

Advancement News

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Prepared. For Life.®

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

News Flash—On Increasing Advancement Video Just Released

Take a moment to download “On Increasing Advancement,” the latest educational offering from the National Advancement Committee. Members of the committee made the presentation at the BSA Annual Meeting in May, and the contents have been posted on the Advancement Educational Presentations Web page: http://www.scouting.org/sitecore/content/Home/BoyScouts/GuideforMeritBadgeCounselors/Resources/advancement_presentations.aspx

The session is broken into seven topics: Introduction, Increasing Volunteerism, Fully Functioning Advancement Committees, Promotion and Reinforcement, Purposeful Management, Increased Reporting, and Conclusion. This is your chance to hear directly from the volunteers who are creating your advancement resources.

Opportunities for Advancement Administrators

Florida Sea Base in January: Sun, Sand, and Advancement!

When Scouts returned to school last month, many of us unconsciously joined them in starting a mental countdown until summer returns. However, you do not have to wait until June for warmer days. For advancement administrators, they will be here January 12-17!

Actually, “here” will be in the warm Florida Keys, where BSA’s Sea Base will be hosting the 2014 Conference on Education for Advancement Administrators. The CEAA will provide a forum for experienced council, district, and unit advancement volunteers and professionals to review and evaluate the current educational

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material produced by the National Advancement Committee, and to begin the process of determining and designing the next set of sessions.

A 2013 CEAA participant from Vermont had this to say about last year's experience:

"I was able to use the material we developed at the 2013 Florida Sea Base Advancement Conference to develop a course for our University of Scouting training event entitled "District Advancement Committee." The conference enabled me to get away from it all for several days to talk exclusively with other advancement folks from all over the country. The insights were invaluable."

All 2014 CEAA participants will experience the same collaborative environment during the weeklong conference, but will also have an afternoon off to explore the Keys or just soak up some sun. Spouses are welcome to attend as well, and to enjoy an action-packed program that includes snorkeling, kayaking, and boat trips. So what are you waiting for? Enjoy the warmth of Scouting fellowship in the sunny Florida Keys in January! Reservations are being accepted now. Visit <http://www.scouting.org/training/adult.aspx> for a brief overview of the course and the link to conference registration. The conference flyer is found at:

http://www.scouting.org/filestore/training/pdf/2014_FSB_Conference_Flyer.pdf.

On Increasing Advancement

Merit Badge Counselor Resource Page Available

A new BSA Web page is available for merit badge counselors searching for just the right resources. Recently posted, it contains informational fliers on all the newest merit badges—including Sustainability, Programming, Cycling, and Game Design. You will find information on upcoming merit badges, a section on how to propose new merit badges, plus the latest news about competitions and scholarships. In addition, there are links to specific sites supporting merit badge requirements.

The "Introduction to Merit Badges" link takes the Scouter on an informative walk through the merit badge process and then displays all the merit badges with links to requirements. For access, visit

<http://www.scouting.org/sitecore/content/Home/BoyScouts/GuideforMeritBadgeCounselors.aspx>

Scouting Through Soccer Planning Guide Updated

Local councils seeking to serve their growing Latino-American communities with an innovative traditional Scouting program may want to consider Scouting through Soccer. It has all of the ingredients needed to deliver a quality program for today's young people. The newly-updated implementation resource: *Scouting through Soccer Delivery Method Planning Guide*, No. 511-035, is available on-line at:

http://www.scouting.org/scoutsource/membership/cultural_marketing/spanishresources/soccer.aspx

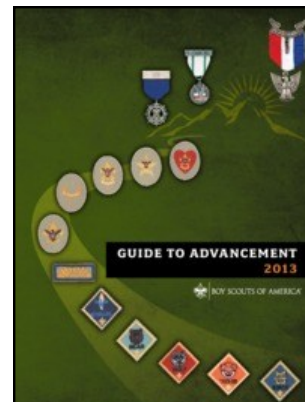
This highly adaptable, sports-based program, emphasizes traditional Scouting first, with soccer as the last activity. Different from the initial roll-out in 2004, the new delivery method focuses on retention and on training parents as unit leaders.

