

BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA
MOUNTAIN WEST COUNCIL ADVANCEMENT POLICY
(Revised January 2022)

The Mountain West Council adheres to the policies and requirements for all Scout advancement as outlined in the Boy Scouts of America publications, Advancement Policies and Procedures Committee Guide, Guide to Advancement, and all Cub Scout, Scouts BSA, Venturing and Explorer handbooks.

We also subscribe to the following policies and guidelines:

A key purpose of the merit badge program is to put a Scout in contact with as many different adults as possible, thus teaching him to communicate better and be exposed to many individuals with good character traits. It is not the desired role for the unit leader to be the merit badge counselor for Scouts in their unit; so, Scoutmasters, Venturing and Exploring Advisors and their assistants are encouraged to serve as merit badge counselors for camping, cooking, hiking, and pioneering only.

In accordance with the National Executive Board policy statement on merit badge counseling found in Advancement Policies and Procedures Committee Guide, Scouts may receive instruction and training in groups, but requirements may not be passed off as a group. Group experiences must be followed by attending camp and at merit badge clinics. The Scout Buddy System must be used for all meetings with merit badge counselors. In preparing for a merit badge, a Scout and their buddy must make an appointment with the counselor to review the requirements for the badge. The requirements may be passed off in one or more subsequent visits with the counselor. Merit badge counselors and instructors at the Council Scout camp must be approved and certified annually under the direction of the Council Advancement Committee.

Merit badge seminars or pow wows must not be fund-raising projects. The merit badge counselor or instructor must not be compensated for teaching the merit badge. As a council, we discourage the use of merit badge seminars or pow wows for other than instructional purposes. If a fee is charged, a written budget must be submitted to the Council Advancement Committee for approval.

It is the policy of the Mountain West Council to provide training and to certify individuals to represent the council at Eagle boards of review. Only those individuals who have been trained and certified may represent the Mountain West Council or its districts in approving Eagle service projects and serving as the district representative at Eagle boards of review. Persons who have completed the Eagle Reviewer Certification Training and who are designated by the District Advancement Committee to act on Eagle projects and boards of review may serve until the next annual district meeting. Certified Eagle Reviewers shall not act for Eagle applicants who are registered in the Reviewer's same unit.

Responsibility for checking with references shown on the Eagle application is left to the unit leaders and district representatives in the form of two letters of recommendation written on the Scout's behalf.

COUNCIL POLICY STATEMENT COUNCIL AND DISTRICT EAGLE REVIEWERS

It is and has been the policy of the Mountain West Council that only certified District and Council Reviewers are authorized to approve proposed Eagle projects and the Eagle Application upon completion of the Board of Review.

All Eagle Reviewers will be certified or re-certified, starting with the district recharter of 1999, all Eagle Reviewers are required to be certified by the Council Advancement Committee every two years. Prior to certification, Eagle Reviewers are required to participate in the Eagle Reviewer Course held by the Council Advancement Committee. Certification terms of each Reviewer will normally coincide with the Council charter year. However, the District Advancement Chairman may grant the Reviewer an extension to the first Eagle Reviewer Course for a period not to exceed six months.

Each District Committee is responsible for assuring the sufficient certified reviewers to meet the needs of the district, and will supply the Council Advancement Committee a list of Certified Eagle Reviewers annually, including name, address, and phone number.

A list of District Advancement Chairmen will be included in material supplied by the Scout office. The same list will appear in appropriate Council information literature.