

Advancement News

November
2013

Vol. 3, No. 8

Prepared. For Life.®

Previous issues are available at http://www.scouting.org/scoutsource/BoyScouts/AdvancementandAwards/advancement_news.aspx

Opportunities for Advancement Administrators

January Sea Base Advancement Conference: Last Call to Register!

This is the last call to set sail for the 2014 Conference on Education for Advancement Administrators (CEAA) at the Florida Sea Base Conference Center, January 12-17, 2014. Don't miss the boat! Registrations close on December 20.

The 2014 CEAA is your chance to soak up some warm Florida sun while hearing firsthand about the latest developments in BSA advancement. You, the experienced council, district, and unit advancement volunteers, and professionals will review and evaluate the current educational material produced by the National Advancement Committee. Participants also will be invited to collaborate in determining and designing the next set of advancement educational topics.

During the weeklong conference participants will have an afternoon off to explore the Keys. Spouses are welcome to come with you and participate in a special spouse program that includes snorkeling, kayaking, and boat trips.

Information on the Sea Base and a flyer describing the CEAA may be found at www.bsaseabase.org. To register, go to www.scouting.org/training/adult.aspx.

What are you waiting for? Anchors aweigh!

In This Issue

- **Opportunities for Advancement Administrators:** Last Call to Register for January Sea Base Conference ; Advancement Academy Proves Texas-Size Success in Houston
- **On Increasing Advancement:** Congratulations to Advancement's "Top 10 Percent" Councils; Fall is a Great Time for Service Projects, Advancement, and JTE
- **From the *Guide to Advancement*:** Scouts and the Unregistered Merit Badge Counselor
- **Cub Scout Angle:** Bobcat and Bear Updates
- **Merit Badges—Enhancing Our Youth's Competitive Edge:** Moviemaking Merit Badge Name Change; Cooking Merit Badge Required for Eagle Beginning January 1, 2014
- **Special Necessities:** Interpreting Requirements: A Case Study
- **Awards and Recognition:** Announcing a Change in Service Award Processing
- **From the Field:** Advancement in Action
- **The Venturing Perspective:** A Sampler of Gold and Silver Award Review Questions
- **From the Archives:** Scoutmaster Conference Myths, March 2012
- **What Do You Think:** Eagle Scout Palms Survey Coming
- **Helpful Links:** Access to Advancement Materials
- **A Peek Ahead:** What's in Store for December-January

Advancement Academy Proves Texas-Size Success in Houston

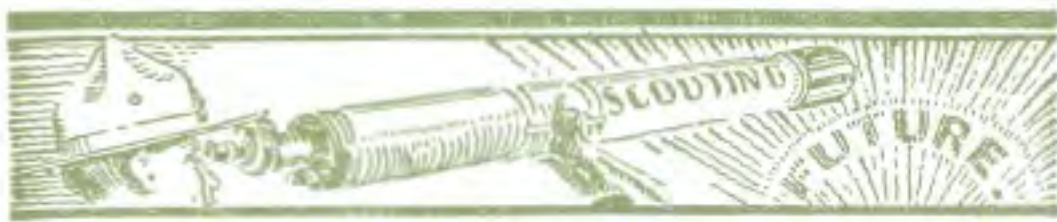
The Sam Houston Area Council recently conducted a “standing room only” seminar-style advancement academy exploring the concept that “advancement is the glue that helps bring together all the methods Scouting uses to deliver the mission of the Boy Scouts of America.”

The full day’s program was based on materials developed by the Webinars and Education Task Force of the National Advancement Committee. Volunteers from the task force, the national committee, and the Sam Houston Area Council advancement committee, as well as from Austin’s Capitol Area Council came together to review and discuss Advancement changes in 2013, as well as to explore additional issues addressed in the *Guide to Advancement 2013*.

Demonstrating there is a large desire for advancement training among adult volunteers, registration for the event reached full capacity at 200 participants just three weeks after opening. At least 60 additional volunteers interested in attending could not be accommodated. This was followed by numerous phone calls and e-mails of others wanting to sign-up for the program.

