

# Soaring News

*News on advancement for the Susquehanna Council*

Edition 18-4

September 2018

This newsletter is prepared by the Susquehanna Council Advancement committee as a resource for leaders of cub scout and boy scout units and merit badge counselors. Its purpose is to provide current information on changes regarding advancement, as well as clarifications of advancement requirements and tips, reminders, and guidelines on advancement.

## Headlines

### [Youth Protection](#)

Cub Scout rank advancement

[Update on Scoutbook](#)

Boy Scout rank advancement

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Merit Badges

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## Youth Protection

- **A reminder that all leaders are required to complete the new youth protection (YP) training that is now available for staff, leaders, and parents by September 30, 2018.**

The new youth protection training is available online and can be accessed through My.Scouting.org. The training includes a three-module course and a test. Each module is a stand-alone activity and can be completed at different times (the individual does not have to do them all at the same sitting). It takes a total of about one and a half hours to complete all three modules and the test. The training encompasses Venturing and Exploring Youth Protection; therefore, those videos are no longer available.

Leaders who were trained in the former YP course and whose certification from that course was originally scheduled to last beyond September 30 have had their training records changed to reflect September 30 as their expiration date. In other words, **if you completed the YP training in 2017 or early in 2018, you must take this new course to remain registered after September 30.**

Leaders with expired YP training will find that they cannot re-register in Scouting until they take the new course.

## Cub Scout rank advancement

- **Update on Scoutbook** [from Bryan On Scouting, August 31, 2018, Bryan Wendell]  
See Boy Scout rank advancement.

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## Boy Scout rank advancement

➤ **Update on Scoutbook** [from [Bryan On Scouting, August 31, 2018](#), Bryan Wendell]

It's a bit like learning there's enough Dutch oven peach cobbler for everyone to have seconds.

It seems too good to be true, but you will absolutely take it.

The BSA announced today that it will make Scoutbook subscriptions free to all BSA units beginning Jan. 1, 2019. Units that already use Scoutbook won't be charged when they renew their subscription on or after Sept. 1, 2018.

Scoutbook is the BSA's online unit management tool and helps Scouts, parents and leaders track advancement and milestone achievements along the Scouting trail.

Previously, units paid a small annual fee — up to \$1 per Scout per year — to access Scoutbook's powerful features, which are accessible on any device. By making Scoutbook free for everyone, the BSA can drive program consistency and deepen our movement's engagement with youth and adult leaders.

The move means everyone can enjoy what more than 1 million users already know: Scoutbook can improve your Scouting experience.

What does this news mean for existing Scoutbook users? How will this affect the future of Scoutbook? Here's what you need to know.

- How will my unit be affected?
  - Units with a current Scoutbook account: When they need to renew their subscription this fall, they will not pay any renewal fees, effective Sept. 1, 2018.
  - Councils that provide Scoutbook accounts for their units: When they need to renew these unit subscriptions this fall, they will not pay any renewal fees, effective Sept. 1, 2018.
    - (Essentially, units — or councils paying for their units — can renew Scoutbook subscriptions in September, October, November or December 2018 at no cost.)
  - Units without a current Scoutbook account: They can begin their free Scoutbook unit subscription on Jan. 1, 2019.
- Will existing users get a refund?

No. There are no plans to reimburse anyone who has previously paid for a Scoutbook subscription. This change applies only to any new Scoutbook subscriptions effective Jan. 1, 2019, or later — and to any renewing Scoutbook subscriptions that would normally be paid between Sept. 1, 2018, and Dec. 31, 2018.
- What if a current Scoutbook unit needs to add more Scouts this fall?

Let's say your pack has a 75-Scout subscription with 15 open slots. You expect to recruit well over that number this fall. Can you add Scouts to your subscription when/if that happens?

Yes, if you have a current Scoutbook subscription, after Sept. 1, 2018, you can renew your subscription (if needed) or add more youth to Scoutbook at no cost.

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- What should units that don't currently have Scoutbook do this fall?  
Scoutbook will be free to all units beginning Jan. 1, 2019.  
In the meantime, watch for the release of Scoutbook Lite for all units later in 2018. This free online tool will provide a slightly different user experience from the full Scoutbook, but it will help your unit track advancements for all your youth members.
- How will subscriptions/renewals work in 2019 and beyond?  
The need to "subscribe" or "renew" annually will become unnecessary. Once your unit is on Scoutbook, you'll be set for as long as your unit would like to continue using this free tool.
- How will making Scoutbook free affect its performance?  
Scoutbook will only continue to improve. The BSA IT and Member Care teams will continue to support Scoutbook with their timely service and quality resources. Scoutbook performance enhancements have been implemented regularly over the years, and its performance is continually monitored.
- Where can I get more information about this change in Scoutbook?  
Contact Scoutbook.support@scouting.org

## Merit Badges

- **Re-registration as a merit badge counselor.** After August 31, any individual that was registered as a counselor with the council last year and did not submit their re-registration letter prior to that date must now reapply to serve as a counselor. In order to reapply, the individual must submit a complete [Merit Badge Counselor Application](#) {click for link to the form}.

## Links

Guide to Advancement: <https://www.scouting.org/resources/guide-to-advancement/>

Advancement News from the National Advancement Program Team,

Jan-Feb 2018: [https://filestore.scouting.org/filestore/advancement\\_news/2018\\_Jan-Feb.pdf](https://filestore.scouting.org/filestore/advancement_news/2018_Jan-Feb.pdf)

Mar-Jun 2018: <http://files.constantcontact.com/137c2ed6201/a12ace4f-01d3-41b7-a8fb-6abd6cfc6b3.pdf>

Jul-Aug 2018: <http://files.constantcontact.com/137c2ed6201/0fe935df-74b5-4d5d-8d88-6a2dfa196110.pdf>

Sep-Oct 2018: <http://files.constantcontact.com/137c2ed6201/29674875-4bb1-4d12-8eee-ee809f5a3f42.pdf>

Merit badge requirements: <https://www.scouting.org/programs/boy-scouts/advancement-and-awards/merit-badges/>

Advancement and awards: <https://www.scouting.org/programs/boy-scouts/advancement-and-awards/>

Information for Life Scouts in the Susquehanna Council to help in attaining the rank of Eagle:

<http://councils.scouting.org/Council533/Advancement/For%20Eagle%20Scout%20Candidates>