

# Cub Scout Advancement

## A Guide for Pack Advancement Chairs

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Boy Scouts of America

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# Agenda

- **Introductions**
- **What is the definition of Advancement?**
- **What are the Cub Scout ranks?**
- **What are my responsibilities as Pack Advancement Chair?**
- **What specifically do I do as Pack Advancement Chair?**
- **What should I know about Advancement reporting?**
- **What about ceremonies and instant recognition?**
- **In summary, Advancement...**
- **Resources**
- **Q&A**

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# Introductions

## **MINSI TRAILS COUNCIL CUB SCOUT ADVANCEMENT COMMITTEE:**

**Chair: Cheryl Moreira**

### **District Cub Scout Advancement Chairs:**

- **Open, Pocono**
- **Becky Johnson, Forks of the Delaware**
- **Michael Philipp, South Mountain**
- **Open, Trexler**
- **Heather Ann Werley, North Valley**
- **Open, Anthracite**

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# What is the Definition of Advancement?

- **Advancement is the process by which youth members of the BSA progress from rank to rank.**
- **Advancement is a method, not an end in itself.**
- **Advancement is based on experiential learning.**
- **Personal growth is the primary goal.**

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# What are the Cub Scout Ranks?

- **Lion** - Kindergarten or 6 years old
- **Bobcat** - First rank earned no matter what age a youth joins (except Lions)
- **Tiger** - First grade or 7 years old
- **Wolf** - Second grade or 8 years old
- **Bear** - Third grade or 9 years old
- **Webeles** - Fourth grade or 10 years old
- **Arrow of Light** - Fifth grade

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# What are my Responsibilities as Pack Advancement Chair?

- Educate parents and Pack leadership
- Promote advancement tools
- Report and record advancements
- Ensure timely recognition

With the goal of ensuring Cub Scouts advance in rank annually by school year's end and are recognized in a meaningful ceremony.

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# What specifically do I do as Pack Advancement Chair?

- **Keep track of Advancements in your Pack monthly**
  - Ask Den Leaders
  - Enter into Scoutbook
  - Include ranks, belt loops, pins, awards
- **Enter advancement information into the Council's Advancement tracking program monthly**
  - Internet Advancement or via Scoutbook
  - Possible upload
  - Advancement Report form No. 34403 if necessary

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# What specifically do I do as Pack Advancement Chair?

**(Continued)**

- **Print report from Internet Advancement each month**
  - 1 copy for Minsi Trails Council's Scout Shop
  - 1 copy for Pack
  - 1 signature required: yours
- **Generate list of what needs to be purchased**
  - Via Internet Advancement or Scoutbook
  - Rank pocket certificates for instant recognition
  - Can email order to Scout Shop
- **Go to Scout Shop to purchase, or delegate to a leader or parent.**
- **Give items to Den Leaders at or before the next Pack meeting**

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# What other duties do I have?

- **Use Scoutbook to track Advancements**
- **Ensure Pack roster is updated**
- **Scout Shop Account:**
  - Receipts to Pack Treasurer
  - Account balance
  - Signature approval form
- **Log Pack service hours**
- **Track JTE progress**
- **Help with advancement ceremonies and encourage instant recognition**
- **Attend Pack Committee meetings**

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# What else should I know about Advancements?

- **Advancements unchanged with Family Scouting**
- **Den meetings designed for all youth to advance**
- **Approval of Advancements**
  - For Lion through Bear, Den Leader or Akela signs, and then Den Leader approves.
  - For Webelos and AOL, Den Leader signs and approves.
- **Advancement performance is centered on its motto: “Do Your Best”**

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# What should I know about Advancement Reporting?

- **BSA's electronic advancement reporting program may change from Internet Advancement to Scoutbook**
- **Report advancement monthly to Council**
- **Report all advancements in each calendar year before December 15 for JTE**
- **This is the youth's permanent record (AOL)**
- **Advancement and retention are linked**

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# What about Ceremonies & Instant Recognition?

- **When an advancement is completed, congratulate the youth immediately and publicly.**
  - Present at Den or Pack meetings
  - Present pocket certificates immediately, followed by the patch/pin/belt loop/award at the next Pack meeting, or vice versa
  - Youth advance at different rates
  - If a youth doesn't earn a rank, they still progress to the next rank
- **Make recognition a key part of every Pack meeting.**
- **Make every ceremony special and meaningful.**

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## In Summary, Advancement ...

- Encourages Cub Scouts to “do their best” while learning new skills and exploring new subject areas
- Provides a tangible reward for hard work
- Helps build confidence
- Facilitates a Cub Scout’s personal growth
- Provides a method to fulfill the mission and aims of Scouting

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# Resources

- **[www.scouting.org](http://www.scouting.org):**
  - <https://www.scouting.org/programs/boy-scouts/advancement-and-awards/resources/>
  - Guide to Advancement 2017 No. 33088
  - Advancement News: [advancement.team@scouting.org](mailto:advancement.team@scouting.org)
  - Advancement Report form No. 34403
  - Cub Scout Den & Pack Ceremonies No. 33212
  - Cub Scout Leader Book
  - Den Leader Guide for each rank
  - Pack Meeting Guide
- **[www.minsitrails.org](http://www.minsitrails.org)**
- **District Roundtables**
- **University of Scouting**

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# Q&A and Open Discussion

- Questions?
- Clarifications?

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