



Advancement Newsletter

January 2010

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

This newsletter is published by the Lakeshore District Advancement and Recognition Committee and is distributed by e-mail. We are always gathering and trying to keep current with our e-mail addresses, so please contact Dick Jump, District Advancement and Recognition Chair, at rjump001@wi.rr.com if your e-mail address changes or if there is someone you would like added to the mailing. If there is a topic you would like discussed please contact Dick.. We would hope that each Cubmaster would forward the Newsletter to their Den and other leaders.

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

<http://lakeshoredistrict.org/>

Webelos Transition to Boy Scouts

Are the Webelos Scouts in your Pack ready to take the next step in Scouting? Have you connected with a Boy Scout troop? Are you actively involved or do you just wait until February to contact the Troop or for the Troop to contact you to find out how many Webelos are going to join the Troop and if you're going to have to plan a cross-over ceremony?

Are you a leader that says "There are 8 Webelos scouts in the Pack but only 2 of them are crossing-over"! And you accept that!

Do you meet regularly with the Troop leadership, do you ask the troop to provide Den Chief's, do the Webelos Scouts visit the troop for some of the troop meetings and activities, do some of the Boy Scouts assist in some of the Pack's activities? Have the Webelos parents met with the troop leaders and discussed the troop program and summer camp plans with them?

If your answers are **No** to any of these questions, then not many Webelos Scouts will cross over from the Pack to the Troop and you may wonder why.

Last month you received a Webelos to Scout Transition memorandum and roster of units and affiliations. Have you done anything with it?

The key factor to improved Webelos transition is the ongoing working relationship of the leaders of the Boy Scout troop and the Cub Scout pack. It is not the sole responsibility of the Cub Scout leaders or is it the sole responsibility of the Boy Scout leaders, it has to be a joint effort.

Someone on your Pack Committee should have the responsibility to maintain contact with the Troop. By the time Webelos Scouts are ready to cross over, they and their families should be familiar and comfortable with the youth and adult leaders of the troop and feel excited about beginning this new adventure.

Webelos Scouts may join any Boy Scout troop, not just the troop the pack works with. If a Webelos Scout is more impressed after visiting a different troop he should join that one.

After all we all belong to the same program and have the same goals! The transition should be smooth with no time lost between.

Are You Using Internet Advancement?

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, all on-line. Those units using the program have reported that it lessens the work at the unit and makes advancement reporting easier and more accurate. Several reports are available for managing your unit.

During the InterNet training held during the Cub Scout College last fall we opened an attendee's pack records and the first reaction from the unit leader was, "That's not right!" By using Internet Advancement you can make it "right."

A unit ID is needed for a unit to register to use the program and is available from Dick Jump.

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

Arrow of Light

The Arrow of Light award is the only award from the Cub Scout program that carries over to the Boy Scout program. A graduating Webelos Scout who has earned the Arrow of Light Award has completed most of the Boy Scout joining requirements. With the approval of the Scoutmaster, he will receive the Boy Scout badge upon joining the troop.

However, the Arrow of Light award doesn't have to be earned by a Webelos Scout to become a Boy Scout. He can earn the Scout badge after joining the troop.

The best time to move a Webelos Scout over to the troop is at recharter time. However before doing that, make sure that all Cub Scout advancements including the Arrow of Light, has been received and accepted by the Council. To verify this check the Pack's ScoutNet account.

The Webelos Scout's records will be electronically transferred from the pack to the troop when the Webelos Scout's application to join a troop or the pack charter is received at Council. Once the records have been transferred we can't go back to the Pack records and make entries for that Webelos Scout.

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 Den Leader during recharter in February, but in September takes over as the Cubmaster. This is also true when a Den Leader becomes a Webelos Leader but the change wasn't made until after rechartering. 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.

Cub Scout Roundtable Themes

Come join other leaders in learning more about the Cub Scouting program. Roundtables are held each month on the second Thursday at 7:00 pm at the Conference Center Lakeshore, Technical College in Cleveland. Roundtables start in the Conference Center cafeteria.

January 14th - Making Den Flags, just not for Boy Scouts.

February 11th – Ceremonies that can be quick, simple, painless and more importantly ----- FUN!

March 11th – How to advertise and promote the Pack. Who to contact for submitting articles; Newspapers, church, Bay-Lakes Council.

Roundtables are the place to find out what is going on in the District, to meet the volunteer and professional staff, and other unit leaders to share ideas that work and those that don't. The goal of the Roundtable is to provide unit leaders with information and ideas to help you with the activities and programs of your Den and Pack.