

GUIDELINES FOR ADVANCEMENT CEREMONIES (AND BOBCAT INDUCTIONS)

Advancement ceremonies should be positive and meaningful experiences that reflect the values and aims of Scouting. Boys have worked hard to complete the achievement requirements. When their efforts are recognized in an impressive ceremony, they are inspired to accomplish even more. Other boys in the pack are motivated to work harder to their next award.

Bobcat Induction Ceremony: All boys in Cub Scouting earn the Bobcat badge, so the ceremony should be especially exciting and memorable. Some packs have a special ceremony with artificial campfire. The parents should have an important role in this presentation. **Any Bobcat ceremony in which boys are physically turned upside down contains significant potential for harm and should not be used.**

No Hazing. All ceremonies should refrain from initiating activities that might be interpreted as hazing. Activities such as ‘branding,’ tattooing, painting on whiskers, forcing boys to wear ears or tails, or similar, should not be used. Never force a boy to do anything that may cause him discomfort or embarrassment.

Respect for other cultures. Take care that all cultures, including American Indians, are portrayed in a positive manner, showing proper respect for religious beliefs and reflecting authenticity in dress.

The advancement program, when implemented correctly, will:

- Help build a boy’s self-esteem
- Help build his self-reliance as he discovers that he is now old enough to assume certain responsibilities toward other people
- Give a boy the positive recognition that he needs
- Bring a boy and his family closer through the advancement activities that family members enjoy together

Resources: *Cub Scout Leader Book*, 2006, p. 18–1, 2, 6
Cub Scout Ceremonies for Dens and Packs, 2003 Revision, 8-2
Guide to Safe Scouting, 2006, Ch.1, p. 2