



Dear Scouting Family,

As we all face the global challenge ahead we want to continue to share with you the news as it may relate to Scouting.

On March 19, 2020, Governor Newsom issued [Executive Order N-33-20 issued by Gov. Newsom](#) on which directs all people in California to remain in their home except for essential functions. This order is in effect until further notice.

In recognition and adherence to this executive order the San Diego–Imperial Council will immediately close operations at all council facilities including our council office. The National BSA Scout Store, located at our office facility, will also be closed.

Your local district executive will be working remotely to assist units with their Scouting program delivery needs. Management staff will also be working remotely to address council administration, properties and program items. All executive contact information is provided on our [council website](#).

While this order is in effect all meetings are to be conducted “virtually” using available technology.

Even with these new guidelines, let’s keep Scouting! Below you will find an FAQ on advancement questions during this unprecedented time as well as a recently distributed article on [Bryan on Scouting](#) related to virtual Boards of Review.

We continue to encourage you to keep this updated information in mind when determining your unit programming and thank you for your commitment to our future through service to Scouts.

Yours in Scouting,

Tim Thomton  
Scout Executive





## Questions and Answers

### **Cub Scouting/Scouts BSA/Venturing/Sea Scouting Rank Advancement and the Coronavirus (COVID-19)**

The following questions regarding advancement have arisen as we deal with closures, cancellations, or other issues caused by the spread of the coronavirus (COVID-19). Although there are difficulties and constraints, advancement can continue. Youth, parents, and leaders should work together to implement creative, common sense ways to facilitate advancement while adhering to the Guide to Safe Scouting and following the rules of Youth Protection training.

Please follow this link to the [Guide to Advancement \(GTA\)](#), which remains the primary source for information related to Scouts BSA advancement. It is referenced throughout the answers provided here.

Please send additional questions to [advancement.team@scouting.org](mailto:advancement.team@scouting.org)

#### **All Scouting Programs**

##### **Q: How can advancement be tracked remotely?**

A: Scouting units should use ScoutBook to record and track advancement.

To track advancement remotely, parents should:

- 1) Connect with their child's member profile via an invitation that the unit leader sends within ScoutBook.
- 2) Once a connection is made, the parent should use the Scouting app, found in both the App Store and Google Play, to stay connected with their unit.
- 3) The Scouting app provides parents the ability to report any advancement that was completed at home.

Go to <https://help.scoutbook.com> to learn more about how to start using ScoutBook and how to connect parents to their Scouts.

#### **Cub Scouts**

##### **Q: May parents sign off on Webelos and Arrow of Light requirements?**

A: Yes. Through July 31, 2020, parents and other adults in the Cub Scout's family, may sign off on Webelos and Arrow of Light requirements. We strongly encourage that





parents use the Scouting App or ScoutBook to record completion of their child's requirements.

**Q: If my den is behind in advancement due to COVID-19, can my Cub Scout continue to work on advancement through the summer?**

A: Yes. Cub Scouts can continue to work on their current den's advancement through July 31, 2020. This is to provide any additional time a Cub Scout needs to complete their badge of rank; if they earn their badge of rank prior to July 31, 2020, they may advance to the next rank.

**Scouts BSA, Venturing and Sea Scouts**

**Q: May merit badge requirements or rank requirements be modified?**

A: No. All requirements must be completed as written. If meetings or activities are canceled or limited, youth should continue to work on requirements as far as possible. By employing common sense and creative solutions, many requirements—even Scoutmaster conferences—can be fulfilled through videoconferencing or telephone calls.

**Q: Can merit badge counseling or Nova/Supernova counseling be done using digital technologies like Zoom or WebEx?**

A: Yes, registered merit badge counselors or Nova counselors/Supernova mentors may work with youth using digital platforms, ensuring that all youth protection measures noted in the [Guide to Safe Scouting](#) and [BSA's social media guidelines](#) are in place. In addition to youth protection, the advancement guidelines in GTA Section 7 are required.

**Q: May time missed due to canceled unit meetings count toward active participation requirements?**

A: Yes. If youth are registered and in good standing, a disruption from COVID-19 virus can be the “noteworthy circumstance” that prevents participation. This policy has been in place for many years and is explained in GTA Topic 4.2.3.1.





**Q: May time missed due to canceled unit meetings count toward position of responsibility requirements?**

A: Yes. If youth are registered and unable to meet the expectations of their positions because of COVID-19 disruptions, then units may need to waive or rethink the expectations. Just as youth must not be held to *unestablished* expectations, they must not be held to expectations that are impossible to fulfill. See GTA Topic 4.2.3.4, “Positions of Responsibility,” with its six subtopics.

**Q: Does the National Council grant extensions of time to complete rank requirements beyond the 18<sup>th</sup> birthday for the Eagle or 21<sup>st</sup> birthday for Summit or Quartermaster?**

A: Yes, but only for the Eagle Scout rank as described in GTA Topic 9.0.4.0 or for Venturing Summit or Sea Scout Quartermaster as described in GTA Topic 4.3.3.0. Unit leadership must become familiar with the five tests under 9.0.4.0. The tests were designed to accommodate such obstacles as those presented by COVID-19 disruptions.

**Q: Will youth who are not yet Life Scouts be allowed to apply for an extension to earn the Eagle Scout rank?**

A. Extensions are considered only for Scouts who are Life rank. If, once a Scout achieves Life rank, it turns out that COVID-19 disruptions along the way have left them with insufficient time to complete Eagle requirements, then this may be cited when the time comes to submit an extension request.

**Q: Are electronic or digital signatures acceptable for rank advancement or for the Eagle/Summit/Quartermaster packets/applications?**

A: Yes. Electronic or digital signatures will be accepted through September 30, 2020.

**Q: How can a youth continue to work on advancement requirements if they don't have internet or high-speed internet for videoconferencing?**

A: Youth may take a picture of their completed activity/requirement and share the work with unit leaders. In keeping with Youth Protection Training policies, all communications from youth should be sent to at least two adults. Parents or guardians may send advancement work on behalf of their child.

