

Is Advancement Important?

"The spirit is there in every boy; it has to be discovered and brought to light." Lord Baden Powell.

Are we keeping our Promise? We promised them what is in the Boy Scout Handbook, four hundred and eighty pages of opportunity. Advancement is not so much what is on paper, but a measure of growth in our boys. If we are helping to mold boys, they should grow. Rank advancement encourages the Scout to increase his skills and provides the opportunity to learn new skills and experience new adventures. As he learns, he grows in his ability to do his part in the patrol and the Troop. Those experiences help open the door to his future.

Boys are faced with many opportunities these days. In order to keep them interested in Boy Scouting, they should be encouraged to set goals and work toward that end. When they have reached a goal, it is important that they are recognized. Once that recognition is made, he is encouraged to set the next goal. If there is no recognition, then it will seem to the boy that advancement isn't that important.

Our jobs as leaders are to encourage advancement and to report that advancement to the Council on a timely basis. Steady advancement shows that we have strong programs that are living up to the Promise.

While advancement is important to the health of a unit and the Scouting program, more importantly, it is a sign of growth in our boys. That is why we do what we do. Thank you for helping shape our future through our Boy Scouts.