



Croatan Trails District

Advancement

Ready Reference Hand Guide

Note: This guide is not a replacement for official BSA Advancement Policy and Procedures

Advancement is the process by which youth members of BSA progress from rank to rank in the Scouting program.

Advancement Principles:

- Personal growth is prime consideration in the advancement program.
- Learning by doing.
- Each youth progresses at his or her own rate.
- A badge is recognition of what a young person is able to do, not merely, for what he or she has done.
- Advancement encourages Scouting ideals.

No council, district, unit, or individual has the authority to add or subtract from advancement requirements.

Council Advancement Committee Responsibilities:

- Setting Council goals
- Planning a yearly calendar and budget
- Record keeping
- Promoting Advancement
- Recommending candidates for National Awards
- Advancement in summer camp
- Approving merit badge counselors and publishing list of counselors
- *Acting as an Appeal Board for District Boards of Review*

District Advancement Committee Responsibilities:

- ✓ Setting District advancement goals
- ✓ Help units establish active advancement program
- ✓ Recruit and train merit badge counselors
- ✓ Maintain list of merit badge counselors
- ✓ Assemble Ranger Award & Quest Award resource list
- ✓ Provide assistance in Eagle Scout advancement
- ✓ Provide recognition to district Scouters
- ✓ Provide program resources for the unit

Note: This guide is not a replacement for official BSA Advancement Policy and Procedures

Advancement Rules and Regulations:

❖ Article IX: Policies and Definitions

-Declaration of Religious Principle: BSA recognizes religious element in the training of the member, but is absolutely nonsectarian in its attitude toward that religious training. Its policy is the home and organization or group that the member is connected shall give definite attention to religious life.

-Activities: Activities of members of BSA shall be carried on under conditions, which show respect to the convictions of others in matters of custom and religion.

-Freedom: In no case where a unit is connected with a church or other distinctively religious organization shall members of other denominations/faith be required to take part in or observe a religious ceremony unique to that organization or church.

-Leaders: Only persons willing to subscribe to these declarations of principles shall be entitled to certificates of leadership in carrying out the Scouting program.

❖ Article X: Program (Advancement)

-General: Education is the chief function of the Scouting movement and shall be the basis of the advancement program.

-Administration: All advancement procedures shall be administered that harmonize with aims and purposes of BSA.

- Examination in camps: authority may be granted to Scout camps or camps conducted by authorized reps of BSA provided programs approved.
- Responsibility for Merit Badges shall rest with MB counselors approved by council and district advancement committees.

❖ Article XI: Registration

Special types of registration over age 11 Cub Scouts; over 18 Boy/Varsity Scouts; over age 21 Venturers and preparation of each in respective advancement programs while registered. See Scouts with Special Needs.

CUB SCOUT ADVANCEMENT

Cub Scout advancement procedures: preparation, qualification, and recognition. Parent's need to know role and responsibilities in son's advancement.

Cub Scouts with Disabilities

Program is flexible. Standard is "Has he done his best".

CubMaster and pack committee may substitute electives for achievement requirements. Best to include the parents in that process.

BOY SCOUT ADVANCEMENT

Boy Scout requirements for rank are the basis for advancement. Scout **learns** by doing; Scout **tested** on rank and merit badge requirements; Scout is **reviewed** by troop committee or Eagle board; Scout is **recognized** ASAP at a ceremony

Boy Scouts with Disabilities

All current requirements for advancement award must actually be met by the candidate. No substitutions permitted except those specifically stated in current BSA literature. A scout unable to complete all requirements for Tenderfoot, Second Class, or First Class rank may submit a request to council advancement committee to complete alternative requirements. No council, district, unit, or individual has the authority to add to or subtract from any advancement requirement.

Age requirements:

Awards are for young men not yet 18 years old. A youth may file a petition through local council for special permission to work toward award after age 18 and detail extenuating circumstances as conditions or situations totally beyond control of the youth. *Special needs youth may work toward advancement after 18 years old.*

A Scout must have a buddy with him at each meeting with a merit badge counselor. Scouts may earn merit badges in groups.