Though initially introduced as a Cub Scout program, Scouting through Soccer also contains adaptable programming for middle and high school-aged youth. Specific merit badges are recommended for Varsity Scouting, and an emphasis on the Quest program for Venturers is provided in this updated resource.

From the *Guide To Advancement 2013*

Reporting Merit Badge Counseling Concerns

Topic 7.0.0.1 in the *Guide to Advancement* tells us that the benefits of the BSA merit badge program extend well beyond simply providing opportunities to learn new skills and gain new knowledge. In addition to introducing Scouts to areas of interest that can lead to lifetime hobbies and even careers, this program is founded on individual initiative. A Scout develops confidence as he works with adults he might not normally associate with to plan, organize, maintain a schedule, and overcome obstacles as they occur.



However, what happens when a unit leader discovers that a Scout, through no fault of his own, has not learned or done as much as a merit badge's requirements suggest? Perhaps a merit badge counselor working with a Scout to complete a summer camp "partial" notes that the Scout just does not understand some of the items that were marked off. Maybe a committee member sitting on a board of review learns from a Scout that due to time constraints at camp, an "alternative option" was substituted for one of the rank requirements. Is there a way to correct these situations so future Scouts pursuing this merit badge may get full benefit from the program? You can find the answer (which is "yes," by the way) in Topic 7.0.4.7 along with a new form: 11.1.0.0: Reporting Merit Badge Counseling Concerns.

An adult volunteer can send this form to the council advancement committee to report concerns regarding completion of merit badge requirements. The form requests a description of the merit badge environment, whether completed at camp, a fair or midway, or through an individual counselor. It also asks the person submitting the form to summarize the nature of the concern, such as a non-registered counselor, requirement alterations, lack of personal attention, or other deviations from BSA expectations. Finally, there is space to describe all factual information observed or determined.

Should the rare occasion arise where use of the form appears necessary, keep in mind it is not intended to be a "report card" on counseling, and there is no requirement that councils or districts must follow up on the reports. Nor are adult volunteers being charged with "watchdog" responsibilities, or unit leaders expected to re-test Scouts when they turn in signed blue cards. In fact, the latter is prohibited. But should you encounter a situation you believe requires action, now you have a method for dealing with it that does not penalize the Scout—who in most cases should never be made aware that an issue existed.

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.

Advancement Committee Mechanics

Building an Advancement Committee: A Practical Guide

Effective council and district advancement chairs must have committees with enough volunteers to support the council and district advancement-related responsibilities. The 2013 edition of the *Guide to Advancement* includes a new topic, 3.0.0.5, “Building an Advancement Committee,” which provides chairs with a “shopping list” of positions they may recruit in order to get the work done as described in topic 3.0.0.1. These positions—each of which was discussed in-depth in a previous edition of *Advancement News* (issue shown in parentheses)—include:

- **District advancement chairs’ support coordinator** supports the district advancement chairs and inspires a positive relationship between council and district advancement committees. (May 2012)
- **Volunteerism specialist** addresses a goal that the council and district advancement committee members “should represent a breadth of experience in all Scouting programs.” (May 2012)
- **Advancement promotions specialist** helps drive awareness of advancement as a means to encourage success. (June/July 2012)
- **Advancement training and events coordinator** ensures active advancement training at all levels, ranging from district advancement committee members to unit advancement coordinators. (June/July 2012)
- **Camping committee and outdoors program liaison** works with the council’s camping committee to ensure that the Cub Scouting, Boy Scouting, and Venturing outdoor programs are rich in advancement opportunities and that they comply with national camp and advancement standards. (August/September 2012)
- **Records keeper, statistician** works with the council staff to track and analyze advancement across all Scouting programs, and identifies how the advancement program is performing in terms of the Journey to Excellence. (August/September 2012)
- **Internet Advancement specialist** promotes the use of Internet Advancement and ensures all units are able to access it, use it efficiently, and record youth achievement in a timely manner. (October 2012)
- **Merit badge chair** addresses the many components of a robust and successful merit badge program. (October 2012)
- **Eagle Scout issues coordinator** helps ensure both national and local council procedures are followed, including—but not limited to—approving Eagle Scout service project proposals, ensuring availability of service project coaches, securing references, and handling boards of review. (November 2012)
- **Special needs Scouting specialist** is someone with expertise in the area of youth with special needs, who has a thorough understanding of BSA advancement policies and procedures. (November 2012)
- **Awards and recognition chair** focuses on promoting and presenting non-advancement recognitions as determined by the local council, including those related to training, leadership, outdoors, conservation, and others. (January 2013)
- **Religious emblems coordinator** tracks and encourages religious emblems across the council and districts at all levels of the BSA program. (January 2013)

