

Connecticut Yankee Council
Health and Safety Guidelines for Boards of Review
Including Eagle Scout Boards of Review
COVID-19

The Council has developed this guidance to support the conduct of Boards of Review including Eagle Scout Boards, considering health and safety concerns related to the spread of COVID-19 in our communities.

The Guide to Advancement section 8.0.1.6 refers to “Boards of Review Through Videoconferencing”, and states in part “Boards of review for any rank are meant to be face-to-face, personal experiences. From time to time, however, as Scouts go off to college or the military, or live in very remote locations, for example, it may be virtually impossible to hold in-person boards of review. In those rare situations where it is unreasonable to expect a Scout to travel long distances, or to wait several months, it is permissible to use videoconferencing. If such boards of review are held, however, they must be conducted according to the...” requirements set forth in the section.

On March 10, 2020, the Governor of Connecticut issued a Declaration of Public Health and Civil Preparedness Emergencies in recognition of the spread of COVID-19 throughout the world and our country. On this basis, it may be unreasonable to expect a Scout (or other members of a Board of Review) to participate in a face-to-face Board of Review.

The Guide to Advancement section 8.0.0.2 refers to “Boards of Review Must Be Granted When Requirements Are Met.” This means that a unit should hold a Board of Review as soon as possible after a Scout completes rank advancement requirements. If, for reasons outlined, an in-person Board of Review cannot be held, the unit must not wait to conduct a Board of Review until an in-person Board can be held, but should promptly proceed with a Board held via videoconference.

The following guidelines should apply when determining whether to conduct an in-person Board of Review:

1. The Chair of the Board of Review may determine that it is not safe to conduct an in-person Board. In that case, the Chair shall promptly arrange for a Board of Review through videoconferencing. Otherwise,
2. The Chair of the Board of Review should contact the Scout (and the Scout’s family) to determine whether the Scout is willing to participate in an in-person Board.
3. If the Scout is not willing to participate in an in-person Board, the Chair shall promptly arrange for a Board of Review through videoconferencing.
4. If the Scout is willing to participate in an in-person Board, the Chair shall then determine whether there are enough adult members of the Board also willing to participate in an in-person Board. If not, the Chair shall promptly arrange for a Board of Review through videoconferencing.
5. If the Board of Review will be held face-to-face, all Council and State health and safety guidelines must be followed, including use of face coverings and maintenance of appropriate social distancing. The BSA “Model Pre-Event Medical Screening Checklist” should be used with each participant of the Board prior to the start of the Board. Additionally, if any member of the Board wishes to examine a Scout’s handbook, blue cards, or other paper records, that member shall use hand sanitizer before and after handling the records.

It must be emphasized that the Scout and each member of the Board should be comfortable participating in a face-to-face Board and should be given the opportunity to decline face-to-face participation without judgement or consequence.

Questions on this policy may be referred to one of the following individuals:

Chair, Council Advancement Committee

Chair, District Advancement Committee

Chair, Council Enterprise Risk Management (Health & Safety) Committee

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