

Advancement News

November-December
2015

Vol. 5, No. 6

Prepared. For Life.®

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

Opportunities for Advancement Administrators

Florida Sea Base—Advancement Treasure Hunt

Mechanics of Advancement: January 10-16, 2016

Ahoy, Scouters! Are you struggling with understanding how advancement should work, how to help youth succeed, or how to assist units to achieve proper and effective advancement? The answers to these golden questions—and so many others, such as “Does it snow in the Keys in the winter?”—are just waiting to be discovered at the Florida Sea Base Conference Center this coming January.



The *Mechanics of Advancement* curriculum that will be presented January 10-16, is for **all** advancement personnel, but is particularly directed at those who are new to advancement or are in need of some refreshing. The goal of this conference-style course is to create an advancement environment in districts and councils that will increase their rates of advancement and retention through proper advancement administration.

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Every significant aspect of advancement, from Cub Scouts to Sea Scouts, lies “buried” in the curriculum, which will be presented by members of the National Advancement Task Force and National Advancement Advisory Panel, who can be expected to bring more “treasures” from their own experiences, as well as the very latest updates on advancement issues and trends.

So, what are you waiting for? Make plans now to attend this fun and exciting opportunity. The conference center will also be offering a very exciting spouse program during the week of January 10-16, 2016, with daily activities to keep everyone busy. An informational flyer is available at www.scouting.org/filestore/training/pdf/FSBFlyer.pdf.

Don't miss this chance to dig for advancement treasures in the Florida Keys in January!



To register for Florida Sea Base conferences, see BSA.kintera.org/2016FSBC.

Getting the Most From Internet Advancement: Educational Presentation Updated

The *Getting the Most From Internet Advancement* educational presentation has been updated and should be available soon. The new version, which will be compatible with Windows 10, has been revised to include current Cub Scout and Venturing awards, as well as new Internet screen shots.

As has been the case with previous editions, this updated presentation will be a great tool for educating advancement administrators on the advantages of Internet reporting, including how to enter advancement data and how to access advancement reports. When available, the presentation will be found at www.scouting.org/advancement under General Resources/ Advancement Educational Presentations.

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 Task Force (formerly known as the National Advancement Committee). Its intent is to provide and clarify procedures found in the *Guide to Advancement*, announce various changes and updates in advancement, and to assist advancement committees in making decisions that can help increase the rate of advancement. Therefore, districts and councils may reprint articles from this publication. Our plan is to distribute 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.

On Increasing Advancement

2016 Boy Scout Requirements:

Child Abuse Protection & Cyber Chip at Scout and Star Ranks

While working on the Star rank under the new 2016 Boy Scout rank requirements, youth are asked to repeat Scout requirement 6: *“With your parent or guardian, complete the exercises in the pamphlet How to Protect Your Children From Child Abuse: A Parent’s Guide and earn the Cyber Chip Award for your grade.”*

When completing Scout requirement 6, most Scouts were probably in the latter half of fifth grade. The situations that a boy might face will likely have changed significantly since the time that he joined – and, given the pace of technological change, the cyber world of a rising Star Scout is likely to be a lot different than what he experienced as a new Scout. While working on Star requirements 18-24 months later, he will be in intermediate or middle school, if not beyond, dealing with more complex issues in his life and using digital technology on a more regular basis.

This is a good time for the Scout to have some additional parent-son conversations with on youth protection topics, as well as complete the Cyber Chip requirements for grades 6-8 (or 9-12). Consider that the “Cyber Chip” program is likely to change faster than *Boy Scout Handbook*. It is anticipated that these requirements will be updated to stay current with changes that occur in cyber apps and smart phone capabilities.



When/Who?