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In Topic 3.0.0.1 there are 19 suggested responsibilities for a council advancement committee. These include inspiring a positive working relationship with district advancement committees, supporting outdoor programs where advancement takes place, and sharing advancement statistics for use in the council.

The chart below shows how the 19 responsibilities suggested in Topic 3.0.0.1 could be assigned among the different members of a council advancement committee as they are described above.

P = Primary responsibility

A = Assisting

Suggested Council Advancement Committee Positions	Committee Responsibilities listed in Topic 3.0.0.1																		
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
District advancement chairs support coordinator	A	A	A	P										A					
Volunteerism specialist	P	A	A																
Advancement promotions specialist			P																P
Advancement training and events coordinator		P	A		P	P													
Camping committee and outdoors program liaison			A				P	P											
Records keeper, statistician									A	P									
Internet Advancement specialist		A							P										
Merit badge chair											P								
Eagle Scout issues coordinator												P	P	P					A
Special needs Scouting specialist															P				
Awards and recognition chair																P		P	A
Religious emblems coordinator																	P		

Staffing your council advancement committee with volunteers in each of these roles will help build confidence among district advancement chairs that they support. It will also provide their fully staffed committees with counterparts they can turn to for assistance in their respective primary and back-up roles. In this way both council and district committees will accomplish their respective missions—which are really the same: to retain our young people in Scouting. Isn't this what we're all about?

Cub Scout Angle

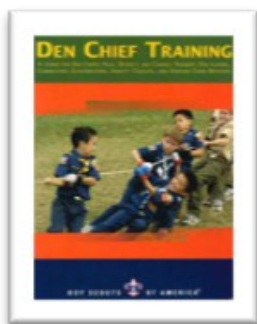
The Valuable Den Chief (Part 2)

The August-September, 2013, issue of *Advancement News* discussed the valuable ways a den chief can help a Cub Scout pack and his own Boy Scout troop, as well as how his role furthers opportunities in advancement for himself and others. This month continues by asking a simple question: How are den chiefs selected, recruited, and assigned? The answer is equally simple.

Boys who are selected for the role of den chief should be the best example possible. The senior patrol leader and Scoutmaster will discuss and identify potential den chiefs based on interest and commitment. This may occur following troop elections, yet can happen at any time in the year. Meanwhile, in the pack, the Cubmaster should create a list of den leaders, with den meeting dates and times for prospective den chiefs. The Scoutmaster and Cubmaster may then work together to determine the pack's needs for the coming year, and the Scoutmaster, senior patrol leader, and Cubmaster can finalize assignments so the den chiefs may begin at the best time. Once assignments are made, it is a good idea for an adult troop leader to accompany each den chief and his parent or guardian on the first visit to a den meeting. Then, as den chiefs work with their dens, pack and troop leadership should touch base with each other at least once a month to discuss how things are going.

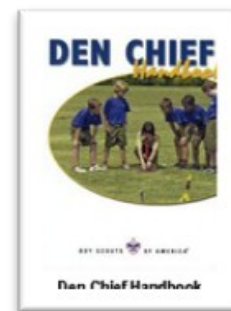
Den Chief Training Is Available

The BSA promotes the highest levels of training in everything it does. This applies also to the position of den chief, which is often a Boy Scout's first position of responsibility. Both den leaders and den chiefs should take this training so they will understand the roles and responsibilities involved. The Cubmaster, Scoutmaster, senior patrol leader, and any other leaders who oversee or coordinate den chiefs would also benefit from the online training available at: www.scouting.org/Training/Youth/DenChiefTraining.aspx. The interactive course uses mazes and quizzes to deliver the message about what makes a successful den chief.



