

Advancement News

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Prepared. For Life.®

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

Training Opportunities Galore

Summer is always a busy time for Scouting. While many leaders and youth will be attending the 2017 National Scout Jamboree in West Virginia in July, there still will be a number of fabulous conferences that will be presented throughout the summer at Philmont, and even one at the Summit in June. Here are some brief descriptions of the advancement-related conferences offered this summer. You may have been thinking about going to one of these for a long time, but just haven't made that final decision to go. **Now is the time to "git'r done" and register!** Check out the opportunities that are shared here, then go online to one of the links provided and register for a true "mountaintop experience" at two of the BSA's most fabled destinations. We look forward to seeing you at one of these GREAT advancement conferences!

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Opportunities for Advancement Administrators

Mechanics of Advancement – The Summit, June 18-24, 2017

The John Tickle Training and Leadership Center at the Summit will host the 2017 *Mechanics of Advancement* conference for unit, district, and council volunteers and professionals during the week of June 18-24, 2017.

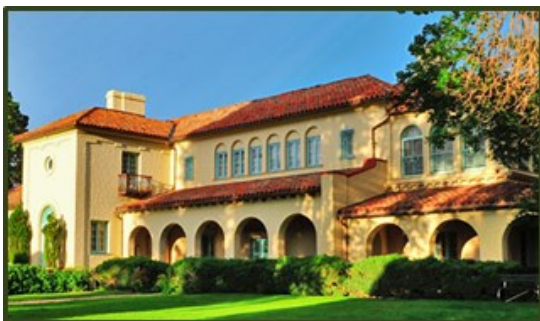
This course is a **must** for new advancement administrators or those who are just in need of a refresher on advancement procedures. Conference attendees will gain an in-depth understanding of the essentials of advancement and an appreciation for the rationale behind the policies and procedures governing them. Presenters, who are well founded in advancement issues and have a full understanding of the *Guide to Advancement*, will lead group discussions focusing on the most effective ways to resolve the related issues and challenges that arise.



Further information on the Summit and on registration for this conference can be found at www.summitbsa.org/programs/training.

Advancement Issues and Solutions – Philmont, July 16-22, 2017

If you are an experienced volunteer advancement administrator, consider taking your game to the next level at the Philmont *Advancement Issues and Solutions* conference. This case study-based conference is designed for unit, district, and council advancement coordinators, chairs, committee members, and staff advisors. If you are serving in one of those roles, start making plans now to take advantage of this opportunity to share ideas with other committed advancement administrators at Scouting's premier destination.



Conference participants will not only learn about the latest updates on advancement issues, but more importantly, they will analyze, discuss, and solve case studies similar to those regularly dealt with by the National Advancement Program Team and the Eagle Issues Task Force. The result will be a better understanding of the effective use of the *Guide to Advancement* and also the confidence to handle difficult issues at the council level.

Don't forget the fabulous programs available for families of conference participants! Spouses and children will have a week, long remembered.

Registration information is available at www.philmonttrainingcenter.org, where you will find a large green bar inviting you to "Click Here to Register for 2017." Go ahead, click on it, then start packing your bags.



Conference on Education for Advancement Administrators (CEAA) – Philmont, July 23-29, 2017

Held immediately after the *Advancement Issues and Solutions* conference, the CEAA will provide an advanced learning experience for council and district advancement volunteers and professionals who have advancement responsibilities. Of significant importance, it is an opportunity to assist in the development of educational materials and other resources that will be used across the country. Conferees will view and discuss various existing materials and make recommendations for tools that should be developed for the future. Participants will begin work on some of those tools during this conference.

Don't miss this fabulous opportunity to visit Philmont Scout Ranch and the opportunity to engage in some amazing learning opportunities and camaraderie. And bring your families because they will participate in programs that will not be forgotten for a long time.

Registration information for the CEAA is also available at www.philmonttrainingcenter.org.

Scouter Training at Sea Base in January: A Post-Conference Report

An enthusiastic group of Scouting volunteers gathered at Florida Sea Base last January 15–21, 2017 for supplemental training in advancement and Boy Scout Programming in relation to Disability Awareness. The week proved to be a wonderful experience where participating volunteers gained a greater appreciation of how differing Scout “abilities” can benefit from the Scouting program via advancement and special Boy Scout programming.

The spousal program was fun and entertaining, including at least one fly fishing trip in the Everglades, complete with a manatee swimming beneath the boat. How special is that!

