

# Advancement News

July-August  
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Previous issues are available at <https://www.scouting.org/programs/boy-scouts/advancement-and-awards/advancement-news/>

## Opportunities for Advancement Administrators

### Philmont Training Center: Summer 2019

**The Advancement Issues and Solutions course scheduled for July 14 – 20, 2019 has been cancelled due to the lack of registered participants. We apologize for any inconvenience this cancellation may have caused. Please check out the other courses being offered during this and other weeks. We encourage you to make it a point to attend.**

For Scouters involved in advancement, there are still spaces available at the Philmont Training Center sessions slated this summer:

- July 21-27, Mechanics of Advancement Conference. Advancement administrators in districts or councils will gain an in-depth understanding of the essentials of advancement and an appreciation for the rationale behind BSA advancement policies and procedures.

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- July 21-27, Scout Troop Advancement. Unit leaders and committee members will examine electronic reporting, Scoutmaster conferences and boards of review, merit badge and service project issues, disability issues, Eagle issues, and more.

The Philmont Training Center has programs for all ages, so your family members will have opportunities to ride horses, take hikes, play games, make jewelry and clay pots, paint, and visit the Kit Carson Museum—as well as the [new home of the National Scouting Museum](#)—and other ‘way cool’ stuff that is just lots of fun!



For more information about Philmont offerings go to: [www.philmontscoutranch.org/PTC](http://www.philmontscoutranch.org/PTC) and you will find links to conference dates, registration, and family programs.

**Looking for training in 2020?**

Florida Sea Base will host the Mechanics of Advancement course

Date: January 19-25, 2020.

## **On Increasing Advancement**

### **Methods of Scouting: Focus on Adult Association**

Every Scouting activity moves and motivates our youth toward our basic aims of character development, citizenship training, leadership development, and mental and physical fitness. We achieve mission fulfillment using the methods of Scouting: Scouting’s ideals; the patrol method; the outdoors; advancement; personal growth; leadership development; the uniform; and adult association. None of these methods is a goal by itself — they are methods that work together which reinforce and enhance each other.

Let’s look at “adult association” for example. Most, if not all former Scouts remember an adult leader who inspired them during their Scouting years. Perhaps it was a leader who treated them with respect and who set an example by trying their best to live a life based on the Scout Oath and Law. Perhaps it was someone who, at the right moment in their life, was there with a quiet word of encouragement that helped steer their life in the right direction.

As adults in Scouting we must be ever mindful of windows of opportunity which crop up in a young person’s life. Although those moments may be no longer than a few seconds, a word of encouragement or a friendly example from an adult can be all that is needed to inspire a Scout to greater achievement and fulfillment. Having a non-judgmental adult they can trust that treat minor mistakes as opportunities for learning in a safe environment rather than calamities, is an invaluable benefit of Scouting.

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Outside of Scouting, our youth see adults in authoritative roles — teachers, coaches, clergy, and parents. Within the Scouting program, our youth get to see adults in different roles, especially their parents — they get to see them as friendly helpers and setting brave examples. They see them display reverence. They see adults whom they can trust who and try to live by that Oath and Law that is recited at every meeting. They meet adults who motivate them to do their best in a variety of situations. This is the magic of our Scouting programs.

Always be on the lookout for adult volunteers who can motivate and inspire our Scouts. By recruiting adults of good character to lead your Scouts, you will increase advancement and keep Scouts in Scouting longer.

## **From the *Guide To Advancement***

### **Scouts BSA Advancement and Boards of Review for Venturers and Sea Scouts**

Two significant changes in the 2019 *Guide to Advancement*, covered in topics 4.3.1.4 and 4.4.0.1, involve Scouts BSA advancement in Venturing crews and Sea Scout ships. Both were made to clarify responsibility for conducting Scouts BSA advancement boards of review.