For more in-depth information, the BSA also publishes the *Den Chief Training* pamphlet, No. 34450, and the *Den Chief Handbook*, No. 33211.

Many councils and districts offer face-to-face den chief training. Your district or council training chair will have more information on what is available for your valuable den chiefs.



The Den Chief Service Award

The den chief is the only Boy Scout position of responsibility that is tied to a specific award. Information about the Den Chief Service Award can be found in the back of the *Den Chief Handbook* or at the following website:

www.scouting.org/jamboree/sitecore/content/Home/Awards_Central/DenChief.aspx.

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Summary

Through their service to dens and Cub Scouts, den chiefs have the opportunity to improve their leadership and communication skills, to enhance their ability to work with adults, and to build self-confidence. The den chief can help with both retention of Scouts and leaders as well as with the recruitment of Scouts. The den chief position is a critically important youth leadership position of responsibility for both packs and troops.

Merit Badges— Enhancing Our Youth's Competitive Edge

Merit Badge Pamphlets: Be Sure to Read the Notes

Merit badge counselors need to know their subject matter, but they should also understand the mission and aims of Scouting if they are to fully appreciate how they can help Scouts grow and learn through the process. In addition to making sure the Scout has completed the requirements as stated, a counselor should look for ways to influence each Scout's character, citizenship, and mental and physical fitness in a positive way.

Because a Scout's association with an adult counselor relates to more than just the advancement method in Scouting, the process in this larger context begins when the Scout first meets with the counselor and then continues until the blue card is signed off. What should the counselor do to be prepared for that initial meeting with a Scout? What can be done to make that particular merit badge experience fun and exciting—as well as informative—in a way that supports the aims and mission of the BSA? The answers can often be found in the least likely yet most obvious of place: the merit badge pamphlet.

The information presented in the merit badge pamphlet helps the counselor understand what the Scout should be studying and the level of learning expected for the particular badge. Many pamphlets also contain clarifications and suggestions for projects or demonstrations that are required. More importantly, a good number of the pamphlets also include an introductory section specifically addressed to the counselor called "Note to the Counselor." Some of these notes deal with safety considerations, as well as any training or special qualifications that might be needed for presenting the merit badge activities. Many also provide suggestions on what, when, and how to counsel or coach Scouts in subject matter important to the BSA's risk management plan.

While many pamphlets have only a few lines of notes, the following pamphlets have extensive "Notes to the Counselor" sections:

Camping	Home Repairs	Reptile & Amphibian Study	Small Boat Sailing
Canoeing	Inventing	Rifle Shooting	Snow Sports
Climbing	Kayaking	Robotics	Swimming
Composite Materials	Lifesaving	Rowing	Water Sports
Emergency Preparedness	Metalwork	Scuba Diving	Welding
Game Design	Pioneering	Shotgun Shooting	Whitewater
Gardening	Reading	Skating	Woodwork

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We must keep in mind that our aims are to develop citizenship, personal fitness, and character, and that skills learned and knowledge gained are important, but not so important as achieving the aims of Scouting met through the process of earning a merit badge. Just as the Scoutmaster's job in signing a blue card is the same as his or her typical role in working with the Scouts in most every other aspect of the program—that of a coach and counselor—so, too, is the role of the merit badge counselor during the time the Scout is pursuing that merit badge.

Options Added to Scouting Heritage and Sustainability

The National Advancement Committee recently added the following options to Scouting Heritage and Sustainability merit badges. The additions are effective immediately and will appear in the 2014 *Boy Scout Requirements* book and both merit badge pamphlets when they are next reprinted.

Scouting Heritage

Requirement 4(c) added:



Visit an exhibit of Scouting memorabilia or a local museum with a Scouting history gallery, or (with your parent's permission and counselor's approval) visit with someone in your council who is recognized as a dedicated Scouting historian or memorabilia collector. Learn what you can about the history of Boy Scouting. Give a short report to your counselor on what you saw and learned.

