

The Dulaney District Cub Advancement Committee News

15 July 2018

Most of the following items are excerpted from the Mar-Aug. 2018 National Advancement News:

1. New Advancement Opportunity: Lions Arrive:

At the end of the current school year, Lions will become the newest Cub Scout rank beginning in the Fall of 2018. Cub Scout packs will welcome the new den of Lions to meetings at that time. While not participating in summer programs, these Lions will be ready to start participating in adventures to earn their badge of rank. Both all girl dens and all boy dens will be organized within a pack.

A taste of what you will soon see JUST for Lions?

- The youth handbook will get a new cover and is now called the Lion Cub Scout Handbook.
- A new rank patch will be available which can be placed on the T-shirt over their heart.
- Stickers are designed for the youth to place in their new handbooks as they complete adventures.
- Adventure Loops will be awarded and placed on the Cub Scout belt.
- A Lion advancement chart will also be available for recording and watching advancement grow

As the pack welcomes the new Lion den, more excitement is ahead as the Cub Scout family grows. For more information, visit the Lion website.



2. A Brief Overview of Lion Advancement:

Lions work toward their Lion badges. Although participation with an adult partner is required for all Lion awards, recognition items are for the Scouts only. To earn the Lion badge of rank, a Cub Scout must complete the following requirements, working with an adult partner:

1. Complete the five required adventures:

- Lion's Honor
- Animal Kingdom
- Fun on the Run!
- King of the Jungle
- Mountain Lion

2. With your parent or guardian, complete the exercises in the pamphlet *How to Protect Your Children From Child Abuse: A Parent's Guide*.

Outside of the requirements, Lions can also complete any number of seven elective adventures of their den's or family's choosing. Some of the highlights of the Lion den:

- The family packet "Lion Kit" will include Youth Protection Training parent/child guide, stickers, Lion Adventure Book, Lion, Parent and Leader Guidebook, and Youth Protection Training guide together.
- The leader for the Lion den is called "den leader" as leaders of other Cub Scout dens are called.
- Adventure loops for each adventure are awarded in the Lion den. These loops should be available in Scout shops in July.
- The Lion materials will be available via the web-site www.scouting.org/lion



- This includes the *Den Leader Guide*, which resembles the youth handbook. Tools for families to use to keep advancement records will include rank pocket cards and advancement charts.

Packs may now include dens of girls and dens of boys. Note that the dens will consist of only one gender. Additionally, chartered organizations may elect to form an all-girl pack as well. For the best experience for the youth and families, it is suggested to make sure the dens have 6-8 youth making sure the Cub Scout receives the best Cub Scouting experience.

3. Lessons Learned for Inclusion of Girls in Other Boy Scouts of America Programs:

Venturing has been a co-ed program since it was created 20 years ago. We are now entering a time when other Boy Scouts of America programs are going to be including girls into their respective programs. So far, this inclusion has proven to provide many more opportunities for the youth of America. As leaders of the Scouting program, it might be helpful to review some best practices relating to boys and girls working together.

As we move forward, here are a few key points to keep in mind:

- Advancement requirements are meant to challenge an individual and help the youth to learn and grow. They are set the same for both boys and girls to complete. Having the same expectations is essential for the development of the youth.
- Consider the growth and development stages of both boys and girls individually and what they go through mentally and physically. Understand your role as an adult leader as it relates to this topic and remember that everyone will be at different developmental stages.
- Do not discount one gender over the other. Each gender does develop differently but it is important to remember that each person in the Scouting program wants to learn and grow. Each youth member is here for different reasons. Provide challenges and growth opportunities that are appropriate to the individual. Play to the strengths of each person to help lead the unit forward.
- As a unit, set policies to help provide guidelines and rules of behavior as they relate to mixed gender programs. Allow the youth to share their opinions and help develop those policies themselves.

- Remember youth protection rules always apply. Many sleeping quarters at camp may not be setup to accommodate youth/adult male/female – so get creative! Perhaps bring a tent for extra space or bring an extra cot to setup in a cabin if there are not enough beds for that gender/age group. You may setup tarps to provide the separation of a room into two sides.

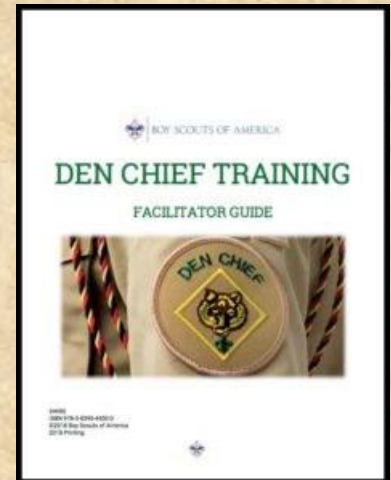
As the Scouting program grows with additional members, our goal is to keep all youth safe, secure and reaping the benefits Scouting offers all members.

4. Revised Training for Den Chief Leadership Position:

How long and how effectively a den chief will serve depends upon how seriously the position is valued and by whom, particularly the adults in the pack they serve as well as those within their home unit. Youth value the opinion of adults, so if a den chief sees that adults ask for and value their input, they will take their responsibilities more seriously.

Like most things in Scouting, this process begins with training. Den Chief Training is intended to build enthusiasm, develop higher morale among den chiefs, and provide the tools a new den chief will need to be successful. This training can be delivered in approximately two hours. The time should, however, match the needs of the young people to be trained as well as the availability of the trainers. An evening session, for example, might work better for a Cubmaster training a couple of den chiefs, or a weekend session might work better for a district training for den chiefs of multiple packs.

The training should be offered in a facility that provides suitable space and access, perhaps council camping or training facilities, or a local pack meeting location. A session held early in the program year is likely to prove more useful to beginning den chiefs and their “adult partners”, those new den leaders, or den leaders who have not previously had a den chief. Thus, all adult leaders who recruit or work with den chiefs are encouraged to attend with the Scout being trained.



At the end of the course all participants should be awarded a certificate of completion.

The Scout troop should then recognize the newly trained Scout with a *Trained* badge for his sleeve next to his den chief position badge of office.

Although den chief training currently is only available through face-to-face sessions, online modules are being developed that will mirror the content of these in-person materials. When ready and approved for use, there will be announcements in Bryan’s Blog, *Scouting* magazine and other sources of BSA information. Meanwhile, everyone is encouraged to review the current course’s Facilitators Guide at: www.scouting.org/training/youth/den-chief-training.

Yours in Scouting;

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