Venturers and Sea Scouts who earned First Class rank when registered in Scouts BSA will remain qualified to continue with Scouts BSA advancement until their 18th birthday. A Scout may maintain multiple (dual) registration if they choose to do so, and work on advancement in either or both units simultaneously. However, once they have earned First Class rank, Scouts need not remain registered in Scouts BSA in order to continue earning Scouts BSA advancement.

If a youth chooses to register in both Scouts BSA as well as in either a crew or a ship, they may receive credit for work performed in either unit. However, unit leaders, along with the Scout, must decide which leader will oversee the Scout's BSA advancement. It is important to do this so that completed advancement requirements are properly reported in a timely manner through the BSA's Internet portal for advancement. The intent is not to limit advancement opportunities but to centralize reporting to avoid discrepancies.

See the article below, 'Internet Advancement 2.0 Arrives' for information on how to access IA 2.0.

If the qualified Venturer or Sea Scout is not registered in Scouts BSA, then the crew Advisor or ship Skipper will oversee the youth's Scouts BSA advancement. However, it is important for the Advisor or Skipper to understand that Scouts BSA advancement procedures must be followed, even though the youth may not be separately registered in Scouts BSA troop. For example, advancement boards of review for Star and Life ranks that are held by either the crew or ship committee must be conducted in accordance with Scouts BSA procedures. Eagle Scout boards of review involving Venturers and Sea Scouts will be held according to

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the local council's established procedures.

Regardless of whether they are held by a troop, crew, or ship, the procedures for organizing and conducting boards of review for Scouts BSA advancement can be found in Section 8 of the *Guide to Advancement*. In particular, refer to topics 8.0.0.1 through 8.0.1.5.

## **Cub Scouts BSA**



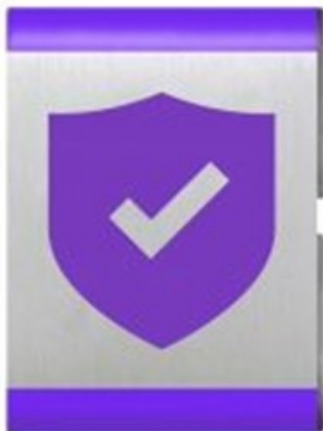
### **Preview Adventures and Den Meeting Plans**

Attendees at the National Annual Meeting in Denver in May, 2019 saw some exciting new announcements in the world of Cub Scouting unveiled. Here are two of the most exciting.

In Cub Scouting, adventures are the activity path to advancement. Some are required for each Cub Scout rank – Tiger through Arrow of Light — and some are elective at each rank. All of them are currently contained in the *Cub Scout Handbooks*. At the national meeting, new ways for adventures to be introduced was unveiled. These preview adventures can be tried by our youth as well as introducing ways for them and their leaders to gauge the effectiveness, interest, and appropriateness of each adventure. All of these are online at [www.scouting.org/programs](http://www.scouting.org/programs)

The first of these new preview adventures pertain to youth protection and are called the *Protect Yourself Rules Adventures*, designed for Lion, Tiger, Wolf, Bear, Webelos and Arrow of Light. BSA has partnered with the Barbara Sinatra Foundation on the content and delivery of this adventure. The others are titled *Yo-Yo Adventures* (described in more detail in the next article). The development of this adventure set was sponsored by Duncan Yo-Yo. If these are successful during the preview time period, they will be considered for inclusion in the next edition of the *Cub Scout Handbooks*.

Another major update is for Cub Scout leaders. A number of den meeting plans which have been in development, testing, and limited use for many years have been adapted for the current editions of the *Cub Scout Handbooks*. Available [online](#), these plans enable the tracking of adventure completion and Cub Scout advancement, and also give parents access to see their child's progress, as well as giving them suggestions for enrichment activities at home. Use of the den meeting plans will help den leaders plan and conduct their den meetings more easily. The goal is to increase membership retention by making the den meeting experience consistent across the country, well-organized, and aligning with the- full content of the Cub Scout program.