To see this addition in context with the rest of the requirements, visit www.scouting.org/scoutsource/boyscouts/advancementandawards/meritbadges/mb-scout_heritage.aspx.

Previously, requirement 4 had just two options, which required either (a) attending a jamboree or BSA high adventure base or (b) visiting or writing the National Scouting Museum in Irving. There are, however, many other opportunities to learn about Scouting history. An upcoming occasion will be the special exhibits in Salt Lake City as this month the BSA and the LDS Church celebrate 100 years of partnership in changing the lives of youth.

Sustainability

To meet the needs of Scouts who, for whatever reason, are not able to review water bills for their home, the National Advancement Committee has approved the following option to requirement 2(a).



Develop and implement a plan that attempts to reduce your family's water usage. As a family, discuss water usage. To aid in your discussion, if past water bills are available, you may choose to examine a few. As a family, choose three ways to help reduce water consumption. Implement those ideas for one month. Share what you learn with your counselor, and tell how you think your plan affected your family's water usage.

It should be noted that Scouts may choose to use the alternative requirement whether or not they have access to water bills. Both requirements are listed with the online merit badge requirements at <http://www.scouting.org/scoutsource/BoyScouts/AdvancementandAwards/MeritBadges/mb-SUST.aspx>.

Eagle Issues

Eagle Scout Competition Announced

The Bill of Rights Institute is excited to announce their second Eagle Scout competition, with the chance for Scouts to win up to \$1,000 plus \$500 for their BSA unit.

The competition is structured around two short essays (500 word maximum) related to the Constitution and the founding principles:

1. James Madison, often referred to as the father of the Constitution, said in Federalist 51 that: "If men were angels, no government would be necessary. If angels were to govern men, neither external nor internal controls on government would be necessary. In framing a government which is to be administered by men over men, the great difficulty lies in this: you must first enable the government to control the governed; and in the next place, oblige it to control itself."

Read the US Constitution and find two examples of "controls on government." Explain why these specific controls are important and their relevance today.

2. Consider the following quote: "The First Amendment is dramatically inconvenient. It requires us to tolerate the very bad in order to protect the unpopular but good." Do you agree or disagree? Defend your argument using examples.

The Bill of Rights Institute is an educational non-profit with the mission to educate young people on the ideas of the Constitution and the rights it protects. The Institute develops curricula and provides professional development opportunities for educators. It also provides high school students with opportunities to develop their understanding of the founding documents through essay contests, Constitution clubs, online games and resources, and summer programs. For more information on the Bill of Rights Institute's programs, visit its website at <http://billofrightsinstitute.org>.

Eagle Scout Competition

Who: Life Scouts and Eagle Scouts between the ages of 14-19

What: Answer two short essay questions on the ideas of the Constitution

Deadline: February 10, 2014

Win:

- Grand Prize - \$1,000 for one Scout *and* \$500 for his unit
- Two Honorable Mentions - \$500 for each Scout *and* \$250 for his unit

Apply Online: <http://billofrightsinstitute.org/eaglescout>

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.

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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.

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The Venturing Perspective



VENTURING® BSA

Venturing Program Changes in the Works: Stay Tuned!

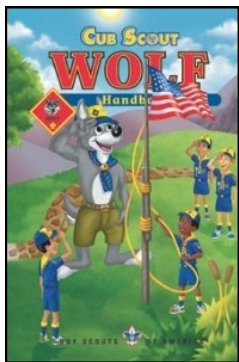
As many may be aware, the Venturing award requirements and advancement structure are being reworked. Although final details have not been released, a broad outline of Venturing's "Direction for the Future" can be found in the *Road Map to Venturing* report (www.scouting.org/filestore/venturing/pdf/220-067_WB.pdf) presented at the BSA National Annual Meeting last May.

If the road map's timeline for implementation is adopted, it will be increasingly important for council, district, and unit advancement volunteers and professionals to remain alert for implementation announcements that may affect the ability of Venturers to complete current advancement and award requirements by the projected cutoff date of December 31, 2014.

