



SUMMARY OF 2011 ADVANCEMENT CHANGES

Guide to Advancement, BSA Pub 3088 replaces Advancement Policies and Procedures.

Available: <http://scouting.org/filestore/pdf/33088.pdf>

Applies: 1 Jan 12 in the Atlanta Area Council

CHANGE IN SCOPE (3.0.0.4, 4.1.0.0, 4.3.0.0, 4.4.0.0)

Awards and recognition are no longer covered in this publication. They have been moved to a new publication, *Guide to Awards and Insignia*, which should be available this fall.

More coverage of Cub Scouting and Venturing (including Sea Scouting) has been added.

ADVANCEMENT COMMITTEE RESPONSIBILITIES (3.0.0.0)

More responsibilities have been added for both the council and district advancement committees. Additionally, there is now information about the responsibilities of the unit advancement coordinator.

ACTIVE IN THE UNIT (4.2.3.1)

Active has been redefined. To be considered active, a Scout must be registered and in good standing. Additionally, he must meet his unit's reasonable expectations. If he does not meet the expectations, then he must be permitted to submit reasons why he was not more active. It is ultimately up to the board of review to adjudicate whether a Scout meets this requirement and whether or not the unit's expectations are reasonable.

POSITION OF RESPONSIBILITY (4.2.3.4)

Units may establish reasonable expectations for a position of responsibility. If a Scout meets the expectations, he gets credit for the requirement. Something related to the desired results must happen. Under no circumstances can a Scout be held to unestablished expectations. If he does not meet the expectations, unit leaders should be communicating with the Scout early on and supporting him. If it becomes clear that improvement will not happen, the Scout should be removed from the position. Rarely should time served not be credited to the Scout.

MERIT BADGES (7.0.0.0)

The "Application for Merit Badge" (blue card) is now the only official way to record a merit badge. Computer generated printouts or other alternatives are no longer acceptable. This includes merit badge clinics and summer camp.

It is now clearly stated that it is at the discretion of the merit badge counselor whether or not partial merit badges are accepted. The counselor may accept some or all of the work done or may require the Scout to start over. When a Scout approaches his unit leader to get a blue card, the signature of the unit leader on the blue card is now called an approval signature.

Several badges now have strict requirements to be a counselor. This will likely result in a significant drop in counselors for certain badges.

APPEALS (8.0.4.0)

All appeals, regardless of the level at which they are initiated, must be routed through someone on the council advancement committee. Only boards of review may be appealed. There is no appeal for Tenderfoot, Second Class, First Class, and Eagle palm decisions. Star and Life may be appealed up to the council level. Eagle may be appealed to the national level.



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BOARDS OF REVIEW (8.0.0.0)

In cases where a sufficient number of committee members cannot be found, units may utilize knowledgeable parents or other adults (exclusive of unit leaders and the Scout's parents). Varsity boards of review still follow the same procedure as before.

If a Scout's parents insist on being present at a board of review (including Eagle), they must be allowed to do so. However, they should be counseled as to why it isn't a good idea.

If signatures are withheld from a Scout's Eagle application or final approval is withheld from an Eagle project, the Scout can still have a board of review. In this case, it would be called a "board of review under disputed circumstances."

It is now more clearly stated that a Scout cannot be required to be in uniform for a board of review.

EAGLE APPLICATION (9.0.1.0)

The statement of ambitions and life purpose is now an official rank requirement.

EAGLE PROJECT (9.0.2.0)

The workbook has been rewritten to make it much clearer what is expected. The workbook must be used. The Scout writes a project proposal, which is reviewed and approved by the unit, the benefiting organization and the council-designate (e.g., the district advancement committee). The Scout produces a project plan based on input received in the proposal review. The Scout executes the project. The Scout produces a project report, reviewed and approved by the unit and the benefiting organization.

Eagle projects are now officially called unit activities. This means that requirements for tour plan restrictions, etc. are applicable. All fundraising that takes place as part of the project must be preapproved by a council-designated approver (e.g., an element of the district).

If a Scout's project is not approved by the district/council and he believes it should have been, he is permitted a second look. The person who performs this second look is up to the council advancement committee.

TIME EXTENSIONS (9.0.4.0)

Time extensions are only available for Scouts working on the rank of Eagle. Each time extension request must be investigated by the council advancement committee and provide a recommended course of action to the Scout. If the Scout decides to move forward with the request, the request form (found at the back of the *Guide to Advancement*) is completed and submitted to council. The Scout Executive must personally review the case and make a recommendation. The National Advancement Team makes the final decision. Extensions will become much rarer than they have historically been.

DISABILITIES (10.0.0.0)

Disabilities to qualify for alternate rank requirements no longer need to be permanent. If the disability is expected to last longer than two years or beyond the Scout's 18th birthday, he may qualify for alternate requirements.

Registration as a special needs Scout is not required for this new flexibility, but all changes must be approved by the council advancement committee.