

# Blue Cards Shouldn't Make You "Blue"

Merit badges are more than learning skills. They are about Scouts exploring an interest, engaging in discussions, and being recognized. When conducted properly, the merit badge process incorporates all eight of the methods of Scouting.

The MB process has been updated slightly in the new Guide to Advancement. The 2021 edition recognizes that technological advances can provide many benefits, but the overall process is unchanged and the blue card can play an important role. Alternatives to the blue card may be accepted, as long as they include the necessary information. If electronic record-keeping methods do not encompass all the steps, blue cards may be used in addition. Most importantly, a Scout should always have a permanent, hardcopy record of his or her work.

To reiterate, whether or not blue cards are included, the complete merit badge process must be followed, starting with an initial discussion between the Scout and the unit leader about the specific merit badge. The Scoutmaster (or their designee) provides advice and guidance, maybe suggesting that the Scout would get more out of the badge if they waited, or after they finished another activity. However, it is ultimately the Scout's decision to work on a particular merit badge at a particular time.

*"Since blue cards support the merit badge process as it is intended to function, the Guide to Advancement continues to reference and recommend them. It is expected that when blue cards are not used, advancement administrators at all levels will find ways to carry on the processes, interactions, documentation, and other nuances that make the process such a critical element in BSA mission achievement."*

## **Guide to Advancement: Section 7.0.0.2 – About the Application for Merit Badge (“Blue Card”)**

During that initial conversation the unit leader should provide contact information for at least one council approved merit badge counselor. However, if the Scout has one already in mind, they must be allowed to work with the registered and approved counselor of their choice. This initial meeting is integral to the merit badge process, and as such should be documented by the leader signing the blue card, or by other means.

The Scout next contacts the merit badge counselor, following all Youth Protection Training guidelines, and begins the process of completing the requirements. The counselor can consider work done at any time after the Scout was a registered Scouts BSA member, as long as the Scout actually and personally completed the requirement, **as written**.

As the Scout completes requirements, the merit badge counselor documents each by initialing and dating the spaces on the blue card, or other method. **These “partial” completions do not expire until the Scout’s 18th birthday.** The Scout may choose to finish the merit badge with a different counselor, who should accept the previous counselor’s certification of any requirements completed.

When all requirements are complete, the counselor records that information on the blue card, and/or by electronic means. The counselor should retain the “Counselor’s Record” portion of the blue card for at least one year, in case questions arise.

After all requirements are completed and approved by the counselor, the Scout shows the evidence of completion to the unit leader, who initiates a discussion on how it went, but **does not retest the Scout**. The unit leader documents this discussion as well, then the troop reports the completion to council and presents the Scout with the merit badge.

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## **Cub Scouts The 3 R's: Recruit, Recruit & Retain**

Of the six programs the BSA offers, typically over 50% of registered youth are in the Cub Scout program. Annually, we recruit more first graders to be Tigers than any other age group across all programs. In 2020, many units were unable or chose not to recruit in their communities. As a result, youth membership in the BSA plummeted.

It is time for a reset this fall, so everyone is being asked to focus on membership recruitment. As critical as that effort will be, data tells us that in a typical year we have had a problem with keeping them in the program. Voice of the Scout surveys have told us that families leave because of a poor den experience.

Dens are where the action happens, it's where we conduct activities in the form of the Adventure program. Den leaders are well meaning adults who volunteered to guide a bunch of kids through a series of activities to reach the goal of completing an Adventure. Our volunteer den leaders like to have a playbook from which to draw and know what to do when

holding a den meeting. They want to know what they should be doing with the youth and how to get it done. Our den leaders are not child development experts, they are parents and adults who volunteer. At the beginning of each program year, our den leaders and Cub Scouts are both stepping into the great unknown.

Advancement is how we deliver our program and measure the outcome, but advancement is not the end goal: it is a method for running a den meeting. Advancement should not define the activities to be completed; activities should lead to advancement. Cub Scouts do not have the developmental understanding of why they must complete certain requirements to “advance.” They came to the meeting to have a good time and do something fun. Typically, that’s all the Cub Scout cares about.

On the way home from a den meeting, Cub Scouts should be able to tell their families that they had FUN. They should be able to describe the meeting with glee and excitement and a need to return. If a Cub Scout looks out the car window and says, “That was boring,” chances are he or she will not be back to the next den meeting or register for another program year.

Our challenge is to be sure den leaders are aware of the many resources available to help our leaders provide the best program possible; each and every meeting. Let’s re-set and focus on member experiences that shine and provide great fun and adventures.

BSA resources available to provide the best Cub Scout experience for new membership – youth and adult.