Service Projects:

Second Class rank – 1-hour project approved by SM
Star & Life ranks- 6 hours; project approved by SM
Eagle Scout – project provides candidate to demonstrate leadership skills learned in Scouting. Prior project approval is needed from SM, unit committee, project benefactor, and district or council advancement committee. Note: fund raising is permitted only for securing materials/supplies needed to carry out the project.

Boards of Review:

The review is not an examination; the board does not retest the candidate. The board's objectives:

- Make sure Scout has done what he was supposed to do for the rank
- See how good an experience Scout having
- Encourage Scout to progress further

Decisions of all boards must be unanimous. Scouts completing all requirements prior to turning 18 can be reviewed and recognized within 3 months. Boards conducted between 3-6 months after turning 18 must be pre-approved by council. After 6 months, Scout must petition National committee.

Appealing a Decision:

- 1- Unit leader or committee does not recommend Scout for Board of Review or sign off Eagle application.
- 2- Appropriate board of review does not recommend Scout for advancement.

Scout, leader, or parent may appeal to next higher level. Final decision rest at National committee.

Advancement in Summer Camp:

Council advancement committee in cooperation with summer camp committee establishes procedures for advancement in summer camp. Camp MB counselors must be qualified. Camp staff under 18 may assist the MB counselor.

VARSITY SCOUT ADVANCEMENT

Varsity Scout requirements for rank advancement are the same as for Boy Scouts. Any young man from 14-18 years old. Five program fields of emphasis: Advancement, high adventure, personal development, service, special programs and events. Programs led by program manager. Positions of responsibility for Star and Life rank can be met by Varsity scout. Varsity Scout Coach will conduct a Coach conference. Board of review conducted by Varsity unit members except Eagle Scout. Eagle board of review follows local council procedures.

VENTURING ADVANCEMENT

Provide pathway for personal development
Encourage Venturers to learn, grow, and serve
Recognize high level of adventure
Identify trained and highly motivated Venturers
Venturing awards may be earned by all Venturers who meet certain requirements; preparation, learning, qualification, and recognition. A male Venturer who has achieved First Class can continue to work toward his Eagle rank.

Venturing awards:

Bronze – introduction to basic venturing skills
Gold – intermediate level requires 12 months tenure
Silver – highest award for Venturers; requires pre-approved plan of action and crew review
Ranger – additional award/growth opportunity
Quartermaster – additional rank/growth opportunity for Sea Scouts
Quest – based on fitness and sports
TRUST – help Venturers learn about themselves, community, religion, and culture

Advancement: Youth Members with Special Needs

Americans with Disabilities Act: person considered to have a disability if they have a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities (e.g. seeing, hearing, speaking, learning, and walking).

Membership: The chartered organization determines, with approval from medical authority, whether youth member is qualified to register beyond normal registration age.

Woods Service Award: Recognizes volunteers who have performed exceptional service and leadership in the field of Scouts with disabilities.

Extended Absence from Scouting

Upon re-registration, the youth should assume the last attained rank verified by documentation from the council service center.

Lone Scouting

For various reasons a youth cannot participate in a traditional pack/troop unit can apply to local council to become a Lone Scout. Lone Scouts work with a designated Lone Scout Friend and Counselor. They are not expected to meet specific requirements the same way as regular unit members. BSA allows Lone Scout Friend and Counselor to suggest alternative requirements. This is important, since the boy cannot meet all requirements because he is not in a unit. Council advancement committee must approve ALL alternatives requirements.

Points of Contact

Council Service Center: Ms. Judy Phillips
juphilli @ bsamail.org 252-522-1521

My East Carolina Council Advancement Chairman:
Mr. Brian Snow bsnow @ ctscouts.org 252-447-2362

My Croatan Trails District Advancement Chairman:
Mr. Mark Beall mbeall @ ctscouts.org 252-447-8718

My Unit Advancement Chairman:

DO's & DON'Ts

DO have a current copy of Advancement Committee Guide Policy and Procedures for your unit

DO take appropriate training for your Scouting position

DO use the on-line advancement program
<http://www.eccbsa.org/advancement.html>

DON'T forget to contact council service center periodically to ensure unit records are accurate

DO ensure boys are registered before submitting for advancement

DON'T submit advancements/awards with wrong name – use official registered name not nick names

DO submit advancement/awards with dates earned not with date submitted

DON'T forget to have fun