

Cubmaster Advancement Newsletter

Issue 13, January 2006

Another February is on the horizon and the season of Blue & Gold celebrations cometh. This is the time of year for packs to put on their best and biggest ceremonies and when many packs are in the final stages of graduating the 5th grade Webelos to Boy Scouts. However, don't let Blue & Gold eclipse having a good advancement program in January and March (and all other months), providing immediate recognition of each boy's advancement as they advance at their own rate.

With that said, let us tackle two topics this month.

Paperwork, What and When? Also, Pack Advancement Checklist

Paperwork, What and When?

If managing your advancement program, there is paperwork that is specifically required by BSA and Northern Star Council in order to execute your advancement program. This paperwork is not overwhelming. Here is a quick guideline:

Rank Advancement: Each month, you should submit an Advancement Report (BSA document 34403B) to report on all boys earning their Tiger, Bobcat, Wolf, Bear, Webelos and Arrow of Light awards. These are the only awards that are included on this report for Cub Scouts. Webelos badges (pins), arrow points, compass points, Sports & Academics beltloops and pins do not need reports or paperwork filed. This report must be completed by the time of purchase; either completed at the Scout Shop or prepared ahead of time. There are multiple options for this, either (a) the multi-part BSA carbonless form, (b) 2 copies of the computer generated BSA form, or (c) 2 copies of a similar form from software that tracks Cub Scout advancement. The carbonless form can be obtained from the Council office or from your local Scout Shop. This form can also be found on-line on the BSA National site at www.scouting.org under Cub Scouting Forms/Records and Reports.

World Conservation Award: For each boy that earns the World Conservation Award, an application form must be completed at the time the award is purchased. This form should be filled out in advance and the form can be found out on the internet at <http://www.northernstarbsa.org/Forms/PDF/Camping/CubScoutWorldConservationApplication.pdf>.

BSA Physical Fitness Award: For each boy that earns this lesser-known award, there is a form that must be submitted. The form can be found out on the internet at <http://www.scouting.org/pubs/19-327/application.pdf>. It can be either submitted to the Council or turned in to the Scout Shop at time of award purchase.

BSA Emergency Preparedness Award: For each boy that earns this award, there is a form that must be submitted to either the Council or to the Scout Shop at the time of award purchase. The form can be found out on the internet at <http://webpages.charter.net/chadc/19-602.pdf>.

BSA Crime Prevention Award: For each boy that earns this award, there is a form that must be submitted to either the Council or to the Scout Shop at the time of award purchase. BSA is phasing out this award and you should contact your local Scout Shop ahead of time to make sure that the award/patch will be available. The form can be found out on the internet at http://www.chicagobsa.org/forms/cub_crime.pdf.

There are no forms required when the requirements for the **Outdoor Activities Award, BSA Leave No Trace Award, BSA Recruiter Strip, Conservation Good Turn** awards.

The **Good Turn for America** award is earned after the pack or den reports the completed service on the BSA website at <http://www.goodturnforamerica.org/>.

A full list of the additional awards that are available to Cub Scouts can be found out on my website at http://webpages.charter.net/chadc/html/cdb_cub_awards.html.

Cubmaster Advancement Newsletter

Issue 13, January 2006

Pack Advancement Checklist

The following checklist should be how you measure the quality of your pack's advancement program. BSA in the Cub Scout Leader Book and the 2006 Quality Unit Award requirements specifically defines these items:

- Are all den leaders trained for their appropriate level; Tiger, Wolf/Bear, or Webelos?
- Do the Cubmaster and pack committee give den leaders and families guidance in using the advancement program effectively?
- Do den leaders plan an annual calendar of meetings and activities that are fun and successfully implement the individual advancement program?
- Do family members understand their part in the advancement program? Are they using achievements, electives and activity badges to suggest activities for the boy's free time?
- Do family members recognize that advancement requirements can be completed naturally during a boy's play activities? Do they periodically check to be sure that he has been given credit for what he has accomplished?
- Do den leaders talk to parents about boys who are not advancing?
- Do den leaders try to keep den meetings filled with the kinds of activities that carry over into a boy's free time and also contribute to his advancement?
- Are accurate advancement records kept in the dens and the pack?
- Do boys receive prompt recognition at the soonest formal pack meeting?
- Are boys allowed to advance at their own individual rate following the Do Your Best level of measurement?
- Do pack advancement ceremonies create a fun incentive for advancement?
- Are wall charts and den doodles used in den and pack meetings?
- Does the pack have an advancement ladder or chart?
- Are outdoor activities built into each den's advancement program?
- Do seventy percent or more of our Tiger Cubs, Cub Scouts, and Webelos Scouts advance a rank, or will there be a 10 percent increase over a year ago? Approved rank advancements for this recognition include Tiger Cub badge, Bobcat, Wolf Cub Scout, Bear Cub Scout, Webelos Scout, and Arrow of Light.

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://webpages.charter.net/chadc/html/cub_scouting.html

Till next month, yours in Scouting,
- Chad Cooper
chadc@charter.net

