

Advancement News

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Prepared. For Life.®

As programs and opportunities modify over time, your friends at *Advancement News* will continue to be here to share these changes with you and offer insights. *Advancement News* will be uploaded directly to the [Advancement Resources](#) page of Scouting.org. Each bi-monthly edition will be found at the [Advancement News](#) page. Since advancement evolves and occasionally changes, please note that the most current information found in *Advancement News* and the online version of [Guide to Advancement](#) supersedes previous versions.

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From the *Guide to Advancement*

Ensuring a Smooth Scout Transfer

What happens to our Scout sons and daughters when we move? What do we need do? What does their unit do, and how can our council help us?

In any given year, the U.S. Census Bureau tells us, the odds are about one-in-ten that a household will move—from as near as different streets in the same town to across the country. Within these million or so American households, as many as 100,000 Scouting families may be changing units each year. Mindful of the need to accommodate these numbers, the BSA long ago developed a two-sided transfer form (No. 28-401S) for both youth members and adult volunteers.

If you or your son or daughter needs to transfer from one unit to another—keeping in mind that any BSA member can change units any time for any reason (i.e., not just because of a move) the first step is to fill out the appropriate form, collaborating with the unit volunteer or council staffer who can assist with dates, training taken, youth ranks earned, awards received, offices held, and Order of the Arrow, and other ancillary organizations' records.

The BSA *Guide To Advancement* (GTA) provides further help on Scout transfers. Here are several of the most important points found in Section 6.0.0.4:

- BSA member identification numbers for youth are unique to the individual (but within the current council—not at the national
- It's imperative to enter one's name and membership ID number **exactly** as entered when first registering; any error will delay the transfer.
- Transfers are most easily managed—both within and between councils—if both the sending and receiving units use the same BSA software (e.g., Scoutbook, MyScouting). If one of the two units uses Scoutbook but the other doesn't, the Scout will need an advancement record printout from their sending unit and their personal information from their sending council.

A new Member ID is assigned to a youth or adult if they transfer into a new council. If they transfer to a different unit within the council where they are registered, then they retain the same Member ID.



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About *Advancement News*

Advancement News is the official e-letter of the Boy Scouts of America National Advancement Program Team. Its intent is to provide and clarify procedures found in the *Guide to Advancement*, announce various changes and updates in advancement, and to assist advancement committees in making decisions that can help increase the rate of advancement. Therefore, districts and councils may reprint articles from this publication. Our plan is to distribute six issues of *Advancement News* annually, but special editions may go out whenever there is important information to share. Feedback, suggestions, and letters to the editor are welcome at advancement.team@scouting.org

Recordkeeping

The Scouts and Scouters themselves are the most important sources to maintaining accurate, up-to-date records. All other record-keeping at the unit or council level keys off these individual's records. This is an essential ingredient in the arena of learning to take personal responsibility, and is especially germane to Scouts, Sea Scouts, and Venturers. For Cub Scouts, it's perfectly okay when parents take active roles making sure their child's records are kept current.

For the three older youth programs, their handbooks specifically include sections for recording requirement and rank completion. Plus, when a Scout or Venturer earns a merit badge, each "Blue Card" has a separate segment that is retained by the youth earning it.

Going online beyond these paper-based methods, there is also "Scoutbook" (<https://help.scoutbook.scouting.org/>)—a collaborative BSA website that specifically says, "Scouts can use it to... fulfill some of the duties of their position of responsibility, upload photos of their work on merit badge requirements, or share (the) fun they had on (a) campout with a video."

If you need more general information or you need situation-specific guidance, you're welcome to reach out—your [National Advancement Team](#) is here to help.

On Increasing Advancement

Positions of Responsibility – The New Scout Patrol

With the transition of Scouts from Cub Scouting to Scouts BSA, troop leaders (adult and youth) need to "Be Prepared" to give their new Scouts opportunities for leadership responsibility. The first such opportunity comes when these new Scouts are brought together in their very first patrol.

Not everyone can be a patrol leader for the new patrol!

