

Advancement News

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Previous issues available at: www.scouting.org/GuideToAdvancement/Advancement_News.aspx

Opportunities for Advancement Administrators

Advancement Videocast Library Now Available Online

PowerPoint has become the method of choice for “seeing” a presentation nowadays. No matter how well written the script or presenter’s notes, presentation quality can vary greatly from presenter to presenter. Meanwhile, audio files have become an increasingly popular way for “hearing” a presentation or a book in the car while driving.

Over this past year a team of volunteers set out to answer a simple question: Wouldn’t it be great if we could economically combine the visual impact of PowerPoint with a well-delivered audio message? The team began experimenting with voice-over scripts that could not only be keyed to PowerPoint slides, but that could be conversational rather than sound as if a reader were using a script. The experiments were taped, coordinated with the slides, and converted to movie format. The result was a fun and engaging experience.

Realizing the potential this format had for becoming a powerful yet economical teaching tool, the team

next set out to develop a videocast for each section of the *Guide to Advancement* and the *Eagle Scout Service Project Workbook*. Their efforts produced nine exceptionally helpful videocasts that are now posted on the advancement resources Web page: www.scouting.org/BoyScouts/AdvancementandAwards/resources.aspx. Look for “Advancement Educational Presentations.” Each presentation can be downloaded or viewed directly via a link to YouTube:

- Introduction to the *Guide to Advancement* (10 minutes)
- Judgment Calls (24 minutes; covering the “active,” position of responsibility, and Scout spirit requirements, and also “reasonable expectations”)
- The Merit Badge Program (17 minutes)
- Boards of Review (15 minutes)
- Boards of Review Under Disputed Circumstances (6 minutes)
- Board of Review Appeals (4 minutes)
- The Eagle Scout Service Project (17 minutes)
- The Eagle Scout Application Process (8 minutes)
- Eagle Scout Boards of Review (4 minutes)

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The 10-minute "Introduction to the *Guide to Advancement*" begins the series and is a good place to start. In addition to introducing the presenters, it lays out the organization and intent of the series. These new presentations can be used independently as education modules in meetings, shown as supplements to other training programs for districts or councils, or viewed by individuals interested in advancement information at any time. Updates to this series will be made available as the *Guide to Advancement* changes.

Advancement Issues and Solutions Conference

Just Around the Corner: June 16–22, Philmont Training Center

As an experienced volunteer or professional advancement administrator, the opportunity is now here to take your game to the next level by signing up for the Advancement Issues and Solutions Conference. Take advantage of this first-of-its-kind opportunity to share ideas with other committed advancement administrators at Scouting's premier destination, Philmont Scout Ranch, in New Mexico.

Scheduled for the week of June 16–22, this new case study–based conference is designed for unit, district, and council advancement coordinators, chairs, committee members, and staff advisors. Conference participants will not only learn about the latest updates on advancement issues, but more important, they will have a chance to analyze, discuss, and solve case studies similar to those regularly dealt with by the National Advancement Team and Committee and its Eagle Issues Task Force. To register, log on to MyScouting.org and select the "Event Registration" tab.

Mechanics of Advancement Conference

Revised *Guide to Advancement* 2013: Aug. 4–10, Philmont Training Center

Can't make it to New Mexico in June? The Philmont Training Center will also host a Mechanics of Advancement course for unit, district, and council volunteers and professionals August 4–10. The revised *Guide to Advancement* 2013 and *Eagle Scout Service Project Workbook* will be distributed, featured, and

Hear It First on Twitter

If you want the news first, follow the National Advancement Team on Twitter. Topics cover the FAQs received at the national office, clarifications on policies and procedures, news on changes and new releases, and best practices in advancement.