The new Boy Scout rank requirements become effective on January 1, 2016, subject to these transition guidelines:

- Boys registered in a troop on or prior to December 31, 2015, who are working on Tenderfoot through First Class may continue to work using the old requirements through 2016, but they must convert to the new requirements upon attaining First Class.
- Boys registered in a troop, team, crew, or ship, who have completed First Class rank on or prior to December 31, 2015, may complete the rank they are currently working on with the old requirements through 2016, but then must convert to the new requirements for subsequent ranks.
- Any boy registering in a troop for the first time on or after January 1, 2016, must use the new requirements.
- Beginning January 1, 2017, new requirements must be used for all ranks earned.

FAQs

Program Updates Web Page

Now posted on the [Program Updates](#) web page: **FAQ’s for Boy Scout Advancement Requirements** effective January 1, 2016.

The 2016 Boy Scout requirements will be in both the new 13th edition of the *Boy Scout Handbook* and the *2016 Boy Scout Requirements* book (to be released in January, 2016).

From the *Guide to Advancement*

Scouting is Service

Beginning in 2016, Boy Scout rank requirements will see some changes, including provisions in six of the soon-to-be-seven ranks that involve service to others. (Presently, only Second Class, Star, Life, and Eagle ranks include a service-related requirement.) The new service requirements through Life rank will be:

- **Tenderfoot:** Participate in a total of one hour of service in one or more service projects approved by your Scoutmaster.
- **Second Class:** Participate in two hours of service through one or more service projects approved by your Scoutmaster.
- **First Class:** Participate in three hours of service through one or more service projects approved by your Scoutmaster. The project(s) must not be the same service project(s) used for Tenderfoot...and Second Class.
- **Star:** While a First Class Scout, participate in six hours of service through one or more service projects approved by your Scoutmaster.
- **Life:** While a Star Scout, participate in six hours of service through one or more service projects approved by your Scoutmaster. At least 3 hours of this service must be conservation related.

Other aspects of note concerning service projects:

- Except for Eagle Scout, service involves work only; planning, development, or leadership must not be required of any Scout.
- Service may be conducted individually as well as with one's patrol or troop.
- Assisting with another Scout's Eagle project is appropriate for Tenderfoot through Life service requirements.
- Only the Eagle Scout service project requires preapproval. Although service to meet the requirements of the other ranks requires approval, this need not occur before the work is completed.
- For Tenderfoot, Second Class, and First Class, the service requirement includes a discussion of how the work related to the Scout Oath, Scout Law, and Scout slogan and motto.
- For all ranks other than Eagle, assisting others is acceptable; it is not necessary to lead a service project or service work.

In guiding Scouts through the ranks, it may be helpful to view these requirements as stepping-stones toward what a Scout will ultimately do at the summit of his Eagle trail. In this regard, note that at the First Class level the requirement specifically states that the work must be different from what the Scout did for his Tenderfoot and Second Class service requirements. This is purposefully included as a way to offer the Scout greater opportunity and minimal repetition.

For more information on service projects, see *Guide To Advancement*, Topic 4.2.3.3, Service Projects.



The Board of Review Experience: Keep it Friendly

If the thought of a performance review at work scares you, imagine how an 11-year-old Scout must feel as he approaches a panel of adults sitting as a “board of review.” As Scouters, we must do everything we can to make these boards rewarding experiences for our Scouts.

A Scout is friendly, so when sitting on a board of review, think of it as a friendly, yet serious chat. To make the experience more comfortable, the *Guide to Advancement* (topic 8.0.0.3) limits the number of adults (21 or older) to no more than six, with at least three. Although other adults may be permitted to observe a board, that number should be limited to ensure the Scout remains at ease.



Unit leader and assistants shall not serve on board for Scouts in their own unit, but might be on hand to introduce a Scout to board members. He or she may remain as an observer—if agreed to by the board—but can participate only if called upon. Boards should be cautious, however, as the presence of the unit leader could influence a Scout’s responses about troop experiences. Similarly, parents, guardians or relatives should not sit on a board of review for their own sons, but must be allowed to observe if they insist (*GTA*, 8.0.1.0). They should be counseled, however, that their presence could change the dynamics of the conversation and the way their son addresses questions. Simply put, it is just not fair to ask a Scout to have to consider if his answer to the board’s question would please his parents or his unit leader.