Here are some of the comments from the week's participants:

- “I learned about disability awareness and found it valuable. Already looking for ways to bring this information back to my district and council.”
- “The week was very helpful for mission-vision and advancement.”
- “The faculty was very knowledgeable and helpful. I will return next year.”

Well, here is some good news for that last participant. Plans are already underway to hold more conferences at the Florida Sea Base in January 2018. For information and dates, visit www.bsaseabase.org/ConferenceCenter.aspx.

2017 Conferences

June 18-24: The Summit Bechtel Reserve – *Mechanics of Advancement*

July 16-22: Philmont Training Center – *Issues and Solutions Conference*

July 23-29: Philmont Training Center – *Conference on Education for Advancement Administrators (CEAA)*

One-Day Advancement Course on the Horizon

The National Advancement Program Team is putting the final touches on a day-long advancement education course which is scheduled to be published during the month of May. This will be an instructor-led course designed to be delivered with two instructors as the optimum presentation method. It is a Power-Point based education platform.

Being the work of many advancement administrators it is intended to give councils a tool to educate unit, district, and council advancement administrators on the proper application of the *Guide to Advancement*. Focus will be on understanding the GTA, its use, and interpretation.

When published, the course will be available for downloading on the BSA's Advancement Resources webpage (www.scouting.org/advancement.aspx).

As with all Advancement Educational presentations, an expiration date is included to ensure that the latest version is in use for units, districts and councils across the country.

From the *Guide to Advancement*

Requests for Extension of Time to Earn Eagle Scout Rank

"If a youth foresees that, due to no fault or choice of his own, he will be unable to complete the Eagle Scout rank requirements before age 18, he may apply for a limited time extension." (*Guide to Advancement* topic 9.0.4.0)

Local councils do not have the authority to grant or deny such time extension requests. Only the National Advancement Program Team has that authority. However, councils are responsible for thoroughly and fairly investigating each request in a timely manner and then preparing a position statement, and eventually a formal Request for Extension of Time to Earn Eagle Scout Rank (form 512-077).

The process begins when a Scout sends his informal request for an extension, preferably by letter rather than email, to the council service center. In this letter, which if possible should be submitted before his 18th birthday, the Scout must document the circumstances that support granting the extension. If health-related, he must provide a statement from a health professional. If he claims that adult error is involved, the adults involved, if available, must provide written statements explaining the error(s) and the steps taken to prevent future occurrences. Time is of the essence when handling extension requests since a Scout may only need a short amount of time to complete his requirements. While the extension request is being reviewed at both the council and national level, the Scout should continue working on his requirements.

Upon receiving an extension request, the council advancement committee chair and staff advisor should expeditiously select at least two council advancement committee members to thoroughly research the request and prepare a summary report. The reviewers should obtain written statements from those familiar with the case, or at least interview them—in some cases, it is a good idea to hold face-to-face interviews—

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including the candidate, his family, and adult leaders, who must be included in the investigation. All statements must include the date and signature (name) of the author.

After reviewing the investigation summary and the evidence gathered, the council advancement committee must prepare a position statement stating whether or not they support the extension request. After they have shared this position statement with the Scout, his parent or guardian, and his unit leader, it will be up to the Scout to decide whether or not to pursue the request to the National Advancement Program Team, even if the council does not recommend that it be granted.

While the council committee should thoughtfully explain its reasons for not supporting the extension request, they must be careful not to discourage the Scout from pursuing his request. Sometimes councils misunderstand or misinterpret the rules governing extension requests and they may incorrectly recommend denial. Making statements such as "National will never approve this request" will have a chilling effect on the Scout and his family and must be avoided at all times. Ultimately the National Advancement Program Team will make the decision.

Please review *Guide to Advancement* topic 9.0.4.1 for a complete explanation of this process.

The Cub Scout Angle

End of Year Cub Scout Advancement

The Cub Scout year of rank advancement is often geared to finish at the blue and gold banquet in February. The timing is ideal for a large banquet and festivities to celebrate advancement for all boys and signal the time for Webelos Scouts to complete their transition to Boy Scouting and troop involvement.



Many Cub Scouts are unable to complete their rank advancement by this time, and are encouraged to continue working on adventures and electives. Some, however, do not complete their rank advancement by June 1, the traditional date when records change and each rank moves up—for example, Tiger becomes Wolf and Wolf becomes Bear. What happens to those boys who have been working but are not there yet?

