

## *The Capitol District Advancement Committee News*

15 December 2014

Unit Leaders, Advancement Chairs, Merit Badge Counselors, Committee Chairs and Families of the Capitol District

This newsletter focuses on a number of current advancement topics:

- Advancement for Scouts with disability
- Record keeping tips
- New Cub Scout program webcasts
- Webelos-to-Scouts Transition
- Eagle Scout Fundraising problems
- Merit Badge and Counselor news
- Venturing advancement changes

Please share this information with your unit leaders, Eagle Coaches and other members by direct distribution.

### *The Capitol District Advancement Committee Members*

#### **Special Needs Advancement Flexibility**

[Section 10 of the Guide to Advancement](#) contains an abundance of important information and can be very helpful for any leader of Scouts with special needs. For Scouts with special needs to get the most out of the program, a partnership must exist between the unit leaders, the parents, qualified medical professionals, and, as appropriate, the Scout's educational providers. Working together, all parties can gain an understanding not only of the disability and abilities involved, but also of the processes covered in the Guide to Advancement, which begin with topic 10.2.0.0.

First, everyone must realize that the ability to satisfy requirements is vastly different in Cub Scouting than in Boy Scouting. For Cub Scouts, the standard measurement is "Has he done his best?" For those working on Boy Scout advancement, the young man is "expected to meet the requirements—no more and no less—and he is to do exactly what is stated."

That quote from the Guide to Advancement should not make one think that advancement in Boy Scouting is not possible for those with special needs, but it does mean leaders need to do some planning to develop an understanding of how alternative requirements can be approved and used.

Every person who joins Scouting should be offered the opportunity to participate in the advancement program. Section 10 is a great resource to help you find the answers that will make the program for special needs youth an enjoyable process for all involved.

The BSA web, [Scouts with Special Needs](#), and the [Scouting for Youth with Disabilities Manual](#) provides additional information and resources. Special resources and contact at the Baltimore Area Council may be found at <http://www.baltimorebsa.org/volunteer-resources/scouts-with-disabilities/38866> .

### **First Edition of Abilities Digest Published: Subscribe Now!**

The National Disabilities Awareness Committee has published the first edition of *Abilities Digest* to spread the word about Scouting for youth who have disabilities. On a quarterly basis this newsletter will provide advice, program updates, resources for parents and leaders, success stories, training pointers, and from time to time, surveys to find best practices and to determine gaps in information its readers are seeking. Anyone wishing to subscribe to *Abilities Digest* should send a message to [disabilities.awareness@scouting.org](mailto:disabilities.awareness@scouting.org) . Place “Subscribe” in the subject line, and include your name and council in the body of the message.

### **The Importance of Record Keeping and Youth Member Transfers**

The Capitol District has a high number of out of council transfers due to our proximity to DC and military bases. It is critical that units track advancement history for each Scout. Additionally units should explain the importance of record keeping to the Scouts and parents.

When a Scout transfers to or from a unit in a different council his membership number and related advancement information from the previous council cannot be accessed by the new council. It is therefore important to follow up with the Scouts previous unit as soon as practical if a complete advancement record is not provided at registration. Delaying such a request increases the possibility that record will be misplaced.

When preparing to move to another council a parent or guardian should request a council report called a “Person Listing” that shows the youth member’s advancement record. This report may be attached to the membership application for the new council. Additionally the previous unit should provide an “Individual History Report” from any third party advancement tracking software or an “Advancement Summary Report” from Internet Advancement.

Families should work with their sons to maintain backup copies of the scout’s advancement records. It is a good idea to make copies of Scout’s handbook, his signed “blue cards,” and collection of rank and merit badge presentation cards and keep them in a safe location.

When Scouts seek the rank of Eagle each and every advancement requirements must be shown to be complete. If advancement records are lost, alternate forms of documentation can be substituted. Refer to the [Proof of Advancement](#) page on the district web for more information.

### **January 17 Webcasts on New Cub Scouting**

The current Cub Scouting program will be replaced June 1, 2015. To ensure you are ready for the transition, a number of webcasts will be held on January 17. To participate, navigate to <http://www.livestream.com/bsanationalcouncil> .

#### **For Cubmasters**

Sat., Jan. 17, 8 a.m. CST – or – Sat., Jan. 17, at 3 p.m. CST

#### **Den Leader Webcasts**

Sat., Jan. 17, at 9:30 a.m. CST – or – Sat., Jan. 17, at 4:30 p.m. CST

#### **LDS-Specific Considerations** (View one of the above webcasts before viewing this one.)

Sat., Jan. 17, at 11 a.m. CST – or – Sat., Jan. 17, at 6 p.m.



### **Webelos Scouts to Boy Scouts: When Should the Transition Start?**

A boy’s transition from a Cub Scout pack to a Boy Scout troop should begin on the day he first puts on his blue uniform and continue to the day he crosses over the bridge into a Scout troop. By the time Webelos Scouts in an Arrow of Light den are ready to crossover, they and their families should already have become familiar with Boy Scouting. They



should be comfortable with the youth and adult leaders of the troop through visits, invitational campouts, den chiefs, and other pack-troop activities. They should be excited about beginning a new adventure. When correctly done, the transition should be almost seamless to the boy.