## Yo-Yo Preview Adventure: Check It Out!

One of the first [Preview Adventures](#) is available online now, for a limited time. Cub Scouts can try them to see how they like it. This is the [Yo-Yo Preview Adventure](#). Feedback is requested — just use the feedback button found at the bottom of the webpage.

The Duncan Yo-Yo company is proud to sponsor this activity, which is an elective adventure that can be accomplished in a single den meeting for Wolves, Bears, Webelos, and Arrow of Light Cub Scouts. All the resources to accomplish the fun can be found on site. This includes the adventure requirements, den meeting plans, videos with examples (so the den leader does not need to be a yo-yo aficionado), as well as information to order adventure belt loops and activity pins.

Click on the link to review this new elective – available ONLY ONLINE – for a limited time

[Yo-Yo Preview Adventure](#)



### Of Special Note:

This elective adventure for the included ranks can be found on Scoutbook; den meeting resources are only available on the Preview Adventure website. Belt loops and pins must be ordered; they will not be available in Scout shops.



### 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](http://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](mailto:advancement.team@scouting.org).

### Did You Receive These Tweets?

**June 20, 2019:** The Advancement Issues and Solutions course scheduled for July 14-20, 2019 has been cancelled due to the lack of registered participants. We apologize for any inconvenience this cancellation may have caused. Please check out the other courses scheduled for this or another week.

# Scouts BSA

The following is designed to assist troop Scoutmasters, committee members, parents, and – especially new Scouts BSA troop advancement coordinators. It is designed to support everyone involved in advancement at any level to accomplish their goal to help all Scouts succeed

Congratulations! September is the start-up of our 109<sup>th</sup> Scouting year, and September is often accompanied by an influx of new Scouts and adult volunteers like you, in BSA troops across the country and abroad!

## Overview

You've volunteered and registered with your son's or your daughter's Scouts BSA troop to shoulder the committee role of advancement coordinator (sometimes called "advancement chair"). You've taken the BSA Youth Protection training and you've taken—or have signed up for—the Troop Committee Challenge position-specific training, as well. Completing these puts you in the perfect position to contribute significantly to Scouting youth.

Advancement is one of the eight methods of Scouting; for you it's Number One. Whether yours is a Scouts BSA troop for boys or girls, the responsibilities of advancement are the same. match.

Your contributions will largely be in a support role—a combination of accurate record-keeping, timely board of review scheduling, and ongoing communications with your troop's Scoutmaster and committee chair as well as with your local council's headquarters staff and Scout Shop. Plus, you're the troop's "advancement ambassador" alongside the Scoutmaster, for all parents of new Scouts as well as a "refresher" for those parents who have been around for a while.

## The Advancement Continuum

As advancement coordinator, you might elect to recruit support people of your own, or you might organize your responsibilities for yourself alone—whatever works best for you. Your key allies will be the Scoutmaster and sometimes-assistant Scoutmasters, and the committee chair. You may also tap into the experience of the former advancement coordinator, if any.

Through this, you'll focus on Scout advancement as a continual process; it's not a "program" that has a fixed beginning and end. Scout advancement is a stepping-stone process; however, it's not linear—it's exponential. Each step through the seven ranks is greater than the one before. This design is intentional and built on the foundation of self-motivation by each Scout with the support of the troop and its activity program.

Each Scout makes a personal decision on advancement, based on their "motivation quotient." Happily, advancement isn't a "race"—in Scouting, advancement is designed and has provisions so that any Scout, regardless of physical or mental ability or challenge, can take as far as they desire. Advancement is about the journey and the end-goal is the complete prerogative of the traveler along this trail.

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## The Four Steps of Advancement

Scout advancement for ranks and merit badges is a four-step process and is always in the same order.

First, the Scout **learns**, most often from peers and from older, more experienced Scouts who show the way, and then uses that new knowledge or skill “on the trail” — where they can put it to use in practical situations, thereby reinforcing and cementing the learning process.