The new program is scheduled for release in May 2014. It will be the general rule of thumb at that time to let the Venturers decide if they want to begin, or continue, work on the old awards, or to begin work on the new awards instead. In any case, December 31, 2014, is the final "earn date" for the current awards.

Watch future editions of *Advancement News* to learn more about the advancement aspects of these changes as they become available.

From the Field



Cub Scout Wolf Handbook, Feats of Skill, Achievement 1(a) requires a boy to "Play catch with someone 10 steps away. Play until you can throw and catch." Most boys are able to complete this achievement with minimal effort, as they have been tossing balls for months, if not years, at this age. But for "Ben," a Cub Scout with special needs, this was a task with which he had no experience. So as the rest of the boys in this den pursued working on the next set of advancement requirements, Ben and I practiced little catches. It took two weeks to be able to catch a ball in his arms and hold on to that ball. His grip and hug of the ball was determined. Then we started moving apart, just a few steps at a time. Several weeks later came the magic moment.

Ten steps, a throw to Ben—caught. A toss back—caught. We made it. The next step was to show mom his accomplishment. The tear in her eye said it all. Scouting is for the boy, yes. But the joy *that* day came to both Ben and his family—and to me. We all knew that through this simple advancement accomplishment, much more had happened.

Thank you, C.P. for sharing your advancement story.

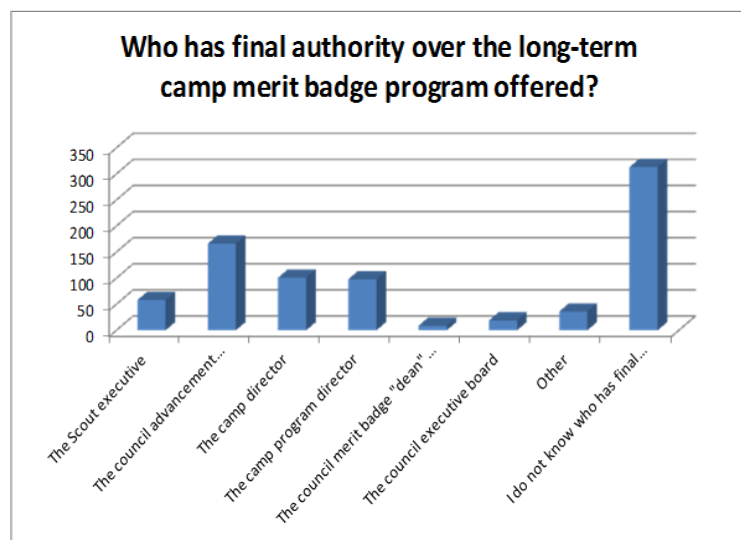
Have you seen an impact on a boy or a young man or woman as a result of an experience in the advancement program? Please send your story to advancement.team@scouting.org. Provide your name, email, and general location so we may contact you if we have questions. No guarantees, but you just might see your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

The Survey Says!

Additional Insights from the Advancement in Camp Survey

In this issue of *Advancement News*, we are pleased to share additional results from our Advancement in Camp survey.

First, “Who has final authority over the long-term camp merit badge program?” Only one in five responded with the correct answer: the council advancement committee. A 39% plurality admitted they didn’t know and 25% chose either the camp or program directors. On this subject, the *Guide to Advancement*, in topic 5.0.1.1, is clear: “Procedures for advancement in camp are established by the council advancement committee in compliance with national procedures.” While ultimate accountability does fall to the council committee, topic 5.0.1.5 points out that partnering with the camp director and program director to approach



solutions jointly, is more likely to foster strong camp advancement programs. It must also be noted that those who chose the council executive board were correct as well, since a council’s board has the authority to direct the actions of the council advancement committee so long as the direction is within national policy.

This survey response underscores another potential obstacle. While experienced camp staff members are often confident they are delivering the program correctly, one council advancement chair conducting a merit badge counselor refresher course for camp staff recently discovered

several advancement misconceptions. These “teaching moments” were energetically discussed and the course concluded with the staff properly trained to improve program execution and comply with national policies and procedures.

