Cub Scout Advancement

A Guide for Pack Advancement Chairs

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Boy Scouts of America
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Introductions

MINSI TRAILS COUNCIL CUB SCOUT ADVANCEMENT COMMITTEE:

Chair: Cheryl Moreira, cmoreira100@yahoo.com

District Cub Scout Advancement Chairs:
• Francis Oquendo, Pocono, numero1scout@gmail.com
• Becky Johnson, Forks of the Delaware, ebjohn7304@yahoo.com
• Michael Philipp, South Mountain, michaelphilipp9193@gmail.com
• Saadia Ackerson, Trexler, saadialin@gmail.com
• Heather Werley, North Valley, royheather@ptd.net
• Janet Jungermann, Anthracite, janet.jungermann@yahoo.com
What is the Definition of Advancement?

• Advancement is the process by which youth members of the BSA progress from rank to rank.

• Advancement is a method, not an end in itself.

• Advancement is based on experiential learning.

• Personal growth is the primary goal.
What are the Cub Scout Ranks?

• Lion - Kindergarten or 6 years old
• Bobcat - First rank earned no matter what age a youth joins (except Lions)
• Tiger - First grade or 7 years old
• Wolf - Second grade or 8 years old
• Bear - Third grade or 9 years old
• Webelos - Fourth grade or 10 years old
• Arrow of Light - Fifth grade
What are my Responsibilities as Pack Advancement Chair?

- Educate parents and Pack leadership
- Promote advancement tools
- Report and record advancements
- Ensure timely recognition

With the goal of ensuring Cub Scouts advance in rank annually by school year’s end and are recognized in a meaningful ceremony.
What specifically do I do as Pack Advancement Chair?

• **Keep track of Advancements in your Pack monthly**
  – Ask Den Leaders
  – Enter into Scoutbook
  – Include ranks, belt loops, pins, awards

• **Enter advancement information into the Council’s Advancement tracking program monthly**
  – Scoutbook is preferred
  – Internet Advancement is available if not using Scoutbook
  – Advancement Report form No. 34403 if necessary
What specifically do I do as Pack Advancement Chair?

(Continued)

• Print Advancement report from Scoutbook each month
  – 1 copy for Minsi Trails Council’s Scout Shop (can print, sign, scan then email)
  – 1 copy for Pack (optional)
  – 1 signature required: yours

• Generate list of what needs to be purchased
  – “Purchase Order” page from Scoutbook
  – Rank pocket certificates for instant recognition
  – Can email order to Scout Shop to fill your order

• Go to Scout Shop to purchase, or delegate to a leader or parent.

• Give items to Den Leaders at or before the next Pack meeting
What other duties do I have?

- Use Scoutbook to track Advancements
- Ensure Pack roster is updated
- Scout Shop Account:
  - Receipts to Pack Treasurer
  - Account balance
  - Signature approval form
- Log Pack service hours
- Track JTE progress
- Help with advancement ceremonies and encourage instant recognition
- Attend Pack Committee meetings
What else should I know about Advancements?

• **Den meetings designed for all youth to advance**

• **Approval of Advancements**
  – For Lion through Bear, Den Leader or Akela signs, and then Den Leader approves.
  – For Webelos and AOL, Den Leader signs and approves.

• **Advancement performance is centered on its motto: “Do Your Best”**
What should I know about Advancement Reporting?

• BSA’s electronic advancement reporting program is Scoutbook. Scoutbook and Internet Advancement use same database.
• Report advancement monthly to Council
• For JTE, report all advancements in each calendar year before Dec. 31 for online or Dec. 20 for paper.
• This is the youth’s permanent record (AOL)
• Advancement and retention are linked
What about Ceremonies & Instant Recognition?

• When an advancement is completed, congratulate the youth immediately and publicly.
  – Present at Den or Pack meetings
  – Present pocket certificates immediately, followed by the patch/pin/belt loop/award at the next Pack meeting, or vice versa
  – Youth advance at different rates
  – If a youth doesn’t earn a rank, they still progress to the next rank

• Make recognition a key part of every Pack meeting.
• Make every ceremony special and meaningful.
In Summary, Advancement …

- Encourages Cub Scouts to “do their best” while learning new skills and exploring new subject areas
- Provides a tangible reward for hard work
- Helps build confidence
- Facilitates a Cub Scout’s personal growth
- Provides a method to fulfill the mission and aims of Scouting
Resources

• **www.scouting.org:**
  – Guide to Advancement 2019 No. 33088
  – Advancement News: advancement.team@scouting.org
  – Advancement Report form No. 34403
  – Cub Scout Den & Pack Ceremonies No. 33212
  – Cub Scout Leader Book
  – Den Leader Guide for each rank
  – Pack Meeting Guide

• **www.minsitrails.org**

• **District Roundtables**

• **University of Scouting**
Q&A and Open Discussion

• Questions?
• Clarifications?