Second, the Scout is **tested**, to assure that they have gained the necessary knowledge or learned the skill. This also can be done “on the trail” — not by formally testing but by asking them to use their skill or knowledge in a real-life situation. This is most frequently carried out by their patrol leader or sometimes by the senior patrol leader (the top elected youth position of responsibility in the troop), instructor, assistant senior patrol leader, or junior assistant Scoutmaster (all are youth leadership positions appointed by the senior patrol leader with concurrence of the Scoutmaster where appropriate). On occasion, the Scout might be tested by the Scoutmaster or an assistant Scoutmaster.

Third, after all requirements for a specific rank are completed (merit badges are managed slightly differently), the Scout is **reviewed**—called a “board of review.” For the second through sixth Scout ranks — Tenderfoot through Life — reviews are conducted by members of the troop committee — including whenever possible you, the troop advancement coordinator. These reviews aren’t “final exams” or “courts.” They’re expected to be open conversations (not interrogations) in which the board of review members give each individual Scout the opportunity to reflect back on their accomplishments and look toward the future for what their next goal is and how they plan to achieve it. Reviews also give committee members a front-line look at the effectiveness of the Scoutmaster and the troop’s activity program, and how well both are meeting the expectations and needs of the Scout.

An achievement without recognition reduces the perceived worth of the effort to have achieved it. This is why the final step is critically important.

This fourth step is **recognition**. As soon as possible — ideally at the very next troop meeting following the rank’s successful board of review — the Scout is presented their newest rank badge. “Scout” rank comes off the uniform and is replaced by the Tenderfoot badge; Tenderfoot is replaced by the Second Class badge, and so on, right up to Life Scout rank (for the Eagle Scout rank there will be a delay in the presentation of the badge because this rank requires final approval by the national office of the Boy Scouts of America. Typically, an Eagle Scout court of honor is held independently to give the Scout the deserved recognition).

Through this four-step process, for each Scout in the troop, you’ll be closely collaborating with the Scoutmaster because it’s here that accurate record-keeping is vital. For this, you have an excellent online software package available to you: *Scoutbook* (go to <https://www.scoutbook.com/>). *Scoutbook* is designed for you to track individual advancements—requirement-by-requirement and rank-by-rank—plus allow you to upload photos and send emails to all troop volunteers, Scouts, and parents. (*Scoutbook* has many other features you’ll also enjoy exploring.)

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The other critical resource available to you is the *Guide To Advancement 2019* (“GTA” for short). If you like working with a hard copy, you can buy this important book (No. 33088) at your council Scout Shop or shop online at <https://www.scoutshop.org/>. For a free version to download, go to <https://filestore.scouting.org/filestore/pdf/33088.pdf>. It’s impossible to overemphasize the importance of *Scoutbook* and the *Guide to Advancement*. Be sure you have these resources at hand. And of course, be sure you’re signed up to regularly receive *Advancement News*.

The troop advancement coordinator plays important roles for these second, third, and fourth steps of advancement.

For **Step 2**, you’ll record each Scout’s completion of individual requirements. In final rank completion as reported to you by the troop’s youth leaders, the Scoutmaster, or an assistant Scoutmaster, you will update Scoutbook. Here you will find that *Scoutbook* makes your job easier (refer to GTA Topic 6.0.0.0, Section 6: Electronic Advancement Reporting, [pp. 40-41 in 2019 online edition]).

For **Step 3**, you’ll promptly organize boards of review (GTA Topic 8.0.0.0, Section 8, [pp 54-63] in the online version) for all ranks beginning with Tenderfoot (Scout rank doesn’t require a board of review). The Scoutmaster will notify the unit’s committee that the Scout is ready for their board of review. As the advancement coordinator, you’ll most likely be a member of the review whenever possible, and you (or the chair of the review if it’s someone other than you) will report the results of the review to the Scoutmaster.

Finally, for **Step 4**, you’ll submit Scoutbook’s generated Advancement Report to your council’s Scout shop and purchase the necessary badges for presentation at the next troop meeting.

