

Denver Area Council Advancement Committee Policy on Videoconference Boards of Review for Eagle Scout Rank

In light of the COVID19 outbreak, government and public health officials have issued guidelines to prevent exposure to acute respiratory illnesses, including COVID-19. In addition, the Denver Area Council has issued guidelines to “strongly encourage that districts, units, and council committees consider using technology to continue with as many of their normally scheduled meetings and events as possible.” Accordingly, the Denver Area Council Advancement Committee has decided to permit the use of videoconference boards of review for the Eagle Scout rank.

The Guide to Advancement (2019), states that although boards of review for any rank “are meant to be face-to-face, personal experiences,” in “rare situations . . . it is permissible to use videoconferencing.” Section 8.0.1.6. The Guide to Advancement further states that “[t]he local council must grant permission to hold a videoconference board of review for the Eagle Scout rank.”

The Denver Area Council Advancement Committee has determined that the current outbreak of COVID 19 is one of those “rare situations” that makes it permissible to use videoconferencing for boards of review for the Eagle Scout rank. This policy will be effective immediately throughout the Denver Area Council and until the Council Advancement Committee determines that circumstances permit a change in the effective period.

The use of videoconference for boards of review for ranks other than Eagle Scout do not require local council approval. Nevertheless, the Council Advancement Committee strongly encourages the use of videoconference for all such boards of review.

The use of videoconference for all boards of review must comply with the requirements stated in the Guide to Advancement, Section 8.0.1.6.

Bryan on Scouting has posted a March 16, 2020 blog titled “How to conduct a board of review through videoconferencing” that provides a helpful discussion and practical tips. <https://blog.scoutingmagazine.org/2020/03/16/how-to-conduct-a-board-of-review-through-videoconferencing/>

As a reminder, Eagle Scout boards of review conducted at the unit level must have at least one district representative, who is not affiliated with the unit, serve as a member. Guide to Advancement (2019) Section 8.0.3.0

Finally, during the COVID 19 outbreak, the Advancement Committee encourages units, scout leaders and scouts to continue advancement activities, doing so in a manner that complies with government, public health and BSA guidelines. For example, you should consider using teleconference or videoconference to conduct merit badge counseling and district review of Eagle Scout service project proposals.

Please contact your district advancement committee with any questions about this policy.

March 19, 2020

/s/ Andre M. Pauka

DAC Advancement Committee Chair