Feedback from the seminar was overwhelmingly positive. Ninety-seven percent of the participants rated the training as 5 on a scale of 1 to 5, with 5 being the highest. Many participants requested the program be held again as soon as possible so that they could send additional adult volunteers from their units, and several suggested holding evening programs once a quarter to explore specific advancement topics in more depth.

Editors note: A similar scenario took shape in Orem, Utah, as an advancement seminar anticipated at 100 participants quickly reached more than 200. Many other councils, too, are experiencing this level of success in expanding awareness of how advancement is intended to function.



About *Advancement News*

Follow the National Advancement Team on Twitter! BSA Advancement Team, @AdvBSA

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 supply 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. Therefore, districts and councils may reprint articles from this publication. Our plan is to distribute eight or nine issues of *Advancement News* annually, but special editions may go out whenever there is important information to share. Feedback, suggestions, and letters to the editor are welcome at advancement.team@scouting.org.

On Increasing Advancement

Congratulations to Advancement's "Top 10 Percent"* Councils

Based on June 2013 Journey to Excellence data, spotlighted are the top 10% of BSA's councils in Cub Scout and Boy Scout advancement rates. (Note: To be a Top 10% council in Cub Scouting required advancement of at least 76.4% of traditional registered Cub Scouts. The mark for Boy Scouts was advancement of 29.1% of traditional registered Boy Scouts and Varsity Scouts.) A special shout out to the following six councils that made both lists: Arbuckle Area, Monmouth, Colonial Virginia, French Creek, Mecklenburg County, and Central New Jersey.

*As of press time there were 283 councils in the BSA. The Top 10 Percent thus includes 28 councils.

Cub Scout Ranking	Council Name	Council Headquarters	Cub Scout Advancement
1	French Creek	Erie, PA	90.7%
2	Arbuckle Area	Ardmore, OK	89.7%
3	Old Hickory	Winston-Salem, NC	89.6%
4	Mohegan	Worcester, MA	88.6%
5	Voyageurs Area	Hermantown, MN	88.3%
6	Monmouth	Morganville, NJ	86.9%
7	Great Trail	Akron, OH	86.1%
8	Daniel Webster	Manchester, NH	84.8%
9	Suffolk County	Medford, NY	83.8%
10	Northeastern Pennsylvania	Moosic, PA	83.8%
11	Chester County	West Chester, PA	83.1%
12	Greater Niagara Frontier	Buffalo, NY	82.2%
13	Colonial Virginia	Newport News, VA	81.5%
14	Mecklenburg County	Charlotte, NC	80.5%
15	Occoneechee	Raleigh, NC	80.3%
16	Pennsylvania Dutch	Lancaster, PA	80.2%
17	Samoset	Weston, WI	80.0%
18	Potawatomi Area	Waukesha, WI	79.9%
19	Cape Cod and Islands	Yarmouth Port, MA	79.8%
20	Nashua Valley	Lancaster, MA	79.3%
21	Seneca Waterways	Rochester, NY	79.2%
22	Central New Jersey	Dayton, NJ	78.7%
23	Hawk Mountain	Reading, PA	78.6%
24	Northern New Jersey	Oakland, NJ	78.2%
25	Georgia-Carolina	Augusta, GA	78.1%
26	Hudson Valley	Newburgh, NY	77.9%
27	Columbia-Montour	Bloomsburg, PA	77.6%
28	Old North State	Greensboro, NC	76.4%

