



Bay Lakes Council

Lakeshore District Advancement Newsletter

August 2008

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

The Lakeshore District Advancement Committee publishes this Newsletter 12 times each year to Scoutmasters and Unit Advancement Committee Members 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.

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

<http://lakeshoredistrict.org/>

Eagle Scout Expo (Life to Eagle Scout Training)

The next Eagle Scout Expo will be held on Thursday, September 11, 2008 from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. It will be held 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.

When the Life Scout has completed this training he will be better prepared to make the trek from Life to Eagle Scout. Extensive time will be spent on how to select, plan, and conduct an Eagle Scout Leadership Service Project and completing the Eagle Scout Application.

There is no registration or fee required, just show up.

Unit Leaders as Merit Badge Counselors

We have had several requests from unit leaders, Scoutmasters, Assistant Scoutmasters and Committee Members, to be approved as Merit Badge Counselors and requesting that they only be listed to work with their troop.

The Merit Badge program is intended to provide the Scout with a chance to achieve the aims of Scouting. Earning merit badges provide the Scout the kind of self-confidence that comes from overcoming obstacles to achieve a goal. One of these obstacles can be interacting with a relative stranger. To quote from the Merit Badge Counseling pamphlet, "Working with a merit badge counselor gives a scout a contact with an adult with whom he may not be acquainted. This is valuable experience."

If the goal of the unit is to make sure the Scouts achieve the rank of Eagle Scout whether or not they learn all they can from the advancement process, unit leaders as counselors will achieve this goal. However, if the goal is to help the Scouts gain from their advancement experience then unit leaders as counselors is counter-productive to this goal. We strongly recommend that units not take this approach, but send their Scouts to counselors other than unit leaders. Refer to the current Merit Badge Counselor Roster recently sent to all units for counselors in your area.

Because these applications meet the requirements of the BSA for a counselor we approve them as counselors, but we do so with reservation. If unit leaders are interested in counseling a Scout in a merit badge the leaders should make themselves available to Scouts in other troops.

Advancement Requirement Changes

The following question was asked of me the other day: If one scout's handbook shows a specific requirement for advancement, but another scout with a newer edition of the handbook shows a different requirement, which one do we follow?

Each unit should have the most current edition of the "Boy Scout Requirements" book; as it is updated and published each year.

The answer to that question is found in the "Boy Scout Requirements" book. To repeat the introductory statement on the back of the front cover:

"The requirements for rank advancement, Eagle Palms, and merit badges are effective January 1, 2008, through December 2008.

The requirements listed in this book might not match those in the Boy Scout Handbook and the merit badge pamphlets because this publication is updated only on an annual basis. Any number of merit badge pamphlets may be revised throughout the year; others are simply reprinted until a revision becomes necessary.

The requirements in this book are the official requirements of the Boy Scouts of America. However, if a Scout has already started working on a merit badge when a new edition for that pamphlet is introduced, he should continue to use the same merit badge pamphlet to earn the badge. He should fulfill the requirements listed in the pamphlet he was using when he began. In other words, the Scout need not start all over again with the new pamphlet and possibly revised requirements."

Even though the "Boy Scout Handbook" has not changed in appearance, it may reflect changes when it is reprinted. The latest printing will include any changes made by the National office to that date, but may not be current with the latest "Requirements" book; in that case the "Requirements" book takes precedence, except:

When BSA makes changes to rank requirements, Scouts may use the old requirements to advance to the next rank if they have already started work on a rank.

After the following January 1, when the new Boy Scout Requirements book has been issued, Boys starting a Merit Badge or rank must use the new requirements only.

Current changes are identified at the following website:

www.scouting.org/BoyScouts/AdvancementandAwards.aspx

Scouts that started work on a merit badge before the requirements changed may continue to use the old requirements until they complete the badge (or turn 18), or they may use the new requirements. It is the Scout's choice, but the Scout must do ALL of either the old or new requirements. He cannot choose some old and some new requirements to complete.

The National Advancement Committee reviews requirements for rank advancement and merit badges continuously, and changes are made each year. Therefore it is recommended that each troop have a current edition of the "Requirements" book on hand, obtain a new one every year, and become familiar with and comply with any changes.

Do You Every Feel Like This Some Days?

Which way did they go?
How many of them were there?
How fast were they going?

I must find them.
I am their Leader!