If you already have a Twitter account, follow us at @AdvBSA or BSA Advancement Team. If you don't have an account, it's time to take the plunge. It's a quick and easy process to set up an account at www.Twitter.com. To limit incoming emails (tweets), you can select the Advancement Team as the only account you want to follow.

covered in detail. Conference attendees can expect to gain a more in-depth understanding of the essentials of advancement and an appreciation for the rationale behind the policies and procedures governing it. Presentations will come from members of the National Advancement Committee and its advisory panel. Group discussions will focus on effective ways to resolve advancement-related issues and challenges.

Of course, this conference also offers a prime opportunity to share the beautiful Philmont Scout Ranch with your family and new Scouting friends from across the country. Register now at MyScouting.org.

On Increasing Advancement

New Pamphlet Explores Methods of Improving Rate of Advancement

Earlier this year we announced the publication of a guide that should help units, districts, and councils achieve their Journey to Excellence goals in the areas of advancement and retention. Appropriately titled "On Increasing Advancement," No. 512-047, this compact resource explores key ideas that advancement coordinators can apply toward improving the level of advancement in councils, districts, and units.

Designed to be used in conjunction with "Recommendations for Regional and Area Volunteers Supporting the Advancement Program," No. 512-048, "On Increasing Advancement" targets six areas that drive increased advancement:

- *A general increase in volunteerism.* A dramatic increase in volunteerism across the board is needed. This can be achieved through prospecting methods such as those outlined in *Friendstorming on Tour*.
- *Far-reaching unit service.* Increases in advancement result from effective unit service, expanded training opportunities, and improving the function of roundtables.
- *Fully functioning advancement committees.* Advancement increases when advancement committees at all levels are fully staffed and well trained.
- *Promotion and reinforcement of procedural compliance.* A clear understanding and application of national procedures and related local council practices result not only in increased advancement but in retention of members through consistent and purposeful program delivery.
- *Purposeful management.* Increased advancement indicates the presence of an effective unit program that drives retention. Purposeful focus on advancement at all levels of management not only affects metrics, but aids in program improvement and thus retention.

- *Increased reporting and proper data entry.* The use of Internet Advancement has resulted in increased and more accurate reporting over the past few years. A renewed focus on promoting and encouraging the use of Internet Advancement will make it easier to connect broader efforts with increases in advancement.

Both “On Increasing Advancement” and “Recommendations for Regional and Area Volunteers Supporting the Advancement Program” can be found online at www.scouting.org/BoyScouts/AdvancementandAwards/resources.aspx.

Merit Badges—Enhancing Our Youths’ Competitive Edge

Cleveland Firm Creates Welding Merit Badge Video Library



In a collaborative effort with the Greater Cleveland Council and the National Program Impact Department, Cleveland-based Lincoln Electric Company has produced a series of nine quality videos that introduce Scouts to the basic welding skills needed to earn the Welding merit badge.

Lincoln’s generous support is a fine example of the company’s eagerness to work with the BSA to positively support Scouting’s STEM initiative. The National Advancement Team thanks the Lincoln Electric director of training and the technical training team for producing these quality how-to videos. They have been posted on YouTube for easy access by both youth and adults:

BSA Welding Merit Badge Introduction
www.youtube.com/watch?v=W_RsK-46op0

Tech Tip: FCAW-S and the Boy Scout Welding Merit Badge
www.youtube.com/watch?v=DrmZ5aQOPE&list=UUxP9TJelgrj4ld2WyluC3Yg&index=1

Tech Tip: GMAW and the Boy Scout Welding Merit Badge
www.youtube.com/watch?v=yQB4grrYjgY&list=UUxP9TJelgrj4ld2WyluC3Yg&index=2

Tech Tip: SMAW and the Boy Scout Welding Merit Badge
www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ft2YzKpD0g&list=UUxP9TJelgrj4ld2WyluC3Yg&index=3

Tech Tip: FCAW-S Troubleshooting
www.youtube.com/watch?v=iD7Y57gK3yU&list=UUxP9TJelgrj4ld2WyluC3Yg&index=4

