Lone Scout Friend and Counselor Guidebook* is now available at Advancement Resources web page: [www.scouting.org/advancement](http://www.scouting.org/advancement)

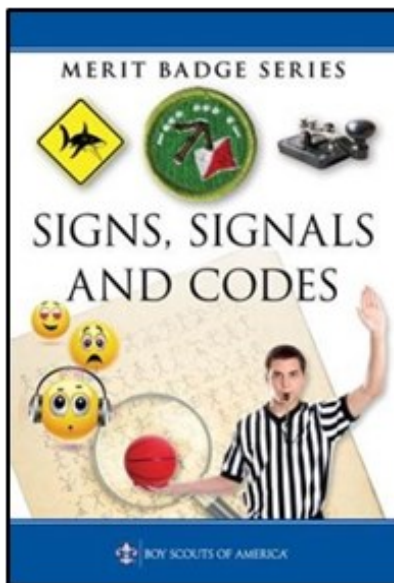
**January 30** – For Venturing Pathfinder Award, completion of Project Management Training (Req 2) is waived through May 31, 2015.

**January 30** -The Venturing Supplement to the *Guide to Advancement* has been posted at [www.scouting.org/advancement](http://www.scouting.org/advancement).

# Merit Badges: Enhancing Our Youth's Competitive Edge

## Signs, Signals, and Codes: Communication for Everyone

Are you ready for the next merit badge? Requirements for Signs, Signals and Codes are now posted at [scouting.org/meritbadges](http://scouting.org/meritbadges). Boys will discover this to be an exciting merit badge with lots of hands-on, interactive activities for learning and practicing different types of communications such as Morse code, semaphore, and American Sign Language. The badge also encourages boys to check out cryptography, trail markers, and Braille. There are a variety of different signs, signals, and codes to have fun exploring.



Signs, Signals, and Codes would be an ideal badge to introduce at summer camp and camporees. Competitions between patrols or troops would be greatly enhanced as Scouts challenge each other to send various messages back and forth to accomplish requirements. In addition, they can mark trails and send and receive silent Scout signals. There is definitely something here for everyone.

Signs, Signals, and Codes marks the 135<sup>th</sup> current merit badge. A promotional flyer can be downloaded at [www.scouting.org/filestore/boyscouts/pdf/512-942.pdf](http://www.scouting.org/filestore/boyscouts/pdf/512-942.pdf). Look for the new pamphlet at your local Scout store or order online from [scoutstuff.org](http://scoutstuff.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.

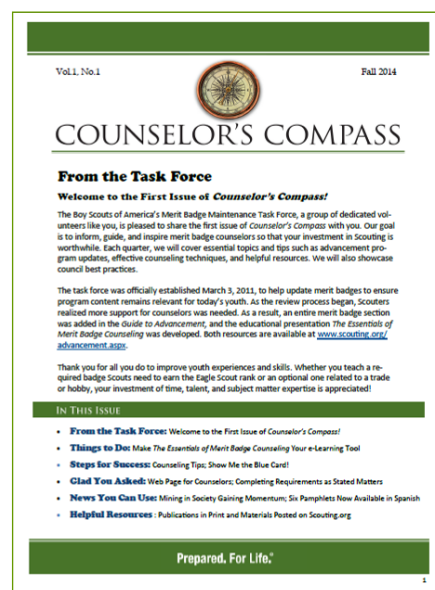
**Duplicate Copies.** If you receive more than one copy of *Advancement News* at the same email address, please reply to all but one of them with "DUPLICATE" in the subject line.

**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.

# Counselor's Compass Newsletter Now Available

The National Advancement Committee now provides a new information resource entitled "Counselor's Compass." This publication, issued as an e-newsletter, supports merit badge counselors in four ways:

