

The Dulaney District Cub Advancement Committee News

11 November 2016

Most of the following items are excerpted from the July- December 2016 National Advancement News:

A. Internet Advancement:

1. The bird shown at the left is the Dodo. It went extinct about 300 years ago.
2. The image to the right is of Advancement Report Form 34403. It will be following the Dodo bird into extinction effective April 2, 2017.



3. At this time only 50% of the Scout Troops and Cub packs in Dulaney District are using Internet Advancement, and many of those who are listed as having used it have only used it once or twice.

4. After April 2, 2017, your unit will not be able to purchase advancement supplies (badges, patches, etc.) from the Scout Shops without presenting a copy of your unit's submitted internet advancement report. The three-page Form 34403 will no longer be accepted by Baltimore Area Council.
5. Training for Internet Advancement will be provided to Cub Packs and Scout Troops at the February Roundtable, Tuesday, February 14, 2017, at Timonium United Methodist Church, at the corner of Pot Springs Road and Chantry Road in Timonium, MD 2093. No need to pre-register. Make-up training and training for Venture Units will take place at the March Roundtable, March 14, 2017. Please insure that your unit's Advancement Chair and/or other responsible person is present at one of these training events. The only other opportunity to receive this training will be at the Scouting University in March 11, 2107.

B. Summertime Activities: Never too Early to Put the Outing in Scouting:

For every kid in school, summertime means warmer weather and a break from school. For Cub Scout packs, it also is a great time to look at the advancement requirements that will be most successful outdoors.

Outdoor skills and awareness is one of the desired outcomes of the Cub Scout program. Dens and packs should support advancement by having a year-round program that takes advantage of the outdoor activities in their communities. Visits to a nature center, zoo, community garden, wildlife refuge, fish hatchery, or aviary are great examples. Key elements to an outdoor summer program include campfire programs, camping and hiking skills, and learning the Outdoor Code and the Leave No Trace Principles for Kids. There is no time like the summer time to get Cub Scouts outside where they can have fun.

Tigers, Wolves, and Bears are specifically required to participate in an outdoor pack meeting or pack campout campfire through songs, skits, or run-ons depending on the Adventure. Similarly, Scouts working on their Arrow of Light rank are required to plan a campfire program including the other dens.

Each Cub Scout rank also has an outdoor skill component that involves camping and hiking skills. While some chartered organizations do not allow overnight camping, packs may substitute a family campout for a daylong outdoor activity, such as a council or district day camp. Thus, Cub Scouts can learn to identify plants and animals, learn to tie knots, and put together the Cub Scout Six Essentials for hikes and other outings. They can still learn

about the best places to set up tents and how to be prepared for extreme weather conditions. They can even learn the basics of outdoor cooking and participate in service projects.

At these events, Wolf, Bear, and Webelos Scouts can be introduced to the Outdoor Code and the Leave No Trace Principles for Kids, which they will eventually need to recite from memory and to list how they have followed each during outdoor activities. Making notes in their handbooks during every summer outing now should make easy work of this requirement when the time comes.

Elective aquatics related adventures give packs and dens an opportunity to cool off and enjoy the water, and all Cub Scouts are now allowed, as a pack or den, to participate in paddle sports. However, aquatics activities require a tour and activity plan to be completed, and it is imperative to remember that Safe Swim Defense and Safety Afloat training must be completed by qualified leaders within the last two years and the leader must comply with all points of this training.

C. Lions in Your Neighborhood?

A new pilot program for kindergarten boys will begin in a few short months. If your council will be participating in the pilot, congratulations—your Lion Guides are now being actively recruited. September will bring boy and adult partner recruitment and the fun begins. *Baltimore Area Council is one of the selected councils.*

While the Lion program does not include advancement, it very importantly involves recognition. Boys will be recognized for their accomplishments. Significantly, the concepts of character development, leadership skills, personal fitness and citizen-ship are an integral part of Lion activities.