Continued on page 4

Continued from page 3

Boy Scout Ranking	Council Name	Council Headquarters	Boy Scout Advancement
1	Arbuckle Area	Ardmore, OK	41.5%
2	Far East	Tokyo, Japan	37.2%
3	De Soto Area	El Dorado, AR	35.8%
4	Andrew Jackson	Jackson, MS	34.2%
5	Transatlantic	Livorno, Italy	33.9%
6	Colonial Virginia	Newport News, VA	33.0%
7	Mountaineer Area	Fairmont, WV	33.0%
8	Monmouth	Morganville, NJ	31.5%
9	Bucks County	Doylestown, PA	31.5%
10	Otschodela	Oneonta, NY	31.4%
11	East Carolina	Kinston, NC	31.3%
12	Gateway Area	La Crosse, WI	30.8%
13	Longhouse	Syracuse, NY	30.7%
14	Georgia-Carolina	Augusta, GA	30.7%
15	Mecklenburg County	Charlotte, NC	30.7%
16	NeTseO Trails	Paris, TX	30.7%
17	Central New Jersey	Dayton, NJ	30.4%
18	Pine Tree	Portland, ME	30.4%
19	Gamehaven	Rochester, MN	30.3%
20	Hawkeye Area	Cedar Rapids, IA	30.2%
21	Baden-Powell	Binghamton, NY	30.0%
22	Sam Houston Area	Houston, TX	29.8%
23	Connecticut Rivers	East Hartford, CT	29.7%
24	Yocona Area	Tupelo, MS	29.6%
25	Buffalo Trace	Evansville, IN	29.2%
26	Ohio River Valley	Wheeling, WV	29.2%
27	French Creek	Erie, PA	29.1%
28	Connecticut Yankee	Milford, CT	29.1%



On Increasing *Advancement*

Fall is a Great Time for Service Projects, Advancement, and JTE

With 2013 drawing to a close, many units are taking stock of where they stand on their Journey to Excellence scorecards and looking for last-minute ways to “Go Gold.” One such way is through participation in more service projects—Item 7 for packs, Item 8 for troops and teams, and item 5 for crews and ships.

In addition to boosting a unit’s JTE score, service projects are an inherent part of each youth’s personal Scouting journey. Every time a youth repeats the Cub Scout Promise, the Scout Oath, or the Venturing Oath, a pledge is renewed to help other people. This is why participation in service projects is required for a number of BSA ranks and awards.

Fall is filled with great opportunities for seasonally-related service projects, such as placing flags on veterans’ graves around Veteran’s Day. There may be other opportunities for Scouts to help at community Thanksgiving and Christmas events, ranging from parades to community kitchens. Although many councils conduct “Scouting for Food” drives in the fall, local community and religious-based food cupboards can always use more food. In addition, various organizations collect toys or warm jackets in December. Now is a good time to look at your community’s annual events calendar—and your 2014 JTE scorecard—and plan ahead. Whatever the cause and time of year, every service project requires planning and organization. (Helpful hint: The *Eagle Scout Service Project Workbook* can be used as a checklist for things that might need to be addressed in planning any project.) Close coordination with the benefiting charity or facility, or the event’s organizers, is critical. Even if participating in another organization’s event, your unit may still need to handle recruiting helpers and adult supervision, and take care of scheduling and transportation. In any case, unit leaders are always responsible for making sure safety issues are addressed.

The unit’s advancement chair should keep track of individual levels of participation and be sure unit records reflect that information. If a service project satisfies a Scout’s specific rank requirement, remind him to be sure it gets recorded in his handbook. Finally, to ensure that the unit gets proper JTE credit for its efforts, make sure all projects and hours are entered on the Journey to Excellence website. This can be done via the Unit Tools menu in your MyScouting account.

Individual advancement and unit JTE recognition are certainly worthy goals, but most importantly, service projects provide opportunities for our Scouts to be active and involved in their units and communities, and have fun at the same time. In doing so, we support the aims of Scouting:

- Character development by learning to help others.
- Citizenship training by learning how involvement can help the community.
- Personal fitness through the activities involved in the service project.

Isn’t that what it is all about?



From the *Guide to Advancement 2013*

Scouts and the Unregistered Merit Badge Counselor

In most cases, Scouts complete merit badge requirements as written, with registered counselors, and we congratulate him and award the badge. At times, however, we find that a young man has worked with a person who is not actually registered as a counselor. Topic 7.0.4.6 in the 2013 *Guide to Advancement* addresses these instances with expanded guidance.