### **Merit Badges**

Currently, the BSA offers 135 merit badges — topic areas for learning and skills enhancement (GTA Topic 7.0.0.0 [pp.-42-53]). A Scout acquires this learning through an adult who is a volunteer, registered and Youth Protection-trained and serves as a merit badge counselor (“MBC”). This person is a lay or professional expert in the subject matter. For merit badges, Scouts work with an MBC; they are responsible for advancement steps 1, 2, and 3.

*Note: It is sometimes incorrectly assumed that a Scoutmaster — by way of this registered position — is “automatically” a counselor for Camping, Hiking, Cooking, and similar merit badges because these elements are natural parts of the troop’s outdoor activities. This is not the case. Unless a Scoutmaster is specifically approved and officially registered as a counselor for a particular merit badge, that Scoutmaster’s signature as merit badge counselor is invalid.*

There are no boards of review for merit badges; the MBC has the responsibility and authority for final approval of merit badge completion. When a Scout has completed a merit badge, they present the MBC-signed application (aka “blue card” — go to [scoutbook.com/mobile/forums/change-log/9189/blue-card-printing/](https://scoutbook.com/mobile/forums/change-log/9189/blue-card-printing/)) to the Scoutmaster for their signature indicating that the merit badge requirements have been completed. The Scout then retains, for their records, the “applicant’s record” (one of the card’s three seg-

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ments) The MBC has already retained the “counselor’s record” segment. The third segment — the “unit’s record” — is kept by you as the troop advancement coordinator and used to record the Scout’s accomplishment. Then, as Scouts earn them, you’ll record their completion via the BSA’s internet portal, generate an advancement summary or report for all merit badges earned, and purchase the appropriate badges for presentation at the next troop meeting.

*Note: Rank badges or merit badges are **not** withheld until the troop holds their next scheduled “court of honor.” Scouts are recognized at the earliest opportunity. Scouts may again be recognized publicly at the next court of honor.*

### **Your Other Responsibilities**

As your troop’s advancement coordinator, there is a myriad of other responsibilities that will fall to you. These go far beyond record-keeping, scheduling, and other essentials of maintaining a current advancement portfolio for the Scouts and their troop.

The first of these is **educator**. Along with your Scoutmaster, you are the key person to educate Scouts’ parents and guardians on how their sons and daughters will be traveling along the advancement trail. You’ll encourage them to take an interest in their advancement and maybe teach them how to sew on their own badges. You’ll advise them that “support” doesn’t mean doing it for them or carrying them over any finish lines. To borrow from Scouting’s founder, Robert S.S. Baden-Powell, “Scouting is an adult’s job cut down to youth size,” You’ll build relationships so that any question they may have, they can comfortably come to you.

Another is **“collaborator.”** With the Scoutmaster and, possibly, the senior patrol leader, you’ll help keep courts of honor and other recognition events fresh, meaningful, and Scout-run. This may involve participation in ongoing research and collaborating on suggestions for new ideas.

Yet another is **resource**. When a Scout is interested in a particular merit badge, the Scout will tell the Scoutmaster of their interest and receive their “blue card” as well as the name and contact information of a nearby counselor for that badge. The Scoutmaster will always have the council or district merit badge counselor list at the ready, but the Scoutmaster needs to be kept up to date on the most current list. This is where you play an important role because you’re the one who stays in touch with the council or district and assures that the MBC list is always current and in the Scoutmaster’s hands.

Another role is **“resource.”** You will learn about additional recognitions that are available to Scouts, such as “50-Miler” badges, religious emblem programs, recognitions for heroism and life-saving, “Mile Swim” badges, and many others that recognize Scouts’ extra efforts. Once you’ve learned about these recognitions and the procedures involved, schedule brief presentations, first to the troop’s committee, the Scoutmaster, and any assistants, and then, through the senior patrol leader, to the Scouts themselves. (*Note: “Totin’ Chip”*

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and “Firem’n Chit” are not awards; respectively, these are youth “licenses,” to use woods tools and to build and keep fires safely and always under control.)

