



## *The Dulaney District Cub Advancement Committee News*

31 May 2021

The information contained herein has been taken from the National Advancement Newsletters of March-April and May-June 2021.

### 1. Virtual Meetings and More:

When the pandemic first hit, many of our dens and packs turned to virtual meetings. Our volunteers have been amazingly creative. Who knew that a Cub Scout den could have some fun without meeting in person? A year later, virtual scouting is no longer an anomaly, it is what we do.

Many communities will allow small gatherings, getting together but with a size limit. Cub Scouts is set up to do just that. The path to advancement for Cub Scouts is about what happens in a den. Adventures are designed to be accomplished as a den or at home with the Scout's family. Pack meetings are not a required part of Cub Scouts (see Cub Scout online training.) However, we should not lose sight of their purpose, or more importantly, of their value.

The key to success is to understand what the families in your den want. Poll your den and see how they want to meet: virtually, in-person outside, or a hybrid model. Listen and be respectful of each family's wishes.

Hybrid meetings seem to be a model that is working well for many dens. One meeting is held outside and the second meeting is virtual. For the outdoor portion, assign each family a window of time to meet and complete the activity. Based on the number allowed to gather in your local community, and keeping YPT rules in mind, several Cub Scouts may be able to meet together. This is also perfect for families that prefer to isolate. They can do the outdoor activity in the same spot as everyone else, but with their own time slot.

When holding a virtual den meeting, keep it simple and short. "Show and tell" works incredibly well for a virtual meeting. Kids love sharing their creations and seeing what their peers did, giving them ideas on what they might do next.

Cub Scouts is all about "Do Your Best." The goal is to give the Cub Scouts an opportunity and to have them try something. If the activity is cooking, have everyone share a video of themselves in the kitchen. An introduction to cooking is the objective. The food being edible is not the goal nor the standard for advancement.

Remember, all activities must conform to the policies of the BSA and your local council. Here is a link to the [www.COVID-19FAQs](http://www.COVID-19FAQs) from National BSA.

Looking for ideas for a virtual meeting?

- Check out Cub Chat Live Virtual Meeting Fest.

- Scroll through the Cub Scout Volunteers Facebook page or post a question on the site, you will not be disappointed. You will receive numerous ideas in just minutes.



## 2. CUB SCOUT SUMMER FUN:

Summer is a time of transition for our Cub Scouts – bringing a “close” to the current Cub Scout program year and “opening” the next program year. Around the first of June, as Cub Scouts are “rolled up” to the next rank, they move onto the next set of Adventures to be accomplished. (Please note that during this time of the pandemic, Cub Scouts have been given the opportunity to continue work on the previous program year Adventures in order to complete and finalize requirements to earn their badge of rank.)

Summer is also a time when many of our Cub Scout packs transition to fewer activities and a general slow-down. In the summer dens often do not meet, and packs may only have a monthly activity planned that is not the typical pack meeting. Our volunteers are deservedly looking for some time to take a breather. Families take the opportunity to vacation or enroll their kids in other activities that are only offered during the summer. Parents are often looking for a more relaxed schedule and a break from the routine.

Some of our best run packs approach the summer with the attitude, “Let’s just have some fun.” The pack gets together with no expectations other than spending time with their Cub Scout community. These packs hold barbeques in a local park, hit the beach, go for a bicycle ride or take a hike. They may visit a local museum, take in a local baseball game or spend the night at the zoo. The goal is to provide an opportunity for the families to get together, to see one another, to create some memories and enjoy themselves.

Nevertheless, Cub Scouts may certainly work on Adventures during the summer. Remember, there is no, single way to deliver the program. Each pack should do what works best for all their youth. But sometimes the reward is not the belt loop or the pin. The reward is seeing friends, being silly, just having a good time. Eating popcorn at a baseball game and seeing their faces on the jumbotron or waking up in the lobby of the zoo to see the animals fed breakfast might just be the highlight experience that makes them want to continue their Scouting adventures in the Fall.

Check out the May Virtual Roundtable for more information on Cub Scout summertime activities.

## 3. FOR ADULT LEADERS:

### District Award of Merit:

The management of awards and recognitions for youth and adult members is an important function of all districts. Awards and recognitions are not part of the advancement plan, although members of the district’s advancement committee may be called upon, along with others, to assist from time to time.

One of the more frequently presented recognitions in this category is the District Award of Merit, or D-A-M. This is a council recognition presented by districts in the same manner that, for instance, the Silver Beaver Award is a national recognition presented by councils. Each of a council’s districts is permitted, per prescribed allocation formula, to annually present this recognition to one or more registered adult volunteers.

Basic guidelines for the D-A-M are found in the [Guide to Awards And Insignia \(SKU 648215\)](#), Guidelines for District and Council Committees. Information is also available at <http://www.scouting.org/awards/awards-central/district-merit/> although the language there may be misleading in that it describes “earning” and “getting” this award. This is distinctly not the case. There are neither “requirements” nor a “score card” for this award.

In fact, the District Award of Merit is by nomination only. All nominations are evaluated on the basis of each nominee's noteworthy service, beyond normal expectations, at the district level. A confidential nomination form is available (see [filestore.scouting.org/filestore/pdf/33720.pdf](http://filestore.scouting.org/filestore/pdf/33720.pdf)). To avoid possible disappointment on the part of a nominee, all nominations are confidential. Also, this is not a posthumous award, nor is it appropriate for a formerly registered adult volunteer.

In each district the district chair will annually appoint an ad hoc selection committee of no more than five (5) to evaluate all nominees for that year. Past recipients often make excellent selection committee members. Members of the district advancement committee may be specially tapped for this as well. The district chair is an ex officio member as well.

Because nominations from the field are required for this award, the selection committee may be charged with responsibility for promoting nominations, providing forms and deadline dates, and—with the district's committee that manages special events—selecting the presentation event, location, and date.

The selection committee may meet confidentially as often as needed, based on the number of nominations. Since the nomination forms request training courses completed, positions held, etc., it is reasonable that the committee confirm such information with the council registrar, training chair, and any others as needed. Once the committee has made its final selections, it will present these recommendations to the council committee through the Scout executive, who will subsequently inform the district chair of the nominations approved by the council committee. Throughout this process, none of the nominees will be informed that they have been nominated or recommended or approved.

All District Award of Merit presentations will follow the procedure advised on the second page of the nomination form, including district- and council-wide publication and promotion.

To assist in the evaluation and selection of this and other awards, the District has requested that the District Advancement Chair (Rick Shaw) maintain a file of Scouters resumes. If you haven't submitted yours yet, or if you need to up-date one already submitted, please send them to Rick at [ricncork@erols.com](mailto:ricncork@erols.com)

Yours in Scouting;

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