Tech Tip: SMAW Troubleshooting
www.youtube.com/watch?v=WyX0hZO4Jz4&list=UUxP9TJelgrj4ld2WyluC3Yg&index=7

Tech Tip: Visual Weld Inspection
www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ncguc7THEUY&list=UUxP9TJelgrj4ld2WyluC3Yg&index=11

Tech Tip: SP-140T Troubleshooting
www.youtube.com/watch?v=tkvmlZPEsIE&list=UUxP9TJelgrj4ld2WyluC3Yg&index=15

Tech Tip: GMAW Troubleshooting
www.youtube.com/watch?v=RJ4y7snY3Wk&list=UUxP9TJelgrj4ld2WyluC3Yg&index=16

Improvements to Merit Badges—A Continuing Process

Whenever Scouts, parents, or adult leaders purchase a newly updated merit badge pamphlet, they can rest assured they are buying a quality product, thanks in great part to the Merit Badge Maintenance Task Force’s tireless resolve to improve and update the merit badge library.

“Enhancing our youths’ competitive edge” is the slogan driving this improvement strategy. Through Scouting volunteers and subject-matter experts working together, the task force’s sincere wish is for every Scout, whether from a suburban community, urban neighborhood, or isolated rural township, to have the same quality experience earning merit badges through updated, visually attractive, and informative pamphlets.

Here is one of the task force’s success stories: After carefully reviewing the Horsemanship merit badge pamphlet, an award-winning horsemanship expert discovered and corrected more than 75 grammatical errors, confusing words, and phrasings. For example, on page 22 of the 2010 pamphlet edition, the last sentence on the sidebar declares: “Stallions should never be chosen for young or novice riders.” The subject-matter expert offered an improvement providing the rationale for why it is wise for merit badge counselors to consider a different type of horse for the novice rider: “Common sense should be exercised when deciding whether or not to put a young or novice rider on a stallion.” Besides improving the written text, the expert, armed with a digital camera, took the time to personally capture some photos to replace outdated ones featured in the pamphlet. Enthusiasm and a love for horses could be felt throughout the review.

The Merit Badge Maintenance Task Force has now reviewed almost all of the merit badge pamphlets. Their changes will appear as pamphlets are reprinted.

Merit Badge Counselors: The Jamboree Needs You!

The 2013 National Scout Jamboree will provide youth an opportunity to experience several new merit badges in the once-in-a-lifetime jamboree adventure. You can be a part of that adventure and experience the excitement by serving on the national jamboree staff. More important, you may be the person who introduces a Scout to his future through one of these new merit badges:

- Search and Rescue
- Game Design
- Chess
- Welding
- Sustainability

There is still time to attend the 2013 National Scout Jamboree. Visit the website at <https://summit.scouting.org/en/Jamboree2013/Pages/default.aspx> for more information about registering as a merit badge counselor. Do it today—be a part of something great!



Cub Scout Angle

The Pack Committee, Advancement, and the Journey to Excellence

Item 1 on a Cub Scout pack's 2013 Journey to Excellence scorecard points out this objective: "Advancement: Increase the percentage of Cub Scouts earning rank advancements." While delivering a quality program is the overall objective of JTE, tracking the advancement rate is a key metric in measuring the success of a pack's program, and the pack committee plays a critical role in this process by handling advancement administration. (See the *Guide to Advancement*, topics 3.0.0.3 and 4.1.0.2.)

The pack committee should appoint a pack advancement coordinator who—perhaps with assistance from other parents—will be responsible for handling advancement-oriented tasks. The duties involved could include collecting den advancement reports, compiling and maintaining pack advancement records, reporting advancement to the local council using the BSA's Internet Advancement, purchasing awards, and ensuring timely presentation of recognition to the Cub Scouts in appropriate and memorable ceremonies.