Lions will attend a limited number of pack meetings, so those pack meetings will be a prime opportunity for the pack to make these future Cub Scouts and their adult partners feel welcome and recognized. Pack leadership will want to ensure that age appropriate activities will be included in the evening's fun. Advancement recognition for the pack youth will be a highlight that the Lions will enjoy witnessing and hopefully be inspired by when they see the ceremony and acknowledgement showered on these older boys.

D. Leave Nothing but Your Thanks:

In 1919, Lord Baden-Powell quoted an old Irish camping motto:

“On breaking up camp leave two things behind you:

1. Nothing.
2. Your thanks.”

Cub Scouts have always learned to respect the outdoors and how to take care of the world around them. Today, Outdoor Ethics and Leave No Trace (LNT) Principles are no longer just requirements of “other awards” that Cub Scouts can earn; they are part of the organizing principles, outdoor skills, and awareness built into each Adventure, and thus, a critical element of each Cub Scout's advancement.

Cub Scouts still should learn about the Outdoor Code and the LNT Principles for Kids through a progression of age-appropriate activities. Following are just a few examples:

- During the Tigers In the Wild Adventure, Cub Scouts will listen to the Outdoor Code and LNT Principles, and then discuss how to apply them. Next they will practice applying them at a den or pack outing, after which they will discuss how they have demonstrated these principles.
- During the Wolf Scout Adventures Call of the Wild and Paws on the Path, Scouts will recite with their leader, the Outdoor Code and the Leave No Trace Principles for Kids. Following that they will discuss how the principles support the Outdoor Code. They will also list ways they demonstrated being careful with fire while on a campout and how they showed respect for wildlife.
- Webelos Scouts will be required to recite from memory both the Outdoor Code and LNT Principles for Kids. Next they discuss how they demonstrated them on their Webelos adventures for the required Webelos

Walkabout adventure, and during their Arrow of Light activities for the required Arrow of Light adventure, Camper. They also will need to list the things they did to follow the Outdoor Code and LNT after an outing.

By applying these principles throughout each outdoor activity, Cub Scouts will be better prepared to “be clean in [their] outdoor manners, to be careful with fire, to be considerate in the outdoors, and to be conservation minded.” They will also be more adequately prepared as they start camping on a regular basis as a Boy Scout. Just as Lord Baden-Powell taught so many years ago, Cub Scouts can truly show their gratitude for the world in which we live by embracing the Outdoor Code and Leave No Trace Principals for Kids by leaving nothing—nothing but their thanks, that is!

The Cub Scout World Conservation Award is also available to thank individual Cub Scouts who help preserve and improve the environment. Cub Scouts can earn the Cub Scout World Conservation Award by participating in rank-specific adventures and in a den or pack conservation project. Requirements for this award can be found http://www.scouting.org/filestore/cubscouts/pdf/512-036_WB.pdf

E. Webelos to Scout Transition starts now:

Until 1989, a large percentage of boys earning Arrow of Light failed to become Boy Scout. To reverse this, Scouting introduced the 18-month Webelos program, with graduations in February and immediate “bridging” or “crossovers” to troops. As a result, the retention rate flipped to 80% of February graduates be-coming Boy Scouts, with most remaining with their patrols and troops to their 18th birthdays.

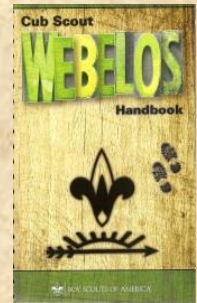


Per the *Den Leaders Guide*, “Every boy graduating from a Cub Scout pack deserves the opportunity to continue his Scouting experience... The purpose of the Webelos-to-Scout transition plan is to give every boy a sampling of the troop program, leadership, advancement opportunities, and the excitement of Boy Scouting. A key factor in (this) transition is the establishment of a working partnership between the Webelos Den and the Troop... every Webelos Den should be linked to a Troop.” In addition, every parent needs to be oriented toward this transition:

WEBELOS Den	ARROW OF LIGHT Den	Boy Scout PATROL
4th Grade	5th Grade	5th Grade and Beyond
1st 12 Months	Next 6 Months	To June, Summer Camp, and Beyond
September-June	September-February	February and Beyond

The *Webelos Handbook* reinforces this. For parents, it advises, “Your son sees Webelos Scouting as... a step on the way to outdoor adventures in Boy Scouting... Help him move toward the Boy Scouting adventures.”