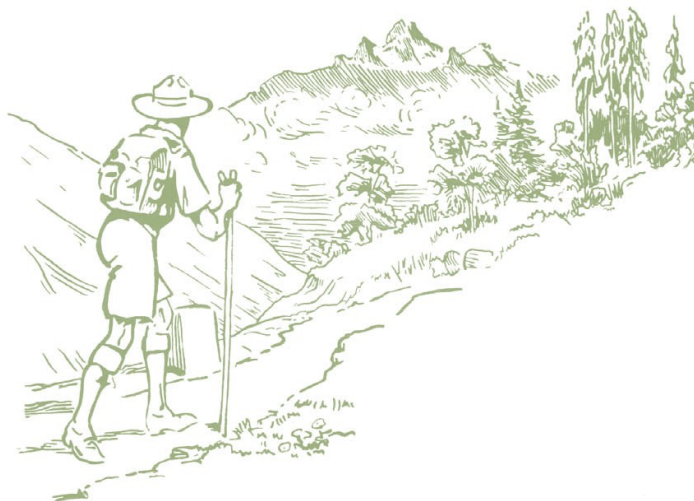
- **Things to Do.** What new counselors should do prior to counseling a merit badge, such as become familiar with *Guide to Advancement* and the educational presentation, *Essentials of Merit Badge Counseling*, available under "Advancement Educational Presentations" at [scouting.org/advancement](http://scouting.org/advancement).
- **Steps for Success.** Tips that can be helpful for both new and experienced counselors as they work with Scouts, such as a reminder about the importance of using the latest pamphlet and requirements.
- **Glad You Asked.** Articles that address commonly asked questions sent to [merit.badge@scouting.org](mailto:merit.badge@scouting.org).
- **News You Can Use.** Merit badge fun facts, and information on new badges.



The inaugural edition is available at [scouting.org/advancement](http://scouting.org/advancement) under the "Merit Badge" section. The Winter 2015 issue was distributed to subscribers on March 11, 2015. To receive future issues of *Counselor's Compass*, please subscribe using the procedure below.

## Managing Subscriptions to Counselor's Compass

Subscribing to *Counselor's Compass* is similar to subscribing to *Advancement News*: Send a message to [merit.badge@scouting.org](mailto:merit.badge@scouting.org), with "SUBSCRIBE" in the subject line. Indicate your name, email address, and council in the message text.





# The Venturing Perspective

## Venturing Leadership Award

The Venturing Leadership Award was created to recognize Venturers at the council, area, region, and national levels for showing exceptional dedication and giving outstanding leadership and service to Venturing and to Venturers (on the level appropriate for the award).

For the 2014 nomination year, this award will be available to Advisors and committee members (in addition to Venturers). All nominations are due by April 1, 2015, for service of the leaders during the calendar year of 2014. Further, Advisor and committee member awards presented must be no more than half of the number of Venturing participant awards that are presented.

Starting in the 2015 nomination year, the award will be restricted to Venturing **youth** participants only (**age 14-20**).



All nominations for the Venturing Leadership Award—council, area, region, or national—are due April 1, 2015.

### Quota Restrictions

- Councils may present two awards for youth members per year for up to 50 crews/ships, and one additional youth recognition per year for each fraction of 25 crews/ships above 50 (for example, for 51 registered crews/ships, a total of three youth awards may be presented; for 78 crew and ships, four youth awards may be presented).
- Areas may present eight awards per year.
- Regions may present eight awards per year.
- National may present eight awards per year.

To nominate a youth or adult member, a nomination form and letters of recommendation is required. The nomination form and further information can be found at [www.scouting.org/scoutsource/Venturing/Awards/leadership.aspx](http://www.scouting.org/scoutsource/Venturing/Awards/leadership.aspx).



## Tiers of Adventures Defined



Venturing now challenges its crew members to take on “tiers of adventure” through new experiences they may not discover outside of Scouting. These adventures provide a laboratory for developing and refining leadership skills and tests a Venturer’s growth as a leader. They form the core of the new Venturing recognition system with participation in at least seven required adventures. The Venturer will be expected to lead an adventure and serve as a mentor for another Venturer leading an activity.

Activities are classified according to levels of readiness and skills as Tier I, II, or III adventures. Tier I adventures require the least amount of planning, preparation, and skills, and can be fulfilled in less than a day. Tier II adventures, accomplished in less than four days, require some planning and preparation, and a desirable skill. A good example is organizing and running a Special Olympics event. Tier III adventures require at least four days duration and extensive planning, preparation, and skill development prior to participation. Organizing a sports camp for Scouts with disabilities would be a good example of this type of activity. The use of Tier II and Tier III adventures is important because of the degree of planning and preparation required to organize and carry them out.

### Elaborating and Classifying Tiers of Adventure

One focus of a Venturing Advisor is to help the Venturer mature and grow in his or her ability to plan, execute, and evaluate a challenging activity. The Advisor is consulted to confirm the tier of adventure being implemented. The Advisor has the final word, for example, as to whether a single-day organization-intensive activity meets the expectations for a Tier II or Tier III adventure.