The advancement coordinator contributes to the pack's JTE effort by using Internet Advancement on a regular basis. This helps ensure that Cub Scouts are on track to advance in rank annually by the end of the program year. If members of a den are seen to be advancing too slowly, the pack committee could help the Cubmaster

and den leader focus more programming around advancement opportunities. The committee might even recommend a special pack activity that would lead to greater levels of achievement. For example, some packs hold "belt loop clinics" to complete parts of the Academics and Sports program while also working toward rank requirements.

To make sure everyone gets the word about progress on the Journey to Excellence, packs should make recognition a key part of every pack meeting. Present patches, belt loops, and beads as soon as possible after they are earned. Otherwise, boys may lose interest if they have to wait too long to receive recognition, and even a month is a long time for a Cub Scout. It may be valuable, for example, for the pack advancement coordinator to support den leaders in presenting immediate recognition items—e.g., beads for the Tiger Cub Immediate Recognition emblem (Tiger paw) or the Cub Scout Immediate Recognition emblem (Progress Toward Ranks)—at den meetings as soon as they are earned. The Cub Scouts should then be recognized again at the next pack meeting.

To learn more about how the pack committee can educate parents, guardians, unit leadership, and committee members in ways to stimulate and encourage advancement, consult the *Cub Scout Leader Book*, No. 33221.

From the Guide to Advancement

Announcing the *Guide to Advancement 2013*

Over the past two years, the 2011 *Guide to Advancement* has proven its worth as a valuable tool for unit, district, council, and national Scouters. An updated version is scheduled for release in the summer of 2013.

The new version will become the sole definitive guide when released, but it won't rewrite the book. Instead, the *Guide to Advancement 2013* will clarify, enhance, and update the content to address many common questions, while adding new information as BSA advancement continues to evolve.

The revised *Guide* will further address several key advancement goals discussed for the 2011 edition:

- Create better informed volunteers who implement the advancement program as intended.
- Establish uniform advancement policies and procedures across the BSA.
- Support smooth and purposeful advancement for youth members.
- Answer the most common questions through improved clarity.

A Volunteer-Driven Process

The *Guide to Advancement 2011* reflected an incredible level of volunteer input as content was written, reviewed, and edited. The 2013 update expanded the process by using an all-volunteer task force that thoroughly reviewed the entire guide and then originated the recommendations for change. The process began with volunteers from the field—not with professionals at the national office. Results from a survey distributed to readers of *Advancement News* were invaluable in providing ideas for enhancements. The responses, along with questions and suggestions submitted to advancement.team@scouting.org since the first edition was published in late 2011, were also carefully reviewed and considered.

The volunteer task force recommendations were sent to the National Advancement Team and Advancement Committee for review, editing, and approval. The last steps involve copyediting at the national office, legal review, and final layout.

Key Changes

The *Guide to Advancement 2013* continues the tradition of excellence established in the 2011 edition, while addressing many of the questions and concerns Scouters have raised. Below is a sample of some of the changes. Please note that since we aren't through the final national review process, we can only touch on a few of them.

- A revised and expanded emphasis on experiential learning and personal growth
- New sections on building an advancement committee and advancement educational resources
- Further details on the process of advancement in Boy Scouting, including how youth continue practicing and learning in the Scouting program after requirements are completed
- A topic permitting, under certain circumstances, for a Scout's work to satisfy more than one requirement—also known as “double dipping”
- Updated camp advancement responsibilities for the council advancement committee
- A revised description of the merit badge (blue card) process, and how to handle situations where merit badges may not have actually been earned
- Added sections addressing guidelines to improve the quality of instruction at merit badge fairs and discouraging for-profit merit badge events
- More comprehensive coverage of the responsibilities of Eagle Scout service project coaches, and recommendations for designating their responsibilities

Please note that the basic procedures surrounding the Eagle Scout service project will remain unchanged. Feedback suggests that moving away from council or

district approval of a project plan to a project proposal is considered a positive step by a substantial majority of Scouting leaders. There will be additional steps taken this year, however, to better inform project beneficiaries of their authority to review and require changes to a Scout's final plan.

What Is an Appeal?

