



Bay-Lakes Council

Lakeshore District Advancement Newsletter

January 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/>

Merit Badge Counselor Roster Update

As a followup to last month's Newsletter, Scoutmasters and Committee members will be receiving a roster of Merit Badge Counselors who have indicated that they are affiliated with your troop.

Please verify that these individuals are still interested in serving as Merit Badge Counselors and for the badges listed. Upon completion of the verification process return the marked up listing to Ron Even in accordance with the cover letter sent with the roster.

Please return the rosters as soon as possible. Our goal is to have all counselors verified by April 1, 2010, the roster updated and re-issued for the May District Kickoff in May. With your prompt assistance this will happen.

If verification is not received by May 1st those individuals will be removed from the updated list. We are still receiving notes from individuals who were dropped the last time wondering why they were dropped. So please do your part.

Adult Leadership Positions

Last month we sent out a list of Troops and Packs and their affiliation. As a result we became aware that not everyone on the Council listing is registered in the position they currently hold. This usually happens, for example, when an individual registers as a Committee member or Assistant Scoutmaster at recharter time and in mid-year becomes the Scoutmaster. If the Council is not notified of this change the Council listing will show only the previous position.

The **only** way to make this change on the Council list is to submit a new Adult Leader Application form showing the new position and signed by the committee chairman and chartered organization representative for that unit.

First Aid Merit Badge as a Pre-Requisite to Emergency Preparedness Merit Badge

When completing the "blue card" for a Scout to start work on the Emergency Preparedness Merit Badge make sure that the Scout has completed the First Aid Merit Badge. The first requirement for Emergency Preparedness is that the Scout earn the First Aid Merit Badge.

Things to Ponder

While the Swiss Army knife has been popular for years, the Swiss Navy knife has remained largely unheralded. Its single blade functions as a tiny canoe paddle.

Older Scouts in the Troop

There are three groups of older boys in the troop, the first are the scouts that are approaching Eagle Scout, the second, those who have earned their Eagle Scout award, and the third those scouts who have reached the age of 18. So what makes them unique – well in most part their age and experience. It bothers me to see troops at summer camp with only the younger scouts.

So what do we do with them? The first and easiest way seems to be to ignore them and work with the younger scouts and maybe the older boys will find their way through the system on their own. Not good!

- Lets talk about the first group. These are the scouts, 15 to 17 years of age, that may have served in leadership positions for the Eagle Scout rank and are finishing up their last merit badges and their Leadership Service Project. They need to be given leadership responsibilities in the troop, Junior Assistant Scoutmaster if 16, troop guide, quartermaster, instructor, etc. They should attend meetings and summer camp to provide leadership to the younger scouts and assistance to the leaders and continue to work on merit badges, or participate in some of the high adventure activities.
- Now the second group. When a Scout earns his Eagle Scout Award he has completed his scouting career! Unfortunately this seems to be an attitude with some Eagle Scouts and unfortunately some troops. *He has just completed several years of work, learned all kinds of skills and knowledge to become an Eagle Scout and we let him walk out the door!*

If the scout is 16 years of age he can become a Junior Assistant Scoutmaster and could be given responsibilities similar to an Assistant Scoutmaster and similar to those for the over 18 scout below.

Should an Eagle Scout attend Summer Camp? You bet! He is now at a point in scouting where he can go to camp and have fun and help the unit leaders with the younger scouts. With the number of High Adventure activities available at our camps, there is plenty for him to do. No pressure is placed on him for advancement.

- Lets look at the last group. The Scout has turned 18 but has not graduated from high school or has graduated and is still living in the area. The tendency seems to be that since they have earned the Eagle Scout award or maybe not, that we should say good bye, nice having you around, thanks for staying until you were 18. These are the scouts that we have been training for several years, maybe we sent them to Junior Leader Training, and now we should be looking at them as role models and leaders for the younger scouts. Why not register them as Assistant Scoutmasters (ASM) and give them some jobs to do similar to the other ASMs. Because they are in school and involved with school activities they may not be able to attend every meeting, but there are some activities such as campouts, service projects, training sessions, etc. where they can be very helpful. Put them in charge of a troop activity, the food good turn, a community good turn event, planning a portion of a campout, conducting leadership training, working with the Cub Scout Pack, etc.

Remember that an Eagle Scout is an Eagle Scout for his entire life! It is now time for him to give back to Scouting what Scouting gave to him.

To keep the interest of the scouts in the last two groups and to be of value to the troop they must be given a meaningful job. Encourage them to attend Boy Scout Adult Leader Training. Another great opportunity is for those boys to join a Venturing Crew, the age limit for Venturing is 21.

Arrow of Light

Before a Webelos Scout joins the troop verify with the Pack whether he has earned the Arrow of Light and, if he has, that it has been entered on the Pack's InterNet Advancement records before his records are transferred to the troop.

The records will be electronically transferred to the troop when the application or recharter is received at Council and once the records have been transferred we can't go back and make entries for that boy to the Pack records.

Of course I am sure you are all aware that a Webelos Scout is not required to earn the Arrow of Light to become a Boy Scout, nor is a boy required to be a Cub Scout/Webelos Scout to join a Boy Scout troop.