

# Significant Changes to 2017 Guide to Advancement

A copy of the 2017 GTA can be found at <http://www.scouting.org/filestore/pdf/33088.pdf>

## General

1. All references to the National Advancement Committee and the National Advancement Team have been changed to read “National Advancement Program Team.”
2. Various references to a parent or parents have been changed to include a guardian or guardians.
3. On page 2 the definition of “unit leader” has been clarified to specify “registered adult leader.”

## Section 3. Guidelines for Advancement and Recognition Committees

4. 3.0.0.5: Changed position titles to be functionally generic.
5. 3.0.0.5: Includes reference to the new document “Building Effective Advancement Committees” that can be found on the Advancement Resources webpage.
6. 3.0.0.6: Updated list of advancement educational presentations (removed Spanish-language presentations and added new presentation).

## Section 4. The Mechanics of Advancement

7. 4.1.0.4: Clarified when a Cub Scout may be allowed a little additional time to complete a badge before moving on to the next rank.
8. 4.1.1.0: Change made to recognize that Cub Scouts may transition to a new den at times other than the end of a school year.
9. 4.1.1.3: Change made to the number of Webelos and Arrow of Light adventures required. Added a paragraph to clarify Webelos and Arrow of Light age/grade requirements.
10. 4.1.1.5: Deleted this topic because the transition process expired May 31, 2016.
11. 4.2.0.1: Changed to include Scout rank.
12. 4.2.1.0: Changed to include Scout rank.
13. 4.2.3.1: Added clarification that a Scout must be given credit for active participation time even if a unit takes time off during the summer or any other time of the year.
14. 4.2.3.4.3: Added clarification that the Scout must be given credit for time served in a position of responsibility even if a unit takes time off during the summer or any other time of the year.
15. 4.2.3.5: Added clarification that a unit leader (Scoutmaster) conference may be delegated to another registered adult leader under certain circumstances.
16. 4.2.3.5: Added clarification that unit leaders cannot require a Scout to provide certain documentation as a precondition to a unit leader (Scoutmaster) conference.
17. 4.2.3.6: Clarified that counting service hours provided elsewhere in the community is not “double counting” and they should be counted toward advancement.

18. 4.3.1.4: Topic completely rewritten to recognize that Sea Scouting is now a separate program from Venturing.

19. 4.4.0.1: Added topic to identify Sea Scouts as a separate program from Venturing and to clarify Boy Scout advancement for Sea Scouts.

20. 4.4.1.4.2: Clarified the steps for processing the Quartermaster Application.

## **Section 5. Special Considerations**

21. 5.0.7.0: The Spirit of the Eagle Award is reviewed, approved, and processed by the local council. The National Service Center is no longer involved.

## **Section 6. Electronic Advancement Reporting**

22. 6.0.0.0: Changed title of section from “Internet Advancement Reporting” to “Electronic Advancement Reporting.”

23. 6.0.0.3: Reference made to Scoutbook.

## **Section 7. The Merit Badge Program**

24. 7.0.1.1: Added examples of approved providers for CPR instructor training.

25. 7.0.2.1: Language added that Scouts should not have access to council or district merit badge counselor lists.

26. 7.0.3.2: New bullet item added referring to the new Merit Badge Group Instruction Guide, No. 512-066.

27. 7.0.4.3: Clarification added regarding steps to follow when requirements change.

## **Section 8. Boards of Review: An Overview for All Ranks**

28. 8.0.0.2: Added clarification that a board of review cannot be denied or postponed due to non-requirement reasons such as uniforming or delinquent dues payments.

29. 8.0.1.0: Added clarification that board members should recuse themselves if they cannot be fair and impartial.

30. 8.0.3.0: Item 2, added clarification that council or district representatives on Eagle boards of review must not be affiliated with the Eagle candidate’s unit.

31. 8.0.3.0: Item 5, modified to note that boards of review must be scheduled promptly to avoid delaying a Scout’s opportunity to earn Eagle Palms.

32. 8.0.3.0: Item 11, updated to allow councils to use a report from the PAS/ScoutNET system to authorize purchase of Eagle Scout items.

33. 8.0.3.2: Added clarification that a Scout and his parents or guardians must be informed of the right to a board of review under disputed circumstances.

34. 8.0.4.2: Added the Eagle Scout candidate as someone who should be interviewed by an appeal board.

35. 8.0.6.0: Item 1, added clarification about who serves on a board of review for the Discovery and Pathfinder awards.

36. 8.0.7.0: Item 1–Chair, clarified what is required to be Venturing-certified.

37. 8.0.7.0: Item 1—Adult representation, added language about who shall not serve on a Summit Award board of review.

## Section 9. The Eagle Scout Rank

38. 9.0.1.3: Item 1—Dates, clarified necessity to ensure all date fields are accurate to avoid delays in processing.

39. 9.0.1.3: Item 3—References, added that there are no restrictions on who the Scout may list as his two “other references” on his rank application.

40. 9.0.1.3: Item 4—Merit badges, added that Scouts must not be required to attach blue cards to their rank application unless an error is discovered during council verification.

41. 9.0.1.3: Item 6—Attachments, clarified that additional attachments beyond those already listed should not be required.

42. 9.0.1.3: New paragraph added at the end explaining that once a board of review has approved a Scout for rank advancement, even if a requirement error is discovered later, the rank advancement date stands as is.

43. 9.0.2.8: Added that signatures on a Scout’s service project report need not be dated before his 18th birthday.

44. 9.0.4.1: Items 1 and 5, clarified that it is the council’s responsibility to prepare the Request for Extension of Time to Earn Eagle Scout Rank form, not the Scout’s.

45. 9.0.4.1: Item 5, mandated that the extension request be forwarded to the National Service Center.

## Section 10. Advancement for Members With Special Needs

46. 10.1.0.0: Clarified when a request for registration beyond the age of eligibility may be submitted and considered.

## Section 11. Appendix

47. 11.2.0.0: Various changes to the form to improve functionality and to clarify who is responsible for preparing it.

48. 11.3.0.0: Added checkboxes that allow the form to be used for the Venturing Summit Award or the Quartermaster rank. Also various changes to improve functionality.

49. 11.4.0.0: Various changes to the document to ensure consistency with the *Guide to Advancement*.