Here are some further recommendations for ensuring friendly boards of review:

- A board for Tenderfoot through Life ranks should take about 15 minutes, but no longer than 30 minutes (*GTA*, Topic 8.0.2.0). An Eagle board of review might take a little longer, but rarely should be longer than 45 minutes (*GTA*, 8.0.3.0).
- While boards are generally conducted to determine if the Scout has met the requirements to advance, none are to be a retest of his knowledge (*GTA*, 8.0.1.1). Thus, in most cases, a board of review will be a celebration of his accomplishments. Board members should ask: Did the Scout have fun while he was doing it? Did it contribute to his personal growth?

If we keep these thoughts in mind when planning and conducting boards of review, the positive experiences that result will encourage every Scout to remain in Scouting and achieve further advancement—giving us a chance to influence his character. Isn’t that what we’re all about?



Venturing Boards of Review

For more information on conducting a Venturing board of review, consult the *Venturing Board of Review Guide* (No. 512-940) found at the Advancement Resources web page (www.scouting.org/advancement).

The Cub Scout Angle

Baden-Powell's Scouting Promise: "First Duty Is to God"

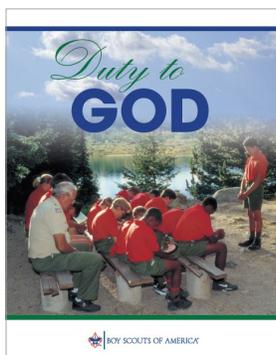
Sir Robert Baden-Powell once stated, "The Scout, in his promise, undertakes to do his duty to his king and country only in the second place; his first duty is to God...." With its increased emphasis on duty to God, the Cub Scout adventure program helps a Cub Scout and his family to keep Baden-Powell's words at the forefront of their shared Scouting experience.

Each Cub Scout rank now has a required Duty to God adventure. It is recommended that these adventures be primarily accomplished within the family, but dens and packs may work on these adventures as appropriate.

- Tiger Scouts completing the adventure, My Family's Duty to God, will decide what duty to God means to their family.
- Wolf Scouts completing the adventure, Duty to God Footsteps, will participate in activities to better understand their duty to God.
- Cub Scouts working to achieve the Bear adventure, Fellowship and Duty to God, the Webelos adventure, Duty to God and You, or the Arrow of Light adventure, Duty to God in Action, have the option to participate in their faith's religious emblems program or to complete alternative activities. Bear Scouts will be learning ways to practice their duty to God; Webelos Scouts will be planning a service of worship or reflection; and those working towards their Arrow of Light rank will be learning how the Scout Oath and Law relate to their beliefs about duty to God.

Leaders need to recognize that there is a difference between the Duty to God adventures within each Cub Scout rank and the religious emblem program. The Boy Scouts of America has approved of these non-BSA programs and allows the recognition to be worn on the official uniform, but it must be remembered that each religious organization develops and administers its own program. Scouts working on the religious emblem of their faith will obtain the specific booklet for their religion, and once they have completed the requirements, may wear the youth religious knot. However, once a religious emblem has been earned, it may not be used as a requirement for a different rank.

Whether a Cub Scout chooses to work on the religious emblems program or to complete the alternative activities, he will still learn to put into practice daily actions to show his duty to God.



Religious Emblems Program

For more information on the religious emblems program and how your Scout can participate, see www.scouting.org/scoutsorice/Awards/ReligiousAwards.



Eagle Issues

During the 2015 CEAA at Philmont, participants discussed “Best Practices” for various advancement topics. We now share the thoughts of those experienced Scouters with the hope that their efforts will be helpful to your councils or districts.

Best Practices:

The Do's and Don'ts of Funding an Eagle Scout Service Project

Fundraising shall not be required of any Eagle candidate. Whether fundraising takes place is the Scout's decision, based on the needs of the project. If fundraising will be undertaken, it must be approved by the local council. The “Eagle Scout Service Project Fundraising Application” form found in the *Eagle Scout Service Project Workbook*, No. 512-927, must be used.