A legal dictionary would define an “appeal” as a process for requesting a formal change to an official decision, pro or con. The BSA has a similar but more limited interpretation of the term.

In Scouting programs, only adverse decisions made by boards of review pertaining to certain ranks can be appealed. An adverse decision for Star and Life may be appealed as far as the council advancement committee, while decisions for Eagle or Quartermaster may be appealed through the local council to the National Council. Appeals are not permitted for other Boy Scouting ranks or for the Eagle Palms, the Cub Scouting ranks, or Venturing awards.

When advancement is declined for the ranks of Star, Life, Eagle, and Quartermaster, the procedures in the *Guide to Advancement* (topic 8.0.4.0) must be followed. First, advancement should only be declined if the member did not complete the requirements for the rank. Should that happen, the Scout must be given a document that explains the appeal procedure and outlines actions that could lead to advancement.

The procedure should stipulate that all appeals—including those for boards of review under disputed circumstances—are first routed to the council advancement committee. From there a designated appeals coordinator should be responsible for coordinating the process through completion. Usually, the appeal of a *unit* board of review is assigned to a three- or five-member *district* appeal board. If the appeal board does not render a decision in favor of the Scout, then the decision may be appealed to the next level. For example, appeals from a district would be assigned to a council board. Remember, only the Eagle and Quartermaster ranks may be appealed to the National Council.

Finally, above all, it is important to understand that an appeal board is not another board of review. It should focus only on the issues that brought about the negative decision and that were documented in the letter the Scout received after his initial review. However, unlike the original board, where a unanimous decision is required, only a majority vote by an appeal board is needed to approve advancement. See the *Guide to Advancement*, topic 8.0.4.2, for specific details and procedures.

Scoutmaster Conference Myths Reprised (From March 2012)

Myth No. 1: The Scoutmaster (unit leader) conference is the last step before a board of review.

Myth No. 2: A Scout can “fail” a Scoutmaster conference and be held back from a board of review.

Topic 4.2.3.5 in the *Guide to Advancement* breaks both these myths. “While it makes sense to hold [a Scoutmaster or unit leader conference] after other requirements for a rank are met, it is not required that it be the last step before the board of review.” Some leaders hold more than one conference along the way, and any of them can count toward the requirement.

Requirements for each rank state, “Participate in a Scoutmaster conference.” This is not a pass or fail requirement. Topic 4.2.3.5 states, “[The conference] is not a ‘test.’ Requirements do not say he must ‘pass’ a conference.” If an Eagle Scout candidate’s conference is denied or the unit leader refuses to sign a candidate’s Eagle application, a board of review under disputed circumstances may be held (see the *Guide to Advancement*, topic 8.0.3.2).

A Scoutmaster conference should not become just another requirement for rank advancement. It should be a rewarding opportunity for a unit leader to form a bond with each member, whether advancing or not. It is more about using the Scouting method of positive adult association than it is about using the method of advancement.

Location is important to a good conference. While virtually any place that supports BSA Youth Protection guidelines is acceptable, some settings provide for more relaxed conversation. A unit leader may find, for example, that conferences held during outings are less subject to interruption than those held during regular meetings.

When we examine the four steps to advancement, the unit leader conference is the first part of the “Scout Is Reviewed” step. The second part is the board of review. However, neither is a retest of skills or knowledge. A unit leader should plan conferences carefully. Trust is a vital element. Listening is another. Hearing about the

About Advancement News

Advancement News is the official e-letter of the Boy Scouts of America National Advancement Team and the National Advancement Committee. Its intent is to support and clarify procedures found in the *Guide to Advancement*, announce various changes and updates in advancement, and to assist advancement committees in making decisions that can help increase the rate of advancement. The plan is to distribute *Advancement News* monthly, but we’re flexible. It will go out when there is something important to say. Feedback, suggestions, and letters to the editor are welcome at advancement.team@scouting.org. Districts and councils may reprint articles from this publication.