In anticipation of welcoming new Scouts into the troop the youth and adult leaders should have a plan which includes an understanding of the importance of leadership roles in the patrol. They need to include multiple leadership roles in the plan. They need to allow the Scouts to lead, with guidance. They need to be sure the troop guide and assistant Scoutmaster assigned to the patrol understand these points as well.

These initial leadership opportunities are critical for the new Scouts for four important reasons:

- Leadership Development is an Aim of Scouting.
- A key element in retaining Scouts in the program is when a Scout has responsibility to the patrol, the troop, and other Scouts.
- Leadership responsibility helps prepare the new Scout for later roles in the troop that are part of their advancement.
- Prepared, experienced youth leaders will help the troop succeed in the long-term.

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In an previous *Advancement News* (March-April 2021) we shared the importance of all leadership roles in the troop as they relate to advancement. So, what about leadership roles that do not *directly* fulfill advancement requirements for Scouts in a new Scout patrol?

Some of the Scouts may have been denners in Cub Scouting but being a leader in a patrol carries more responsibility.

It is possible for each member of the new Scout patrol to gain experience by having a leadership role during this important first year in Scouts BSA. Under the mentorship of a troop guide and an assistant Scoutmaster, the patrol leader, patrol scribe, patrol quartermaster, and assistants in the new Scout patrol will have the opportunity to learn and succeed, and perhaps even occasionally fail.

Developing leaders is a big part of what we do, and a big part of the advancement method. The development process must start somewhere, and the new Scout patrol can be that place. But, the leadership of the troop cannot neglect this important time in a Scout's life, and it needs to "Be Prepared" to make it happen.

Under the mentorship of a troop guide and an assistant Scoutmaster, each patrol leader, as well as the patrol scribe, patrol quartermaster, and assistants in the new Scout patrol will have the opportunity to learn and succeed, and perhaps even occasionally fail. An experienced Scout leader knows the best way to learn leadership is having frequent opportunities when you are young to practice being a leader.

Highlighting Cub Scout Advancement

Baden-Powell, the founder of Scouting, taught us that if you want to catch fish you must bait your hook not with stuff that you like but with food that fish like. Likewise, if you, as an adult Cub Scout leader, want to catch Cub Scouts, you must not design your program around activities that *you* would find fun but plan your program with fun stuff that *Cub Scout age children* like.

Regardless of the bait, though, the So, "hook" for keeping our "catch" in a pack must remain the methods of Cub Scouting.

Methods of Cub Scouting

- Living the Ideals
- Belonging to a Den
- Using Advancement
- Involving Family and Home
- Participating in Activities
- Serving Home and Neighborhood
- Wearing the Uniform

What do we mean by "using advancement" from the point of view of a Cub Scout? (Since this is the Advancement Newsletter, see how we jumped right to that.) One example could be when the Cub Scout gets up to the front of the room with your Den at a Pack meeting, your parents come with you, you get pins, patches, Adventure belt loops, and other stuff. Our Cub Scouts do, of course, enjoy the positive reinforcement they get from this ceremony. So should their parents! Everything else to them is what we call **PROGRAM** - doing fun things and going fun places.

Cubs Scouts join and stay in the program to have fun! They have little

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or no interest in our desire that they be persons of good character and be solid citizens 10, 20, or 30 years from now. Their awareness of this develops as they get older. But it is our job **right now** to instill within them the ideals of Scouting! Getting back to the parents -- the importance of these benefits should be emphasized to the parents from day one, and bringing them into ceremonies is an important way to remind them of the value of Scouting to their children—today as well as in the future.

So, we make advancement a natural part of our program. In our program we do things or go places that are fun! These activities incidentally also fulfill advancement requirements.

For example, if the Wolf Den is working on the Council Fire Adventure, which of these scenarios do you think would be more fun? (1) at a den meeting the den leader says, “Today we’re going to work on the 1st requirement of the Council Fire Adventure. Everybody please sit quietly while I explain.” Or (2) The den goes to a nearby military base and sees a Retreat ceremony. Afterwards one of the soldiers or sailors teaches them how to fold a flag. The latter, right?