General Fundraising Issues

- Communicate clearly who in the council approves the Eagle Scout Service Project Fundraising Application.
- The completed fundraising application is submitted to the local council service center at least two weeks in advance of the fundraising effort.
- Large scale fundraising may have tax and legal implications in which minors should not be involved.
- Donations of materials used in the project must be reported on a fundraising application.
- The fundraising application is not required at the project proposal stage and is not necessary for approval of a project.
- If a donor wants a receipt, it must be given by the project beneficiary.
- Excess funds must go to the beneficiary or the beneficiary's designee.

Council Fundraising Options

- Councils may set dollar thresholds below which a fundraising application is not necessary.
- Councils may state that certain fundraisers (such as bake sales, or car washes) do not require a fundraising application.
- Councils may state that discounts on materials do not require a fundraising application.
- The National Council allows “crowdfunding,” but it is contingent on local council approval who may also impose certain restrictions such as use of a certain site, or impose a dollar limit on how much may be raised. Some pitfalls of “crowdfunding” include the following:
 - ◇ Eagle projects may not comply with the website's terms of service.
 - ◇ If a contract is required, it must be signed by someone over 18 years of age.
 - ◇ The website may take a percentage of the funds raised.
 - ◇ Funds must be raised in the name of the beneficiary, not BSA.
 - ◇ The website must allow excess funds to go to the project beneficiary or the beneficiary's designee.

Merit Badges: Enhancing Our Youth's Competitive Edge

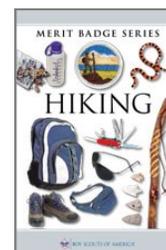
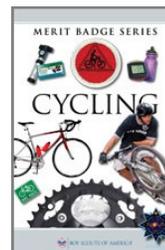
Interactive Digital Merit Badge Pamphlets a Hit with Scouts



Have you tried the new interactive digital merit badge pamphlets yet? The feedback that is coming in to the BSA shows that boys really like them, especially the “how to” videos that provide the opportunity for Scouts to review, learn, and practice as they replay the videos to fine-tune skills. The videos are only the beginning. Also included are simulations, animations, and slideshows to enrich the experience of learning about the merit badge topics. There are also search capabilities to save you time!

The September-October edition of *Advancement News* introduced the initial collection of 8 digital merit badges, and five more have now been added. For a sampling of the new material, plus a free chapter from the Cooking merit badge pamphlet, see boyslife.org/merit-badges.

- Animation
- Camping
- Citizenship in the Nation
- Communication
- Cooking
- Cycling
- Digital Technology
- Family Life
- First Aid
- Hiking
- Personal Fitness
- Robotics
- Swimming



More interactive pamphlets are arriving all the time, and the remaining Eagle-required merit badges are expected to be available by the end of December. Watch for these new additions to the digital library to appear soon.

- Citizenship in the Community
- Citizenship in the World
- Emergency Preparedness
- Environmental Science
- Lifesaving
- Personal Management
- Photography
- Sustainability



Introductory video at boyslife.org/merit-badges

All pamphlets can be purchased and then downloaded from scoutstuff.org. For **FAQs** regarding interactive digital merit badge pamphlets, see www.scoutstuff.org/retail/fags/idmbp-faq.

Calling All Counselor Lists!

The National Advancement Task Force (*formerly known as the National Advancement Committee*) is seeking examples of excellence from districts that have developed a good method of maintaining a **district merit badge counselor list**. If you have a spreadsheet, database, or other system that you would be willing to submit for consideration for national release, send to advancement.team@scouting.org. Please use the header “**Sample MBC List – XX District, XX Council**” so that it can be effectively routed to the appropriate volunteer task force member for evaluation.

What’s New for 2016? Eureka!

