

West Wind District Boy Scout Roundtable Advancement Topics

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West Wind District
Yankee Clipper Council**

**Jim Shea
jeshea@gmail.com**

Life To Eagle Sessions

Offered monthly during troop meetings.
To schedule a Life to Eagle Session contact Jim Shea at
jeshea@gmail.com

Advancement for Scouts with Special Needs

Youth with physical disabilities and youth and adults with developmental or cognitive challenges are welcome in the Boy Scouts of America.

While leaders should be enthusiastic about helping those with special needs, they should also recognize the demands that will be placed on their patience, understanding and skill in working on advancement.

*Guide to Advancement 2013
Section 10.0.0.0*

Options for Youth with Special Needs

- Registering Beyond the Age of Eligibility
 - Permits the Scout to remain eligible as a youth member indefinitely
- Advancement Flexibility
 - Simple Modifications
 - Applying for Alternative Requirements
 - Applying for Alternative Eagle Required Merit Badges
- Applying for an Eagle Rank Extension

Registering Beyond the Age of Eligibility

- Disability must be permanent
- Disability precludes advancements even at a rate significantly slower than considered normal
- Ranks could not be achieved utilizing other accommodation options
- *If ranks can be earned, but it just takes longer, this option is not warranted*
- Every case is considered individually

Example Conditions that May Qualify

- Autism Spectrum Disorders
- Blind or Sight Impaired
- Deaf or Hard of Hearing
- Developmental Cognitive Disability
- Developmental Delay
- Down Syndrome
- Emotional or Behavioral Disorder
- Physically Disabled
- Traumatic Brain Injury
- Multiple Coexisting Disabilities

How to Register Beyond the Age of Eligibility

The following documents must be submitted to the Council:

- Letter from Parent or Guardian
 - Description of disability, its severity, and its permanence
 - Request council approval for registration beyond age of eligibility
- Completed application or Proof of Membership
- Completed and Signed Annual BSA Health and Medical Records form (parts A and C)

How to Register Beyond the Age of Eligibility

- Signed Statement from a Qualified Health Professional
 - Attesting to the disability, its severity and permanent limitations
 - From a licensed physician for physical disabilities
 - From a licensed psychologist, psychiatrist, neurologist, or medical specialist for developmental or cognitive issues
- Letter from the Unit Leader Supporting the Registration
- Other Supporting Documentation (optional but recommended)
 - Individual Education Plan (IEP)
 - Treatment Summaries

Alternative Rank Requirements

- Alternatives are not Permitted for Star, Life, and Eagle Ranks
- Alternatives must Provide the Same Challenge and Learning Level as the Original Requirement
- Alternatives are an option for Scouts who have Experienced a Severe Injury
- Simple Modifications Very Close to the Existing Requirement do not Require Approval
 - Providing more time
 - Permitting special aids
- Alternatives Beyond Simple Modifications must be Approved

Applying for Alternative Rank Requirements

- Scout must Complete as Many Requirements as Possible for all of the Ranks
- Unit Leader or Committee Member Submits Written Request to the Council Advancement Committee
 - Request should be for all ranks (Tenderfoot, First Class & Second Class)
 - List all completed Requirements
 - Suggest Alternatives for the Requirements the Scout cannot do.

Applying for Alternative Rank Requirements

In addition to the letter from the Unit Leader or Committee Member the following documents must be submitted to the Council:

- Letter of Support from the Unit Leader
- Letter of Support from Parent or Guardian
- Letter of Support from Scout (is possible)

Applying for Alternative Rank Requirements

- Signed Statement from a Qualified Health Professional
 - Attesting to the disability and the Scout's abilities and limitations
 - From a Health Professional or Educational Specialist related to the nature of the disability
- Other Supporting Documentation (optional but recommended)
 - Individual Education Plan (IEP)
 - Treatment Summaries

Alternative Eagle Required Merit Badges

- Individual Merit Badge Requirements cannot be Modified or Substituted
- An Entire Badge may be Substituted for another Merit Badge
- Substitutions must Provide the Same Challenge and Learning Level as the Original Badge
- Scout must Complete all Badges Possible before Applying for Alternative Badges
- Alternative Merit Badges must be Approved
- Scout must Include Approval Letter with Eagle Rank Application

Applying for Alternative Merit Badges

The following documents must be submitted to the District Advancement Committee:

- Application for Alternative Eagle Scout Rank Merit Badges
- Letter of Support from the Unit Leader
- Letter of Support from Parent or Guardian
- Letter of Support from Scout (is possible)

Applying for Alternative Merit Badges

- Signed Statement from a Qualified Health Professional
 - Attesting to the disability and the Scout's abilities and limitations
 - From a Health Professional or Educational Specialist related to the nature of the disability
- Other Supporting Documentation (optional but recommended)
 - Individual Education Plan (IEP)
 - Treatment Summaries

Eagle Rank Time Extensions

Scouts with significant disabilities that do not meet the level of severity or permanence required for registration beyond the age of eligibility with a disability code, but are such that they preclude advancement within the timeframe allowed.

Known circumstances such as a moderate disability or ADD/ADHD that the scout has faced over many years and which he has coped with in the past, should not suddenly become an issue shortly before his 18th birthday.

