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## Cornhusker Council Champions for Advancement Committee

# District Advancement Mentoring Tools

Final - Approved 01/22/2019

### Purpose

It is the desire of the Cornhusker Council Champions for Advancement Committee to establish Council wide guidelines; as they pertain to the BSA's Guidebook to Advancement, the Cornhusker Council, and each of the three Districts within the Council. These guidelines shall serve as a tool to help mentor and guide each District's Advancement Committee and its Chairperson, to establish and maintain continuity in practices throughout the Council.

As always, the current BSA Guidebook to Advancement and any changes or modifications as set forth by BSA shall be the governing policy. This document serves to help guide individuals in the position of Chairperson in their roles and duties.

### Goals

1. **Training:** As a Champion of Advancement our duty is to mentor both adults and youth throughout the Council, to achieve their highest goals in Scouting. Training is the foundation to a successful mentoring experience at any level.

Each District Advancement Chair shall work closely with the District Training Chair, or Council Training Chair if one is not available in the District, to improve access to training for all adult volunteers especially as it pertains to Advancement. Additionally, each chair shall become familiar with youth training that may become available to help them mentor their fellow Scouts either directly or indirectly as it pertains to Advancement.

2. **Youth Advancement:** Each District Advancement Chair shall work closely with the Council Advancement Committee, Council Staff and Unit Leaders within the respective District to ensure all youth are advancing at a reasonable rate.
3. **Adult Recognition:** Each District Advancement Chair shall strive to work with all District Commissioners and Units within their District to help encourage and maintain Adult Recognition. Many Units are unaware of the many opportunities for recognition be it training, leadership, philanthropy or tenure.
4. **Special Recognition:** Each District Advancement Chair shall be on the lookout for both youth and adults who go above and beyond the usual capacity of Scouting. Awards for acts of bravery, helping others and special Scouting Awards such as; religious knots, 50



Miler Awards, Historic Trails, STEM, NOVA, District Award of Merit, Silver Beaver and the like, should be encouraged for recognition.

5. **Highest Ranks:** The Council Advancement Committee, through the District Advancement Committees and their Chairs, shall encourage advancement through the highest ranks in Cub Scouting, Scouting, and Venturing.
6. **Merit Badge Counselors:** All Counselors must have current Youth Protection Training, 100% Merit Badge Counselor Training and be registered members of BSA. District Advancement Committee Chair will review all applications received by the Council Office for those adults located within their District boundaries, excluding those directly connected to Camp Cornhusker. The Committee Chair will notify the Council Office as well as the applicant if there are questions, concerns, approval, or denial of any application.
  - a. Identify subject matter experts to assist in special considerations and recognize the potential to recruit such experts into Merit Badge Counselors. Identifying experts would also include identifying NOVA and SuperNOVA Counselors.

## Specifications

1. **Training:** Those assisting with Advancement, be it at the Unit, District or Council level must maintain current Youth Protection Training, may work to become trained to present: Life to Eagle, Merit Badge Counselor Training, basic Unit Advancement Presentations, special sessions for new members to a Unit(s) Board of Review, and assisting new Unit Leaders in conducting Scoutmaster Conferences.
2. **Youth Advancement:** By working with the Council Staff, it is permissible to request advancement data as it pertains to each Unit. Thus the Chair can determine if units seem to be lagging in advancement of their members or rushing through advancement. If advancement seems to be at an unusual rate then a visit with the Unit Leadership should be in order. Additionally, District Advancement should be in contact with Units on a regular basis to catch Scouts who may have special needs or situations that should be addressed; such as Scouts potentially needing Beyond Age of Eligibility determination.
3. **Adult Recognition:** Recognition of Adults can be a difficult area to assess. Each Advancement Committee Member at every level; be it Council, District or Unit should be familiar with the variety of forms of Adult Recognition. It is important that adults do not become overlooked in their efforts to help our youth become better members of their units and communities. Work to encourage units at regular Roundtable meetings to be on the lookout for adults, including themselves, who could use some recognition. This helps to encourage adults to continue their Scouting Adventure for years to come.

The committee highly encourages working with all District Commissioners and their staff to assist in recognizing potential adults and helping to make more adults aware of various awards that may be achieved.



