

# Boards of Review

## Time Available

10 minutes.

## Learning Objectives

At the conclusion of this session, participants will be able to:

- To clarify the board of review process so that it is easier for everyone involved to benefit from the experience.
- To show where the resources are to help with the board of review process
- To show where to go with any questions about the board of review process in your district and council, and at the national office

## Suggested Presenter(s)

The district advancement chair or the district eagle advisor or board of review chair would be great facilitators. The topic could also be facilitated by experience troop advancement chairs or committee chairs.

## Presentation Method

- Presentation slides should only be used to provide contact information which could also be provided on a flyer or handout
- Provide copies of the Guide to Advancement, or the link to download the most current version of the document.
- Discussion and questions from the group would work best, with unit specific concerns or questions discussed after the roundtable

## BSA Reference Materials

- Material for this interest topic is derived from the [Guide to Advancement, Section 8.0.0.0](#)
- There is a video on [Boards of Review](#)

## Presentation Content

### The Board of Review is Not a Final Exam:

- If your board is pulling out rope and asking the scout to tie a square knot, you are doing it wrong.
- The board of review should help the scout review their journey through earning the rank and encourage them to work towards the next rank.
- The board of review will also help the troop evaluate its program to see if the troop is doing everything possible to help the scouts advance and live under the scout oath and law in their daily lives.

### The Goal of the Board is to help the Scout Grow:

- While it is the Scout that requests a board of review when they believe that the requirements have been completed, unit leaders should be steering the youth

towards scheduled boards in the troop when they are ready.

- Regularly scheduled boards serve as a motivator and allow committee members to be available to sit on a board.
- The ultimate goal is to see that the Scout has continued to grow in their acceptance of the Scout Oath and Law in setting standards in their life.

### Boards Evaluate the Program, not the Scout:

- Answers to questions help a troop determine if they are doing their best to put on a quality program that helps youth participate and advance.
- Discussion with youth during a board also identifies gaps in skills training and can make recommendations on how to improve the troop program. For example, if several youths report they had difficulty in passing the knot tying requirements, the committee can suggest to the Scoutmaster and the PLC that the troop needs to work on how they deliver that skill.
- As the Scout stays in the program longer and works on the higher ranks, their insights on how they led meetings and outings will also help the committee recommend changes in future activities or long-term plans.
- It is also fitting to talk to scouts who are not actively advancing. A board can then find out if there are outside circumstances that are hindering participation and advancement, and can inspire the youth to advance towards the next rank.

### Use The Guide To Advancement:

- Problems occur when the unit does not follow the practices and policies spelled out in the guide to advancement.
- Running Boards of Review can be found in Section 8.0.0.0 of the Guide to Advancement.
- This section lists all the steps on how to conduct Boards and the possible issues that may arise.
- When a problem occurs, it is often when someone in the troop has added to, or subtracted from, the requirements of the program, or from the guide to advancement.

### But what if Everything Goes Wrong:

- Use the Guide To Advancement
- But I don't think my problem is covered there....
- Check anyway.
- Reach out to your District or Council Advancement Coordinator for help. They know how the processes work and how to resolve the situation.