Maybe you can’t don’t have the military base nearby, but you can do something else fun, such as a visit to a police academy, fire station, or a reserve or National Guard unit. What about an on-ice opening ceremony at hockey game! The idea is to identify and use fun activities that naturally lead to advancement as a byproduct. We’ve used a Cub Scout example here, but this idea applies to all scouting programs.

So, when we make advancement a natural part of the Cub Scout program, our Cub Scouts will stay in the program, eventually become Scouts, and grow with the program. Remember these Cub Scouts are the people who are going, someday, to be the mothers and fathers of our grandchildren. Now, isn’t that what we’re all about?



Advancement Educational Presentations updated and available

Recently, all the Scouts BSA Advancement Educational Presentations have been updated for the 2021 *Guide to Advancement*. These powerpoint presentations come with detailed presenter’s notes, and are perfect for additional self-education on advancement topics, or for use for district or council training - like at Scouting Universities. If you haven’t seen these, take a look today!

<https://www.scouting.org/programs/scouts-bsa/advancement-and-awards/resources/advancement-presentations/>

Cub Scouts

New Member Coordinator Assists Families



Wintertime is a great time to reconnect with parents because many winter activities will be taking place indoors and will ensure that their parents remain “close to the action”, so to speak. Therefore, it is important to make sure that the parents feel welcome and engaged in the pack. In addition, by building community within your pack the parents will also be willing to volunteer to help with future events. Here are a few ideas:

- **Conduct a Pinewood Derby Build Day** – Some parents may find the idea of building a car overwhelming or frustrating, or both. Overcome this by setting up a workshopping event to help Scouts and parents get ready for the derby. Ask your local Scouts BSA troop to come help guide the Cub Scouts in their car-building efforts while you take a few minutes to chat with their parents. Stress the cooperative benefits of the derby over its competitive characteristics with parents before the event. Also take the opportunity to introduce them to other parents in the Pack they might have things in common with Parents who have friends in the Pack are more likely to stay in the Pack (and volunteer to help with future events).
- **Host a pre-Blue and Gold Banquet planning night** for parents to ensure everyone understands the meaning and importance of the event – and to ensure that everyone’s voice is heard during the planning stage. Not only is it hard to picture a Blue and Gold Banquet if you are new to Cub Scouting; particularly as the pack may not have held one last year for public health reasons. Every pack celebrates a little bit differently so it’s important to tell parents what to expect. Are rank badges presented at your banquet? Where is the food coming from? What kinds of decorations are needed? Are siblings or other family members invited? Do they need to buy a ticket? Do you need volunteers to help run an activity? By specifically including the new-to-your-pack parents early, you can help make sure they feel welcome – especially if they are working alongside, and learning from, the more experienced parents in the pack.
- **Ask for meaningful feedback.** If families re-chartered for the upcoming year, you already know that they are pretty excited about Scouting. Now is the perfect time to ask them why. What’s going well in the den or pack? What do they wish was different? Are they getting the right amount of communication from the unit? Sometimes the feedback can be hard to hear but this is a great time to course-correct if things aren’t going quite right to keep them in the pack.
- **Recruit them for next year’s volunteer opportunities** – Take stock of the parents that you have in place who are best suited to help with future events. You have done a great job this year, who else can help next year? Would the family with a large property (it doesn’t have to be a ranch or farm, how about a big, big backyard?) nearby be willing to host an outdoor fun day? Would the parent who is always talking with other parents be part of your welcome team next year? Finally, for those who say “yes”, why wait until fall? Get them involved now. Spring Recruiting is just around the corner.

Spend time in winter connecting with new parents and building community within your pack. This sense of community will yield huge dividends in terms of membership, program and benefits for the pack throughout the coming year.

Keeping the Cub Scout Adventure Program Relevant for Today's Families

Every year, Cub Scout Adventures are reviewed to identify trends and determine interests of our youth, den leaders and Cub Scout families. In our ongoing efforts to keep the Cub Scouting Adventure program relevant to today's families, Cub Scout elective Adventures are reviewed for both content and popularity. The most recent review has identified 19 elective Adventures that do not meet the standards of youth and den leader engagement, with the lowermost being earned by less than 3% percent of eligible youth. These elective Adventures will be retired effective **May 31, 2022**.