Keep in mind that not all Venturers will experience some activities in the same way. Consider the example of a council-operated, six-day Venturing camp which might, on the surface, look like a Tier III adventure. If the only preparation or planning needed to participate is to show up at camp and hang out, it would be classified as a Tier I adventure. However, if a member of the crew organized the transportation, consulted with the camp leadership to organize the program, and coordinated the fundraising for the crew’s participation in the Venturing camp, it might meet the threshold of a Tier II or Tier III adventure.

### Differentiating Tier II from Tier III

The fundamental difference is in the level of preparation, planning, and gathering resources to carry out the adventure. Generally, a Tier II adventure lasts from two to four days and a Tier III adventure lasts for four days or more.

When an event of fewer than four days is considered a Tier III adventure, it should reflect these criteria:

- The planning needed to carry out a shorter event is comparable to that of a longer event.
- The preparation needed to implement the activity is similar to the preparation needed to implement a longer event.
- The opportunity to challenge the activity chair and the members of the crew is similar as to the actions taking place during an activity of longer duration.

## What Makes Venturing Boards of Review Different?

One of the benefits of the new Venturing recognition program is to help Venturers open doors in terms of scholarships, jobs, and education. It also can be used to leverage individual actions so they are magnified to inspire others. To assist with these goals, Venturing offers a unique type of board of review experience that is required for the Discovery, Pathfinder, and Summit awards.

The term “unique” is used because Venturing boards of review are not the same as Boy Scout boards of review. The goals of a Venturing board of review are to empower youth Venturers to determine their own quality of experience and to encourage them to continue in their personal development as well as to gather input to bring back to the crew on how to improve the crew’s program. That’s right! Youth Venturers sit on Venturing boards of review, which distinguishes Venturing from Boy Scout boards of review. It adds a component of excitement and enthusiasm that is unique to the Venturing advancement program.

But that’s not the only difference. The Venturing board of review should be conducted to allow the Venturer to relive and become excited again about the adventures and different activities he or she participated in to earn the award being reviewed. In listening to these stories, the board of review will learn how the candidate completed the award requirements, and gained insight not only into the participant’s achievements and growth but also the unit’s program. Information from the Venturing boards of reviews can directly contribute to the crew’s improved program. Venturing boards of review are learning experiences for the Venturer before the board, the youth members on the board, and the Venturing crew itself.



Thus the approach and goals of the Venturing boards of review are very different from experiences Scouters have had with Boy Scout boards of review. Because of that, a short guidebook was developed to help crews conduct boards of review. The district and council are involved with Summit boards of reviews and the guide assists those advancement committees as well. You can find the *Venturing Board of Review Guide, No. 512-940* at the [www.scouting.org/advancement](http://www.scouting.org/advancement) page in the General Resources section. Remember: Make Venturing boards of review fun and rewarding experiences, so every Venturer will look forward to the experience.

## A Peek Ahead

Here is a glimpse of 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, especially to accommodate “late-breaking news” of immediate importance to our subscribers.

### Topics Planned for May/June

**Opportunities for Advancement Administrators:** Philmont Training Center

**From the *Guide to Advancement*:** *Guide to Advancement 2015* release imminent

**The Cub Scout Angle:** Cub Scout Adventure Program start date June 1, 2015

**Special Necessities:** *Abilities Digest* is released

# The Survey Says

## Eagle Palm Survey

In December 2014 the National Advancement Committee surveyed volunteers about the Eagle Palm program. More than 1,900 responded, setting a new *Advancement News* survey record.



The survey opened with a question comparing Eagle Palms to other factors that affect youth retention in the Scouting program. From the provided list, the five most selected choices were: good quality troop programs, high adventure, strong Scout leaders, troop positions of responsibility, and Order of the Arrow. Eagle Palms ranked sixth.

However, when asked separately, 69% of respondents agreed at some level that the Eagle Palm program is an important factor in retaining Scouts. Also, 80% agreed at some level that Eagle Palms strengthen the unit through continued participation of Eagle Scouts. Another 70% agreed that Eagle Scouts look forward to earning Palms, making them an incentive for continued Scouting activity.

To gather more detailed feedback, respondents were polled about possible Eagle Palm requirement changes, as well as about each of the current requirements individually. Noting the importance of Scouting ideals, leadership, and service, 85 percent of those polled disagreed with awarding Palms based solely on earning five merit badges. Additionally, 81 percent rejected the idea of allowing additional active time at Life rank to count toward Eagle Palms.