Can’t wait to explore something new in 2016? Do you know boys who are naturally curious and enjoy exploring different adventures? Does the thought of exploration bring visions of fun and excitement? Enough hints, already. Can you guess what the next new BSA merit badge might be?

Eureka! It’s “**Exploration.**” Alright, Archimedes may or may not have uttered, “I have found it” upon making one of his most famous discoveries, but many Scouts will certainly do so as they discover this exciting new merit badge.

Although the badge’s requirements are not completely finalized as of this printing, it is known that boys will first be introduced to the history of exploration in many different fields of interest, ranging from oceanography to aerospace. Next they will gain the ability to explain and define exploration and the many facets that differ due to the items that different areas of exploration would require. After reviewing the importance of exploration and specific practices in real life, boys will be challenged to put the knowledge into practice. An exciting well-planned adventure lies ahead.

In addition to aerospace and oceanography, individuals from fields as diverse as speleology, molecular biology, anthropology, archeology, mountaineering, meteorology, marine biology, and many more made contributions to the development of this exhilarating new merit badge.

We can’t wait for 2016 to start exploring this new merit badge!

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

Awards and Recognitions

BSA Aquatics Awards



BSA Aquatics Awards, available to both youth and adult members are not part of the BSA advancement plan, but provide introductory experiential learning opportunities in specialized areas of aquatics. The six awards, with links to award applications, are [Boardsailing BSA](#), [BSA Stand Up Paddleboarding](#), [Kayaking BSA](#), [Mile Swim BSA](#), [Scuba BSA](#), and [Snorkeling BSA](#).

For each award, the participant first develops knowledge about the particular activity and then develops introductory skills under the supervision of a trained counselor. The knowledge development and skills demonstration are generally not as rigorous as those required for a merit badge.

Where can the current requirements for these awards be found?

The definitive source for aquatics awards is the current printing (2015) of *BSA Aquatics Supervision*, No. 34346. Requirements are also found at www.scouting.org/Awards_Central. Award brochures in circulation could be out of date, so check to ensure the correct requirements are being used.

What resources are available for developing the knowledge and skills required for the awards?

Aquatics Supervision is the primary resource for the Mile Swim BSA, Snorkeling BSA, Kayaking BSA, and BSA Stand Up Paddleboarding awards. Scuba BSA is included in *Aquatics Supervision*, but both the participant and the instructor need to review the additional material found in *Scuba BSA*, No. 430-515.

Who can serve as a counselor for these awards?

Due to the specialized nature and the increased risk of aquatics activities, each award has specific qualifications to be an approved counselor, which may be different than those for merit badge counselors. These qualifications are found on the award applications (www.scouting.org/Home/OutdoorProgram/Aquatics/forms) in the “Notes to Counselor” section. Counselors must be approved by the local council.

Can these awards be earned only at camp?

Like merit badges, these awards can be earned not just at summer camp, but year-round at indoor aquatics facilities. Counselor can help locate an appropriate setting—even during the cold winter months!

The award requirements are complete. Now what?

After the counselor completes the designated portion of the award application, indicating all requirements are complete, submit to the unit leader for processing. Scouts and Scouters are eligible to show their accomplishment by displaying a special badge available for each BSA Aquatics Award. These badges are designed for wear on the swim suit. See *Guide to Awards and Insignia*, No. 33066, for specifics.

How do I find more information about these awards?

Administration of the BSA Aquatics Awards program is a joint responsibility of the local council aquatics committee and council advancement committee. They should be able to provide a list of approved counselors for the various BSA Aquatics Awards, in addition to answering specific questions about the awards.

Special Needs

Adapting Advancement: Registering a Scout as Disabled or Having Special Needs

Reprinted from *Abilities Digest*, Fall 2015.

Question: How do I register my new Scout as having a disability or special needs? He won't need to register past the age of eligibility and he might not need advancement accommodations. But we still need a way to share the information with his unit leaders.

