



Bay-Lakes Council

Lakeshore District
Boy Scout Advancement Newsletter

January 2012

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/>

Unit College Reserve, a New Adult Leader Position

Do you have Scouts who have turned 18 but are not yet 21 and have left the area to go to school, to the military, or for other reasons but still want to stay registered in Scouting?

There is a new position available in Scouting, Unit College Reserve, for individuals that fit in that category. The individual has to complete the Adult Leader Application (including the registration fee), the authorization form for the background check, and complete Youth Protection Training to be registered in that position. The position code is 92U.

The only position they have been able to register for in the past was Assistant Scoutmaster even though they have been unavailable to perform the duties of that position. As an Assistant Scoutmaster they are required to take leadership training to be qualified.

Refer to the flyer included in the Recharter packet you have received or will soon receive.

New Eagle Scout Project Form

One of the major differences in the new process for approval of an Eagle Scout Service Project requires the unit leaders to take a much more active role than they have in the past.

The signature page for the Project Proposal no longer states that the plan as been "reviewed and approved."

The Scoutmaster's approval now states:

"I have reviewed this proposal and discussed it with the candidate. I believe it provides impact worthy of an Eagle Scout Service Project, and will involve planning, development, and leadership. I am comfortable the Scout understands what to do, and how to lead the effort. I will see that the project is monitored, and that adults or other present will not overshadow him."

The Unit Committee's approval now states:

"I have reviewed this proposal, I am comfortable the project is feasible, and I will do everything I can to see that our unit measures up to the level of support we have agreed to provide (if any). I certify that I have been authorized by our unit committee to provide its approval for this proposal."

This is no longer a "take it to the Scoutmaster and Committee Chairman and have him sign it off."

The tests to be met for approval are described in paragraph 9.0.2.7 of the new "Guide to Advancement."

InterNet Advancement Training

Internet Advancement training will precede the February 9th Roundtable, from 6 - 7:00 pm, mark it on your calendar.

This training is 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.

In order to purchase a badge or patch for a Scout an Advancement Report must be submitted to Council. ScoutNet is a computer program prepared by the National Scout Office to enable units to enter advancement information on-line from home. It is easy to use and will save the units' advancement individuals time and postage.

Boy Run Troops - The Circle of Trust

Having a boy-run program is simply giving boys trust to manage their activities and actions in the troop. Imagine everything the Scouts do without you standing in the room. That could be as little as just saying the pledge of allegiance, or as much as letting the SPL run the whole Troop meeting. Imagine a circle defining that area of trust. That circle is your boy run program. The area outside the circle is the area where the Scouts grow in their struggle, and we adults grow in our trust that the Scouts can manage their actions without our guidance. That circle is worth little if its limits never expand or grow. We adults must push the limits of the circle so the boys grow in their ability to manage life's skills. This takes courage from the Scouts, to keep trying and learn from new experiences. It also takes courage from the adults to let the Scouts go beyond their limits (our limits!) so they struggle in their troop responsibilities and become motivated to learn the skills to ease their struggle.

An adult-run troop is not necessarily one with a small circle of trust. An adult run troop is one where the adults are not comfortable allowing the circle to grow, because they are afraid of failure. Allowing our boys to struggle in their activities is not natural for a parent. We want to make it easier even up to the point of holding their hands. But our Scouts are young men on the verge of being sent out into an unforgiving world. Scouting is where they will learn the skills of men in a safe and controlled environment.

Your goal should be that every Scout and every adult goes home saying, "I like Myself when I am with the Troop". Teach the adults how to watch and recognize the moments when the earth moves. You know, when the young Scout's eyes get big because he figured out how to tie a knot. Those times when the Patrol all of a sudden acts like a patrol instead of animals scurrying around. The day the SPL runs the perfect PLC meeting or the Troop meeting goes off without a hitch. I remember once when an ASM and I watched the Troop break camp and load the trailer in 30 minutes. It was perfect. We looked at each other and said, well it's time to raise the bar on breaking camp, but we were smiling at the moment.

A boy run program requires a lot of work from both the adults and Scouts, but the rewards are worth bragging about. For the Troop to be successful, both the adults and Scouts have to grow in the program. Real growth is slow and unexpected. One day you are looking at a confused boy wondering how he can manage his Patrol of yelling, rambunctious boys. Then it seems like all of a sudden, a much taller version of the same Scout is inviting you to attend his Eagle COH. "How in the world?" you wonder.

But while we give all the credit to the will of a boy, let's give a little credit to the adults who had the courage to stand up and **"get out of his way."**

Wrap Up: We have been running a series of articles on Boy-Led vs Adult-Led Troops for the last several months. I hope you have tried to incorporate some of this thinking into your troop. I guarantee that when you do, and all of a sudden it works, and it will, you and the Scouts will be having a lot more fun. Try it you, you'll like it!

The Feisty Grandma

"Grandpa and I are in our 80s. Every once in a while, we talk about death.

"The other day, I asked Grandpa where he wanted to be buried if he died before me.

"He said: 'Surprise me.' Then he said: 'What about you?'

"I replied: 'Have me cremated, and spread my ashes over Fleet Farm. Then I know you will come and visit me two or three times a week.' "