Scout’s life outside troop activities is just as important as his experiences in the unit. Emphasizing the Scout Oath and Scout Law, setting goals, promoting additional responsibility, sharing ideas, and providing positive reinforcement will go a long way in producing growth through personal reflection. This all leads to retention.

Advancement Committee Mechanics

New Merit Badge Counselor Information Available Online

A new Merit Badge Counselor Information sheet, No. 34405WEB, released in February, is now available online at www.scouting.org/filestore/pdf/34405.pdf. This user-friendly, fillable-PDF form will enhance the entire merit badge process for unit leaders, parents, and most of all, Scouts. Although at first glance it may appear similar to its predecessor, the new form affords more space for gathering vital information such as Youth Protection training, email contact information, and up to three telephone numbers. There is also more room for individuals to list the specific qualifications they have to counsel a particular badge. The back of the form now provides both general and specific information on the program to counselors and unit leaders, with special emphasis on Youth Protection and useful references for additional information.

By providing more information, the new form can help councils and districts create more comprehensive and more detailed merit badge counselor lists. This in turn can provide unit leaders with a better tool for matching Scouts to the best counselor for a given badge. The following true story, as told by a Scoutmaster, illustrates what can happen when a Scout finds the right merit badge counselor.

“A Life Scout, by the name of David, came up to me at a meeting seeking the name of an Aviation merit badge counselor. Besides being his Scoutmaster, I was also an Aviation merit badge counselor, and the Scout had come to me knowing that. But instead of just handing him a blue card and becoming his counselor, I first asked him, ‘What kinds of airplanes do you like, David?’ He replied, ‘Well, fighters, of course!’ So, I looked through the council’s list of Aviation merit badge counselors, and one in particular caught my eye. His qualification read: ‘USAF F-15 Squadron Commander.’ That seemed to me a better match for this particular Scout, so that’s the counselor I recommended. As it turned out, while working on the merit badge, David was given the opportunity to preflight an actual F-15 Eagle fighter jet and then ‘fly’ a full-motion F-15 simulator for more than an hour. On another evening he returned to the Air Force base, climbed up into the control tower, and watched the night launch of F-15 fighters, their twin afterburners glowing bright blue and lighting up the night, thundering

off one after the other into the darkness on adventures unknown. That Scouting experience excited him to the core, and David not only earned the Aviation merit badge, but his Eagle rank, too. Two years later he was at the U.S. Air Force Academy, chasing his dream of becoming a fighter pilot.”

It is hoped that the new Merit Badge Counselor Information sheet will help everyone generate better council and district lists. In turn, that will help more Scouts to have their own incredible merit badge experiences while climbing their trails to Eagle. Who knows—more than one may keep on climbing and, like David, find another Eagle in his future.

From the Field

A 30-Second Conversation

“I got a call recently, and the young man on the phone wanted to know if the address on a card I had given him five years ago was still good. He said I had stopped at his summer camp site back then and asked him what his plans were to make Eagle Scout. After our short conversation, he said I gave him that card with my name and address on it and told him to call me when he made Eagle so I could come to his court of honor. Our conversation, he said, made him realize the importance of advancement, and in particular, of making Eagle Scout. He said he had carried that card in his wallet for five years, and he wanted to make sure my address was still the same so that he could send me that invitation. I’ve questioned thousands of Scouts about their plans over the years and given out thousands of those cards. You never know how that 30-second conversation, that golden moment, can influence and change a boy’s life. Every once in a while, though, one of those cards comes home, so I’ll be going to an Eagle court of honor this month to see how a 5-year-old card did.”

(DD from Pennsylvania)

Have you seen an impact on a boy or a young man as a result of his experience with the advancement program in action? Please send your story to advancement.team@scouting.org. Provide your name, email, and general location so we may contact you if we have questions. No guarantees, but you just might see your story here.