The answer is in the *Guide To Advancement*, topic 4.1.0.4, which allows the pack committee to allow a few extra weeks after the end of the school year. The Cub Scout should not have to “stop cold”—he deserves the chance to succeed and the GTA ensures this chance.

The pack committee should meet during early May and get input from den leaders, parents, and Scouts. They should review advancement reports and see the health of the dens. Den leaders can identify boys who are finished, near to being finished, and those who are not as far in their advancement. Once those boys are identified, joint effort can be initiated to encourage and facilitate the successful completion of this Scout's badge of rank. This will give him the all-important sense of accomplishment and pride in a job well done. Then it's on to the next new Cub Scout advancement adventures.

The Boy Scout Angle



Learning to Teach Is Teaching to Learn

“In springtime a young man’s fancy,” goes the joke, “turns to baseball.” While that may be true, in springtime a Scoutmaster’s thoughts actually turn to getting the troop ready for summer camp, especially that new group of Scouts who just crossed over from the pack. Experienced Scouters know that if these boys have a positive summer camp experience, they will stay in Scouting for a long time.

Who better to show these new Scouts the ropes than the boys who crossed over about this time last year, most of whom should by now be or at least close to becoming First Class Scouts? Under the guidance of the senior patrol leader, patrol leaders, and troop guides, let these “seasoned” Scouts teach the new boys the skills they will need at summer camp. In this way the new instructors will reinforce the lessons they have learned during the last year, and show the senior Scouts they are ready to take on more responsibilities. Meanwhile, as the new Scouts learn, the experienced Scouts teach, and the senior Scouts put their leadership skills to work, the whole troop will be involved. The new Scouts will enjoy the positive attention from the older boys. In this way, everyone experiences personal growth.

There is no better way to learn something than by teaching it. As the *Guide to Advancement* (topic 4.2.1.1) puts it: “[The Scout] learns by doing, and as he learns, he grows in his ability to do his part as a member of the patrol and troop. As he develops knowledge and skill, he is asked to teach others; and in this way he learns and develops leadership.” In our example, the older boys gain leadership experience; mid-level Scouts reinforce their Scouting skills and learn how to pass them on to other Scouts. Together, new and old Scouts get prepared for the adventure ahead. All of this will happen with just a light touch from the Scoutmaster. It’s a beautiful thing.

About *Advancement News*

Follow the National Advancement Program Team on Twitter!

(BSA Advancement Team, @AdvBSA)

Advancement News is the official e-letter of the Boy Scouts of America National Advancement Program Team. 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 six 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.

Counselor's Corner

Merit Badge Administration: Myth Busters!

Unfortunately, there are some “myths” on merit badge administration floating around out there in “Scoutland” that can cause confusion for merit badge counselors and other adult leaders. Let’s “bust” some of those myths right now.

- **Myth 1:** A Boy Scout must be at least 15 years of age and have achieved the First Class Scout rank to begin working on merit badges.

Fact: There is no minimum age or rank. A few merit badges have specific restrictions, but otherwise, any registered Scout can work on any merit badge at any time (*GTA* topic 7.0.0.3) up to the age of 18.

- **Myth 2:** A counselor may only be approved to counsel up to five merit badges.

Fact: The National Council places no limit on the number of badges a counselor may be approved to counsel (*GTA* topic 7.0.1.4). It is permissible for councils to limit the number of badges that one person counsels; however, it must not do so to the point where Scouts’ choices, especially in small or remote units, are so limited as to serve as a barrier to advancement.

- **Myth 3:** A Scoutmaster has the authority to deny a Scout’s request to work on more merit badges if he has too many unfinished ones.

Fact: Any registered Scout can work on any merit badge at any time (*GTA*, topic 7.0.0.3). In this scenario, all the Scoutmaster is allowed to do is counsel the Scout to perhaps finish what he has already begun.

- **Myth 4:** An activity used for one merit badge cannot later be used for another merit badge.

Fact: Topic 4.2.3.6 of the *Guide to Advancement* explains that activities may be counted more than once, as long as these three conditions are met:

- The two requirements match up exactly.
- The two requirements have the same intent.
- The requirements do not state otherwise.

- **Myth 5:** A Scout must first discuss the merit badges he wishes to pursue with his Scoutmaster before starting to work on requirements.

