



Bay-Lakes Council

Lakeshore District Advancement Newsletter



March 2010

If you don't aim for perfection, there is no chance of achieving excellence.

The Lakeshore District Advancement and Recognition Committee publishes this Newsletter 12 times each year to Scoutmasters, Unit Advancement Committee Members and District Staff to provide current advancement information. This Newsletter is distributed by e-mail. Please notify us at rjump001@wi.rr.com if your e-mail address changes or you have questions, comments or suggestions, or you have someone you would like to be added to the mailing.

For Advancement Information go to the Advancement page on the Lakeshore District Website:

<http://lakeshoredistrict.org/>

What is Your Troop Doing to Celebrate the 100 Year Anniversary?

Find out more at the 100th Anniversary website: ww2.scouting.org/100years/100years/

Historical Merit Badges

Last month we introduced the four historic merit badges for Scouts to earn during the anniversary year. Carpentry, Pathfinding, Signaling and Tracking. They were to be finished no later than December 31, 2010.

However at this time the program has not been approved by National so everything is on hold. Apparently the Scout Magazine and the Scouting website got a little ahead of themselves.

We'll let you know when and if it becomes a real program.

Eagle Scout Expo

The next Eagle Scout Expo will be held on Thursday, March 11, 2010 from 7:00 to 9:00 pm at Lakeshore Technical College. Mark it on your calendar.

This is for all Life Scouts, Scouts nearing Life, their parents, Eagle Scout Coaches/Mentors, and troop advancement committee members. This is an opportunity for the Life Scout and his parents to get answers to the process of achieving the rank of Eagle Scout. This is not a session for just unit leaders; this is intended for the Life Scout and his parents, so unit leaders get the word out to your Life Scouts and their parents.

There is no registration fee, just show up.

Role of District Advancement Team

It seems some leaders think that role of the Advancement Team is only to conduct Eagle Scout BOR's and approve Eagle Scout Service Projects.

Not true, the Teams are available to provide advancement support to units. This includes helping with program ideas, training leaders and committee members on the advancement program in Scouting, preparing for summer camp, etc.

InterNet Advancement Training

Internet Advancement training will precede the April Roundtable, April 8th, from 6 - 7:00 p.m., mark it on your calendar. This training will be for unit leaders and those who work with the advancement record keeping in your unit and is intended for Troops, Venturing Crews, and Cub Scout Packs, so pass the word to your affiliated Pack.

ScoutNet is a program prepared by the National Scout Office for unit record keeping, units may record their advancements, purchase advancement recognitions, etc., and recharter. Units using the program have reported that it lessens the work at the unit and makes advancement reporting more accurate.

Several reports are available from the program for managing your unit.

The unit ID for each unit will be available at the training, so when you complete the training you can get started right away.

Scout Net is compatible with TroopMaster and the information can be transferred electronically between programs.

Just show up, no registration is necessary.

Eagle Scout Court of Honor

The 2010 edition of "Conducting a Successful Eagle Scout Court of Honor" booklet is on the Council website under Eagle Scout Information and Forms. It supercedes the previous printed booklets.

This booklet is designed to assist in planning an Eagle Scout Court of Honor and includes subjects such as Troop/Committee Involvement, Family Involvement, guidelines for planning a Court of Honor, and an sample Court of Honor ceremony.

Merit Badge Counselor Updates

How are you coming with updating the merit badge counselor rosters. Ron Even tells me that he has only received 8 responses.

Immediate Recognition

I have talked to several leaders who have indicated that their unit only provides advancement recognition (the rank or merit badge patch) at a Court of Honor. Some of these units only have one or two courts of honor each year, making the Scout wait several months to receive recognition for what he has earned. When I ask why they do it that way, the answer is usually, "because we always do it that way." But why?

Ask yourself, why is the Scout working on a rank or a merit badge? At this time forget the work and time they put into earning the patch, they want to get a patch to wear on their uniform, and to show that patch to their fellow scouts, parents, and friends. If they have earned the same rank as a friend, they want to be able to wear that rank on their uniform, now, not a few months from now!

As soon as the Scout has completed the requirements for advancement, a Scoutmaster conference should be held at the next meeting, and a Board of Review conducted by the troop committee during the next meeting, or at least during the month. Following the Board of Review the Advancement Report should be completed or entered to InterNet Advancement and the badge purchased, and during the next troop meeting, in front of his fellow scouts, the Scout should be presented his badge. The scout has worked hard to earn that rank, now it is the adult leaders turn to work hard to see that the scout is recognized in a timely manner.

At the next court of honor the Scout can be recognized in front of parents and friends with presentation of the card.

Lets keep the enthusiasm for Scouting going by providing immediate recognition!