In these instances, our concerns are two-fold. Registered counselors are background screened and Youth Protection trained, which are important safety considerations. Using registered counselors can also improve the merit badge experience through training and oversight. It is the leader's responsibility to educate Scouts about the blue card procedure (topic 7.0.0.2), which helps ensure Scouts work with registered counselors.

In some cases, a youth may use an unregistered counselor due to a simple administrative error, such as the mistaken deletion of a counselor from a district charter. If Scouts fulfilled the requirements as written, topic 7.0.4.6 instructs us to award the badge, but also to alert the council to get the counselor properly registered. We also counsel Scouts—for their own safety—to understand and follow the process in the future.

On occasion a Scout may knowingly ignore the process, even after being made aware of the procedure. In these cases, where there is intentional disregard, the unit leader may reject the blue card, alert the council, and require the Scout to work with a properly registered counselor to verify that the requirements were completed as written. Just as in Topic 7.0.0.2, the unit leader provides the name of at least one registered counselor, but the Scout may choose to use a different one—as long as the counselor is properly registered.

Following this guidance provides a fair outcome for honest errors, while offering recourse for situations where there is intentional disregard. Doing so helps units better provide for safety and program quality through interactions with properly registered and trained merit badge counselors.

Did You Receive these Tweets?

October 28: The Cooking MB requirement change has nothing to do with the change for Eagle. Cooking, old or new, will work for Eagle after 12/31/13.

October 27: If Scout chooses to earn Cooking with old requirements during 2014 he may continue using old requirements until age 18, even if it takes many years.

October 27: New Cooking merit badge requirements will be out around year end. During 2014 Scouts may choose to earn Cooking with either the old or new requirements.

October 27: No matter what you read or hear, if a Scout completes requirements for Eagle after 12/31/13, he must have Cooking merit badge. BOR may be after 12/31

October 16: Name change: Cinematography MB to become Moviemaking. Same merit badge/different name. Scouts cannot earn Moviemaking AND Cinematography.

October 16: Option to Sustainability merit badge requirement 2A added that allows completion without access to water bills. See tinyurl.com/pbolw25.

October 9: Trying to register for the CEAA advancement conference at the Sea Base Jan 12-17? The direct registration link is 2014fsbconf.kintera.org.

September 20: Process for requesting alternative requirements for Scouts with Special Needs to earn Scout badge is the same as for TF, 2nd & 1st Class.

Cub Scout Angle

Guide to Advancement: Bobcat and Bear Updates

This month we focus on some recent updates for the Cub Scout program highlighted in the *Guide to Advancement* 2013. Although important, these changes really just involve clarification and simplification—and a little common sense. In fact, it is possible that many Cub Scout leaders did not even know about these restrictions, which have now been removed.

The first update deals with the Bobcat badge (topic 4.1.1.0). It clarifies that a new member may work on his Bobcat rank requirements while simultaneously working on his next rank. Current *Parent's Guide* sections of Cub Scouting handbooks all say something like “After your Cub Scout has earned his Bobcat badge, he can start along the Wolf/Bear/Webelos Trail.” The change to the *Guide to Advancement* explains that new Cub Scouts—at any level—can jump right into full-fledged fun with their dens from their first meeting! For example, even though the expectation is that every new boy will earn his Bobcat badge in his first month as a Cub Scout, a new Wolf Cub Scout could work on both his Bobcat and Wolf requirements at the same time. However, he still cannot receive his Wolf badge until after he has received his Bobcat badge.

The second change deals with the Bear badge (topic 4.1.1.6). Previously, a Cub Scout working on his Bear rank could not use any “left over” parts of an achievement used for his Bear badge to earn Arrow Points. Now, for example, if a boy completes mandatory requirements ‘a’ and ‘j’ along with optional requirements ‘b’ and ‘c’ for Achievement 3, “*What Makes America Special*,” he can count any additional (d-i) requirements toward Arrow Points. In the Bear handbook, that change will be reflected on page 6, just above the pictures of the Arrow Points. For now, cross out the word “not,” and you are ready to go.