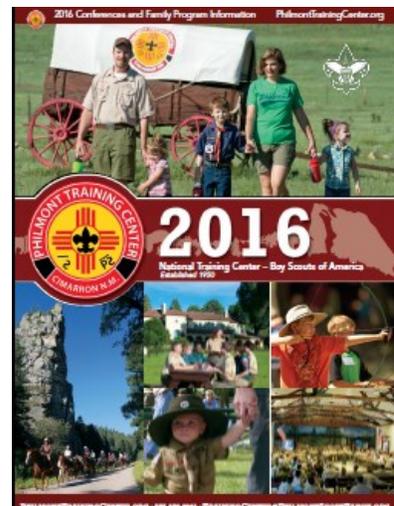
Answer: There is no procedure to collect such information when a new Scout or Venturer signs up. Instead, the parents need to talk to unit leaders about their sons' or daughters' particular challenges. A good unit can and does make simple accommodations for individual members whenever possible.

If the youth has mobility or health restrictions that will affect camp activities, these are generally collected on the camp physical examination form. Camps don't necessarily share this information with the entire staff, so adult leaders may find it helpful to talk directly to camp counselors about these restrictions. The disability or special-needs status of a Scout or Venturer isn't otherwise relevant outside the unit unless the youth requires – and qualifies for – advancement accommodations or additional time to fulfill requirements. These accommodations are generally restricted to youth with “permanent and severe” disabilities.

The above informative information is reprinted from the Fall 2015 edition of the *Abilities Digest*, the newsletter of the National Disabilities Awareness Task Force. Anyone wishing to subscribe to the *Digest* should send a message to disabilities.awareness@scouting.org. Place “Subscribe” in the subject line, and include your name and council in the body of the message.

Don't Miss Out on These Great Training Opportunities in 2016!

The Philmont Training Center schedule of conferences for next summer is available now at www.philmontscoutranch.org/PTC.aspx. Download a digital copy of the 2016 conference brochure now, or visit your local council service center for a copy. (**Hint:** If you cannot get to the *Mechanics of Advancement* course at the Florida Sea Base in January, check out the PTC's schedule for the week of June 12-18!)



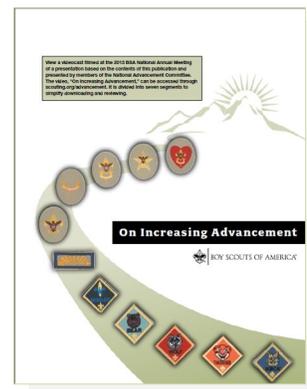
From the Archives

“On Increasing Advancement” Publication Released (December 2012-January 2013)

Designed as a companion piece to “Recommendations for Regional and Area Volunteers Supporting the Advancement Program,” No. 512-048, “On Increasing Advancement,” No. 512-047, suggests a comprehensive approach for councils planning to make a significant difference in the rate of advancement, and thus increase membership retention.

Such a plan, according to the publication, can lead to increases in advancement through the following approaches:

- A general increase in volunteerism
- Far-reaching unit service
- Fully functioning advancement committees
- Promotion and reinforcement of procedural compliance
- Purposeful management
- Increased reporting and proper data entry



Strategies for each of the above are detailed in the new publication.

“Recommendations for Regional and Area Volunteers Supporting the Advancement Program” outlines and details four essential responsibilities that area and regional volunteers could use with councils in driving increases in advancement:

1. Help councils increase the number of members who advance at least one rank annually.
2. Promote compliance with procedures set forth in the *Guide to Advancement*.
3. Establish regular communications with and between council advancement committee chairs.
4. Contribute to a general increase in volunteerism and service to units.

Both publications can be found at www.scouting.org/advancement.

A video of the National Advancement Committee presenting “On Increasing Advancement” at the May 2013 National Annual Meeting can be found at www.scouting.org/Home/BoyScouts/Resources/advancement_presentations. It is divided into seven parts for easy review of selected issues.



