

**RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE
COUNCIL (TROOP) ADVANCEMENT COMMITTEE**
Per “Advancement Policies and Procedures Committee Guide”
Boy Scouts of America, 1995 printing

What is Advancement?

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 these ranks, from joining until leaving the program, should be designed to help the boy have an exciting and meaningful experience.

Education and fun are functions of the Scouting movement, and they must be the basis of the advancement program.

A fundamental principle of advancement in Cub Scouting, Boy Scouting, Varsity Scouting, and Exploring is the growth a boy achieves as a result of his participation in his unit program.

In Scouting, recognition is gained through leadership in the unit; attending and participating in the activities; living the ideals of Scouting; and developing a proficiency in outdoor life, useful skills, and career exploration.

Advancement in the four Scouting program phases

Advancement is one of the methods used to achieve the aims of Scouting in all four phases of the Scouting program. (Cub Scouting, Boy Scouting, Varsity Scouting, and Exploring). The aims of Scouting are character building, citizenship training, and physical and mental fitness.

Boy Scouting – The Boy Scout requirements for rank are the basis for the Boy Scout’s advancement. There are four steps in the Boy Scout advancement procedure: learning, testing, reviewing, and recognition.

The following ranks are in Boy Scouting: Tenderfoot, Second Class, First Class, Star, Life, and Eagle. The requirements for each rank are those authorized by the National Executive Board and set forth in the *Boy Scout Handbook* and the current *Boy Scout Requirements* book.

Responsibilities of the Advancement Committee

The council (troop) advancement committee’s purpose is to implement throughout the council (troop) the policies and procedures contained in this handbook. The purpose is accomplished by providing training, by promoting advancement, and by supervising those involved in the advancement process.

A good advancement program in the council (troop) requires cooperation between the council (troop) and district advancement committees, the commissioner staff, and the units they serve.

Duties of the committee – The council advancement committee is primarily a supervisory group guiding the district committees. The committee's responsibilities are to supervise the advancement program in all units and to guide the district advancement committee in its work with each unit. The specific duties are as follows:

- *Establish procedures within the framework of national policy.
- *Set council (troop) goals.
- *Plan a yearly advancement calendar and committee budget.
- *Review procedures for record keeping.
- *Recruit and train council (troop) and district advancement committee members.
- *Promote advancement in units by working with district advancement committees and through council (troop) publications and activities.
- *Recommend candidates for national awards.
- *Determine procedures for summer camp advancements.
- *Approve merit badge counselors and publish council and/or district merit badge counselor lists.
- *Serve as an appeal board for district boards of review and conduct posthumus boards of review.
- *Present special council awards.