



## *The Dulaney District Cub Advancement Committee News*

**23 January 2016**

The following items are excerpted from the Sept-Oct & Nov-Dec 2015 National Advancement News:

### **Baden-Powell’s Scouting Promise: “First Duty Is to God”**

Sir Robert Baden-Powell once stated, “The Scout, in his promise, undertakes to do his duty to his king and country only in the second place; his first duty is to God.” With its increased emphasis on duty to God, the Cub Scout adventure program helps a Cub Scout and his family to keep Baden-Powell’s words at the fore-front of their shared Scouting experience.

Each Cub Scout rank now has a required Duty to God adventure. It is recommended that these adventures be primarily accomplished within the family, but dens and packs may work on these adventures as appropriate.

- Tiger Scouts completing the adventure, My Family’s Duty to God, will decide what duty to God means to their family.
- Wolf Scouts completing the adventure, Duty to God Footsteps, will participate in activities to better understand their duty to God.
- Cub Scouts working to achieve the Bear adventure, Fellowship and Duty to God, the Webelos adventure, Duty to God and You, or the Arrow of Light adventure, Duty to God in Action, have the option to participate in their faith’s religious emblems program or to complete alternative activities. Bear Scouts will be learning ways to practice their duty to God; Webelos Scouts will be planning a service of worship or reflection; and those working towards their Arrow of Light rank will be learning how the Scout Oath and Law relate to their beliefs about duty to God.

Leaders need to recognize that there is a difference between the Duty to God adventures within each Cub Scout rank and the religious emblem program. The Boy Scouts of America has approved of these non-BSA programs and allows the recognition to be worn on the official uniform, but it must be remembered that each religious organization develops and administers its own program. Scouts working on the religious emblem of their faith will obtain the specific booklet for their religion, and once they have completed the requirements, may wear the youth religious knot. However, once a religious emblem has been earned, it may not be used as a requirement for a different rank.

Whether a Cub Scout chooses to work on the religious emblems program or to complete the alternative activities, he will still learn to put into practice daily actions to show his duty to God.



## Religious Emblems Program:

For more information on the religious emblems program and how your Scout can participate, see [www.scouting.org/scoutsource/Awards/ReligiousAwards](http://www.scouting.org/scoutsource/Awards/ReligiousAwards) .

### B. STEM, NOVA, and SUPERNOVA Mentors:



The Nova and Supernova Awards were developed in 2012. At that time I sent out requests for mentors for these awards in all Scouting programs: Cubs, Scouts, and Venturers. To date I have had one Scouter state that he would like to sign on as a mentor, he is a member of the District Advancement Committee. Also, in that time we have had only two Cubs submit applications for the Nova Award, at which time I did not have any registered mentors. It is time that we developed a list of more than one mentor for the Scouts in our district. There is an application similar to the Merit badge Counselor application, which can be found at <http://www.dulaneybsa.org/document/nova-mentor-application/157835>. Please

consider signing up as a counselor.

### C. Cub Scout's Adventure—It Still Begins With Bobcat:

The new Cub Scout advancement program includes many exciting new adventures and many related advancement requirements, but one thing has not changed, even if the requirements have a boy's personal adventure starts by earning the Bobcat badge.



Cub Scouts now use the Scout Oath and Scout Law. The first two Bobcat requirements are:

1. Learn and say the Scout Oath, with help if needed.
2. Learn and say the Scout Law, with help if needed.

Note that each of these requirements ends with the phrase "with help if needed." Remember the Cub Scout motto is still "Do Your Best." This means that it is allowable to coach a boy as he recites the Scout Oath and the Scout Law. Completing these two requirements should be an inviting, fun experience. This is the start of the youth's Scouting journey. Understanding and perfection will come with time. The new Cub Scout will recite the Scout Oath and Scout Law hundreds, if not thousands, of times before he hopefully one day recites them at his Eagle Scout court of honor.

By making this first Bobcat requirement a time of welcoming for our new Cub Scout, "with help if needed," let us make sure we begin his Scouting journey with the joy of accomplishment not the stress of perfect performance. Our purpose is to instill the ideals of Scouting embodied in the Oath and Law so that they become a lifetime character beacon for our young Cub Scout. In this way we will get the opportunity over time to influence the character of the boy so that the man will embody the Oath and Law as a part of his life. Now, isn't that what we're all about?

Yours in Scouting;

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