

OCTOBER – LET’S TALK ABOUT ADVANCEMENT

Music Full then Under

AARON: Oh, I hear the music, so it must be time for the October CubCast. I’m Aaron Derr, Cubmaster and Senior Writer for *Boys’ Life* Magazine, along with Amy Hutcherson, Membership Growth Coach for the Northeast Region.

AMY: Okay. By now your dens and packs have already gone through forming and storming and should be in the norming phase of group and team development.

AARON: So, this episode will dissect everything we need to know about advancement.

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AARON: With Missy Campbell, Cubmaster of Pack 157 with the Great Smoky Mountain Council in Knoxville, Tennessee. She is also the Cub Scout Outdoor Adventure Chair. Welcome to CubCast, Missy.

MISSY: Hi! Thank you for having me.

AARON: So, Missy, what qualifies as advancement in Cub Scouts?

MISSY: When they first start out, first they would earn their Bobcat, and then after their Bobcat, depending on what den they’re in, earn their Tiger Badge, their Wolf Badge, Bears, Webelos, or an Arrow of Light Badge.

AARON: And what role do the Adventures play in Cub Scouting?

MISSY: So, the Adventure side that they immediately get recognition towards their advancement.

AARON: Gotcha.

AMY: Okay, Missy, so we know advancements that it's one of the eight methods of Cub Scouting. Can you explain to us why advancement is so important?

MISSY: It's exciting to see them earn it - they're having a great time. They're learning responsibility, respect. They're enthusiastic. And just to earn that badge, I mean, you can see in some of their faces and when they earn that advancement they're so excited and they cannot wait to put that advancement on their uniform, so they can go and show other friends and tell them all about Cub Scouts and what it's like so, it's very important to them that they have advancements.

AARON: Very nice. Now, are advancements awarded at den or pack meetings?

MISSY: We award the advancements in our pack meetings and we have a pack meeting once a month - we turn it into a special event for them, so we usually have like an ice cream social or a pizza luncheon. So, they're getting advancements and, it's their special day.

AARON: We always gave advancements at pack meetings because I felt like it was important for them to be recognized in front of the whole pack, in front of

their families and everything, cuz like you say, it's so important to them and it's nice for them to get recognized in front of the entire pack and not just in front of the boys in their own den, so. yeah, I agree with that philosophy.

AMY: Who is responsible for tracking advancement within the pack committee structure and why is tracking important?

MISSY: We have an advancement chair; he'll record everything for us and then go to the store and purchase the loops and all their pins, everything they've earned, and we actually have it on hand so when we do have the pack meeting we are prepared to make sure that they get that that night, because it's very important to actually get something in their hand besides just a piece of paper.

AARON: And how exactly does the advancement chair track the advancement, Missy?

MISSY: For each den we have an advancement sheet, so every time they have earned something, she just checks off the name and then what was earned for that advancement until that they have reached like Wolf Badge or a Bear Badge or a Tiger Badge.

AARON: Well, I've got some great news for you, Missy and for all our listeners, too. Are you ready? The BSA has announced that ScoutBOOK will be **FREE** for all units starting January 1st. That means that you can track, record, and report your advancement on-line and you'll no longer have to fill out

advancement reports, because ScoutBook does it automatically for you. Just go to scoutbook.com to learn more.

AMY: So, we're always looking for ways to get the parents involved and their son or daughter's Cub Scouting experience, so how can we get our parents involved in the advancement process and even the presentation?

MISSY: You have to show them how it's important to them that they're involved in their child's life and to show them that we want them to be involved and to have them join our pack. It makes it more special and it shows the kids how much they care about them. And of course, we need all the help we can get so we definitely encourage parents to step in and help out in any way they can, like bring in something, for our special event. I try to at least incorporate every parent that we can and, and that way no one feels left out.

AMY: Nice.

AARON: Missy, are there any resources out there available to help leaders with advancement?

MISSY: Oh, absolutely. We have our leader guides. Each den has a leader guide and parents can actually look through that guide. It tells them exactly how they could go about it. It is a great guide to have.

AMY: I'm so glad that we're covering this. Is there anything about advancement that we haven't talked about that you think we might ought to share with our listeners?

MISSY: Our main thing is to make sure that it's given out in front of the family members at pack meetings because we want them to feel excited and we want them to go out and show the other boys or girls, "Look what I earned, this is so exciting, come join Scouting with me", and that way we can get more kids recruited into the Scouting family.

AARON: Well, the program really should revolve around the boy or the girl and the growth and accomplishments of each and every member. So, Missy, thanks for joining us on CubCast.

MISSY: Thank you for having me.

AMY: After this Safety Moment, we'll be back with Reminders and Tips.

(Safety Moment – Intruders)

AMY: Yikes! And that's exactly why we have Safety Moments. But now it's time for our magnificent Monthly Reminders. Let's start with council roundtables. To locate roundtable sites and times, check with your Unit Commissioner, your local Scouting professional, the Council Service Center, council website, or your Cub Scout calendar.

AARON: There's really no better way to help deliver a quality program than to experience the idea sharing that goes on at those meetings. Need more

convincing? You can listen to the September 2016 Cubcast to hear an in-depth discussion of the benefits of roundtables.

AMY: Now here's a question you should be asking yourself: Are all your committee positions filled? Just to review, you should have a committee chair, pack trainer, secretary/treasurer, advancement chair, outdoor chair, membership chair, and a finance/fundraising chair. The responsibilities for each role are outlined in the Cub Scout Leader Book.

AARON: The committee chair is responsible for filling all the slots, but leaders can help out by remaining on the lookout for good candidates at their work, church, or neighborhood. You can listen to the July ScoutCast for more ideas on where you can find folks to fill these committee positions.

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AARON: So that's it for the October CubCast. Thanks to Missy Campbell for joining us.

AMY: And thank you for listening. Are there other topics we should be discussing? Send an email to Cubcast@scouting.org or tweet @Cubcast. And with that, I'm Amy Hutcherson...

AARON: And I'm Aaron Derr. We look forward to hearing from you.

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