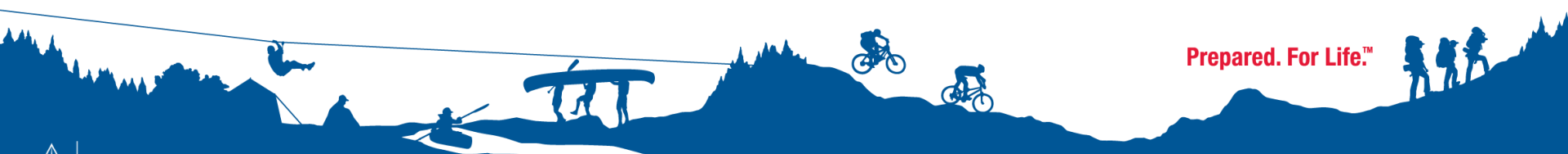




Best Practices

Advancement All Year Long



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Scouting's Organizing Principle #1

Scouting is a volunteer driven membership movement

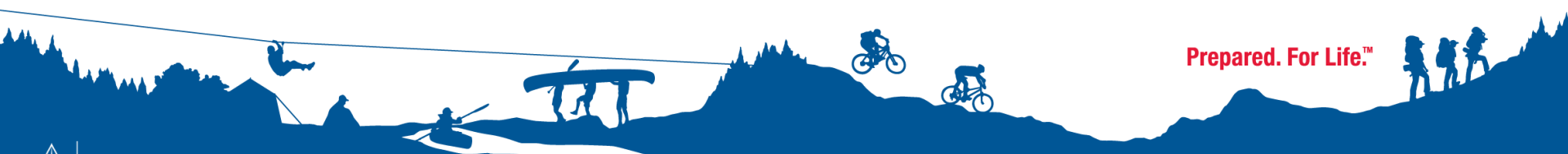
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Movement

**A group of people joining together
for a common cause**



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Scouting's Organizing Principle #2

Partnership with Community Organizations

(Refer to Annual Charter Agreement)

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Call to Service

If you or someone else in your unit have unique skills in;

- Leadership
- Fundraising
- Training
- Event planning

and have an interest at another level beyond the unit, please let this presenter know or contact your local district executive.

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State of the Unit

Talk about how your unit is doing (2 minutes)

- **Is it growing**
- **Share some calendar highlights**
- **Is it financially sound**

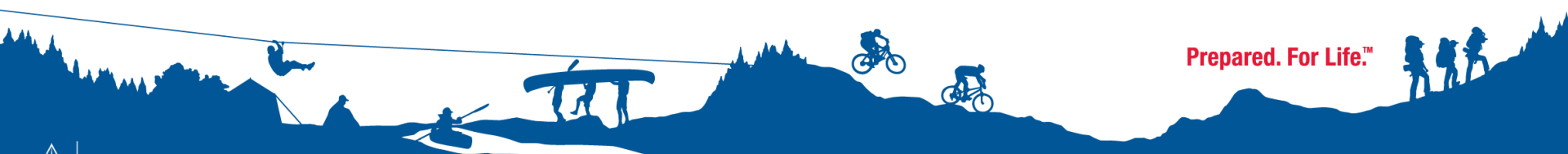
What do you do best (5 minutes)

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Time to begin your module

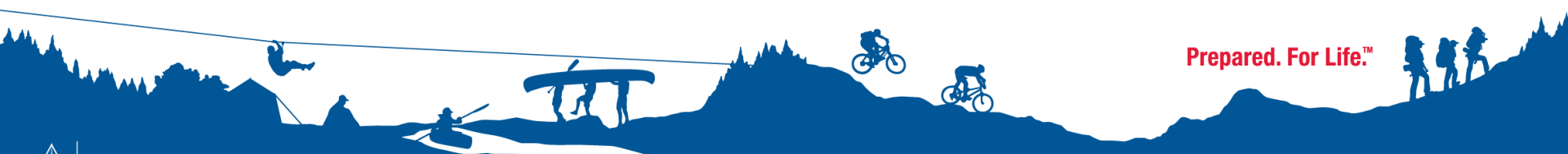


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Advancement All Year Long!



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How will this help my Troop?

