



Internet Advancement Becomes Mandatory as of May 1, 2016



Effective May 1, 2016, all advancement reporting in Mid-America Council will be using Internet Advancement. This system allows units to report advancements electronically and directly into the BSA system.

The Process

Access Internet Advancement through our council website, enter your advancements, print the report, and bring it to the BSA Scout Shop to purchase the advancements. Advancement information from other online software including Packmaster, Troopmaster, and Scoutbook, can be exported and uploaded into Internet Advancement without retyping.

The three-part paper Advancement Report form will no longer be used or accepted by the Mid-America Council or Scout Shop to purchase advancements.

How to Start:

Go to http://www.mac-bsa.org/bs_advancement_online.aspx to log in and enter advancements.

Additional resources, frequently asked questions, and video tutorials are available on the website listed above.

Please Note:

Scoutbook, Packmaster, Troopmaster, and other online software are invaluable unit management tools. Internet Advancement is not a replacement for them, but rather is a tool to facilitate communication to the National BSA database.

Questions? Contact Scouter Services at 402-431-9272 or MAC@scouting.org.



Why Use Internet Advancement?

In 2006, when Internet Advancement (IA) was rolled out, the Board of Directors of the Mid-America Council voted to still allow Paper Advancement Report for our Scouters to adjust to the new system and for our rural Scouters who may not have the internet capability. The overwhelming number of paper advancements submitted throughout fall 2015 has caused us to take a look at the processes in place. The majority of paper advancements received were not from rural Scouters.

How does Internet Advancement effect the council?

- In the months of September, October, and November 237 paper advancement reports were submitted. This represented 113 units and contained 3,564 items for 2,646 Scouts.
- At the time of submitting the paper advancement, 256 Scouts listed on the report were NOT registered. The IA system uses the BSA membership database, making sure your membership records are the same as ours. That will help in many efforts, including rechartering, identifying unregistered members, providing insurance claim information, Eagle Scout applications, and communication with new member families.
- Throughout 2015, 75 units or 16% of units showed zero advancements for their youth. Those units are potentially using other online software to track records and not uploading the report into Internet Advancement. The goal in 2016 is for 100% units to show advancement in Internet Advancement.

How will Internet Advancement benefit you and your unit?

- You will be able to see a “real-time” snapshot of your current membership roster at any time.
- You will be able to print out all advancement on record for a youth member – and make sure it is complete.
- You can easily make sure the council receives accurate data – helping us avoid pending advancement where only a nickname is received.
- Parents will have accurate records when requested at the Scout office.
- You can be sure all your records are submitted in a timely fashion – no delays when the council gets backlogged entering data!
- You can use the system to create a shopping list for awards.
- Eagle Scout records will be consistent with council records which will reduce errors when receiving the local council verification.
- You can see (and print out via rosters and temporary membership cards) the ID number of every adult volunteer. That can help encourage leaders to access online training and be sure it will post to their record, like Youth Protection Training.

Please allow our advancement team and Scouter Services to assist you in answering all your questions about IA, and join us in improving this process as a win-win effort.

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