The new Webelos and Arrow of Light requirements are designed specifically to prepare these boys for Boy Scouting and their first step in their troop: Scout rank.



Ideally, the entire Webelos den will move as one into a troop, where they will become a new-Scout patrol with the guidance of an experienced Scout (the Troop Guide) who will help them adjust to the new adventures Boy Scouting offers. Their troop will likely also provide an Assistant Scoutmaster, who will oversee (but not “lead” the way their Den Leader did) their further bonding and overall success. This can lead to life-long friendships because these new Scouts will likely remain an intact patrol for the next seven years.



The Webelos Den Leaders’ most important responsibility is to encourage their Webelos Scouts to move on to Boy Scouting. Correspondingly, parents can reinforce this by helping their sons select the troop they’d most like to join, and then guiding this transition.

F. Outdoor Leader Skills for Webelos Leaders

The *Arrow of Light* rank requires boys complete the Camper Adventure which includes a camping outing.

The question often comes up – “I’m a Webelos leader, and want to take my *den* camping, without the rest of the pack. Is that allowed?”

The answer is “ABSOLUTELY!” The training needed to make this happen is called “*Outdoor Leader Skills for Webelos Leaders.*” This training course is available in your local council or district. It may just be a one-day course, but is frequently offered as an overnighter. It may also be offered in conjunction with a “*Introduction to Outdoor Leader Skills*”, which would be the Boy Scout leader version of the training.



The OLSWL training is currently under revision and is expected to be available after the first of the year. The revision will include the *Basic Adult Leader Outdoor Orientation (BALOO)* material and will feature one training course that will cover all Cub Scout camping options.

Once the training is complete, Webelos leaders can provide opportunities for the boys to complete their Camper Adventure for the Arrow of Light rank and to be ready for the adventure of Boy Scouting.

G. Blue and Gold Celebration Planning: Fun and Food, but Don’t Forget the Advancement!

The annual Blue and Gold banquet may be months away, but now is the time for packs to be putting plans together so their Cub Scouts and families get the most they can out of this annual celebration of the founding of the BSA in 1910 and the Cub Scouts in 1930. Successful banquets may take two to three months to plan to ensure that all families are involved and that both Cub Scouts and their leaders will be recognized. Most packs hold this event as their February pack meeting, but because it is so much more, planning also must include out-of-the-ordinary details, such as date, location, time, decorations, menus and serving arrangements, engaging activities and programs, and special guests—especially those from the pack’s charter organization.

Whether held in lieu of or in addition to the regular monthly pack meeting, the Blue and Gold banquet should not be overlooked as a special opportunity to help motivate and encourage Cub Scout advancement. In planning a Blue and Gold celebration, it is important to look at the needs of the individual Scout in the pack. Pack leaders should look at the individual Cub Scout adventures when planning their banquet to see if the activity could promote advancement. For example, Tigers could put on a magic show, celebrate their cultural heritage, or perform a puppet show. Bears could put on a carnival and help with leader recognition. Wolves and Webelos could celebrate their hometown heroes, while an Arrow of Light den might share information on the World Friendship Fund and Scouting in other countries.

Thus, the Blue and Gold committee should actively seek input from the Cubmaster and den leaders as they put together the plan for this event. Den leaders, especially, will be valuable resources concerning what events will not only help the Cub Scouts have fun but will also accomplish tasks towards advancement. The Cubmaster also will be more aware of what adventures require activities to be accomplished or shared with members of the pack. Scout families are busy, but well-planned, well-run Blue and Gold banquets that offer advancement opportunities at the same time will benefit everyone involved with the pack.

Yours in Scouting;

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