

Volunteer Responsibilities Description

District Advancement Chair

Description: Provides leadership to the district advancement committee

Goal: To meet the district's advancement goals; to increase percentage of youth advancing in rank; to maintain, support, and ensure high quality in the process by which youth member's progress from rank to rank; and to assist units in meeting the advancement requirements to qualify for the highest possible (bronze, silver or gold) level of Scouting's Journey to Excellence.

Reports to: District program chair and council advancement chair

Responsibilities:

- Serves as a member of the district committee.
- Attends the following meetings:
 - Monthly district committee meetings (or submits a written report on the progress towards goals as well as anticipated challenges and needs, preferably using the district "Advancement Committee Work Plan," www.samhoustonbsa.org/Data/Sites/1/media/resources/district-operations/workplan2012-advancement.pdf, to the district program chair prior to each meeting).
 - Triannual council coordinated meetings
 - Annual key leader's conference
 - Monthly roundtable meetings
- Keeps the district program chair regularly informed of progress towards goals.
- Promotes advancement at roundtable, district functions, unit meetings, district/unit websites, district email blasts, etc.
- Supports local and national Scouting policy.
- Interprets and implements the advancement policies of both the national council and of the local council advancement policies, as outlined in *Guide to Advancement* (www.scouting.org/filestore/pdf/33088.pdf).
- Provides year-round training opportunities for units in the area of advancement and informs appropriate district staff (commissioners and training personnel) when areas of concern/improvement are observed.
- Maintains a district merit badge counselor list that is updated annually and available for Scouts and units.
- Makes sure that merit badge counselors are registered and approved for each merit badge they wish to counsel.
- Ensures that there is a district representative on every Eagle Scout board of review (BOR).
- Reviews and approves Eagle Scout service projects in accordance with council and national guidelines.
- Promotes to troops, teams, crews, and ships that they conduct regular ceremonies (usually courts of honor) to insure proper recognition of youth in their respective.
- Encourages packs to present advancement on a monthly basis through meaningful ceremonies at pack meetings.
- Works with unit leadership to help them better understand advancement and implementation of advancement in their units.
- Investigates and recommends youth and adult members for lifesaving and other special awards and recognition.
- Achieves satisfactory results in the percent of Scouts by program advancing during the year; monitors rank advancement progress throughout the year, identifies those units with little or no advancement reported and arranges special assistance for such units as needed.
- In consultation with the council advancement committee, and according to guidelines outlined in the *Guide to Advancement*, acts on appeals from Eagle Scout candidates if their troop denies their application or turns them down at the board of review.
- Considers and acts on appeals for any Scout advancement issue, whether brought on by a unit, Scout leader, youth, parent, or other concerned adult.

Length of Term: One year (beginning from the annual district business meeting) with reappointed on an annual basis.

How Selected: Selected by district program chair and approved by the district chair in consultation with the district executive and the council advancement chair.

Attributes: Organized, knowledge of Scouting advancement structure, communicator, ability to work with youth and adults alike, mediator

Resources: *Guide to Advancement*, No. 33088: www.scouting.org/filestore/pdf/33088.pdf

Advancement Resources, www.scouting.org/advancement
Advancement News Archive, www.scouting.org/scoutsources/boyscouts/advancementandawards/advancement_news.aspx
Advancement News Index, www.scouting.org/sitecore/content/Home/BoyScouts/AdvancementandAwards/Advancement.aspx
Advancement Educational Presentations, www.scouting.org/advancement.aspx
Eagle Scout Service Project Workbook,
www.scouting.org/Home/BoyScouts/AdvancementandAwards/EagleWorkbookProcedures.aspx
Service Project Planning Guidelines, www.scouting.org/filestore/healthsafety/pdf/680-027.pdf
A Guide for Merit Badge Counselors, <http://www.scouting.org/filestore/pdf/512-065.pdf>
Merit Badge Group Instruction Guide, http://www.scouting.org/filestore/pdf/512-066_WEB.pdf
Reporting Merit Badge Counselor Concerns, http://www.scouting.org/filestore/pdf/512-800_WB.pdf
The Essentials of Merit Badge Counseling, http://www.scouting.org/Home/BoyScouts/Resources/advancement_presentations.aspx