



The Dulaney District Cub Advancement Committee News

1 November 2017

All of the following items are excerpted from the Sept-Oct & Nov-Dec 2017 National Advancement News:

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.

Occasionally, the BSA National Council may need to stipulate different procedures or deadlines from those described here. If so, these changes will be broadly published and communicated.

2. Program Updates: Easily Accessible Online

Some Cub Scout adventure requirements have been modified since the issuance of the currently available Cub Scout Handbook. While den leaders should continue using the resource materials in the Handbook, they should note that some associated advancement requirements may have changed. All current requirements are now easily available online on the Program Updates webpage at <http://www.scouting.org/Home/programupdates.aspx>

3. Requirement Updates: “The More Things Change, the More They Stay the Same” Isn’t Necessarily True

Every veteran Scouter knows that it takes a team to make the pack function efficiently. Each member of this team needs to do his or her part to best support the Cub Scouts in their care. The trouble is that for the great majority of Cub Scout leaders, as the saying out West goes, this is their “first rodeo.” They are not sure what to do because they have never done it before.

That is why their “team” needs to be more than just those leaders and parents in their pack. District training and advancement committees, unit or roundtable commissioners, all need to be team players. Oddly enough, the

trouble is that for all of these veterans, this is *not* their first rodeo. They know exactly what to do because they have done it countless times before.

The trouble is that “times change,” and so do Scouting requirements. Veteran Scouters need to remain up to date on these changes, particularly with the most recent modifications to the Cub Scout program, so that they can give the best advice on how things should be done now, not how they used to be done “back in the day.”

Specifically, at the Cub Scout level, everyone, including new parents and leaders, need to be aware that the requirements in the Cub Scouts handbooks and *Den Leader Guides*, as printed, are *not up to date*. The modifications required to update the handbooks are in addendums that can be picked up free at your local Scout shop or online at www.scouting.org/scoutsource/programupdates.aspx

It is highly recommended that each pack pick up copies of the addendum for each rank and bind a set together into one book, which will be a great reference for the Cubmaster and committee to use when planning pack activities. When you need to know what citizenship, service, or even outdoor activities can be accomplished at a pack activity? Having the addendums all in one place will put the answers at the tip of your fingers.

Changes to the requirements were designed to provide more flexibility by providing a program that supports advancement for all Cub Scouts. With the most recent modifications, dens should be able to complete one adventure in approximately two den meetings, which will allow dens increased opportunities to use the optional requirements to customize their program.

The modifications have been designed to help Cub Scouts be more successful. To help pack leaders be more successful, district committees and commissioners must ensure that they are up to date on all current changes affecting advancement so that they can keep the unit leaders and families they serve fully informed. Working together as a team in this way will help to ensure that our Cub Scouts continue to have positive Scouting adventures.

Yours in Scouting;

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