

**ADVANCEMENT:
ALL THE THINGS A SCOUTMASTER/ADVANCEMENT
CHAIRPERSON NEEDS TO KNOW THAT I CAN FIT ON TO
ONE SHEET OF PAPER**

—R. ZIMMERMAN COUNCIL ADVANCEMENT CHAIRMAN

THE DISTRICT CHAIRPERSON IS YOUR FRIEND, ADVISOR, MENTOR, AND THE SECOND HALF OF YOUR BUDDY TEAM IN THE ADVANCEMENT SYSTEM. This person has or can get the answers on Advancement questions quickly and effectively. Find out who this is and keep the number in your book.

18 YEARS OLD means 18 years old. For the Advancement to Eagle everything stops.

IF THERE IS A LINE FOR A SIGNATURE THAT PERSON NEEDS TO SIGN IT. Remember that calls, conferences, memos, and everything else doesn't count when an approval and signature needs to be obtained. THINK: Eagle Service Project Packet

IF IT TAKES MORE THAN A MONTH YOU NEED TO CHECK ON IT. If you have not heard of a change in the status of an Advancement action you need to check on it with you Advancement Chairperson and not take "I don't know" as an answer. If there is no functional chairperson in your unit, call the District Advancement Chairperson direct.

IF THERE IS A COMMON SENSE REASON FOR HELPING A BOY OUT IN HIS SCOUT ADVANCEMENT THERE IS A PROCEDURE TO FOLLOW. This relates to Advancement under two (2) headings. First, if a boy is disabled there are procedures to make his Scouting Advancement meaningful to him and allow him to go all the way to Eagle (sometimes no matter how long it takes). Second, if the boy had no control what so ever over events that prevented him from Eagle, time may be extended. I am talking about big-time mitigating factors, like coma, really long-term hospitalization, traumatic losses in the family, flooding, etc. Just enough time should be asked to complete the requirements. Being too busy with other things is not acceptable. Remember he has had about seven (7) years to complete all the requirements that really could get done within three (3) years or so.

NO ONE HAS THE AUTHORITY TO CHANGE RANK REQUIREMENTS. No adding to and no subtracting. No boy "deserves" a rank. The harder the struggle, the greater the sense of achievement. If the boy is disabled, there are procedures to modify rank requirements, after documentation and evaluation based on need.

RECORDS—RECORDS-- RECORDS. Some of the boys' advancement records must be kept for seven years and they have to be accurate. Sign the boys' books when they pass a skill and advance to the next rank. Keep the unit copy of the Advancement Form that must be turned into the council. Keep the unit records in responsible hands. Finally, make sure the boys understand that it is ultimately their responsibility to keep track of their own record.

BOARDS OF REVIEW. In a general Advancement way, the Board of Review for **each** rank is an important step to the next. Make sure the boy knows what is expected to earn the next rank; time, leadership, service project and skill requirements....everything. Let there be now doubt as to what it takes to advance. This is especially true going from Life to Eagle, when the “longer” merit badges and the service project are required.

GET TO TRAINING.....YOU & THE BOYS. Advancement training is incorporated into several programs. Mainly, Buckskin and University of Scouting..... there are about six classes during UofS. If you want to see a bigger Advancement picture, there is the District Committee Workshop. Most important, not only for you, but also for the boys, is the EAGLE FAIR. It is held the last Saturday in February and goes over ALL the requirements and issues involved with the Eagle Scout rank. Although everything is explained in the Eagle packet, the process is explained and the questions answered at the Fair.

EAGLE RANK v. OTHER RANKS & SCOUTMASTER CONFERENCES AND BOARDS OF REVIEW. The Eagle Rank is awarded by the National Organization. An application needs to be submitted. Supporting documents are needed. There are a few other things but, other than that, your unit should be taking the same care to evaluate progress, insure the rank standards are met, and each boy given a proper Board of Review that looks at the boy living by the Scout Oath and Law. To achieve Eagle, the boy must, essentially, prove why he should be awarded the highest rank in Boy Scouts. If you think of it like that it is easier to see why the procedure is the way it is, but shouldn't that be done for all ranks?

**Council/District Advancement Committee Members
Miami Valley Council**

{ Advancement Official use only; not to be released otherwise }
{E-MAIL: please make sure you have something about Scouting in the subject }

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