

Frequently Asked Questions Of The GSC Advancement Committee

In General

Q: What is the official source for administering advancement?

A: The latest "Guide To Advancement" (33088) is the official source. It is available online along with other advancement resources at <http://www.scouting.org/scoutsources/BoyScouts/AdvancementandAwards/resources.aspx>

Q: How can I contact the Garden State Council (GSC) Advancement Committee with my specific question?

A: Email your questions to Advancement@GardenStateScouting.org or to Merit.Badge.Dean@GardenStateScouting.org

Q: What is the best way to report advancement?

A: Using the BSA internet tool is the most accurate and quickest way to report advancement. Paper reports, while still accepted, take time to enter and are more error prone. Get started with Internet Advancement by downloading the Powerpoint presentation [http://www.scouting.org/filestore/training/advancement/Internet Advancement/Getting the Most.ppt](http://www.scouting.org/filestore/training/advancement/Internet%20Advancement/Getting%20the%20Most.ppt). Contact your District Executive for your Unit ID which identifies your Pack, Troop, or Crew to the Internet Advancement website.

About Financial Matters

Q: Can we solicit gifts for our unit?

A: No. Simply put, units are not permitted to solicit any gifts.

Q: Does that mean people can't make gifts to our unit?

A: Anyone can contribute to a Scout pack, troop, or unit—and many donors don't need or care about charitable deductions.

About Merit Badges

Q: How does a scout find a Merit Badge Counselor(MBC)?

A: He should talk to his Scoutmaster (SM) about his plans and needs. The SM has access to a council maintained list of approved counselors.

Q: Why is the password for the posted merit badge counselor list only distributed to scoutmasters?

A: The GSC is obligated to insure counselors' personal information is used for its intended purpose by its members.

Date: June 12, 2015

Q: Is there a deadline to complete partial merit badges?

A: Yes, it is the scout's eighteenth birthday. But why procrastinate? Just do it!

Q: Can a registered MBC from another counsel approve a scout's work?

A: It is acceptable for a scout to work with a MBC from another district or council. It is a good idea to keep the Scoutmaster informed.

Q: Is there training for MBC available?

A: Yes, "The Essentials of Merit Badge Counseling" presentation found in www.scouting.org/advancement is a good place to start.

Q: Can a MBC meet one-on-one with a scout?

A: A youth member must never meet one-on-one with an adult. Sessions must take place where others can view the interaction, or the scout must have a buddy.

Q: Should a MBC communicate via email with a scout?

A: Yes, provided one or more authorized adults are copied.

Q: When do new requirements take affect?

A: Once new or revised merit badge requirements appear in the current annual edition of *Boy Scout Requirements*, any scout beginning work on a merit badge must use the requirements as stated there.

About An Eagle Project Proposal

Q: How do I submit my project proposal for district approval?

A: It depends on your unit's district. When distance is less, a Scout Resource Center is the preferred Agent. Submit your proposal to the designated advancement agent identified in the table below or contact your district's advancement committee with your questions.

District	Designated Agent	District Advancement Contact Info
Baysea	District Advancement Chair	Baysea-Adv@GardenStateScouting.org
Mahalala	Rowan Resource Center	Mahalala-Adv@GardenStateScouting.org
Old Colony	District Advancement Chair	OldColony-Adv@GardenStateScouting.org
Quakesen	Rowan Resource Center	Quakesen-Adv@GardenStateScouting.org
White Horse	Rowan Resource Center	WhiteHorse-Adv@GardenStateScouting.org

Q: How will I know my project proposal has been approved?

A: A member of the district advancement team will contact you with the district's decision. When the decision is negative, the communication may include suggestions and questions that could lead to the acceptance of the rejected proposal.

Date: June 12, 2015

Q: What is the difference between a mentor and a coach?

A: A coach is an additional resource provided by the district to help answer questions that the scout may encounter during final planning of his project. Typically, a coach is a person from outside the local unit. A mentor is involved with the scout over a longer period of time and can provide advice on a larger range of topics. A mentor is probably someone the scout is acquainted with already.

ABOUT FUNDRAISING FOR AN EAGLE PROJECT

Q: Is fundraising a necessary part of an eagle project?

A: No. The BSA prefers projects that can be done at little or no cost.

Q: Who can sign any contracts involved with an eagle project?

A: The scout cannot sign because he is a minor; the troop, as part of the charter organization, should seek approval of its charter organization in order to take on the financial and legal responsibilities. The beneficiary organization should sign any contracts that pertain to permits, permissions and authorizations. A responsible adult may sign, but does so at his/her own risk.

Q: Can crowdfunding via the internet be used as part of a GSC eagle project?

A: A GSC eagle candidate can decide to use crowdfunding because it is his project. The candidate and the beneficiary should read section 9.0.2.10, Fundraising Issues, in the *Guide To Advancement* as part of the decision making process. It must be remembered that the funds are raised in the name of the beneficiary and not the BSA. The GSC recommends that the beneficiary sign any agreements or contracts with the website. If the candidate decides to ask a responsible adult who does not represent the beneficiary to sign such a contract, the adult does so at his/her own risk.

Q: Who provides a receipt for tax purposes when requested by a donor?

A: The beneficiary, if it qualifies under IRS rules, is responsible.

About Eagle References

Q: What is the scout's responsibility for references?

A: The eagle candidate nominates references under requirement 2 of the Eagle Scout Rank application. He requests that they provide written input about his character. The input may take one of two forms: a personal letter or the completion of a supplied questionnaire. The eagle candidate provides each nominated reference with a questionnaire form and a return envelope. The eagle candidate's responsibility ends after supplying the nominee with a return envelope.

Date: June 12, 2015

Q: Who collects the references' input?

A: The references' responses are mailed to the unit committee member responsible for advancement. The outside of the candidate provided envelope should clearly identify it as a reference for the candidate by name, and unit.

Q: What happens if a reference does not respond?

A: The unit committee member responsible for advancement tracks responses and shall make a reasonable effort to obtain input from any non-responding nominees before the Board of Review. The unit committee member is responsible for delivering the sealed responses received to the Board of Review at the scheduled time and place. A nominee's failure to respond shall not delay the Board of Review. Only members of the Board of Review are permitted to open and read the letters.

About Eagle Boards Of Review

Q: Who makes up an Eagle Board of Review (BOR)?

A: The council recommends that an Eagle Board of Review (BOR) be held at the unit level because it provides the greatest opportunity to resolve disputes locally. A minimum of four people will be appointed to the board. A member from the unit will chair the BOR and sign the advancement report. The district will provide at least one member.

Q: When can an Eagle Board of Review be held at the district level?

A: If a unit formally requests the district, the board may be held at the district level with the understanding that if an appeal is made, the first level appeal to the district is forfeit.