Recording Youth Training

The unit key 3 has the ability to access the Training Manager in my.scouting to record face to face training that youth have completed. This would include Den Chief Training, Introduction to Leadership Skills, NYLT, NAYLE and the NYLT Leadership Academy and others. Youth training records are a part of the training manager and can be very useful in reviewing the training a youth has completed, eligibility for NYLT, potential NYLT staff selection and other roles of continuing youth leadership.

To add youth training, go to the Training Manager in the my.scouting website. Choose the “add/search” function. From there, select “Optional Youth Training”. Most courses will be in this drop down box although additional training is in the “Other” drop down box or the program specific drop down. You can then select the appropriate course and the course dates. From there, add members and submit.

BSA Incident Reporting Requirements

Incident Reporting will be a highly monitored reporting area in the Scout post-bankrupt operating environment. We need to ensure that all Scout leaders understand what Incident Reporting is and why it is important that all incidents are accurately and timely reported. Scouting strongly encourages units to report any incident so risk management can ensure any unsafe conditions are addressed and safety measures are put in

place. We may also recommend training that may need to be created or enhanced to ensure safety and for insurance purposes. The Incident Report landing page link below, will explain why reporting is so important and the links to the appropriate report.

Incident Reporting Landing Page

Incident Reporting Requirements

Near Miss Reporting Tool
Incident Reporting Tool

Youth Protection/Membership Infraction Reporting Tool

Please share this information with other unit leaders and assistants so they are aware of the reporting requirements.

Webelos to Scout Transition

Webelos prepares Scouts for the change from Cub Scouting to Scouts BSA. While Webelos are members of a Cub Scout pack, they become more involved in planning their own activities and performance approval begins to move from parents to unit leaders.

The two-year Webelos experience is a time of transition from Cub Scouting to crossing the bridge to membership in a Scouts BSA troop. Webelos and their families should be familiar and comfortable with the youth and adult leaders of the Scouts BSA troop, their role in the troop and troop activities, and feel excited about beginning this new adventure. The passage from a pack to a troop should be smooth, with no time lost in between. The crossover ceremony should clearly signify the

transition to a new level of Scouting.

The key factor to a good Webelos transition is the ongoing working relationship of the leaders of a Cub Scout pack and a Scouts BSA troop. Ideally, a community organization would have both a pack and a troop with leaders who work together to help move Webelos Scouts into a Scouts BSA troop, the same way schools move students from elementary school to middle school.

By planning and coordinating their efforts, the pack and troop can help make the Webelos-to-Scout transition seamless and give all Webelos a chance to experience the fun and excitement of joining a Scouts BSA troop.

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.

> *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.*

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

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

#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!

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

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!

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