These changes should simplify Cub Scout program planning and advancement record keeping, and more importantly, promote fuller program delivery at all levels. Go, Cub Scouts!

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 is time to take the plunge. It is a quick and easy process to set up an account at www.Twitter.com. To limit incoming emails (‘tweets’), you can select BSA National Advancement Team as the only account you want to follow.

About *Advancement News*

Follow the National Advancement Team on Twitter! BSA Advancement Team, @AdvBSA

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 provide 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. Therefore, districts and councils may reprint articles from this publication. Our plan is to distribute eight or nine issues of *Advancement News* annually, but special editions may go out whenever there is important information to share. Feedback, suggestions, and letters to the editor are welcome at advancement.team@scouting.org.

Merit Badges— Enhancing Our Youth's Competitive Edge

Moviemaking Merit Badge Name Change

The Cinematography merit badge has been renamed Moviemaking merit badge. Other than some minor updates, requirements and content are essentially the same, as is the actual patch.

The pamphlet bearing the new name is scheduled for delivery in late November 2013, and the name change will appear in the 2014 *Boy Scouts Requirements* book.

Guide to Advancement, topic 7.0.4.3, “What to do When Requirements Change,” outlines procedures for the transition to new requirements:

- A youth who began working on Cinematography prior to the release of the new requirements may finish earning Cinematography using the old requirements.
- A youth beginning work prior to January 1, 2014, may choose to use the old Cinematography requirements or the new Moviemaking ones—and may continue to use the specified requirements until he has completed the badge.

A Scout may earn and get credit for either Moviemaking or Cinematography, but not both.

For the next several months it will be possible to record the merit badge using either name in Internet Advancement or ScoutNET. Then it will only be possible to enter Moviemaking.

Scouts, counselors, unit leaders, and council and district-level volunteers can access the Moviemaking merit badge requirements by visiting:

www.scouting.org/scoutsource/BoyScouts/AdvancementandAwards/MeritBadges/mb-MOVIE.aspx



Cooking Merit Badge Required for Eagle Beginning January 1, 2014

There are two upcoming major revisions concerning Cooking merit badge.

1. Cooking will become Eagle-required beginning **Jan. 1, 2014**. Regardless of when a Scout earned the Life rank or began working on Eagle, unless he fulfills all the requirements—with the exception of his board of review—before Jan. 1, 2014, he must earn the Cooking merit badge to become an Eagle Scout. Just as an Eagle Scout board of review does not need be held before the 18th birthday, it does not need to be held before Jan. 1 for a Scout to earn Eagle without Cooking merit badge.
2. A major overhaul to the Cooking merit badge requirements will take effect **Jan. 1, 2015**. Normally, when new requirements are released during the year, they go into effect the following Jan. 1. However, because the release of the revised requirements is anticipated in late 2013, the revisions will not be officially required until January 1, 2015. Until then, Scouts have a choice to begin work on the Cooking merit badge using the current requirements or the revised ones—and finish using the same requirements. See *Guide to Advancement*, topic 7.0.4.2, “What to Do When Requirements Change.”

Note that these are two separate changes and should be thought of as such.

Special Necessities

Interpreting Requirements: A Case Study

The question is often asked: May you change or modify a rank advancement requirement for a Scout with a special need (mental or physical disability) who is working toward Tenderfoot through First Class? The answer is, No, *you* must not, but your council advancement committee is permitted to do so if the unit applies for alternative requirements per the *Guide to Advancement*, topics 10.2.2.0 through 10.2.2.3.