From the Field

Follow-Up: Duty to God in 2016 Boy Scout Requirements

The following question was submitted to the National Advancement Team regarding the article published in Sept/Oct 2015 *Advancement News*, requesting clarification on the new Boy Scout rank “Duty to God” requirements effective 1/1/16.

Q. The article in Sept/Oct 2015 *Advancement News*, page 4, “Scout Spirit and Duty to God: It's a Monologue, Not a Dialogue,” has raised a few questions. The duty to God question is asked, the youth responds, and the board of review continues regardless of his answer... is this what is intended?

A. "It's a monologue, not a dialogue" effectively sums up the roles of youth and leader concerning any "duty to God"/higher being question during a board of review or unit leader conference. The new Boy Scout rank requirements call for a Scout to “Tell how you have done your duty to God...” It is appropriate for leaders to ask that question of a youth, but then leaders need to listen. Asking an additional question to clarify a youth’s response is reasonable—or if the youth responds, "I don't know," a leader might ask a more thought-provoking question. Adult leaders should remember that Boy Scout-age youth are growing in many ways, including their religious beliefs. It is not the role of the unit leader or a board of review to evaluate how a youth goes about fulfilling his duty to God. The BSA does not seek to interpret God, higher being, or religion; interpretation is the responsibility of the Scout, his parents, and his religious leaders.

However, a youth professing no belief in any higher being is not an acceptable answer with respect to the BSA advancement program. In fact, no belief whatsoever actually raises a BSA membership issue. When every youth joins the BSA his parents or guardians signed his BSA Youth Application (www.scouting.org/filestore/pdf/524-406A.pdf), acknowledging the BSA's Declaration of Religious Principle. Furthermore, the Scout Oath states a Scout observe a “duty to God,” and the Scout Law includes a Scout is “reverent.”

If the youth professes no belief in any higher being during a board of review at any rank, the board should adjourn, provide the BSA’s Declaration of Religious Principle to the Scout and his family, explain how it affects BSA membership and advancement, and allow time for **the family or their religious leader** to counsel the youth. The board of review can then be reconvened at a later date.

The Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) on the new Boy Scout requirements were recently posted at www.scouting.org/programupdates and provide additional insight. A complete listing of all 2016 Boy Scout requirements are posted on the same page.



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 January-February

Opportunities for Advancement Administrators: Florida Sea Base—Notes from the conference

From the *Guide to Advancement*: Scoutmaster Conference: a Face-to-Face Personal experience; Resident Camp and Council Advancement Committees: A Partnership

Merit Badges: Enhancing Our Youth’s Competitive Edge: Updated Photography merit badge to be released soon; Scouting 4D Augmented Reality

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 do not, it is time to take the plunge. Setting up an account is a quick and easy process at www.twitter.com. To limit incoming emails (“tweets”), you can select 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?

November 1: Learn more about 2016 Boy Scout requirements and “duty to God.”

blog.scoutingmagazine.org/2015/11/02/beginning-next-year-boy-scouts-will-discuss-duty-to-god-at-each-rank

October 31: Join us at "Mechanics of Advancement" conference at Florida Sea Base (Jan 10-16). www.scouting.org/filestore/training/pdf/FSBFlyer.pdf

October 24: Scoutmasters, be sure that all Webelos Scouts visiting your troop this fall are aware of upcoming Scout rank changes. blog.scoutingmagazine.org/2015/10/19/scout-currently-joining-badge-become-rank/

October 8: FAQs for 2016 Boy Scout requirements now posted at www.scouting.org/programupdates.

October 4: Update to 2016 Boy Scout requirements has been posted at www.scouting.org/programupdates. Watch for FAQs to be posted next.

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.

Advancement Educational Presentations:

- Cub Scout Advancement: Delivering Adventure
- Getting the Most From Internet Advancement
- The Essentials of Merit Badge Counseling (English and Spanish)
- The Eagle Scout Service Project Coach (English and Spanish)
- Effective Troop Advancement (English and Spanish)
- 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](#)