We know that some families may want one last chance to earn these Adventures. Some den leaders may have already made plans for the program year. To help with transition, these Adventures will be available until the end of 2021-2022 program year.

The elective Adventures to be retired are:

Rank	Adventure Name
Lion	NONE
Tiger	Earning Your Stripes
Tiger	Family Stories
Tiger	Tiger Tales
Tiger	Tiger Theater
Wolf	Collections and Hobbies
Wolf	Grow Something
Wolf	Hometown Heroes
Wolf	Motor Away
Bear	Beat of the Drum
Bear	Make it Move
Bear	Robotics
Bear	World of Sound
Webelos/AOL	Adventures in Science
Webelos/AOL	Build My Hero
Webelos/AOL	Fix It
Webelos/AOL	Looking Back Looking Forward
Webelos/AOL	Maestro
Webelos/AOL	Project Family
Webelos/AOL	Moviemaking

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For more information on how and why these elective Adventures were selected for retirement, check out the Cub Chat Live Facebook post, "[Retiring Elective Cub Scout Adventures](#)." For more information on how program updates are made, watch the Cub Chat Live entitled, "[Why Did They Decide to Do That?](#)"

The National Cub Scouting committee is currently working on program updates that include new elective Adventures for every rank. Program updates are made based on surveying the families we are currently serving, as well as national data showing trends in youth interests. The goal is to create program content that is easy to understand, simple for den leaders to deliver and FUN for our youth. These updates will be launched when given the "green light" and in advance of the start of a program year to allow for planning. No release date has been set at this time.

The National Cub Scouting committee use [Preview Adventures](#) as a way of testing some potential new elective Adventures. These Adventures include a sponsor to help with the launch cost. Purchasing materials to complete the Adventure from the sponsor is optional. Activities can be completed using other materials. If you have an idea for an Adventure, we would love to hear from you! Simply complete the form found on the [Preview Adventure](#) website.

Adjustments to Advancement Policies around COVID Updated

The National Cub Scouting committee has recently submitted an update to the advancement policies around COVID.

In the spring of 2020, during the pandemic, several mid-program year adjustments were made in spring 2020 to Cub Scouting advancement policies in an effort to help den leaders and youth successfully complete Adventures for their rank advancement. The National Cub Scouting committee recently reviewed the temporary policies and have made some adjustments. Please visit the [COVID-19 FAQ](#) webpage for the latest information.

Two specific Cub Scout changes have been included, and reidentified by "diamonds" placed by the changes.

◆ **Q: If my den is behind in advancement due to COVID-19, can my Cub Scout continue to work on advancement through the summer?**

No. The extension to work on a Cub Scout rank after completing the grade level for that rank has been revoked. We encourage den leaders to use Scoutbook's Den Leader Experience to help schedule and deliver the program. Cub Scout advancement continues to be "Do Your Best."

◆ **Q: What is the guidance for completing the Outdoor Activity Award and Summertime Pack Award?**

These awards are designed to recognize participation in the outdoors and summer activities. These opportunities are again available for Cub Scouts to participate in following Center for Disease Control guidelines, National Camp Accreditation Standards, and the Guide to Safe Scouting. If Cub Scout Day Camp or Cub Scout Resident Camp cannot be held in-person due any local or Center for Disease Control guidelines, virtual Cub Scout Day Camps and Cub Scout Resident Camps may be used to meet the requirement.

Scouts BSA



Breaking News: Covid Modification to be Rolled Back

As of **March 01, 2022**, all temporary changes made to Scouts BSA advancement requirements to address the COVID-19 pandemic will expire, and there will be a return to the standard rules for Scouts BSA advancement. This includes deferment of some swimming requirements for First and Second class, virtual activities for Tenderfoot, Second and First Class, and requirement 9b of the Camping merit badge.