Eagle Issues

A Scout’s View of a Denied Eagle Rank

As Told by a Good Scout

I want to tell you about my experience with my Eagle Scout board of review a few years ago. It started with the feelings of reward surrounding the invitation to the board of review, but resulted in one of the worst experiences of my life. Since I had been working

toward the Eagle Scout rank since Tiger Cubs, I couldn’t help but be excited, anxious, and nervous all at the same time. After completing my requirements, I submitted my paperwork to the council office about a week after I turned 18, and I received no indication there were any problems.

The night of my board of review was filled with excitement and joy, and I thought I was prepared. I just knew I would pass. The reviewers spent about 45 minutes reviewing my paperwork before I was called in. It seemed like forever sitting there, and I was really getting nervous and scared, but finally I was called in.

First they asked me to repeat the Scout Oath and Scout Law. That was easy, but then they asked me to repeat the Outdoor Code. I was stumped. I couldn’t remember it because it was not something our troop said at meetings. We followed it, we just didn’t talk about it. The look I got from at least one of the reviewers made me very uncomfortable, and all I could think about was how I messed up. Then they asked me to tie a bowline. I had only tied that knot a couple of times when I was working for First Class and, for the life of me, I couldn’t remember it; I just never had much of a reason to tie it.

They also asked what I did in Scouting, what I liked most, and what I liked least, and they asked about my service project and how it went, and if I learned anything from it. They even wanted to know my opinion on what I thought could improve the Boy Scout program. If I knew then what I know now, I would have given them an earful. After answering these questions, I was asked to leave the room so they could talk and make their decision. I waited almost an hour before they called me back in.

When I returned to the room with my Dad and Scoutmaster, I got the biggest shock of my life. They said they could not reach a unanimous decision to advance me to Eagle Scout. The three of us were speechless. I should have been passed with no question. When I asked for the reasons they said everything would be explained in a letter.

I was so disappointed that tears began to come, but mostly I was angry. I was a good Scout. A week later I received the letter from the board of review chair. It said I was denied because I should have known the Outdoor Code and how to tie a basic knot like a bowline, but also because I turned my paperwork in after my 18th birthday. He said if they had realized this before the board of review, they would not have scheduled me.

The letter said I could appeal their decision, but that the council advancement committee would probably deny my advancement as well. My Scoutmaster and my Dad and I went over the Eagle Scout requirements and we decided to appeal to the council.

The council investigated my case and, after interviewing me, my Scoutmaster, and my Dad, they decided I did meet the requirements and approved my Eagle rank. They apologized for the original board of review, but even so, the whole experience gave me a bad taste. I didn't know whether to be happy that I would finally become an Eagle or continue being angry over what I had been put through. Scouting has taught me to forgive, so I've put the experience behind me, but the men who gave me my board of review need to know how bad they made me feel. I was a good Scout then, and I am an even better man now. I owe much of my success to the Boy Scouting program.

I just wanted you to know. Maybe you can fix things for other Scouts who want to become Eagles.

What Do You Think?

Survey for May 2013

Camp-Earned Merit Badges

The National Advancement Committee seeks your input regarding earning merit badges earned at camp. Completing the survey should take about eight minutes. Just click on the link below to begin. Thanks in advance for your time and feedback.

We had planned to run this survey last month, but were not able to do so. We apologize for any confusion that may have caused.

http://scouting.us.qualtrics.com/SE/?SID=SV_eX8BXM7CPCuDXiB

Please note that it may be necessary to copy and paste the link into your browser. The link also appears for your convenience, in the cover message that came with *Advancement News*.

Note: Anonymous responses are not accepted for any of the *Advancement News* surveys. This is because of the importance the National Advancement Team places on the ability to communicate with survey respondents, should more information be needed to consider their answers. We want to know what you think!

Managing Subscriptions to *Advancement News*

This issue of *Advancement News* has been distributed through a commercial service, which saves Scouting dollars. You may subscribe or unsubscribe, etc., as indicated on the cover email message from **Constant Contact**, or you may follow the instructions below.

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