Cub Scouting  
Cub Chat Live!  
Den Leader Resources  
Adult Leader Training

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# **2021 Distinguished Citizens Award Dinner**

## **Distinguished Citizen Awards Dinner**

**Wednesday, December 1, 2021  
Sheraton Framingham Hotel  
1657 Worcester Road, Framingham, MA  
01701**

**Reception 6:00 pm  
Dinner & Program 7:00 pm**

### **2021 Honorees**



## **Distinguished Citizen Award Recipient**

### **Peter J. Koutoujian Sheriff of Middlesex County**

**The Distinguished Citizen Award** is presented to community or business leaders who provide outstanding civic service to the adult and/or youth in the community. Those who receive the award are not necessarily Scout volunteers, but rather individuals who personify what the Boy Scouts of America stand for – good citizenship, outstanding moral fiber with a dedication to others, and for living their lives by the Scout Oath and Scout Law.

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# **Distinguished Eagle Scout Award (DESA)**



## **Jeffrey E. Connor Founding Member, Boston Brass**

**The Distinguished Eagle Scout Award (DESA)** was established in 1969 to acknowledge Eagle Scouts who have received extraordinary national-level recognition, fame, or demonstrated eminence within their field, and have a strong record of voluntary service to their community. The DESA is presented and administered by the National Eagle Scout Association (NESA). It is NESA's highest honor.

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## **Twenty First Century Leadership**

# Award

## Avidia Bank

**Twenty First Century Leadership Award** is presented to a company or organization that consistently sets the pace for the corporate leadership and philanthropic support of the South Shore and MetroWest communities. The honoree's work and leadership exemplify the ideals and successes of the Boy Scouts of America. The organization's corporate citizenship and community involvement set the example of what can be achieved through hard work, leadership and character, traits that set both organizations apart.

Registration is now open.

You may register and pay online or fill out the mail-in registration form.

Program book ad's must be received by November 19.

Sponsorship Opportunities

[Register online here](#)

[Mail-in registration](#)

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## #backtoschoolbacktoscouting Photo Contest



# Share the Scouting Adventure With Your Friends

## Share Your Scouting Photos In Our **#backtoschoolbacktoscouting** Contest – Ends September 30!

The Scouts create amazing adventures. Sharing the memories you make with your Scout on your social media account is one of the most powerful ways to increase parent involvement and encourage others to join. The Mayflower Council, Boy Scouts of America has created the hashtag **#backtoschoolbacktoscouting** to use with your photos of your Scouting adventures on these social media accounts to spread the word about how fun Scouting is!

**Help us share the Scouting story** by sharing your Scout's great adventures with us and with others. Simply take a moment to share a photo or something exciting you did in Scouts on Facebook, Twitter, or Instagram through Sept. 30th with the hashtag **#backtoschoolbacktoscouting**. Sharing your photos will qualify you to win special prizes such as Amazon gift cards!

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## Mayflower Summer Roundtable – July 2021

Here is the slide presentation from Mayflower Council's July 28 Summer Roundtable. Slides from the main session and

breakouts are included.

Slide Deck

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## **Scout Days at Fenway Park**

Wrap-up the summer with your Cub Scout pack, Boy Scout troop, Venture crew, Sea Scout ship, family, and friends watching the Boston Red Sox!

Two dates available this year:

Sunday, September 5, Red Sox vs Indians – this date includes a Red Sox Scout Day patch.

Sunday, September 19, Red Sox vs. Orioles – this date includes a Red Sox Scout Day patch the opportunity to participate in a post-game kids run the bases!!

Tickets are extremely limited so place your order today to avoid disappointment. We'll see you at Fenway!

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## **Westborough Good Scout Award Dinner**

**Join us on Wednesday, November 10,  
2021 to celebrate two outstanding  
individuals.**

## **Maureen Johnson and Ian Johnson**

**The Good Scout Award is bestowed upon  
individuals who have demonstrated  
integrity and genuine concern for others  
in both their professional and personal  
lives.**

***Mr. and Mrs. Johnson both serve on a  
variety of boards and committees, and  
they are each involved in organizing many  
community events. Mr. Johnson, a lifelong  
resident of Westborough and member of the  
Board of Selectmen, has served on the  
town Finance Committee. He is very  
involved in Scouting and serves as a  
member of the Good Scout Committee. Mrs.  
Johnson, President of the Westborough  
Education Foundation, Treasurer of the  
Westborough Cultural Council and co-chair  
Arts In Common, President of the Public***

*Westborough Library foundation, chairs the Annual Trivia Bee and co-chairs the Turkey Trot, popular Westborough events. She was recently named a 2020 Commonwealth Heroine.*

The recipients need not have been Scouts but must carry the “Spirit of Scouting” into their adult lives. They are people who have been unselfish in their service to others on an individual and community basis. They seek no return for their service other than the satisfaction of aiding their fellow citizens, their community, and their nation.

The Good Scouts are people who truly capture the respect and imagination of our youth.

**Registration is now open.**

**You may register and pay online or fill out the mail-in registration form.**

Sponsorship Opportunities  
Register Online Here  
Mail-In Registration

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# Resources for Answering Questions

Scouting instills values, gives youth a competitive edge and helps them become resilient adults, adults who lead. Scouting brings families together and gives them the platform for true, quality time together, where memories can be made that last a lifetime.

We also recognize that in your social circles, some may wonder about Scouting. They may ask questions about things they've heard or seen. They may be confused about who we are and what we do.

To help you answer those questions, we've put together a few tools for you.