To illustrate, consider a common concern heard from many parents and unit leaders: “My Scout has a disability and cannot complete the swimmer rescue requirement (9c) for the First Class rank: *‘With a helper and a practice victim, show a line rescue both as tender and as rescuer. (The practice victim should be approximately 30 feet from shore in deep water.)’*”

Here is an example of an alternative to the rank requirement that was proposed and approved by a council advancement committee: The Scout was confined to an electric wheelchair with no use of his legs and little use of his hands, but did have a service dog. The rescue was performed in a rectangular swimming pool. His service dog first set the end of the throw ring line in the Scout’s lap where he could grab it with his hand. The Scout then moved his wheelchair around the pool while holding onto the line; the throw ring was pulled along 20 or so feet behind the wheelchair. Once the Scout turned to go around the other side of the pool, the line fell into the water, and as the Scout continued to circle around the pool, the throw ring was pulled into and across the pool until it came within reach of the practice victim.

This creative example was surely not the only solution, but it met this Scout’s special circumstances. Leaders should try to be creative in their thinking, whatever the Scout’s situation, special needs or not. Remember, it is the responsibility of unit leaders to help youth succeed, not to put up roadblocks.

For specific guidance relating to this subject, see the *Guide to Advancement* 2013, topic 10.2.2.1, “Using Alternative Requirements,” and 10.2.2.2, “How To Apply For Alternative Requirements.”

Awards and Recognition

Announcing a Change in Service Awards Processing

Councils that honor their volunteers for dedicated service to African American, Latino American, and Asian American youth and communities with the Whitney M. Young, Scouting—Vale la Pena, and Asian American Spirit of Scouting service awards should note a processing change. Beginning September 1, 2013, councils were no longer required to send their applications to the Program Impact Department for processing. Instead, approval and processing is now done at the local council.

This change ultimately saves local councils valuable time, particularly when an expedited approval is needed. Also, all supporting recognition items for these awards can now be ordered directly through Supply. The process and forms can be found at http://www.scouting.org/scoutsource/Awards_Central.aspx.

The nominating procedure remains unchanged. People serving at any council level and of any ethnicity may qualify for any of these awards. Corporations and organizations that have generously supported a council's All Markets strategy may also qualify. Councils may present awards up to the number of districts served, and may designate the appropriate group to review and approve the nominations such as a council awards and recognition committee or a council Scoutreach committee.

From the Field

Advancement in Action

“Frank joined our Troop as an 11-year-old. He was average-sized kid, well mannered, and excited about Scouting. He attended almost every campout and exhibited leadership skills early on. His advancement path was steady, and he passed through the lower ranks quickly, soon becoming a teacher for others. In 1995, he earned his Eagle Scout rank. Frank joined the National Guard and continued serving in the Guard while attending college.

“We lost track of Frank's journeys for a few years, but later learned from his mother that he and his Guard unit had been sent to Iraq. A few years later Frank returned to our home town, and I had the opportunity to meet with him. He related the following story to me about his time overseas.

“When serving in Iraq his unit was stationed in the vicinity of Basra. While on patrol one day his squad became lost near hostile territory. GPS navigational systems were the standard for operations in the field, but unfortunately, the patrol's GPS signals were down so accurate navigation back to safety was jeopardized. Frank said he was the only one in his squad who knew how to use a map and compass, a skill he attributed solely to his experiences in our troop while working toward Second Class (requirement 1.a, *Boy Scout Handbook*, 10th Edition). His old “Scouting skill” enabled him to lead his squad safely back to base.

“Frank is now a U.S. Marshal, and this Scouting story is shared with his permission.”

Have you seen an impact on a young man or woman as a result of an experience in the advancement program? 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.

The Venturing Perspective

A Sampler of Gold and Silver Award Review Questions

With the impending introduction of a revised advancement program for the Venturing program in the relatively near future, many Venturers may already be accelerating work toward their awards. The following questions are offered to suggest a wide variety of topics that could generate thought and meaningful responses during Venturing award review opportunities.

