

NEWS FROM THE ADVANCEMENT COMMITTEE:

Merit Badge Changes:

Changes were recently announced for some very popular merit badges as a direct result of feedback from leaders across the country.

Cooking

For years, Scout leaders reported that there was not enough “cooking” in the Cooking merit badge, and it did not adequately represent all types of cooking. In 2014, the badge became an Eagle Scout-required badge once again, and these concerns were addressed. Almost immediately, feedback began to come in from leaders saying that although the new requirements were a great improvement, perhaps they went overboard. The badge had become more technical and science-oriented and the requirements could be better organized. In a very unusual move, an update was released this year to help our Scouts earn the badge without losing the original intent of the improvements. REMEMBER... A Scout can continue to use the older requirements should he choose to, or he can switch to the new. The choice is his. Both sets of requirements can be found at www.scouting.org/meritbadges.aspx.

Lifesaving

Several requirements were rewritten to reinforce safety and to clarify for Scouts and counselors what is expected. The pamphlet has greatly been improved with new text and photos.

Snow Sports

Scouts have previously been able to earn this badge by demonstrating their skills in skiing or snowboarding. Now, they will also be able to do so with a third option--snowshoeing. Many Scouts participate in snowshoeing at camp, and now they can earn Snow Sports merit badge by doing so.

Awards and Recognitions

Cub Scouts Shooting Sports Awards – Take Aim at New Fun!

Cub Scout Shooting Sports Awards are here! To discover the new opportunities, visit the Program Updates web page (scouting.org/programupdates), and see the details for the inclusion of BB guns, archery, and slingshots in Cub Scout programs.

These programs may only be conducted at a district or council level and by qualified range masters and supervisors. Boys will earn the shooting sports awards in a particular order:

1. Rank-level patch. Choose a discipline: BB gun, archery, or slingshot. Complete the Level 1 requirements for that discipline.
2. Discipline device (pin). Complete the Level 2 requirements for the same discipline in which the patch was earned.

3. Additional discipline devices. Earn pins for the remaining disciplines by completing the Level 1 and Level 2 requirements in those disciplines. (Note: Both Level 1 and Level 2 requirements must be completed for each successive discipline.)

Find the Cub Scout Shooting Sports Awards Requirements at

www.scouting.org/filestore/program_update/pdf/510-320_WEB.pdf

Cub Scout Rank Advancement

Please make sure that all Webelos and Arrow of Light ranks are entered recorded before your Scout crosses over is registered in a Boy Scout unit. Once he is registered in a troop, any Cub Scout ranks that were earned including Arrow of Light will not be able to be entered in the youth's scouting history. This is why prompt recording of advancements is important. All ranks should count for the Scout and be on their permanent Scouting record.