Fact: According to topic 7.0.0.1 in the 2015 *Guide to Advancement*, a Scout may begin working on merit badge requirements as soon as he is registered. Discussing the badges with his unit leader is still part of the merit badge plan, because it will ensure that he receives the contact information for a currently registered and approved merit badge counselor, as well as a signed blue card.

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Archived editions of *Counselor's Compass* will remain available at

www.scouting.org/scoutsource/boyscouts/guideformeritbadgescounselors.aspx.

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- **Myth 6:** Instructing a merit badge to a large group of Scouts is ideal because it creates synergy among the participants.

Fact: Topic 7.0.3.0 of the *Guide to Advancement* explains that teaching a badge to a Scout and his buddy or a small group such as a patrol affords the counselor coaching and guidance opportunities not possible in a large group setting. It also ensures each individual Scout has actually and personally completed the required work.

- **Myth 7:** A Scout must earn all or most of the Eagle-required merit badges before he can begin working on his elective badges.

Fact: As already shown, any registered Scout can work on any merit badge at any time (GTA topic 7.0.0.3), Eagle-required badges included.

Eagle Issues



Eagle Scout Rank Reference Letters

Eagle Scout requirement two requires the Scout to "... demonstrate Scout Spirit by living the Scout Oath and Scout Law" and to "List on your Eagle Scout Rank Application the names of individuals who know you personally and would be willing to provide a recommendation on your behalf, ..."

These recommendations can be useful to board of review members who may not have any personal knowledge of the Scout and how he lives his life.

The Scout meets requirement two, in part, by providing the names and contact information of his prospective references on the Eagle Scout Rank Application. The council advancement committee or other designated adults are responsible for securing the recommendations from the individuals listed. The Scout may assist with delivering an addressed envelope and instructions, or perhaps a form to complete, to the listed references, but that is the limit of his participation. The Scout must not be held responsible for any additional follow-through to obtain the recommendation letters.

Although reference letters can provide valuable information to a board of review, the lack of a reference letter from an individual must not be construed to infer a negative recommendation. Furthermore, if after a reasonably diligent effort, no response can be obtained from one or more of the references, then the board of review must go on without them. It must not be postponed or denied due to lack of reference letters. Nor can the Scout be requested to provide replacement names for those who have not responded.

An important aspect of the reference process is the requirement that all responses be handled confidentially and only board of review members or other officials with a specific need may see them. Completed references are kept confidential to ensure that the writers will be comfortable submitting a thoughtful and thorough recommendation, including negative information, if warranted. By ensuring that reference letters are kept confidential, those preparing them need not be concerned about the contents being disseminated

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inappropriately. For that reason, and to preclude errors in handling the completed references, those providing references shall not be given the option of waiving confidentiality nor shall they provide a copy of the reference letter to the Scout. Councils must not include such an option on any reference forms they might provide.

Once a board of review has been held, or an appeal process conducted, reference responses shall be returned to the council, where they will be destroyed.

See *Guide to Advancement* topic 9.0.1.7 for additional information on these requirements and procedures.

Hear It First on Twitter

If you want the news first, follow the National Advancement Program 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 a quick and easy process to set up an account at www.twitter.com. To limit incoming emails (‘tweets’), you can select to have BSA National Advancement Team as the only account you want to follow.

Note: Advancement questions should be directed to advancement.team@scouting.org.

Did You Receive these Tweets?

April 20: See the new Developing Council and District Advancement Committees presentation available at http://www.scouting.org/scoutsource/BoyScouts/Resources/advancement_presentations.aspx ...

April 20: Watch for the 2017 Eagle Scout Rank Application due out the week of 4/24/17. It will be accessible from <http://www.scouting.org/advancement>.

April 20: A revised Belated Eagle Scout Rank Application has been posted and accessible from <http://www.scouting.org/advancement>

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.

Special Necessities

Finding Exceptional Ways to Meet Advancement Requirements without Exception

“Meet the requirements as they are written, with no exception.”

The quote above from the *Guide to Advancement*, topic 10.2.2.0, at first glance may sound harsh, restrictive, and could even leave one wondering how a Scout with special needs can meet requirements that sometimes seem too tough. Well, with a little bit of creativity and teamwork, Scouts and leaders have found exceptional ways to complete requirements without exception.