We need to remind our communities why Scouting has thrived for more than 110-years. While we've evolved over the decades, along with our country, our values remain grounded in the same Scout Oath and Law.

Every family in our country should be invited and welcomed into Scouting.

If parents want their children to:

- Be of good character
- To experience the outdoors
- To make friends
- To have fun
- To learn things that will help them navigate life
- To be inspired to find careers and lifelong hobbies
- To work cooperatively with peers and adults

- And so much more

Then, they should try Scouting.

Please use the following tips and tools to help facilitate conversation as needed. You may have already received that question: “What’s going on with Scouting? What am I hearing about?”

# **Tell Your Story**

Lead with your story. Share why you choose Scouting for your family. If you’re a volunteer, explain why. Share the impact you’re making. If they know you, they will connect with your genuine assessment.

# **Share How Scouting Continues**

Share with them what Scouting is doing. While you can reference some national results, Scouting by the Numbers, focus on what your unit is doing locally. Share that in our local council, units have been meeting through the pandemic, either online, or in-person following all the safety guidelines of the Commonwealth. Remember that the local council has offered significant virtual programming since the start of COVID-19 including service projects, virtual campouts, activities, and advancements. The council also has a

robust plan to support units with virtual and in-person programming this fall.

# Ask What They Heard

Ask them what they've heard. If it's related to the national bankruptcy case or the advertising they may be seeing connected to past cases of abuse, please be prepared to address those questions. Please review the following tools to help you better understand these complex issues and help you better answer questions:

- 3-Things to Know about the BSA Restructuring
- Youth Safety Fact Sheet
- Bankruptcy FAQ

If you encounter a question you can't answer or need some help, do not hesitate to reach out to our Director of Field Service, Rick Riopelle.

Before any conversation about Scouting ends, don't forget to invite them to join. The easiest way to do that is to invite them to join your unit and they can register online at [www.BeAScout.org](http://www.BeAScout.org).

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## Council Key 3 Update On National BSA Bankruptcy

Dear Scouting Family,

The Boy Scouts of America (BSA) has made substantial progress in its Chapter 11 case by reaching an agreement alongside the Ad Hoc Committee of Local Councils with the Coalition of Abused Scouts for Justice, which represents a large majority of claimants in our Chapter 11 case, the Official Tort Claimants Committee (TCC), and the Future Claimants Representative (FCR). This agreement ensures that the BSA has the overwhelming support of survivors for our proposed Plan of Reorganization, which is a key step in the BSA's path toward emerging from bankruptcy.

The national organization has agreed to contribute assets with up to \$250 million in value to the Trust for survivors. Working through the Ad Hoc Committee of Local Councils, local councils have committed to making a substantial contribution in the form of \$500 million of cash and properties. Local councils would also be credited with as much as \$100 million to be paid from a Special Trust created under the BSA's Plan of Reorganization that would be funded with excess payroll cash that would otherwise be contributed to the over-funded defined benefit pension plan, also known as the pension fund, so long as the pension fund is over-funded by at least \$100 million at the time of payment. The establishment and operation of the Special Trust does not impact defined benefit pension plan payments to current or future retirees or the BSA's current pension plan for current or former employees at the Mayflower Council or any other local council.

We are hopeful that this progress toward a global resolution benefits the entire Scouting community, as this agreement will help local councils like ours make contributions to the Trust without additional draw on their assets, allowing us to move forward with the national organization toward emergence as one Scouting Family.

The Mayflower Council continues to communicate with national leadership via the Ad Hoc Committee of Local Councils and is collaborating with all parties to the BSA's Chapter 11 case to



find a solution that will appropriately fund a Trust to compensate survivors while also ensuring the future of Scouting. The Mayflower Council has no plans to liquidate any of our three camping properties to fund our contribution to the Trust. We, also, understand from both the national organization and the Ad Hoc Committee that the proposed agreement will not impact any pension benefits provided to current or former employees of the Mayflower Council.

We remain as committed as ever to delivering Scouting's unparalleled experiences to young people throughout our communities. We are providing an exciting summer of adventures and character-building activities, including Adventure Day Camp at Camp Resolute, Scouts BSA Summer Day Experience at Camp Resolute, Scouts BSA Resident Camp at Camp Squanto, and both tent and cabin camping at Nobscot Scout Reservation.

Yours in Scouting,

Ian Johnson  
Council President

Josh Paulin  
Council Commissioner

Bryan Feather  
Scout Executive / CEO

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## **Cub Scout & Scouts BSA Yo-Yo Programs**

Completing the Cub Scout Yo-Yo Preview Adventure and finding fun recruitment giveaways just got a lot easier. Order

customized Yo-Yos, choosing your color and adding a logo, or purchase case packs of 12 Yo-Yos, prefect for making sure a den has everything they need for the Yo-Yo Preview Adventure. Duncan also offers the Yo-Yo Teen Program for Scouts BSA to fine-tune their tricks and earn patches long the way.

Cub Scout Yo-Yo Preview Adventure  
Scouts BSA Yo-Yo Program