



## *The Dulaney District Advancement Committee* *Venturing News*

8 July 2021

### Venture Crew Leaders of Dulaney District:

The information contained herein has been taken from the National Advancement Newsletters of July-August 2021.

#### A. The Promise of Scouting:

Let's get the word out, people! Youngsters are coming to Scouting's door every day. We promise them fun and adventure. Great grand fun and wonderful adventure! With them come their parents and families. We promise them that we have programs that will help their children to build character and learn and practice citizenship responsibilities.

We need to recognize that some of these parents and families don't have a Scouting background. They won't fully understand our Scouting methods. It is important that they understand because these methods are our way of keeping our promises.

These parents might think, for example, that advancement is just about pins and badges. The confusing thing is that, of course, advancement is about pins and badges—but it isn't only about them. Below the surface runs a deep current that teaches that pins and patches result from learning things, doing things, going places, and accomplishing things, culminating in the positive reinforcement that comes from adults and peers recognizing individual effort and accomplishment via an appropriate advancement ceremony. That recognition is one of the big things that keep youth in Scouting. And we need to keep them around to fulfill our mission.

So, get the word out, people. Make sure that everyone in your Scouting community understands the advancement method. No matter what their Scouting background, if they understand what we're trying to do and why we're trying to do it, then everyone will be able to work together to help our young people grow into useful citizens with praiseworthy character.

To be a leader in advancement you need to show leadership. Leadership in this case is delivering a clear consistent message at every opportunity. The message is that advancement is a method that we use to help Scouts grow and make them want to stay in Scouting. At every opportunity reinforce the reasons for the advancement method. Make sure that all your constituents, no matter their background, understand what we're trying to do. Make sure they understand why we do what we do. Make the [Guide to Advancement](#) your friend and companion so that you can acquaint others with this valuable resource!

If you do this, we will have an advancement program that everyone supports. This way we will keep our young people in Scouting so that we can influence their character. Now, isn't that what we're all about?

## B. Venturing TRUST Award:

With today's society so diverse, understanding others is an important part of being able to "trust" others in a world with so many differences. The Venturing TRUST Award is based upon developing an understanding of cultures and their religions. The award allows youth Venturers to explore their own religion, as well as to learn about other religions and cultures and promotes seeking understanding to help develop trust.

Additional details and the requirements about the Venturing TRUST Award can be found at: <https://www.scouting.org/programs/venturing/venturing-awards-and-advancement/specialty-awards/trust-award/>



## C. Venturing Quest Award:



The Venturing Quest Award focuses on physical fitness relating to sports and promoting a healthy lifestyle. The award encompasses a variety of experiences that introduce a youth Venturer to the opportunities of living a wholesome, healthy life. The award provides a variety of sports related activities for Venturers to explore. They can choose sports that they have experience with or choose sports that are new to them. The goal is to promote sportsmanship and fitness.

This award can be earned by completing learning about the essentials of sports, understanding how fitness for life can be beneficial, completing a fitness assessment, understanding different sports disciplines, practicing sports nutrition, and learning the history and heritage of sports. It focuses on the Venturer's personal goals, encouraging achievement of those that are both realistic and comfortable.

Additional details and the requirements for the Venturing Quest Award can be found at: <https://www.scouting.org/programs/venturing/venturing-awards-and-advancement/specialty-awards/quest-award/>

## D. SEA SCOUTS BSA:

There was a positive for Sea Scouts leaders that came out of the down time during the COVID-19 quarantine. Adult leadership training -- through a course called Seabadge, a "cousin" of Wood Badge -- went virtual via Zoom. This move allowed more Sea Scout leaders to be trained in the last 10 months than were trained in the previous four years combined, confirmed national training chair Cassie Johnson of Houston.



Some have asked how that momentum could be sustained, so a group of Sea Scout youths decided to take that concept a virtual step further and get students to advance on-line with a Virtual National Sea Scout Academy which will be held October 16 through 22 on Zoom. The event is being planned and run by a large committee made up of Sea Scouts and Scouters across the nation. The idea is to pattern the Zoom meeting after previous in-person academies in Texas and Virginia, affirmed Harvey Morrissey, event chair. A Sea Scout Academy is sort of like a summer camp, where Scouts get together and work on advancement requirements.

"My vision for this academy is to advance Sea Scouts rapidly and effectively, and to develop healthy leaders with the purpose of serving others," said Morrissey, from Ocala, Florida, and the immediate past National Yeoman. "I

am confident that this event will assist the individual Sea Scouts to challenge themselves to set their proverbial sails and carry them to reach shore as better Sea Scouts."

Johnson said many of the advantages for virtual meetings were made clear during Seabadge training on Zoom: "There are no travel expenses, you aren't sharing a room with folks who snore, and you get to have whatever you want for lunch. This is an easy way for Sea Scouts to advance in their respective ranks and meet other Sea Scouts from coast to coast."

Another positive is that many of the courses will be taught by youths, which is a requirement in the Sea Scout manual. "Sea Scout advancement to Quartermaster requires teaching others some of what you've learned," said National Commodore T.W. Cook of Austin. "It is hard to get critical mass together to hold an in-person event like this, but if we pool our resources across the country for a virtual event, everyone will have the opportunity to attend. And finding instructors won't be a problem."

There will be no cost for National Sea Scout Academy. Registration is not live yet, but the link will be posted soon to [www.seascout.org](http://www.seascout.org) as well as the national Sea Scout Facebook page: Sea Scouts BSA.

## **E. FOR ADULT LEADERS:**

### **1. District Awards:**

Adult volunteers in Troop and District leadership and activity roles and outstanding scout leaders are what make our Scouting programs run. One of the best ways to let them know that you appreciate their efforts and thank them for a job well done is to recognize them with a Dulaney District Award. Now is the time to reflect on the efforts of leadership of those in your unit and in the Dulaney District.

Our annual District Awards Dinner on September 26, 2021 is coming up quickly. You can find the Recognition Packet at: [Baltimorebsa.org/ Districts/ Dulaney/ Program/ Advancement & Recognition/ Recognition Packet](http://Baltimorebsa.org/Districts/Dulaney/Program/Advancement&Recognition/RecognitionPacket). Click an item in the table of contents to navigate to that page. It contains instructions and application forms for the following Dulaney District awards:

- Outstanding Scout
- Outstanding Unit Scouter
- District Award of Merit
- Vernon Bauer Memorial James E. West Award
- Den Leader Training Award
- Cub Scouter Training Award
- Scouter Training Award
- Venturing Training Award
- Unit Leader Award of Merit
- Cubmaster's Key
- Scoutmaster's Key
- Advisor's Key
- District Committee Key

In addition, it contains the application for the Honor Unit Award. Has your troop done what it takes to be recognized as an Honor Unit in the Dulaney District?

If you have any questions, do not hesitate to contact me at [443-845-6912](tel:443-845-6912) or via email at [DulaneyDistrictAwards@gmail.com](mailto:DulaneyDistrictAwards@gmail.com).

Chuck Starkey

Yours in Scouting;

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