

Frequently Asked Questions

Q Other than being licensed for Internet Rechartering, what agreements are needed to use Internet Advancement?

A None. The Internet Rechartering license grants the council authorization to use Internet Advancement.

Q In what way is the Internet Advancement PowerPoint presentation used to support the council and its training of staff and volunteers?

A The Internet Advancement presentation is useful with a variety of audiences. Show it to units, the council executive board members, council and district advancement committee members, council and district commissioner staff, and district committee members to inform them of the new application. Use it to orient council staff members. The council may edit the presentation to add slides with local information. The presentation may also be placed on the council Web site.

Q Will the Internet Advancement application work through any Internet connection and with any browser?

A Internet Advancement is supported by Microsoft Internet Explorer version 5.5 or higher. No other browser provides full functionality. The system works with a minimum 56-KB dialup modem connection to the Internet. Faster connections such as DSL and cable will speed up the process.

Q How does the unit get its unit ID number for Internet Advancement?

A The council provides it. The council can print the Unit List and Unit Labels from Web Admin > IADV Admin. The list and labels have the unit ID. The council decides the best method to distribute unit IDs to the units. As long as a unit is renewed as a reregistered or separated unit, its unit ID will not change. The unit ID may or may not be distributed each year to all units; the council should decide if this is necessary.

Q Can the unit ID the council gives a unit be used to see another unit's data?

A No. Each unit has a unique unit ID and must be used in combination with the proper unit type (pack, troop, team, crew, ship, or post) and four-digit unit number to register the unit. When a user first registers, he will create a password. This password and the unit ID will allow the user to log in as a returning user the next time he uses Internet Advancement. The unit ID for Internet Advancement is the same as the unit ID used for Good Turn for America. Internet Advancement and GTFA are completely separate applications, however.

Frequently Asked Questions, Continued

Q Should the council provide advancement guidelines for its units as it has in the past?

A Yes, the use of Internet Advancement does not change the need for council advancement procedures. The council should tell unit leadership how to turn in the Advancement Reports from Internet Advancement and how to handle reports for advancements not entered online or for upload files. Because the Eagle Scout rank cannot be submitted online, the leaders of a troop, team, crew, and ship must know how to follow the Eagle Scout advancement procedures.

Q What is the local council's role for support and administration of Internet Advancement?

A The council serves as the “help desk” for its units using Internet Advancement. The council staff must know how Internet Advancement works. They will answer questions from units, referring to a Help file designed especially for council support. The council will administer the process by providing units with their respective unit IDs, monitoring unit activity, changing passwords, resetting profiles, and unit data, and creating reports requested by council management for staff and volunteer use.

Q What about the use of unit-management software and advancement file uploads?

A The council may accept files from units for processing in ScoutNET as before. If the council has not been entering advancement to individual records, then an upload file from unit-management software can update member records to the benefit of the unit and council. If there is a problem with a file, however, it is the unit's responsibility to contact the vendor who sold and supports that product and request their assistance. Internet Advancement does not have the capability to process advancement file uploads.

Q What other support materials will be available to councils for training and communicating Internet Advancement?

A The communications packet on Internet Advancement includes the guidelines for training, sample formats for the Web site and newsletter article, and suggestions for implementing the training and communications plan.

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Frequently Asked Questions, Continued

Q What ranks, merit badges, and awards may be recorded through Internet Advancement?

A Based on the unit type and program, each unit will have an appropriate pick list for the entry of ranks, merit badges, and awards to unit youth members. Packs may enter ranks and awards only. Troops, teams, crews, and ships may enter ranks, merit badges, and awards. LFL Explorer posts may only enter awards. No nominated awards, including meritorious action awards, and awards controlled by other organizations, even if approved for uniform wear, can be recorded. Lapsed units may enter advancement only for dates prior to their unit expiration date. If a unit is dropped, the unit advancement processor will not have access to Internet Advancement.

Q How does the council prevent a specific unit from using Internet Advancement?

A The council may block the unit by using the Block Unit process in Unit Management. When the Block Unit feature is activated, the unit cannot load its roster until the block is removed. Changing the password is only a temporary means of blocking a unit, as is not providing the unit ID. The council management should determine if and when to block a unit's participation and explain to the unit why it is not eligible to use the online process.