The key factor for improving Webelos to Boy Scouting transition has to be the ongoing working relationship between the leaders of a Cub Scout pack and those of one or more Boy Scout troops. This can often take the form of cooperative activities, many of which can be tied to the Webelos advancement program. Here are some solid ideas for fostering that relationship:

- Compare the calendars of the troop and pack to coordinate activities. Service projects, community events, and certain outings can all be done together; and the planning can help build relationships, even as it prevents conflicts in the use of equipment and facilities.
- Work with troop leaders to secure den chiefs for all dens, not just Webelos dens. Den chiefs can help with both member retention as well as building relationship between the units. Many den chiefs guide Webelos Scouts across the bridge into Boy Scouting and then continue to serve as troop guides for the new Scout patrols.
- Pack and troop leaders should cooperatively plan and conduct Webelos den and Boy Scout troop overnight activities. The troop can provide equipment, leadership, and logistics for the event. These campouts can show Webelos Scouts and their parents what to expect when they move into the troop, while also building relationships. Camping and cooking should be by patrol, clearly demonstrating the youth-led nature of Boy Scouting. Skills used should be tied to Webelos advancement, fulfilling requirements in Forester, Geologist, Naturalist, and Outdoorsman activity badges, for example. A number of other awards such as the Cub Scout Outdoor Activity Award, the World Conservation Award, the Conservation Good Turn Award, the Outdoor Ethics Awareness Award, and even the National Summertime Pack Award, are also good targets for overnight activities.

For part of the requirements for the Arrow of Light rank, Webelos den leaders should work with troop leaders to plan visits to troop meetings. Here Webelos Scouts and their families can obtain a copy of the troop's activities calendar for the upcoming year. Packs can also invite the Scoutmaster and troop youth leaders to special pack activities and to meetings with specific dens. These visiting Boy Scouts can even help run parts of the meeting. This will help create familiarity and a level of comfort for the Webelos Scouts and their families as they ease into the troop.

Webelos Scouts should visit several troops, if possible, because different troops have different focuses. One troop may gear its program toward hiking and backpacking, while another may be highly involved in water activities, such as kayaking or canoeing. Visiting several troops will give a picture of what activities each troop enjoys above others. What a troop enjoys doing will also create a focus for certain troop-led advancement opportunities related to merit badges and achievements.

Once boys have joined a troop, the Scoutmaster and troop youth leaders should plan activities for these new Scouts that will get them involved quickly. This should include a transition conference that touches on the meaning of the Scout Oath and Scout Law, the advancement program, troop camping, the patrol method, summer camp, personal equipment, and the annual troop calendar. The troop needs to work closely with new Scouts and parents to ensure their needs are met and that their move has been natural and fun. A goal should be to attain the Scout badge as quickly as possible, and then immediately begin work on the next ranks. Every effort should also be made to ensure that all new Scouts attend summer camp. (One hint to Scoutmasters: invite the new Scouts' former Cubmasters to visit the troop at summer camp.)

### ***Specifics for Cub Scout Programs in the LDS Church***

Transition information for all ranks, including a table providing guidance for Webelos badge transition, is available at [www.scouting.org/programupdates](http://www.scouting.org/programupdates) by clicking on Transition Guidelines.

## **Many Units Are Not Following Eagle Fundraising Guideline**

If a Scout requests or receives material discounts or donations they should submit an Eagle Scout Money Raising Application found in the Eagle Workbook.

Although the National Advancement Team actually prefers that fundraising not be a part of any Eagle service project, this is not reality. National has established guidelines for when and how Eagle project fundraising may be conducted. Projects must not be fundraisers in and of themselves. Projects may include a fund-raising component to cover materials and supplies and to otherwise facilitate the project. These guidelines are included in the Eagle workbook and in the [Guide to Advancement, topic 9.0.2.10](#).

The district has been experiencing problems with the policy. Approximately 1 out of every 6 Scouts are failing to submit an Eagle Scout Project Money Earning application for approval. This seems to be related to misunderstanding how donations and material discounts must be reported. Other Scouts find it necessary to expand their fundraising efforts after their project has been approved then fail to submit the application. Scouts must follow one of two BSA approved fundraising methods listed below. The specific method depends on who provides funds, donations or discounts. A money earning application must be submitted whenever method two occurs even if this is at the end of the project.

- 1) **No Application required:** Donations of money, supplies, or materials received from the beneficiary, the Eagle candidate, his family or relatives, his unit or its chartered organization, or from the parents or members of his unit.
- 2) **Application must be submitted and approved:** Donations of money, supplies or materials (this includes discounts), are to be obtained from sources other than those listed in method 1 above.

It is important that the Eagle Scout candidate, his parents, his Eagle Scout service project coach, the unit leader and committee, and the benefiting organization clearly understand exactly what BAC requires. Additional details and some important limitations for Eagle Scout service project fundraising are found on the reverse side of the fundraising application within the Eagle workbook. Please review the [Money Earning Application](#) page of the District Advancement web for the submission and approval process and additional information.

