

The Dulaney District Cub Advancement Committee News

2 March 2018

Most of the following items are excerpted from the Jan.-Feb. 2018 National Advancement News:

1. Scoutbook Lite to Replace Internet Advancement in the Second Quarter of 2018:

The Boy Scouts of America (BSA) is excited to roll out a new solution in the second quarter of 2018 that will leverage core components of the Scoutbook platform.

The current Internet Advancement platform will be retired and replaced by a new online tool called Scoutbook Lite.

This new application is being developed now from the ground up so that unit leaders can quickly key in advancement and other key data. It will sport a slick new user interface optimized for desktop, tablet, and mobile devices.

The BSA has found that less than 10% of units use the CSV (comma – separated values) data file import feature in Internet Advancement. In the interest of focusing on tools that serve more Scouters, the CSV data file import will not be supported once the current Internet Advancement platform is discontinued.

Other than the CSV import feature, Scoutbook Lite will offer optimized functions for everything found in the current Internet Advancement platform.

The Scoutbook database will become the official record of advancement for the Boy Scouts of America.

And we will continue to work on and improve Scoutbook as our full feature application.

And one more thing.

Are you a programmer?

For Scouters who are experienced in the development of apps or web platforms, the BSA is excited to announce the upcoming roll out of API's (application programming interface).

A selection of specific, read-only API's will be made available to Scouting volunteers in the first half of 2018. There are no current plans to roll out API's to third parties.

For more information, you may contact Tom Jansen at Thomas.jansen@scouting.org .

The process is graphically described on the next page:

INTRODUCING SCOUTBOOK

BEFORE SCOUTBOOK



SCOUT COMPLETES
ADVANCEMENT AND
RECORDS IT IN THEIR
HANDBOOK



SCOUT MEETS
WITH LEADER TO
REVIEW WORK



LEADER APPROVES
AND MARKS
ACHIEVEMENT
IN THE BOOK



ADVANCEMENT CHAIR
GATHERS ALL APPROVED
ITEMS FROM ALL BOOKS
FOR RECORD KEEPING



KEY 3 [OR DELEGATE]
SUBMITS AN INTERNET
ADVANCEMENT REPORT
TO THE LOCAL COUNCIL



ONCE RECORDED,
SCOUT IS RECOGNIZED
AND THE DATA IS GOOD.
YOU HOPE...

AT THIS POINT, YOUR SCOUT'S ADVANCEMENTS
ARE NOT FULLY IN THE BSA NATIONAL SYSTEM

BSA CURRENTLY HAS 3 DATABASES THAT HAVE TO BE SYNCED
TO MANAGE ADVANCEMENTS AND MEMBERSHIP DATA

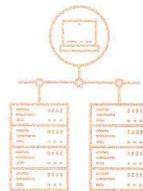
AFTER SCOUTBOOK



SCOUT COMPLETES
ADVANCEMENT AND
RECORDS IT IN
SCOUTBOOK.COM



SCOUT MEETS WITH
LEADER WHO LOGS INTO
SCOUTBOOK.COM AND
APPROVES ADVANCEMENT
THEN MARKS ACHIEVEMENT
IN HANDBOOK



ONCE APPROVED,
ADVANCEMENT DATA IS
AUTOMATICALLY RECORDED
AT THE COUNCIL
AND NATIONAL LEVEL.



SCOUT IS RECOGNIZED
AND THE DATA IS GOOD.
YOU KNOW.

LEARN MORE AT
[SCOUTBOOK.COM](https://scoutbook.com)

2. Transition Time is Now:

The crossing over ceremony is about to begin, the Scout has recently earned his Arrow of Light Rank and stands before the small wooden bridge ready to move on to the troop and greater Scouting adventures. The bridge stands before him, not only as a physical structure, but symbolic of the importance and necessary connection there must be between the Pack Webelos/Arrow of Light Dens, and the Troop and new Scout patrols.

The Webelos to Scout Transition is a critical time in the life of not only the Scout, but also the troop. Keeping youth in Scouting is an important goal, and this can only happen when important steps are taken to ensure a relationship is created between pack and troop.

The first step is for pack leaders to develop a relationship with troop leaders. Cub Scouts may have the choice between more than one troop to join upon leaving the pack and it's important that they are given opportunities to visit and see the troop in action. Is there a particular focus of a troop that will better align with a Cub Scout's interest? A troop can be great at leadership, offer spectacular outdoor opportunities, or may be focused on STEM activities.

Webelos/Arrow of Light den leaders should use the Scouting Adventure as an opportunity to connect Cub Scouts with the available troops. Requirements include visiting a troop and observing how the troop provides leadership and also participating in a campout or other outdoor activity with the troop. Relationships begin right away with these combined activities. Cub Scouts and their families should be welcomed, feel comfortable, and ready to jump in and experience Scouting.

Den leaders should be focused on helping Cub Scouts transition, having earned the Arrow of Light rank. The Webelos and Arrow of Light Ranks are the perfect platform for being prepared for Boy Scouts. Many of the adventures are primers for the upcoming merit badges. A Cub Scout who leaves with the Arrow of Light Rank on the tan scout shirt is ready and prepared for Boy Scouts.

Packs should recognize that Cub Scouts may transition at times other than the end of a school year, also leaders should prepare for a proper send-off at the Cub Scout's final pack meeting through a Crossing-over ceremony. Ceremonies may include actual wooden bridges or even members of the pack can face each other and create a pathway for the boy to walk through with pack leaders on one end and the new Troop leaders at the other end. Passing by the members of the pack while receiving handshakes or high-fives can leave positive feelings about the past. Pack leaders should invite the new Scoutmaster, Senior Patrol Leader, and Patrol leaders and members to be a part of the welcome committee.

Cub Scouts is a fun and adventurous opportunity for Cub Scouts and their families, however a proper bridge between the Pack and the Troop can make sure that the Scouting Adventure continues for many more years.

3. The Cub Scout Angle: The Pace of Advancement

[Ed note: Respective Cub Scout adventures are completed to earn Cub Scout ranks]

A Cub Scout should earn the rank for their grade (or age); they do not go back and work on previous ranks that they missed. Generally speaking, a Cub Scout should advance one rank per year (in addition to Bobcat, which all youth must earn before working on the appropriate rank for the year). In many packs, the year's rank is presented at the annual blue and gold banquet, although other times are appropriate.

Some youth may earn the year's rank earlier and could be recognized accordingly (e.g., Webelos rank); others may earn it later. Either is just fine. On June 1, all youth move up to the next level. Thus, during summer camp, day camp, or other pack summertime opportunities, Cub Scouts should start working on the adventures required for the next rank—the one they will work on with their den over the coming school year.

There are times when a youth member may not finish a year's rank by May 31; for example, they may have joined the den midyear or later. In that event, the den leader, Cubmaster, committee chair, and parents or guardians should discuss options, which could include allowing the youth an extra month or so to complete the rank. This is acceptable and will give him a sense of accomplishment.

A Cub Scout's advancement progress depends on several parameters, including their own motivation, the encouragement and help they get from family and leaders, and their need for recognition. These factors will vary for each youth member. Generally, between the parent or guardian, the den leader, and others, they will know if the effort put forth is really the Cub Scout's best. In any event, and absent special needs, the Cub Scout should start working on the next year's rank along with the den no later than the beginning of the next school year.

Yours in Scouting;

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