*Guide to Advancement 2013
Section 9.0.4.0*

Requesting an Eagle Rank Time Extension

The following documents must be submitted to the Council:

- Letter Requesting a Time Extension
 - Should be from the Scout, a Parent or Guardian, Unit Leader or Committee Member
 - Must include reason for the request
 - Must request a specific amount of time
- Supporting Documentation

Boards of Review

- Board Members should be Informed about Special Circumstances and Needs
- The Unit Leader may be Present at a Review
 - Answer questions for the board regarding the scout's needs
 - Provide background information regarding the scout's needs
- Parents or Guardians may be Present or Available to the Board
 - Help interpret and communicate for/with the Scout
 - Help the board understand the Scout's challenges

Suggestions for Success

- Parental Involvement
 - Active involvement & Participation
 - Consulting with the Parent on a regular basis
- Individual Scout Advancement Plans
 - Develop a plan for the scouts advancement
 - Evaluate progress
 - Make Adjustments

CyberChip

- To Help Families and Volunteers keep Youth Safe while Online
- BSA Partnered with NetSmartz to develop Requirements and Training Materials
- Requirements to Achieve the CyberChip are Age specific
 - Grades 1-3
 - Grades 4-5
 - Grades 6-8
 - Grades 9-12
- Chip expires and must be “Recharged” Annually by completing the requirements in the NetSmartz Recharge Area
- Units should work to Complete the Requirements as a Unit

NOVA Awards Program

The BSA's NOVA Awards program incorporates learning with cool activities and exposure to science, technology, engineering, and mathematics for Cub Scouts, Boy Scouts and Venturers. The hope is that the requirements and activities for earning these awards stimulates interest in STEM-related fields and shows how science, technology, engineering and mathematics apply to everyday living and the world around them.

<http://www.scouting.org/stem/Awards/AboutNova.aspx>

NOVA Awards

- Four NOVA awards for Cubs, Webelos, Scouts, and Venturers
- Boy Scout NOVA Awards
 - Shoot! (Science)
 - Start Your Engines (Technology)
 - Whoosh! (Engineering)
 - Designed to Crunch (Math)
- Venturer NOVA Awards
 - Launch! (Science)
 - Power Up (Technology)
 - Hang On! (Engineering)
 - Numbers Don't Lie (Math)
- Patch for First Award Earned and a Pin for each Additional Award

Supernova Awards

- Supernova awards have more rigorous requirements
- Two Supernova Awards for Scouts
 - Dr. Bernard Harris Supernova Bronze Award (requires 3 NOVA Awards)
 - Thomas Edison Supernova Silver Award (requires Dr. Bernard Harris Supernova Award)
- Three Supernova Awards for Venturers
 - Dr. Sally Ride Supernova Bronze Award (requires 3 NOVA Awards)
 - Wright Brothers Supernova Silver Award (requires Dr. Sally Ride Supernova Award)
 - Dr. Albert Einstein Supernova Gold Award (requires Wright Brothers Supernova Award)
- Scouts can Move on to Earn the Dr. Albert Einstein Award
- Medal and Certificate for each Supernova Award

STEM/NOVA Program

- NOVA Awards require NOVA Counselors
 - Registered Adult Leader
 - 21 or Older
 - Position Code 58
 - Youth Protection
- Supernova Awards Require Counselor
 - Same requirements as NOVA Counselor
 - Must be a subject matter expert in a STEM field
 - Position Code 52
 - Must Complete Supernova Awards Mentor application
- Guidebooks available for Cub, Scout and Venturer NOVA Programs

STEM/NOVA Program

- NOVA Awards Submitted via the Advancement report
- Supernova Awards Submitted via the Supernova Award Application

Resources

- *Guide to Advancement 2013*
(<http://www.scouting.org/filestore/pdf/33088.pdf>)
 - Section 10.0.0.0 Advancement for Members with Special Needs
 - Section 10.1.0.0 Registering Qualified Members Beyond the Age of Eligibility
 - Section 10.2.2.0 Advancement for Boy Scouts and Varsity Scouts with Special Needs
 - Section 9.0.4.0 Time Extensions

Resources

- *CyberChip training and Information*
<http://www.scouting.org/Training/YouthProtection/CyberChip.aspx>
- *NetSmartz CyberChip Portal*
<http://www.netsmartz.org/scouting>
- *CyberChip Requirements for Grades 6-8*
<http://www.scouting.org/Training/YouthProtection/CyberChip/Grades6-8.aspx>
- *CyberChip Requirements for Grades 9-12*
<http://www.scouting.org/Training/YouthProtection/CyberChip/Grades9-12.aspx>

Resources

- *STEM/NOVA Information*
<http://www.scouting.org/stem.aspx>
- *Scout NOVA Award Requirements*
<http://www.scouting.org/stem/Awards/BoyScouts.aspx>
- *Venturer NOVA Award Requirements*
<http://www.scouting.org/stem/Awards/Venturer.aspx>
- *Scout Supernova Award Requirements*
http://www.scouting.org/stem/Awards/BoyScouts_Supernova_Awards.aspx

Resources

- *Internet Advancement Information*
<http://www.scouting.org/scoutsource/guidetoadvancement/internetadvancement.aspx>
- *BSA Advancement Resources*
<http://www.scouting.org/scoutsource/boyscouts/advancementandawards/resources.aspx>
- *Bryan on Scouting Blog*
<http://blog.scoutingmagazine.org/>