Communication with the Scout and his family are important ingredients that can really help. Using resources such as school teachers and other community groups and leaders is really important, too. Another great resource could be your council’s Special Needs Committee .

We have heard great stories over the years about individuals with disabilities finding creative ways to meet requirements. For example, a Scout who can’t move his hands or arms to tie a knot, has learned the steps required and can dictate them to a friend who tied the knot for him. Similarly, other Scouts have used communication devices to work with an able-bodied partner to complete other requirements.

We really want to do all we can to enable Scouts with disabilities to advance in rank and complete merit badges, all while upholding the high standards of the badges. Every so often, we encounter a case where that’s just not possible, and that is the time to submit a request for alternative requirements or alternate badges.

Guide to Advancement topic 10.2.2.2 provides clear instructions on how to request alternative requirements for boys working on the ranks of Scout, Tenderfoot, Second Class, or First Class. For ranks above First Class, the requirements cannot be modified; however, a Scout can request authorization to complete an alternative merit badge in place of one that just is not possible for him to complete. Again, the *GTA* can help you navigate and understand this process.

One thing that is important to remember is that advancement is not meant to be easy for any Scout, and that is why only a very small percentage of Scouts achieve the rank of Eagle. Meanwhile, it is equally important to remember that advancement should never get in the way of providing new, meaningful, and fun

Personal View

“As an individual living with a physical disability, I use a wheelchair for mobility. I can still hike (pushing my chair instead of walking), I can bike (using a handcycle instead of a [pedal] bike), I can camp in a tent (even if I need a little helping getting in and out), and I can creatively find a way to do most things I want to.”

Venturing



Useful Tips for Conducting Advisor's Conferences

While progressing through the Venturing advancement structure, a Venturer will be required to meet with his or her Crew Advisor for an advisor's conference, which is a meeting, or rather a friendly conversation, between the Venturer and the Advisor. These sessions provide useful opportunities to review the Venturer's goals in the crew and within his or her personal life. They will review progress from their most recent advisor's conference, and encourage the Venturer to set future goals (e.g., crew, personal, faith-related, school, professional, etc.). Meanwhile, the goal of the Advisor should be to ensure that the Venturer is ready for the next board of review.

Here are a few helpful hints to keep in mind when conducting an Advisor's conference:

- Reinforce the ideals of the Boy Scouts of America and Venturing.
- Establish mutual trust. Encourage a mutual discussion where both the youth and adult feel comfortable enough to share and ask questions of one another.
- Keep the meeting environment relaxed, perhaps by being on a crew outing by a lake or outside of your crew meeting location at a bench, while remembering to be in full view of other people in accordance with BSA youth protection guidelines. Avoid conducting a conference at a table or desk. Keep the conversation casual and friendly.
- Give your undivided care and attention to the youth. Take the time to get to know the Venturer personally.
- Invite the Venturer to share by asking open-ended questions, such as:
 - What is the best crew outing memory you have and why?
 - What are your future goals and what will you do to accomplish them?
 - Last time we discussed your goal of xxx. How do you feel you have accomplished this goal? What have you learned from completing this goal?
- Keep the conversations to about 10-15 minutes in length. The Summit Award Advisor's conference may be a bit longer (perhaps 30 minutes).



From the Archives

From the *Guide to Advancement*:

Eagle Scout Service Project Safety

(April 2013)

“Eagle Scout service project coaches, or anyone who reviews Eagle service project proposals or final plans, should help to ensure safety. Familiarity with the *Guide to Advancement*, topic 9.0.2.14, ‘Risk Management and Eagle Scout Projects,’ and also ‘Service Project Planning Guidelines’ in the *Guide to Safe Scouting* will be helpful.

“Although the adults present at the project must monitor safety, the Eagle candidate should include attention to safety in his planning. The unit leader and the project coach (if one has been provided) will want to review the Scout’s plan, and they should encourage him to cover safety with respect to issues such as tool usage, site or weather hazards, wildlife and insect concerns, controlling horseplay, and general conduct during the project. A safety briefing should be conducted before work starts, and regardless of who conducts the briefing, the Eagle candidate should have a thorough understanding of the safety issues involved.

“Most every Eagle Scout candidate should include a first aid kit appropriate for the work he is planning. One may be available on location, or the troop’s kit may be taken to the site. These days it is almost unnecessary to suggest that a cell phone should be brought along to summon help if something more serious should happen.