## Summary

A knowledgeable, detail-oriented, visionary, active and committed advancement coordinator is essential to the successes of the Scouts and troop you have chosen to serve. Without you, the Scouts may flounder, as may the Scoutmaster; the committee could be out of touch with what’s happening at ground-level; and the troop Scouting program could suffer because it will be less effective than it’s actually capable of being. Your responsibilities as advancement coordinator are many, but not overwhelming. The results of your success will be seen at virtually every troop meeting and certainly at every court of honor. Parents and guardians will applaud you as they see their Scout advancing through the Scouting program, because these youth will be doing and learning things that are available to them nowhere else but through the Scouting adventure.

You are the linchpin to Scouts’ successes in the BSA program, and you will be the cornerstone in the foundations they will build for themselves in Scouting and far beyond.



## 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](mailto: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.

# Eagle, Summit, Quartermaster Highlights



## Reminders for Processing Extension Requests

Each month the National Advancement Program Team receives time extension requests that are incomplete or insufficiently documented. This can significantly delay their processing. Because most councils infrequently submit time extension requests, they may not be fully familiar with the correct processing procedures. *Guide to Advancement* topics 9.0.4.0 and 9.0.4.1 specify the conditions under which time extension requests will be considered, along with the procedures for researching the request, developing necessary documentation, and submitting it to the national office. Following are a few important reminders:

- All extension requests **MUST** be forwarded to the National Advancement Program Team for review and final determination if the Scout requests it, even if the council does not recommend approval.
- All documents must be signed and dated by the author of that document. Dates are especially important for determining the relevance and context of the information included in the statement.
- Timeliness is very important, especially for extensions of a short length of time. It is not required that the request be submitted before the Scout's 18th birthday, but it is preferred. However, if the request is submitted after the Scout's 18<sup>th</sup> birthday, an explanation for the delay must be stated. Councils should strive to complete their review and submit the request to the national office as expeditiously as possible after receipt of the initial request.
- When a time extension is requested, the Scout should continue working on remaining requirements as processing occurs. This is important to show the Scout's commitment to completing the requirements. Also, processing delays may not be grounds for adding additional time to complete the requirements.
- The request must indicate the number of months after the 18<sup>th</sup> birthday that will be necessary to complete the requirements.

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## 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](mailto:advancement.team@scouting.org).

- The request must document the circumstances impeding the Scout's ability to complete the requirements.
- The council advancement committee must perform a thorough review, interview the candidate and other individuals with direct knowledge of the circumstances surrounding the request, collect and submit all appropriate and relevant documentation necessary for the reviewers to make an informed decision, and ensure the candidate's advancement records are current.
- The council's position statement must list all requirements remaining to be completed with an estimate of when each one will be completed. For example, rather than saying something like "...five merit badges remain to be completed..." the statement should specify what those merit badges are and provide an estimate of when each will be completed.
- If the Eagle Scout service project remains to be completed, provide specific information about what the project entails and its current status. If available, include a copy of the Scout's Project Proposal, preferably one that is already approved by all concerned.
- If adult error is cited as one of the reasons for requesting a time extension, including a statement from that adult explaining the circumstances that led to the error is very important.
- If health-related reasons are cited for requesting an extension, a statement from a health professional must be provided. The statement should include a brief explanation of how the specific health issues have affected the Scout's ability to participate in Scouting activities and advance in rank.

## **Merit Badges**

### **National Merit Badges Subcommittee works for All Scouts**

When Scouts think about merit badges, terms like preparation, challenge, and hard work come to mind. The work of the National Merit Badge Subcommittee to welcome young women into the Scouts BSA program is an example of preparation and hard work. The National Merit Badge Subcommittee began to retrofit all BSA's merit badge materials before BSA launched the Scouts BSA program in February 2019. It has since continued to work on the merit badge pamphlets. This effort involves roughly three kinds of work.