- What is a challenge you faced in completing the requirements for this award, and how did you overcome it?
- What was your favorite requirement to complete? Why?
- What was your least favorite requirement to complete? Why?
- How do you think the crew is doing? What could we do to improve?
- How are you going to continue to give back to the crew in future years?
- Tell me about an ethical decision that you recently had to make. What was your thought process in helping you make the decision that you did?
- Think back to when you first joined Venturing. How have you grown since then?
- What are your personal goals? How do you plan to complete them?
- What are your future plans?
- How do you plan to give back to Scouting when you are no longer a youth?
- What was one of the projects that you did? How did you complete it?
- Did you encounter any rough spots when working on your project?
- What would you do differently with your projects now that they are complete?
- What is your favorite part of the Scout Oath or Scout Law? Why?
- Why is it important to learn the different skills and to complete the difference requirements that you did for this award?
- Who is your hero? Why? What makes your hero stand out from others? How do you aspire to be like this person?
- What was your favorite Venturing event attended and why?
- If you could change one thing to improve Venturing, what would it be?
- Why should this review committee approve you for this award?



From the Archives

Scoutmaster Conference Myths: Reprinted 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/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, this becomes grounds for requesting a board of review under disputed circumstances (See *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 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. A unit leader should plan conferences carefully. Trust is a vital element. Listening is another. Hearing about the 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 should be reflected upon.

Managing Subscriptions to *Advancement News*

Advancement News is designed for council and district advancement committees, advancement staff advisors, and Eagle processors. However, any Scouting volunteer or professional may subscribe.

Subscribing. Send a message to advancement.team@scouting.org, with “SUBSCRIBE” in the subject line. Indicate your name, email address, and council in the message text.

Unsubscribing. To decline future issues please reply and enter “REMOVE” in the subject line. We will remove the subscription within the next two weeks.

Receiving Multiple Copies. If you receive *Advancement News* at more than one email address, choose the one to be removed and reply with “REMOVE” in the subject line. Include a message requesting that we remove only that email address.

Duplicate Copies. If you receive more than one copy of *Advancement News* at the same email address, please reply to all but one of them with “DUPLICATE” in the subject line.

Address Change. If you want *Advancement News* sent to a different address, reply and enter “ADDRESS CHANGE” in the subject line. In your message, enter your council name and the email address you prefer.

What Do You Think?

Eagle Scout Palms Survey Coming

The National Advancement Committee will next be seeking your input regarding Eagle Scout Palms and their value in retaining youth in BSA programs. The survey is currently in production and should release sometime in December. We look forward to learning what you think.

Helpful Links

This new feature is where we will post links to the most current materials of interest for all Scouters involved in advancement. These and many more resources are available via the Advancement Resources Page (www.scouting.org/advancement). Check back to this feature to learn about availability of new resources and continued listing of existing valuable links.

[Eagle Scout Rank Application](#)

[Eagle Scout Service Project Workbook](#)

[Educational Presentations](#)

[Guide to Advancement](#)

[Merit Badge Counselor Information](#)

[Navigating the Eagle Scout Service Project; Information for Project Beneficiaries](#)

[On Increasing Advancement](#)

[On Increasing Advancement video link](#) (new*)

**On Increasing Advancement* was presented by the National Advancement Committee at the BSA National Annual Meeting in May, 2013, at Grapevine, TX. Seven parts are included: Introduction, Increasing Volunteerism, Fully Functioning Advancement Committees, Promotion and Reinforcement, Purposeful Management, Increased Reporting, and Conclusion.

If any of these links are not working, please let us know at advancement.team@scouting.org.

A Peek Ahead

Here is a glimpse of what we are working on for the next issue of *Advancement News*. As always, actual content may vary somewhat based on a number of considerations, especially to accommodate 'late-breaking news' of immediate importance to our subscribers.

Topics Planned for December/January:

- **Advancement Committee Mechanics:** Establishing Objectives and Action Plans
- **The Cub Scout Angle:** Arrow of Light
- **Advancement Committee Mechanics:** Objectives of the Advancement Committee
- **Venturing:** Expert Level Awards