“It is important the Scout understands ‘Age Guidelines for Tool Use and Work at Elevations or Excavations’ (available at www.scouting.org/filestore/healthsafety/pdf/680-028.pdf) that is, what tools may be used by a 14-year-old, a 16-year-old, or require an adult to operate. For example, all power saws are limited to adult use, and it is recommended that the saw operators be the saw owners. They are more likely to be familiar with the tool and how to operate it safely.

“One risk Scouts may not consider is that related to chemicals. For paints, solvents, and cleaning products, the Scout should see that the package labeling is read, understood, and followed. In some cases, adult handling may be appropriate. When cleaning, sanding, painting, demolishing, or refurbishing any surface painted before 1978, the potential risks with lead poisoning must be considered. Similarly, pressure-treated lumber is no longer made with arsenic, but old lumber may be involved in the project, and even new lumber still has some special handling requirements. (Information is available from most pressure-treated lumber retailers and at www.naturalhandyman.com/iip/infextra/infpre.html)

“Other common issues that should be considered are on-site risks ranging from buried utilities to plant or animal dangers (e.g., poison ivy, mosquitoes, ticks, and even bears, snakes, and alligators in some parts of the country). No matter where you are, weather, traffic, and sanitation issues should always be considered.

“Many projects require some form of personal protective equipment (PPE) such as long sleeves or pants, work or protective gloves, closed-toe shoes or work boots, safety glasses, ear plugs or protectors, dust masks, etc. The candidate should understand the specific PPE needs for his project and have a plan to be sure the necessary equipment will be available and used properly.

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“Every Eagle Scout project should be carried out safely, but safety doesn’t happen by accident. Thorough advance guidance of the Scout will go a long way in helping ensure an accident-free project. Some councils even provide links for safety information on an Eagle Scout page of their websites to help their Scouts to ‘be prepared’ from the time they first meet with their Eagle project coaches and project reviewers until the project is safely completed.

“In closing, it must be noted that although a Scout is expected to be concerned with safety on his project, Scouts are minors. Adult leaders must take the responsibility for safety and they must be available and free to intervene if necessary. An Eagle project is defined by the BSA as a unit activity, and unit leaders have the same responsibility for health and safety during Eagle projects that they have with any other unit event. Additionally, property owners of a project site also have a responsibility for safety. For example, if digging is involved, the property owner must be forthcoming with information on the location of underground utilities and identification of any hazards specific to the site that the Scout or the unit leader may overlook.”

[Ed note: Scouts will do well to follow best local practices and seek out information on underground utilities locations by searching online for “call before you dig” contact information.]



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 July/August

Opportunities for Advancement Administrators: Advancement Programs at National Training Sites

The Boy Scout Angle: The New Planning Sheet for Boy Scouts

Counselor’s Corner: Continued Highlights from Counselor’s Compass publications

Helpful Links

Here are some links to the most current materials of interest for Scouters who are involved in the administration of advancement. These and many more resources are available via the **Advancement Resources** web page at www.scouting.org/advancement.

[Merit Badge Group Instruction Guide](#)

[Advancement Educational Presentations:](#)

- Cub Scout Advancement: Delivering Adventure
- Getting the Most From Internet Advancement
- The Essentials of Merit Badge Counseling (
- The Eagle Scout Service Project Coach
- Effective Troop Advancement
- Including Scouts With Disabilities
- Videocasts on *Guide to Advancement*, selected topics
 - ◇ Introduction to the Guide to Advancement
 - ◇ Judgment Calls
 - ◇ Boards of Review
 - ◇ Boards of Review Under Disputed Circumstances
 - ◇ Boards of Review Appeals
 - ◇ The Eagle Scout Application Process
 - ◇ Eagle Scout Boards of Review
- Videos
 - ◇ On Increasing Advancement
 - ◇ Why Advancement?
 - ◇ Guardian of the Gate

[Guide to Advancement 2015](#)

[Eagle Scout Service Project Workbook](#)

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

[Eagle Scout Service Project Coach Application](#)

[Eagle Scout Rank Application](#)

[Merit Badge Counselor Information](#)

[Reporting Merit Badge Concerns](#)

[Venturing Summit Award Service Project Workbook](#)

[Venturing Board of Review Guide](#)

[Individual Scout Achievement Plan](#)

[Lone Scout Friend and Counselor Guidebook](#)



Coming Soon:
Updated 2017
Guide to Advancement