Beginning in Spring 2018, the subcommittee (then called the "National Merit Badge Maintenance Task Force") engaged its 100 or so volunteer experts to review every merit badge pamphlet for male gender references. These dedicated volunteers painstakingly scanned all 137 merit badge pamphlets to locate by page and paragraph references to boys or male gender pronouns. Once identified, these gender specific references were converted to gender neutral or gender inclusive terms unless required by the specific text in the pamphlet. For example, references to "the boy" was changed to "the Scout" or notations to male pronouns, such as "his", were changed to "his or her" or "he" was changed to "he or she." This conversion spanned several months. By Summer 2018, virtually every male gender specific reference was identified, noted for

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change, and listed on a categorized spreadsheet to enable the printers to easily convert these references to gender neutral or gender inclusive references.

The second kind of work involved changing the images in every merit badge pamphlet from male only activity images to a balanced mix of male activity images and female activity images. Just as they did to locate gender specific terms, the subcommittee's teams of volunteers manually examine every merit badge pamphlet to determine where to include photos of young women engaged in activities relevant to the subject matter of the merit badge. While started alongside the gender reference identification, this work is ongoing.

Lastly, subcommittee volunteers are working to ensure that each merit badge pamphlet has gender inclusive materials to enable all Scouts to complete the badge's requirements. For example, the Personal Fitness Merit Badge contains various tables that need to be expanded. Until now, these tables have been specific to young men. The team of volunteers responsible for this merit badge has recently assembled tables specific to young women that will help young women work to complete this merit badge.

The members of the National Merit Badge Subcommittee are dedicated to helping to welcome and include young women into the Scouts BSA program. Equally important, the subcommittee's volunteers continue to work tirelessly to ensure all Scouts have a rewarding experience working on merit badges. Preparedness, welcoming, inclusion...these are the standards that has shaped the work of the National Merit Badge Subcommittee in its effort to maintain the merit badge materials for all Scouts.



# Scoutbook

## **Internet Advancement 2.0 Arrives**

A new tool to quickly input advancement data, *Internet Advancement 2.0* (previously known as Scoutbook Lite), is now live. This free solution replaces the previous Internet Advancement platform, which was retired (for all programs except Exploring) on June 10, 2019.

*Internet Advancement 2.0* features a clean, new user interface for all of the functions found in the previous Internet Advancement platform and is optimized to whatever device you use: desktop, tablet, or smartphone.

It can be accessed by unit Key 3 users, unit Key 3 delegate users, and unit advancement chairs. End users will access *Internet Advancement 2.0* via one of the following locations using their my.Scouting credentials:

- [Scoutbook.scouting.org](http://Scoutbook.scouting.org)
- From the Legacy Tools menu in [my.Scouting.org](http://my.Scouting.org)
- A link in [Scoutbook.com](http://Scoutbook.com)
- From the current Internet Advancement Platform

After initial release, the BSA IT team will continue to add additional features on a regular basis. Updates and new features will be communicated with the field as they are delivered.

For more information and answers to commonly asked questions, visit: <http://help.scoutbook.com>

## **A Peek Ahead**

Here is a glimpse at 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, and especially to accommodate “late-breaking” news of immediate importance to our subscribers.

### **Topics Planned for September-October**

- **Opportunities for Advancement Administrators:** Educational Presentations available
- **From the *Guide to Advancement*:** Educational Presentation Summaries removed from GTA 2019 – the Presentations Readily available
- **Scouts BSA:** Plan to Build Advancement after Summer Camp
- **Special Needs Interests:** *Guide to Disabilities Awareness* in the near future

## Worth Repeating

### The Council Advancement Committee and Merit Badges at Camp (*Advancement News*: June/July 2012)

#### Editor's Note

New Scouts BSA members, in particular, will be returning from their first BSA summer camp experience. A review by the unit advancement chair of partial merit badges completed at camp should help encourage completion with a local merit badge counselor for those topics already begun.