Specific information may be reviewed at [Scouts BSA program updates](#)

February 1, 2019 – A Date to Remember and Celebrate

From the time young women were invited to join BSA’s Exploring program in the early 1970s, many yearned for the day when they could join Scout Troops and earn the iconic Eagle Scout Award. Then, on February 1, 2019, the doors were opened, and hundreds began their “Trail to Eagle.”

As anyone involved with advancement knows, it takes lots of hard work and focus to become an Eagle Scout (only 4-8% of Scouts actually do so). Throw in a global pandemic in 2020, and the challenge for these “pioneers” became even harder. Nevertheless, in February 2021, over 1,000 young women earned their place in history by becoming part of BSA’s inaugural class of female Eagle Scouts. Beyond that, 500 more have become Eagle Scouts since then.

In doing so, these young women learned skills that will help shape the future of our country, and the world. As one of them noted,

“Eagle Scout is so much more than a medal or an award. It’s an expectation and a lifestyle. It means that you’re a role model to your community every day of your life.” And these young women are positive role models indeed. In addition to the usual challenges of planning an Eagle Scout service project that would make a significant impact on their communities, projects completed in 2020 required overcoming COVID-

“Eagle Scout is so much more than a medal or an award. It’s an expectation and a lifestyle.”

related obstacles. As another new Eagle Scout said, “In Scouting and in life, it’s not about the destination, it’s about the journey. When I remind myself that I’m an Eagle Scout, I don’t think of the medal or badge, I think about all of the moments that created my experience.”

Throughout their lives, all these young women—and those that follow—will be bound together by a widely recognized and prestigious award that exemplifies leadership and service to others.

I think the greatest thing I learned from my time in Scouts was resilience

*“In Scouting and in life,
It’s not about the destination,
It’s about the journey”*

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The impact of this achievement isn't limited to the young women who have become Eagle Scouts. Hundreds of adult Scouters - male and female - helped these Eagle Scouts on their journeys. These caring, connected adults of character are the essential ingredient to achieving positive youth development; because Scouting works best when adult leaders create safe environments for youth to succeed or fail without lasting consequences. Through those opportunities, our newest Scouts are gaining competence and confidence that will benefit them and impact their communities throughout the rest of their lifetimes.

As we approach the third anniversary of the full inclusion of girls into BSA, there is much to celebrate. Girls and young women are thriving in the program and becoming our newest examples of lives inspired and guided by the Scout Oath and Law. In the words of a young woman from the inaugural Eagle class, "I think the greatest thing I learned from my time in Scouts was resilience. I gained a lot of skills too, like how to build a fire, how to live with only the things I can carry on my back, how to lead a team. But at the end of the day, it still rains, and your fire goes out, you forget your rain jacket and can't go back for it, and your team gets into arguments. After each setback, you get the chance to choose what kind of person you will be. In my experience, I was able to choose to grow and become a stronger individual and that is positively impacting so many parts of my life."

Throughout their lives, all these young women—and those that follow—will be bound together by a widely recognized and prestigious award that exemplifies leadership and service to others.

Talking to Scouts: Scoutmaster Conferences and Boards of Review

Adult leaders talk to their Scouts all the time, but sometimes the interaction is more formalized, as in a Scoutmaster Conference or Board of Review.

While Scoutmaster conferences may be conducted virtually, section 4.2.3.5 of the *Guide to Advancement* (GTA), entitled "Unit Leader (Scoutmaster) Conference" states: "Though virtual conferences are allowed they should only be held when circumstances preclude a more personal approach." The reason for this is that the Unit Leader (Scoutmaster) Conferences are meant to be face-to-face, personal, and individual experiences. These conferences exercise two important methods of the Scouts BSA program: advancement and adult association.

It is important to remember that, when conducting a Unit Leader Conference, all applicable youth protection guidelines must be followed. The timing of the conference is up to the unit. The conference may be conducted at any time after the Scout has completed their rank which occurred prior to the rank of reference for the upcoming board of review. There may be a situation where conducting a conference with the Scout, before the Scout has completed all the requirements for the next rank, is desirable. In fact, the unit leader may, when necessary, conduct multiple discussions, or even delegate the conference to an assistant, who is 21 years of age or older.