One of the other survey questions shed light on another issue that came up during that council’s merit badge counselor refresher course: “May camp staff alter requirements when a camp’s facilities do not support merit badge requirements?” Nearly a quarter of respondents believed there was flexibility in this area. However, the *Guide to Advancement* in topic 5.0.1.0, “Advancement in Camp Settings,” states the mandated policy regarding changes to any requirements: “No council, committee, district, unit, or individual has the authority to add to, or subtract from, advancement requirements.” The *Guide* goes on to say, “Camp counselors and those assisting them, regardless of the circumstances, are not permitted to modify requirements” (See topic 5.0.1.4). In these cases, a merit badge “partial” is the appropriate outcome.

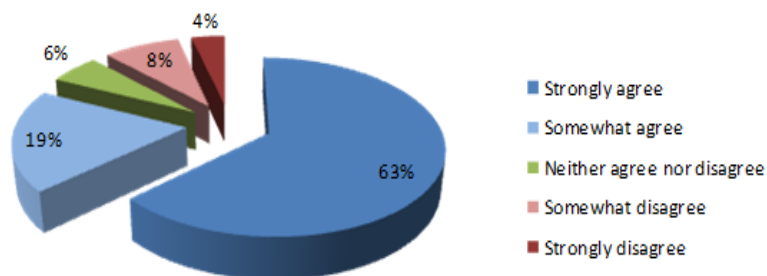
Two other survey questions addressed the real implications of this policy. Almost all respondents, 97%, indicated it was important to **alert campers in advance** in cases where the camp cannot offer all the requirements to complete a merit badge. Two-thirds of the respondents “strongly” or “somewhat” agreed that “3-month or 90-day” merit badges should NOT be offered in the camp setting.

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Finally, the results pointed to general agreement concerning the age requirements for merit badge counselors in camp or elsewhere. Almost two-thirds of respondents strongly agreed that only registered and approved merit badge counselors who are at least 18 years old should be allowed to sign off on completion of requirements, and another 19% “somewhat” agreed. Again, the *Guide to Advancement* provides clear guidance that counselors “must be men or women of good character, age 18 or older, and recognized as having the skills and education in the subjects they cover.” Younger camp staff members may instruct, but the sign off must be done by a properly certified counselor on staff. The *Guide to Advancement*, in Topic 5.0.1.3, addresses this important distinction in more detail.

Only registered and approved MBCs, who are at least 18 years old, should be allowed sign off on completion of merit badge requirements.



Did You Receive these Tweets?

September 16: *Advancement News* readers: Thanks for taking the survey on MB fairs. Please send your additional comments to advancement.team@scouting.org.

September 16: The booklet “Friendstorming On Tour” is available at www.scouting.org/advancement. Learn how to build list of 100+ district volunteer prospects.

September 16: Know an Eagle candidate looking for a \$100 grant for his project? Go to www.scouting.org/trailtoeagle to learn more. Apply through your council.

September 18: New requirement 4c added to Scouting Heritage Merit Badge. Allows option to visit a local Scouting exhibit and more: www.tinyurl.com/o7u2utu.

September 20: Process for requesting alternative requirements for Scouts with special needs to earn Scout badge is the same as for Tenderfoot, 2nd, and 1st Class.

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.

What Do You Think?

Our Next Survey Coming Soon:

Council and District Advancement Committee Organization

The National Advancement Committee will be seeking your input regarding how council and district advancement committees are organized. Completing the survey should take about 10 minutes. Watch for it in about two weeks. Thanks in advance for your time and feedback.

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!

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 Web 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 Sheet](#)

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

[On Increasing Advancement](#)

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 November

- **Opportunities for Advancement Administrators:** The Conference on Education for Advancement Administrators at the Florida Sea Base
- **The Cub Scout Angle:** What To Do with Those Unused Bear Achievements
- **Guide to Advancement:** What if an unregistered merit badge counselor is used?
- **The Venturing Perspective:** Generating Thoughtful Responses at Gold and Silver Award Reviews
- **From The Field:** Advancement in Action