“Scouts BSA members return from summer camp with backpacks full of dirty socks and uniforms smelling of evening campfires, and also miscellaneous awards, questionable treasures, and quite often, partially completed merit badge blue cards. Those “incomplete” or “partial” blue cards show the Scout did, in fact, complete certain requirements, and there is no need for them to repeat those requirements (*Guide to Advancement*, topic 7.0.3.3). A partial blue card becomes a starting point toward completion of that merit badge. Unit advancement coordinators should conduct a post-camp inventory of the cards and work the incomplete merit badges into program plans for the fall.

“Whether completed at camp, a district or council event, or at the unit level, the goal is to follow BSA-mandated procedures and present consistent, quality merit badge instruction. What a Scout does to earn the merit badge in a group instructional setting must be the same as done in an individual setting with a merit badge counselor. The council advancement committee has the responsibility to control the process and establish practices for camps and merit badge events that comply with national group instruction procedures (*Guide to Advancement*, topic 7.0.3.2). Camp directors and those presenting merit badge midways, clinics, colleges, etc., should be informed of the procedures and be sure their programs follow them. This is best done when a council advancement committee forges partnership with those other concerned Scouters.”





**2019**

## **MECHANICS OF ADVANCEMENT—Week 7: July 21-27**

This course is a MUST for Advancement Administrators in Districts or Councils, whether they be volunteers or professionals just in need of a refresher or new to 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 it. Group discussions will focus on effective ways to resolve the related issues and challenges that arise on a regular basis. Staff members are very well founded in advancement issues and have a full understanding of the Guide to Advancement.

## **SCOUT TROOP ADVANCEMENT—Week 7: July 21-27**

Are you a Troop Leader, Committee Member, or Unit Advancement Coordinator needing to increase your knowledge of how advancement drives the Scouting program and is effectively administered? Perhaps you have just finished or are in the process of starting a new troop. If so, this is the course for you. All aspects of advancement will be addressed as it relates to the troop and the success of our youth. Topics covered will include Scoutmaster Conferences, electronic reporting, merit badge issues, service projects, boards of review, disability issues, Eagle issues, and more. See how program planning leads to strong advancement. Meet like-minded volunteers and share in building the capacity to strengthen your unit and its youth!

Registration available at

<http://www.philmontscoutranch.org/PTC/conferencesO.aspx>





## Helpful Links -

Here are some resources 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](http://www.scouting.org/advancement).

### General Resources

- Guide to Advancement 2019, No. 33088
- Advancement Educational Presentations (see list below)
- Advancement News
- Abilities digest
- Advancement Report, No. 34403
- Building Effective Advancement Committees, No. 510-756
- Eagle Scout Challenge, No. 542-900
- Friendstorming on Tour, No. 510-003
- Lone Scout Friend and Counselor Guidebook, No. 511-420
- On Increasing Advancement, No. 512-047
- Recommendations for Regional and Area Volunteers Supporting the Advancement program, No. 512-048
- Troop Resource Survey, No. 512-940
- Guide to Awards and Insignia, No. 33066
- Venturing Board of Review Guide, No. 512-940

### Advancement Educational Presentations:

- Introduction to the *Guide to Advancement*
- Today's Advancement
- Cub Scout Advancement Delivering Adventure
- Developing Council and District Advancement Committees
- The Eagle Scout Service Project Coach
- The Eagle Scout Service Project
- Effective Troop Advancement
- Essentials in Serving Scouts with Disabilities
- The Essentials of Merit Badge Counseling
- The Merit Badge program
- Getting the most from Internet Advancement
- Including Scouts with Disabilities

### Videos

- Guardian of the Gate



#### *Additional resources include*

##### **Rank Advancement Information**

(including the new 2019 Eagle Scout Service Project Workbook, 2019 Scouts BSA Rank Requirements, and various applications)

##### **Merit Badge Counselor information**

(including A Guide for Merit Badge Counseling, Merit Badge Group Instruction Guide and Merit Badge List)