

District Advancement and Recognition Committee

The district advancement committee implements procedures that help achieve BSA advancement procedures. The committee helps Cub Scout packs, Boy Scout troops, and Venturing crews succeed. Units help youth members advance in rank. If they advance, they will have a good experience and will grow in their Scouting adventure.

Major Tasks of the Advancement and Recognition Committee Chairman and Members

Although the council advancement committee or executive board determines specific responsibilities for district advancement committees, district advancement chairs report to their respective district chairs. The following is a guide to the responsibilities that might be established.

1. Recruit enough members to fulfill the responsibilities and accomplish any objectives established by the council advancement committee or executive board.
2. Provide members with ongoing training to maintain awareness of updated procedures, best practices, and details related to Cub Scouting, Boy Scouting, Venturing, and Sea Scouts.
3. Establish objectives and implement action plans that stimulate advancement and lead to maximum success in the Journey to Excellence.
4. Maintain advancement records and share them with commissioners, trainers, and other district volunteers who serve units. Point out units with little or no advancement.
5. Plan, present, and submit for the district and council calendars those advancement conferences and training experiences that will improve the results of unit advancement volunteers.
6. As appropriate, support advancement elements involved in training, and in events and activities presented by other committees of the district.
7. Support outdoor programs where advancement may take place, such as district day camps, camporees, etc.
8. Support and promote the BSA's internet portal for advancement reporting. Accurate advancement records are critical to program planning and analysis. Districts should work toward 100 percent electronic data entry.
9. Follow national and local council procedures in administering the merit badge program and in recruiting, approving, and training a sufficient number of merit badge counselors. Provide units with access to a current listing of council-approved merit badge counselors. Note that *all* merit badge counselors must be registered as such, annually, and also approved through the council advancement committee. The council policy and process for merit badge counselors and badges is here: <https://www.grandcanyonbsa.org/advancement/#MBC>
10. Follow national and local council procedures as prescribed regarding appeals, Eagle Scout and Quartermaster references, Eagle Scout service project proposal approvals, Venturing board

of review chair selection, boards and bridges of review support, and time extensions. Information on advancement appeals can be found in the [Guide to Advancement](#). Information for parents, Scouts, district and unit leaders about the Life to Eagle process is here: <https://www.grandcanyonbsa.org/eagle-scout-process/>

11. Support and promote the religious emblems program and other awards as determined by the council executive board, such as STEM/Nova, for example.
12. Recommend, according to council and district practices, recipients for the Award of Merit or other recognitions.
13. Notify the media to recognize significant youth achievements such as Eagle Scout or Quartermaster rank, Venturing Summit Award, lifesaving and meritorious action awards, and other noteworthy accomplishments.
14. To strengthen units through strong advancement programs, consider the following:
 - a. Assist unit commissioners and others who serve units.
 - b. Serve as a resource for roundtables.
 - c. Develop relationships with unit advancement volunteers.
 - d. Provide units with advancement reports, summarizing and explaining what they mean.
 - e. Assist unit leadership with advancement planning and promotion.
 - f. Visit pack, troop, team, crew, and ship committee meetings, as warranted.
 - g. Visit boards of review, as warranted.
 - h. Help troops, teams, crews, and ships avoid pitfalls as qualified youth strive for Eagle Scout rank, the Summit Award, or the Quartermaster rank.
 - i. Encourage prompt and proper recognition, ceremonies, and courts of honor.
 - j. Recognize units excelling in advancement.
 - k. According to local council practices, assemble lists of consultants and other resources important to Venturing advancement.

Resources

The definitive source for all advancement policies and procedures used across all programs is the **Guide to Advancement**. It is available online here:

<http://www.scouting.org/advancement>

- a. Cub Scout Advancement information can be found here
<http://www.scouting.org/scoutsource/CubScouts>
- b. Boy Scout Advancement information can be found here
<http://www.scouting.org/advancement>
 - i. Eagle Scout Advancement information can be found here
<https://www.grandcanyonbsa.org/eagle-scout-process/>
- c. Venturing Advancement information can be found here
<http://www.scouting.org/scoutsource/Venturing>

National education resources are here:

<https://www.scouting.org/programs/scouts-bsa/advancement-and-awards/resources/advancement-presentations/>

Grand Canyon Council educational resources are here:

https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/0B7eow1old_bYWFoxMlkxdzROUU0?usp=sharing

Grand Canyon Council advancement videos are here:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCGv8nxmqYqkby1-bg62zlgg/videos>

A good resource for BSA awards is the *Guide to Awards and Insignia*. Also, check the Awards Central Site for awards and their requirements

<https://www.scouting.org/awards/awards-central/>

If you have questions about this guide or the position, feel free to send an email to:

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