

CHAPTER 8

Advancement Ceremonies



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Is It Important to Present Advancement Badges With a Ceremony?

The answer to this question is, YES! Boys have worked hard to complete the advancement requirements and feel a sense of accomplishment that they have reached their goal. When their efforts are recognized in an impressive ceremony, they are proud and inspired to accomplish even more. Other boys in the pack are also motivated to work harder and complete the achievements toward their next award. If the awards were just handed to the boy with a handshake and congratulations, there could be a sense of disappointment and a question about whether the badge is really such a “big deal.” Don’t let this happen to boys in your pack. Keep the ceremonies effective and fun, and there will always be time to celebrate the accomplishments of boys at each pack meeting.

Adapting Ceremonies

Depending on the advancements that you have for each month’s pack meeting, you’ll need to adapt these ceremonies to fit your needs.

- You can delete any section that relates to a badge that you are not presenting or change that section to a narrative form in place of the badge presentation. Use your imagination to make the ceremonies work for you.
- A variety of leaders can be involved in the advancement ceremony. You can use an advancement chair, the Cubmaster, assistant Cubmasters, den leaders, den chiefs, and pack trainers.
- Use simple props and costumes to enhance your ceremonies. Tie in the Core Value being focused on for the month. The *Den & Pack Meeting Resource Guide* has ideas for advancement ceremonies that relate to the Core Values. Cub Scout roundtables will also have suggestions and examples.
- Be creative and write your own ceremonies—and then send them to the Boy Scouts of America, Innovation Team, using the form in the appendix.

- Be sensitive to boys who have difficulty reciting in front of a group. All of us have had the experience of forgetting something when we are put on the spot, even if we know it well. Make sure that boys recite the Cub Scout Promise and Law of the Pack in a group. If a single boy is receiving an award, have the pack stand and join him in reciting the Cub Scout Promise.

Advancement Props

Remember to consider ease of use and storage when designing your props. You’ll find ideas for pack ceremony equipment in the *Cub Scout Leader How-To Book* and *Cub Scout Leader Book*. Use your imagination to develop your own props and equipment.

Key to Cub Scouting (Bobcat)

Materials: An oversized key cut out and painted gold with “Scout Spirit” written on it and smaller keys for each boy receiving the Bobcat badge

NARRATOR: We have some boys with us today who recently joined the Scouting program. Will [Names] and their families please come forward?

The Scouting program provides you with many challenges. You attend weekly den meetings and monthly pack meetings. You work on advancement requirements at home with your family and also with your den.

You should set your sights on the Arrow of Light Award early. There is a key to achieving this goal, and it is the key to Scouting. Do you know what it is? (*Wait for responses and point at the key you are holding.*) The key to Scouting is Scout Spirit. Scout Spirit includes teamwork, fair play, and good sportsmanship. It includes that “something special” that makes a Scout want to be the best he can be at everything he does. This key will unlock the door to your achievement.

Remember that with this key to Scouting, you can now begin to walk the Scouting trail. The first step is the Bobcat badge that you are receiving tonight. I will present this badge to your families because of the help they have given you. (*Present badges to families.*)