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There are no required topics of discussion for the Unit Leader Conference. As stated in the GTA, “It is a forum for discussing topics such as ambitions, life purpose, and goals for future achievement, for counseling, and also for obtaining feedback on the unit’s program.” As such, the Scout must participate or take part, but the requirements do not say they must “pass” (GTA Section 4.2.3.5).

Another Scout-adult discussion opportunity comes during a Board of Review, which is a personal and individual discussion between the Scout and 3-6 leaders about the Scout’s experiences. Again, this is not a test (GTA Chapter 8). While it may be useful to provide inexperienced Scouters with sample questions to be used as a starting point for discussion, there are no questions which must be asked while conducting a Board of Review for any rank in the Scouts BSA program, including the Eagle Scout Award. Units may not require that members of a board ask questions from a prescribed list. It is left to each board member to decide what questions to ask the Scout during a Board of Review, and the answers to early questions can guide what questions are asked later. This allows for a better exchange between the Scout and the members of the board.

Merit Badges

Reporting Merit Badge Counselor Concerns

The *Guide to Advancement* topic 7.0.1.4 states, “In the event unit leaders or other volunteers discover that any merit badge counselors are not following mandated procedures such as working with the requirements as they are written, they should complete and submit to the council advancement committee the *Reporting Merit Badge Counseling Concerns* form found in the appendix (See 11.1.0.0). Unit leaders should regularly review the policies and procedures related to the merit badge process with Scouts, parents, guardians, and leaders, and counsel them on proper methods as the need arises.”

What are some examples of merit badge counselor concerns?

- A merit badge counselor is not registered with the BSA.
- A merit badge counselor is not approved by the council advancement committee.
- A merit badge counselor did not ensure that each Scout actually and personally completed all requirements.
- Requirements that could not have been completed were signed off as complete.
- Requirements as written were changed or not used.
- A Scout was signed off for a merit badge, but was not at the event.
- A Scout was signed off for a merit badge, but did not attend the merit badge class.
- And so on

Council advancement committees should ensure that volunteers, parents and professionals are aware of these types of concerns, where to find the reporting form, and how to submit it. It is important to ensure that all merit badge counselors are following all relevant policies and procedures. This information should be included in advancement-related training sessions and promoted through the various council communication channels on a regular basis. The council advancement committee must develop procedures for reviewing the reporting forms when submitted and addressing the concerns. They have a responsibility to investigate each submission and take appropriate action in a timely manner.

Link to the form: 11.1.0.0.

[Reporting Merit Badge Counseling Concerns](#)

Special Needs Interests

Registering Beyond the Age of Eligibility

Sometimes a Scout with special needs or disabilities intellectually falls below the norm, yet enjoys Scouting, voicing his/her desires to stay in Scouting or Cub Scouting even though the prescribed age to move on has been reached. Consider the youth's abilities, mental and physical maturity, and social awareness, it is possible to register the Scout beyond the age of eligibility (RBAE).

Youth and adults who are developmentally disabled or cognitively impaired, or youth with severe physical challenges, may be considered for RBAE in their program: age 11 or older for a Cub Scout, 18 or older for a Scouts BSA member, or 21 or older as a Venturer or Sea Scout. It is not necessary for Scouts to wait until reaching the end of the age eligibility for their program to submit the request. An adult of any age who has developmental disabilities, for example, may be considered for youth membership and join Scouting if a qualified medical professional is able to correlate cognitive abilities to less than the upper limit of an eligibility age.

A disability, to qualify an individual for RBAE, must be permanent and so severe that it precludes advancement even at a rate significantly slower than considered typical. If ranks can be achieved under accommodations already provided in official literature or with modifications as outlined in the *Guide to Advancement*, then the disability probably does not rise to the level required.

In considering RBAE, members with conditions such as those listed below *may* meet the severity requirement, but every case must be considered individually. If members are able to take advantage of the flexibility already built into Scouting advancement and participate in essentially the same way as typical youth, then they must not be registered beyond the age of eligibility.