4. **Special Recognition:** Many special awards are available to both Scouts and Scouters. For example the Cornhusker Council offers the Winter Camping Award, as well as a variety of special event patches. BSA offers special awards such as the Paul Bunyan Award, 50-Miler Award, National Den Award, NOVA Awards, Recruiter Strip, National Outdoor Award, Hornaday Award, World Conservation Award, Venturing Leadership Awards and many others. These awards are more difficult for the Advancement Team to track, but helping Units to become familiar with the variety of awards and how to acquire more information about earning them.
5. **Highest Ranks:** Part of our mission is to ensure the potential for every Scout to advance to Scouting's highest ranks. The Council Advancement Committee annually strives to increase the number of Scouts attaining the rank of Eagle. This statement is also true for those Venturing Scouts who desire to attain the Summit Award. Ideal procedures for Eagle are outlined below:
  - a. Attain the rank of Life Scout
  - b. Scout must use the most recent Eagle Scout Service Project Workbook, No. 512-927.
    - i. Complete Project Workbook and fundraising application if needed.
    - ii. Obtain all necessary signatures.
    - iii. All paperwork shall be turned in as follows:
      1. Prairie Winds Candidates - Please contact your District Advancement Chair directly to present your project workbook and fundraising request (if required) at an Eagle Committee Meeting.
      2. Salt Valley Candidates - Mail or hand deliver your project workbook and fundraising request (if required) to the Council Office.
      3. Seven Feathers Candidates - Mail or hand deliver your project workbook and fundraising request (if required) to the Council Office. Please DO NOT bring this paperwork to a district roundtable meeting.
    - iv. District Advancement Committee and/or District Eagle Committee will review the project workbook and either; approve, approve with corrections or deny application.
    - v. District Advancement Committee Member will contact the Scout and Unit Leader with Committee decision.
  - c. Complete all necessary Eagle Rank requirements as per the current BSA Eagle Requirements, including the Eagle Project, Eagle Application, Letters of Recommendation and Letter of Life's Ambitions.
  - d. Turn in all Eagle required paperwork to the Council Office, be sure the Scout retains at least one copy of all paperwork.



- e. The Council office will contact the respective District Advancement Committee Chair or District Eagle Board Representative. Each District shall communicate with the Council Staff as to how they would like to obtain all paperwork.
  - f. Current Procedures for each District are below:
    - i. Salt Valley - All documents are emailed by the Council Office to Philip Pickard. Mr. Pickard contacts the Scout and Scoutmaster via invitation during the first week of each month to attend an Eagle Board of Review. The District Committee requires that each unit send a minimum of (2) adults to actively participate in other Reviews conducted that same evening. In addition to these adults the District Advancement Committee provides a minimum of 1 member to conduct each EBoR. If the Scout is missing documents, signature or other such items; Mr. Pickard reminds them to bring those documents to their EBoR.
    - ii. Seven Feathers - All documents are emailed by the Council office to Charles Cover. Mr. Cover contacts the Scout and Scoutmaster to establish a date, time, and location for the Eagle Board of Review. Normally, Mr. Cover will try to hold this in the Scout's community working to help ease the drive for the Scout. If the Scout is missing documents, signature or other such items; Mr. Cover will remind them to bring those documents to their EBoR.
    - iii. Prairie Winds - All communications are completed and turned into the District Advancement Chair, currently Larry Bechtel. Once the application, signed completed Eagle Project Workbook, and sealed letters of recommendation are received the Advancement Chair will contact the Scout and Unit Leader to schedule the EBoR.
6. **Merit Badge Counselors:** District Advancement Committee Chair will review all applications received by the Council Office for those adults located within their District boundaries, excluding those directly connected to Camp Cornhusker. The Committee Chair will notify the Council Office as well as the applicant if there are questions, concerns, approval, or denial of any application.
- a. Subject matter experts may be recruited to assist the Merit Badge Counselor(s) from time to time as well as being utilized for special considerations such as at Camp Cornhusker, Merit Badge Universities or other special events.

## Milestones

1. **Journey To Excellence Dashboard:** This measurement tool is at the disposal for use of any District Advancement Chair and the Council Advancement Chair. In addition to the JTE



tools Chairs should utilize Advancement Reports as they pertain to each respective district.