- A robust year round program giving the Scouts an opportunity to advance.
- Scouts who advance stay active and get more out of the program.
- Learn about materials best suited for leaders.
- Introduce tools to make a positive impact on your scouts.
- Emphasis on the best parts of the materials.
- Best resources for planning Troop operations.

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How will your Scouts benefit?

Boy Scouting provides a series of surmountable obstacles and steps in overcoming them through the advancement method. The Boy Scout plans his advancement and progresses at his own pace as he meets each challenge. The Boy Scout is rewarded for each achievement, which helps him gain self-confidence. The steps in the advancement system help a Boy Scout grow in self-reliance and in the ability to help others.

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How will your Scouts benefit?

“Every Scouting activity moves boys toward three basic aims: character development, citizenship training, and mental and physical fitness.”

“Advancement is one of the eight methods used by Scout leaders to help boys fulfill the aims of the BSA.”
—*Scoutmaster Handbook*

- Learn new skills
- Potentially find a career or lifelong hobby
- Enjoy Scouting more
- Outstanding Program

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Four Steps in Scout Advancement

- A Scout advances from Tenderfoot to Eagle by doing things with his patrol and troop, with his leaders, and on his own.
- Well-delivered programming will take boys to First Class in their first year of membership.
- Advancement is a simple matter when the four steps or stages outlined below are observed and integrated into troop programming.
- The Scout Learns
- The Scout Is Tested
- The Scout Is Reviewed

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The Scout Learns

- He learns by doing, and as he learns, he grows in his ability to do his part as a member of the patrol and troop. As he develops knowledge and skill, he is asked to teach others; and in this way he learns and develops leadership.

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The Scout Is Tested

- **The Scoutmaster authorizes those who may test and pass the Scout on rank requirements. They might include his patrol leader, senior patrol leader, an assistant unit leader, a troop committee member, another Scout, or the Scoutmaster himself. Merit badge counselors teach and test him on requirements for merit badges.**

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The Scout Is Reviewed

- After he has completed all requirements for a rank, the Scout meets with a board of review. For Tenderfoot, Second Class, First Class, Star, and Life ranks, and Eagle Palms, members of the unit committee conduct it.
- The Eagle Scout board of review is held in accordance with National Council and local council procedures.

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The Scout Is Recognized

- When the board of review has approved his advancement, the Scout deserves recognition as soon as possible. This should be done at a ceremony at the next unit meeting.
- The certificate for his new rank may be presented later, during a formal court of honor.

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Planning for a full year of advancement

- **You should conduct an annual planning process with your Scouts**
 - Materials are provided by the council to assist in this process
 - You inform all Scouts about the meeting and encourage them to attend
 - You brainstorm possible activities and ideas for what the troop will do the following year; make sure there is a mix of activities
 - Look at what advancement they are requesting or lines up with the activities they choose
 - Help youth identify resources to complete those requirements
 - Support them as they recruit merit badge councilor or other leaders to help them

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Resources

- **The Boy Scout Handbook**
- **The Scoutmaster Handbook**
- **Troop Program Features Vol. I-III**
- **Summer Camp**
- **Merit Badge Books**
- **The Guide to Advancement**
- **Scouting Magazine**
- **District Roundtables**
- **University of Scouting**

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Online Resources

- <http://www.crossroadsbsa.org/>
 - Crossroads of America Council Website
 - Links to District sites
 - Council & District Calendars
- <http://www.scouting.org/>
 - BSA National Website
 - Visit and explore often
- <http://www.usscouts.org/>
 - By Volunteers for Volunteers
 - Covers topic A-Z
- <http://www.meritbadge.com/>
 - Excellent advancement resource

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Who can Help?

- **First contact should *always* be your Unit Commissioner**
- **District Commissioner and staff**
- **District Executives**
- **Council Support Staff**
- **Other leaders in your unit**
- **Parents!!**
- **Community leaders and organizations**

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What does success look like.....

- **Have we taken the Journey to Excellence. Use this tool to measure how successful the Troop truly is.**
 - Bronze Level - Have 40% of Boy Scouts advance one rank or have a 2 percentage points increase.
 - Silver Level - Have 45% of Boy Scouts advance, or 40% advance and have a 2 percentage points increase.
 - Gold Level - Have 50% of Boy Scouts advance, or 45% and have a 2 percentage points increase.

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