

# Cubmaster Advancement Newsletter

Issue 11, September 2005

Another September has rolled around. As everyone is busy with recruiting in a new generation of Cub Scouts, it is time to assess your advancement planning for the year. Plus, there some award programs designed for Cub Scouts that do not originate from BSA. So, for this month's newsletter topics, let's tackle

## Starting A New Year & US Heritage Award

### A New Year

It is a new year and it is time to sharpen the tools of your advancement program and make sure things are running like a well oiled machine.

**Get them sharp, get them trained!** The best tools for a good advancements program are well-trained den leaders. Make sure that each of your den leaders has gone through New Leader Essentials, Youth Protection (sometime in the past 2 years), and the correct Position Specific training (Tiger, Den- Wolf/Bear, and Webelos Leader sessions).



### Give them tools!

- ❖ The first tool for everyone in the pack are their program books. These books are not just for the boys. Every parent and den leader should familiarize themselves with the Scouting program for their rank.
- ❖ Program Helps is the tool for yourself and your Den Leaders to help add fun into your monthly program.
- ❖ Get your den leaders to attend Roundtable each month and Pow-Wow this coming October for more ideas on how to put on great programs.
- ❖ Each den leaders should have a tool for tracking advancement. The Scout Shop offers wall charts that allow each boy to see their progress. There are spreadsheets to help automate tracking for those computer savvy leaders; a great set can be found out on <http://www.madsenco.com/scouting.shtml>. Does your pack use PackMaster? There are also on-line services like ScoutManage (<http://www.scoutmanage.com/>) or ScoutTrack (<http://www.scouttrack.com/>) for those high-tech packs.

**Keep things running like a well-oiled machine!** The top two strategies for keeping things going throughout the year are:

- #1 – A schedule with a plan – Your den leaders should have a den meeting schedule for the year with a plan on presenting their program. This will help parents plan around the activities and with everyone's busy schedules, hopefully, maximize participation.
- #2 – Good communications – Your den leaders will find that they need to lead the parents of their Cub Scouts in addition to leading the boys. Encourage your den leaders to have something like a newsletter, regular informal parent meetings, or a scheduled calling plan to keep parents informed and involved.

### US Heritage Award



Nations Trails offers the United States Heritage Awards that is a great supplement to the Scouting program. It is an especially good tie-in for the Bear Achievement 3 – What Makes America Special and would also work well with the Webelos Citizen Achievement.

To earn the silver United States Heritage Award a youth must:

1. Tell when the Declaration of Independence was adopted.
2. Learn the first verse of the national anthem "The Star Spangled Banner".
3. Know the Pledge of Allegiance. Explain what it means.
4. Learn about the United States Flag.



- a. What colors does the United States flag have?
  - b. How many stars are on the blue rectangle (canton)?  
What do the stars symbolize?
  - c. How many stripes are on the flag?  
What colors are the stripes?  
What do the stripes symbolize?
  - d. How do you show respect for the United States flag?
5. Make a list of the original thirteen states of the United States of America.
  6. Know who is the current President of the United States of America.
  7. My America. Do one of the following:
    - a. Write a short story or poem about one of the following topics:  
Why America Is Special To Me, What It Means To Be Free, or If I Were President...
    - b. Draw a picture of a famous person in American History and tell what they did.
  8. Render a service that benefits a neighborhood or community.



The full program is described out at [http://www.nationstrails.com/awards/awards\\_USHSilver.html](http://www.nationstrails.com/awards/awards_USHSilver.html). The website also has the forms for ordering the patches and awards.

### Newsletters

If you are interested in getting back-copies of the newsletters or would like electronic versions to share, you can find them at [http://www.cooperdom.com/html/cub\\_scouting.html](http://www.cooperdom.com/html/cub_scouting.html)

Till next month, yours in Scouting,  
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