Considering the Palm requirements individually, 75 percent rated the three months of tenure as “very important,” and another 19 percent rated it as “important.” Also, 78 percent agreed that three months was the proper tenure, although 80 percent agreed that activity outside the troop or patrol should be allowed in meeting the tenure requirement. Eighty-seven percent rated the Scout spirit requirement as “very important,” and 69 percent rated the leadership requirement similarly.

Finally, while respondents supported both the Scoutmaster conference and board of review requirements, many commented accepting one or the other would be adequate in awarding a Palm. Since Palms are not ranks, requiring both almost puts them in the same league.





# From the Archives

**November, 2012**

## Using the Numbers



Certain statistics are vital in helping us learn which units need our help most. Remember, Scouting happens in units. If council and district advancement committees are to make a difference, they must start by helping the leaders in our packs, troops, teams, and crews perform at a higher level. These numbers help us determine where to apply our resources.

First, there are numbers that help us understand how we are doing overall, like those found on the council Journey to Excellence dashboard. Two of those measures are of particular interest: Cub Scout advancement and Boy Scout advancement. When you drill down on either of these, you will find month-by-month advancement numbers compared with those from the previous year. The dashboard also shows how current numbers match up against this year's Gold, Silver, or Bronze Award criteria and explains how those calculations are made.

To improve the dashboard numbers, we need to look at a second, more detailed set of numbers: unit-based figures that can be found in the district totals and district advancement reports. These two reports track on a unit-by-unit basis how much advancement has been recorded for each rank in the last month and the year-to-date.

The reports also show how many youth members there are in each unit. Compare those numbers to the unit charters, where you will see each boy's age and grade, and take into consideration any rank listings not appropriate for a youth's age. Then compare the rate of advancement numbers to the advancement goals established by the council or district advancement committee. For Cub Scouts, the ideal is one rank advancement per boy per year. For Boy Scouts, an average of less than one rank per year could point to problems. Many councils have developed spreadsheets and computer-generated reports that help make comparing the numbers from these reports meaningful, for instance, by showing statistics such as advancement per member per unit. If these spreadsheets are not available, and you can't generate them yourself, consider recruiting someone who finds this kind of task relatively easy. However you get the figures, concentrate on the numbers for one unit at a time.

Think of what the reports tell about that unit, and ask yourself, "What actions would I take if I were on this unit's committee?" These actions might include conducting advancement training, improving advancement reporting, or building a unit program rich in advancement opportunities. Whichever actions may be appropriate, one thing is certain—if little or no advancement is being reported, we need to be in touch with that unit.

The numbers should be reviewed on a monthly basis. In this way, trends and trouble-shooting efforts can be observed in a timely manner. We can see if units that are getting assistance from an advancement committee or the commissioner staff are showing results. Advancement fosters retention, and keeping boys in Scouting longer gives us more opportunities to influence their character, citizenship, and fitness. Isn't that what we're all about?

## 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 page at [www.scouting.org/Advancement](http://www.scouting.org/Advancement).

### New Resources:

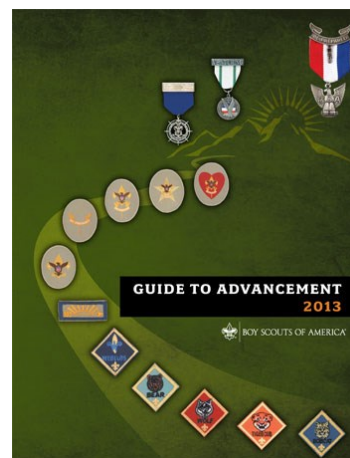
[Lone Scout Friend and Counselor Guidebook](#)

[Venturing Board of Review Guide](#)

### [Guide to Advancement](#)

#### [Advancement Educational Presentations:](#)

- Cub Scout Advancement: Delivering Adventure—**NEW!**
- Getting the Most From Internet Advancement
- The Essentials of Merit Badge Counseling (English and Spanish)
- The Eagle Scout Service Project Coach (English and Spanish)
- Effective Troop Advancement (English and Spanish)
- 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



### [Eagle Scout Rank Application](#)

### [Eagle Scout Service Project Workbook](#)

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

### [Merit Badge Counselor Information](#)

### [Reporting Merit Badge Concerns](#)

### [Venturing Summit Award Service Project Workbook](#)

### [Individual Scout Achievement Plan](#)