## **Cooking Merit Badge: The Clock Is Ticking**

Scouts beginning work on the Cooking merit badge on or after **January 1, 2015** must use the new requirements introduced in late 2013. Any Scout who began work on the Cooking merit badge prior to January 1 using the old requirements may continue to use those requirements until he finishes the badge. For questions, see [Guide to Advancement, topic 7.0.4.3](#), “What To Do When Requirements Change.”

## **National Announces a Newsletter for Merit Badge Counselors**

Merit Badge Counselors and unit leaders should subscribe to the newly announced Merit Badge Counselor’s newsletter, “Counselor’s Compass.” Subscribe by sending an email to [merit.badge@scouting.org](mailto:merit.badge@scouting.org). Type “SUBSCRIBE” in the subject line. Indicate your name, email address, and council in the body of the email. This publication, to be issued as an e-newsletter, will support merit badge counselors in four ways:



### COUNSELOR’S COMPASS

- **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 [www.scouting.org/advancement](http://www.scouting.org/advancement).
- **Steps for Success.** Tips that can be helpful for both new and experienced counselors as they work with Scouts, such as 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.

## Mining Merit Badge Training Webinars

BSA released *Mining in Society*, making it the 134th current merit badge. The official ‘earn date’ is or the date Scouts may begin work on Mining in Society, is today, Feb. 24, 2014. Look for the pamphlet in your local Scout Shop and at <http://www.scoutstuff.org/> soon.

National has recently introduced the *Mining in Society* merit badge. Scouters who have an avocation in this area should consider signing up to counsel the badge. To assist counselors the Society for Mining, Metallurgy and Exploration will offer two free online trainings for Mining in Society MB counselors. The class takes an hour, and you can complete it from the comfort of your home computer.

Anyone is welcome to attend, but seats are limited.

Register for the class at <https://smenet.webex.com/mw03071/mywebex/default.do?siteurl=smenet> . Though they’re listed as “Training I” and “Training II,” the courses are identical. So pick whichever time is more convenient for you.

- The first training time is this Thursday, March 20, at 7:30 p.m. Eastern (6:30 p.m. Central, 5:30 p.m. Mountain, 4:30 p.m. Pacific).
- The second is set for Wednesday, April 30, at 9 p.m. Eastern (8 p.m. Central, 7 p.m. Mountain, 6 p.m. Pacific).

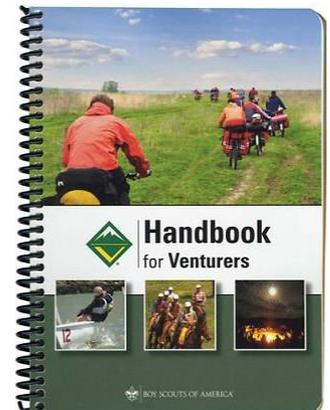
Here is the list of the SME Student Chapters: [www.smenet.org/page/?id=135](http://www.smenet.org/page/?id=135) This is a good place to find student chapters who might be helpful in supporting the Mining In Society merit badge near you.

## Venturing Advancement Changes

Venturing advancement guidelines are described in the newly released *Handbook for Venturers*, No. 33494. The handbook was completely rewritten to follow new program. The handbook is divided into five chapters.

Unit leader should purchase the companion volumes.

- *Venturing Awards and Requirements*, No. 34784; which presents specific detailed requirements for Venturing’s awards; details the requirements for the TRUST, Quest, and Ranger awards; and describes other opportunities for Venturers.
- *The Venturing Advisor Guidebook*, No. 34655, which presents practical advice on everything from how to set up a crew, to how to support Venturers in their next great adventures.



## The Capitol District Advancement Committee Eagle Workspace



The Capitol District Advancement Committee has hosted a web site, <https://sites.google.com/site/daceagleadvancement/home>, to assist Life Scouts, parents, units and the Capitol District Advancement Committee track, manage and status the review and approval of Eagle Scout projects. It provides a common workspace and organizes a number of resources to promote a better understanding of the Life to Eagle Advancement process. It is intended to help these individuals interpret the advancement policy established by the Boy Scouts of America National Advancement Committee, procedures implemented within the Baltimore Area Council and practices followed within The Capitol District. The site is divided into 4 general areas of interest: [Eagle Scouts](#), [Life Scouts](#), [Unit & Eagle Coaches](#) and [Project Beneficiary](#).

## The Capitol District - Merit Badge and STEM Web



The Capitol District Advancement Committee has hosted a web site, <https://sites.google.com/site/dacmeritbadges/> , to provide Merit Badge Counselors, Nova Counselors, SuperNova Mentors, Scouts, parents and units information about BSA's Merit Badge, STEM and Nova

awards programs. The site is intended to help these individuals interpret the advancement policy established by the Boy Scouts of America National Advancement Committee, procedures implemented within the Baltimore Area Council and practices followed within The Capitol District. The site is divided into the following areas of interest: [Merit Badge/STEM Announcements](#), [Merit Badge Counselors/Nova Mentor Resources](#), [Scouts](#) and [Units](#).