

Timing of Awards Recognition in Cub Scouts

To all Cub Scout Packs in Longhouse Council: the Council Advancement Committee (Committee) would like you to be aware of the following process that is in place for Cub Scout packs, as described in the BSA Guide to Advancement (refer to Article 4.1.0.0). Note the Pack Committee is responsible for all advancement administration.

Whenever a Cub Scout completes advancement, he or she should be congratulated immediately and publically. Although badges of rank should be held until the next pack meeting, it is best to present items such as adventure belt loops and adventure pins as soon after they have been earned as possible. If it is possible for the pack to report and purchase these belt loops and pin awards quickly, they could be presented at a den meeting, rather than waiting for a pack meeting. If presented at den meetings, the accompanying pocket certificates can be used in a ceremony at a subsequent pack meeting—or vice versa with the pocket certificates at a den meeting.

However the belt loops and pins award presentation is done, it is important to note that advancement is an individual process, not dependent on the work or progress of others. Awards should not be withheld awaiting group recognition. Likewise, a cub scout should not be presented with recognition he/she has not earned simply so that he/she will “not feel left out”.

Lastly, rank awards are to be recorded and awarded at the next monthly pack meeting and not delayed until a future time, such as the end of the school year.

You should also be aware that Longhouse Council’s policy is that all awards shall be entered by the Pack using “Internet Advancement” (ScoutNet), and that paper Advancement Reports are no longer acceptable except in extreme situations. Contact the Council office if you need assistance with this online method (call or email Ellen Tyler at (315) 463-0201 or Ellen.Tyler@scouting.org).

In addition, BSA National has acquired “ScoutBook” which will replace Internet Advancement as the new online method of documenting all Cub Scout awards. Further, “ScoutBook Lite” (which will be **free**) is currently being developed as an alternative to ScoutBook that will permit access with multiple devices: desktop, smartphone or tablet. It is expected it will be rolled out by the end of the second quarter of 2018.

Once ScoutBook Lite is available, National will require Council to transition to the ScoutBook database system for all advancement records, and Internet Advancement will be retired. ScoutBook Lite will reportedly have the major features of Internet Advancement, and is intended for Units that do not use ScoutBook. Refer to links below.

In summary, it is hoped that this information will benefit you and your pack in Cub Scout advancement.

If you have any question, please contact either the Committee Staff Advisor at the Council offices, or me.

In Scouting,
Steve Fisher
Council Advancement Committee Chair, stevefisher773@gmail.org

P.S. Here are a few links, FYI:

- “Guide to Advancement”: <http://www.scouting.org/filestore/pdf/33088.pdf>
- <https://www.scoutbook.com/>
- <https://blog.scoutingmagazine.org/2017/12/21/scoutbook-lite-to-replace-bsas-internet-advancement-platform-in-early-2018/>