Some examples of conditions that, if severe, may be criteria that qualify a youth for Registration Beyond the Age of Eligibility include the following:

autism spectrum disorder, blind or low vision, deaf or hard of hearing, intellectual disability, developmental disorder, Down syndrome, emotional or behavioral disorder, physical disability, traumatic brain injury, multiple coexisting disabilities (Multiple coexisting disabilities' refers to a diagnosis of two or more disabilities, none of which alone may be significant enough to warrant registration beyond the age of eligibility, but when considered in combination, may qualify)

Note that the above list is limited in nature and is not inclusive of the many disabilities you may encounter.

When considering RBAE, leadership needs to provide the council the documents that help the committee understand the youth being considered. Parental letters, Scout leadership letters, letters from physicians and other licensed persons need to be descriptive in terms of the writer's knowledge. For example, whereas a physician's letter simply may be a professional statement regarding the issues at hand and why the Scout may not be able to participate, especially due to safety issues. A parent's, on the other hand, needs to be more descriptive, painting a picture of what the youth is like at home, school, and in the community. The unit's leadership may include descriptions of the youth's strengths and challenges that may impact the youth's ability to advance. Statements of how the Scouting program has benefited the Scout and why the Scout should stay in Scouting should be considered.

Note that RBAE is intended as a permanent arrangement to allow ongoing participation as a youth member. This is different from a "time extension," which is available to a Scout working toward Eagle Scout rank summit, and Quartermaster ranks when certain circumstances arise that preclude timely achievement. Extensions have specific end dates, and they may or may not involve disabilities. See "Time Extensions," in the *Guide to Advancement*, section 9.0.4.0.



Worth Repeating

On Increasing Advancement

District Roundtables: Opportunities for Meaningful Dialog

December 2013-January 2014

Council and district advancement committee presence and communication can lead to increased advancement in a number of ways. For example, making a presentation at a district's monthly roundtable is an effective way to open a dialog on advancement and make the committee's support visible.

A task force of volunteers evaluating roundtables across the country generated a number of recommendations that can affect district advancement efforts. These suggestions are included the *Cub Scout Roundtable Planning Guide* and *Boy Scout Roundtable Planning Guide*, and provide user-friendly talking points for presentations highlighting advancement. As part of one of these presentations, the district advancement chair could share statistics on past performance and future goals for advancement, and then encourage units to strive for them. If the discussion includes the positive effects of advancement on retention, unit leadership may feel the motivation to implement constructive strategies. A Cub Scout roundtable highlight might add to this with a focus on the role of family and leaders in Cub Scout advancement.

Roundtables across the country are implementing these recommendations, which provide new opportunities for advancement coordinators to make meaningful contributions to unit and district Journey to Excellence progress. Talk to your roundtable commissioner about how you can help in your district. Copies of the guides may be found at [http:// www.scouting.org/scoutsource/Commissioners/roundtable.aspx](http://www.scouting.org/scoutsource/Commissioners/roundtable.aspx)

Editor's Note

The BSA Roundtable Support materials have been modified in recent years. The *Roundtable Planning Guide* referenced was for the program year 2013-2014. Current Roundtable Support materials include Sample openings, Hot Topics, Safety Moments, Cub Scout and Scouts BSA Breakouts and more. Of special note are the fillable Roundtable Promotion Documents. Check these many [resources](#) that are available today. In addition, the [Roundtable Planning Resources](#) include specific topics related to supporting the unit in their advancement.



Helpful Links

The most current materials of interest for Scouters who are involved in the administration of advancement are located in one handy place. Many resources are available via the Advancement Resources page at www.scouting.org/Advancement

Advancement Educational Presentations



Today's Advancement Powerpoint Presentation

As found on Advancement Education materials, note that the expiration date is available on the title page so users can verify that the content is up to date.

Today's Advancement is designed as a day-long overview of advancement. The first section explores Advancement Defined, and others review Mechanics of Advancement, including different BSA programs, Merit Badge information, Board of Review, Extensive Eagle Scout candidate processes, and much more. The design of this presentation allows for inclusion of certain sessions that best meet the needs of the group being instructed. (see Notes for slide #1 with recommended times to allow for presentation of the sections).