



The Dulaney District Cub Advancement Committee News

11 July 2017

All of the following items are excerpted from the July-August 2017 National Advancement News:

1. **Summertime IS Advancement Time:**

Boy Scouts of America provides many incentives for continuing a well-thought-out advancement program throughout the summer. However, with sports and family vacations keeping boys away, many leaders wonder if having a year-round program is worth the effort. If pack leaders work together to look for ways to keep their boys involved through the school breaks, they will see an immense benefit to the pack's Cub Scouts and their families. Teamwork, flexibility, and consistency in running a summer program will not only help the Cub Scouts, but can help with recruitment and the strength of the pack.

The Annual pack planning conference is the first step to keeping families involved year-round. Invite parents to the conference so they will be involved as the calendar is established. Make sure school calendars are referenced and avoid major holidays and possibly community events. Consider events being held by your chartered organization and see if Cub Scout activities can be held in conjunction with these activities. With parental inputs, schedule day camp or resident camp dates so families can plan vacations around these activities. Pack leaders should remember that "family understanding" is one of the purposes of Cub Scouting and should schedule pack and den events that support the family. When leaders work with families, there will be a greater chance for successful summertime participation, as well as supporting the "Involving Family and Home" method of Cub Scouting.

Consistency is the key to having a worthwhile year-round program. If den meeting days are changing week after week during the summer or pack meetings are moved here and there with no communication, families will lose faith in the program and they will not attend – and they may not be back in the fall. Plan the calendar, communicate the events, and provide meaningful fun, learning, and advancement opportunities for Cub Scouts and packs. By doing this, packs will find that their program will thrive and their pack numbers will grow as more families want to be involved because of the excellent year-round program being provided.

A well-planned calendar can also keep families informed as to what kind of advancement opportunities will be taking place during the meetings. Communication can keep individual Cub Scouts from falling behind. For example, the den might be visiting the local zoo during a month that the absent Cub Scout could visit another zoo with his family while away on vacation. It is important for families to understand that they can be helping their Cub Scout by being familiar with the adventures of each rank.

However, planning for summer does require flexibility. Pack leaders should consider what changes need to be made during school breaks to enable the greatest success. For example, during the school year, dens may have 2-3 hour-long meetings per month in addition to the monthly pack meeting, but in the summer, may find two or even one longer den meeting a month easier for more Cub Scouts to attend, especially if these meetings involve outdoor activities. Leaders may want to consider combining dens if two-deep leadership is difficult to maintain due to

vacations and work schedules. Leaders may want to consider not meeting in a month a major pack activity will take place, such as Cub Scout camp or Cub Scout day camp.

2. Important: Cub Scout Advancement Requirements Continue to Evolve:

Cub Scout adventure requirements continue to be revised based on experience gained since the issuance of the currently available Cub Scout rank handbooks. While den leaders may continue to use the resource materials on hand, there have been changes in how to use them in terms of advancement. The latest requirements and history of the changes made can be found online at the Program Updates web page.

www.scouting.org/scoutsourc/programupdates.aspx

Council and District advancement chairs are encouraged to facilitate sharing these *Requirement Modifications* documents with all Scouting leadership, particularly training chairs and advancement chairs. These requirement modifications are available at no charge from your local Scout store. The goal is that the current information will be provided to the den leaders who need them when doing their annual planning for den meetings and advancement activities.

3. Summertime Awards Make Advancement Easy:

“Summertime, and the livin’ is easy,” So go the words of a popular song. Too often our Cub Scout leaders decide to take it easy too, but summertime is a great time for advancement to take place. A year-round program provides opportunities and variety for Cub Scouts. The BSA has awards for packs, dens, and individual Cub Scouts that can help to motivate Scouts and families to participate and keep summertime boredom from settling in.

A pack can earn the **National Summertime Pack Award** by doing three pack activities when school is out for the summer—one activity each in June, July, and August, (or during school breaks for packs associated with homeschools or year-round schools). Packs that qualify get a colorful streamer for their pack flag. Dens that have at least half of their members participate in the three summer pack events can earn a den ribbon. Finally, pack members who take part in all three events are eligible for the National Summertime Pack Award pin. This Cub Scout award is worn on the right pocket flap of their uniform. Note that this is a youth award and may not be earned or worn by adults.



What kinds of activities could make a boy and his unit eligible? The warm days and nights of summer spark the imagination. For example, a pack activity at a local pool would provide something for everyone to do. Water Adventures for each rank include Floats and Boats, Spirit of Water, Salmon Run, and Aquanaut. Accomplishing these adventures toward rank advancement with the families, provides more fun and more adult support. Other ideas may include a pack campout or an outdoor activity such as a camp fire program, hike, picnic, or a visit to a zoo, animal refuge, or nature center, where additional adventures await. These include My Tiger Jungle; Tigers in the Wild; Call of the Wild; Howling at the Moon; Paws on the Path; Bear Necessities; Fur, Feathers, and Ferns; Webelos Walkabout; Outdoorsman; Castaway; Into the Wild; and Into the Woods.

The **National Den Award** recognizes dens that have a quality, year-round program. The award goes to dens that do service and conservation projects, field trips, character building, and camping. Dens earn the award as a team, not as individual den members, by having at least half of the Den participating in the various activities. The recognition is a ribbon for the den flag or den doodle.



Additionally, Cub Scouts can earn the **Cub Scout Outdoor Activity Award**. This award can be earned each year using the requirements for the individual ranks. The first time the award is earned, the boy will receive a pocket flap award, each successive time the award is earned a Wolf Track pin may be added to the flap. Activities for this award include earning the specific rank

adventures, some of which have already been mentioned, including My Tiger Jungle, Paws on the Path, Bear Necessities, and Webelos Walkabout. These and many additional activities, such as a nature hike, pack overnigher, service or conservation project, can quickly lead to the Scout, den, and pack earning the Summertime Pack Award.

Specific requirements for these additional BSA Cub Scout Awards can be found on scouting.org. Cub Scouts should provide year-round opportunities for learning, fun, AND advancement particularly “in the good ole’ summertime.”

Yours in Scouting;

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