

Forward

Advancement

A major portion of this guide is derived from current files (links) from the National Council of the Boy Scout of America (BSA) and or the Orange County Council Advancement website, et al. Use the provided links to print current copies of the documents and place them in your Tenderfoot to Eagle Guide Notebook 3-ring binder. **[This may change to just one document]**

The Tenderfoot to Eagle trail really starts the day you join the Boy Scouts – the term 'you' is plural and means the new Scout and parents. To help you get the most out your first year in Scouting, this Tenderfoot to Eagle Guide & Notebook has been established to introduce new Scouts and parents to the Boy Scouts of America's Advancement program and to the "The Boy Led Troop."

Keep in mind, it is extremely important that your Scout attend Summer Camp his first summer in Boy Scouts. There is a 300% better chance of retaining a new Scout in the Boy Scouts, if the Scout attends summer camp his first summer. The new Scouts are looking forward to a summer full of Boy Scout fun. A larger portion of WEBELOS who bridge over and attend summer camp their first year in Boy Scouts continue on the Tenderfoot to Eagle trail longer and stay in Scouting longer.

Boy Scouting provides a series of surmountable obstacles and the steps in overcoming these obstacles is through the advancement program. The steps in the advancement system help Boy Scouts to grow in self-reliance and in their ability to help others.

This guide & notebook is an aid to the prospective Scout and his parents towards completing the advancement Trail to Eagle. Because each Scout is an individual, every trail in advancement will differ. An attempt is made to cover all the highpoints so that nothing critical is missed. The Scout should work closely with his Troop leadership in all advancement areas. When your Scout completes the First Class rank, find an Eagle Advisor. The Eagle Advisor may be a person appointed to this position or may be the

Scoutmaster, and must be knowledgeable about advancement and the Trail to Eagle advancement process. The Eagle Advisor's responsibility is to be a resource to the Scout and parents.

See Appendix A for the Eagle Advisor's complete job description.

The format of this guide covers Scout, Tenderfoot, Second Class, First Class, Star, Life, Eagle, Eagle Palms and also covers other Scouting awards available to the Scout. The Steps to Eagle Scout gives a quick general overview of the process. The following Eagle rank 'detail' sections expand upon some of the more difficult steps such as the Eagle Project, the Eagle Notebook, and the Eagle Scout Application. While these detail sections give some common guidelines and helpful hints, be sure to use the resources of your Troop and District Advancement Committee. Your Eagle Advisor, Scoutmaster and Unit Commissioner, as well as the District Advancement Committee representative, can all give you excellent advice.

Advancement is the process by which youth members of the Boy Scouts of America progress from rank to rank in the Scouting program. Advancement is simply a means to an end, not an end in itself. Everything done to advance and earn the Scouting ranks, from joining until leaving the program, is designed to help the young person have an exciting and meaningful experience.

Education and fun are functions of the Scouting movement, and they are the basis of the advancement program. A fundamental purpose of advancement is the self-confidence a person acquires from his participation.

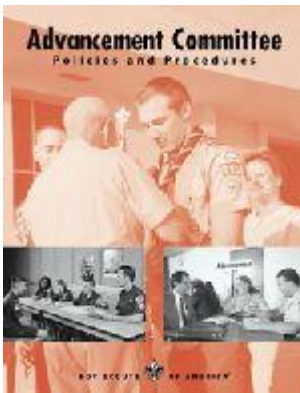
Requirements serve as the basis for a Scout's rank advancement. The four steps to advancement are learning, testing, reviewing, and recognition. A fundamental principle of advancement in Cub Scouting, Boy Scouting, Varsity Scouting, and Venturing is the growth a young person achieves as a result of his/her participation in unit program.

One of the major avenues of achievement in Scouting is advancing from rank to rank. To advance, a youth member fulfills specific requirements, usually including active participation, skill achievement, service to others, and leadership experience.

Advancement is a key component in the Scouting program. It provides opportunities for youth to learn and grow, to develop character and to become good citizen. It is fun with a purpose. It is not like school although it is meant to educate. It is age appropriate for all Scouting youth. In Scouting

there are four steps to advancement: learn, demonstrating what was learned, what was learned is reviewed and recognition for what was learned.

The requirements for advance in rank are established by the National BSA. Local Councils are not permitted to add to or subtract from these requirements except for those with disabilities. The National Council has established policies and general procedures for all rank advancement. These are found in the publication Advancement Committee Policies and Procedures, BSA document #33088 [revised periodically].



The following procedures outline the specific guidelines and practices for advancement in the Orange County Council. It attempts to answer many of the routine questions that new parents and leaders ask. It outlines the methods for recording and reporting the advancement that takes place in Boy Scout Troops. The Eagle rank is a special case that involves many steps. This guide supplements the National information concerning "The Trail from Tenderfoot to Eagle" advancement.

There are special considerations for Scouts with disabilities. All youth have an opportunity to advance. Those with disabilities meet requirements that are consistent with their abilities.

Did you know?

In 2008, around 5 percent of all Boy Scouts earned the Eagle Scout rank. In 2008, the average age of boys earning the Eagle Scout rank was 17.3 years of age.

From 1912 to 2009, 2 million Boy Scouts earned the Eagle Scout rank.