



BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA®
VENTURA COUNTY COUNCIL

March 21, 2020

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To Life Scouts, parents or guardians, and unit leaders,

As you are aware, we have been ordered by the county and state to "stay at home" until further notice. (See: <https://www.vcemergency.com/staywellvc> and <https://www.gov.ca.gov/2020/03/19/governor-gavin-newsom-issues-stay-at-home-order/>).

You are probably asking the question about what to do if the Scout will be turning 18 years old before this crisis ends and you have not yet completed the requirements for the rank of Eagle Scout including completing their Eagle Scout service project.

The National Advancement Program Task Force addresses this situation in the Guide to Advancement in **Topic 9.0.4.0 - Time Extensions** (you may read or download a copy of the Guide to Advancement via links contained on our web site at <https://www.vccbsa.org/advancement>).

There is, however, a temporary change in the process which expedites the review and recommendation process. This change, is outlined in the National Advancement Task Force [COVID-19 FAQ](#) which states under "Q: May local councils grant extensions? A: Normally, that is not allowed. However, due to the current situation—effective immediately and through September 30, 2020—council Scout executives may grant extensions, or delegate authority to the Council Advancement Committee to grant extensions under the limitations outlined in the FAQ." Our council Scout Executive, George Villalobos, has delegated the approval process to the council advancement committee with the understanding that he retains oversight and final approval that is already his on all the Eagle Scout rank-related applications.

The question then may be asked, to whom should the Scout, parent, or leader, submit the request?

Following the procedure as contained in GtA Topic 9.0.4.1, all requests must be submitted to the "council's designated appeals coordinator". Our local implementation is that this position has been, traditionally, handled by the district advancement chair even though we did not call them the "appeals coordinator". So, all initial requests are to be sent to Steve Rhods for Chumash District and Dave McClellan for Tierra Rejada District. Contact information for them is found on our council web site at <https://www.vccbsa.org/advancement>.

The coordinator will then complete the form (<https://filestore.scouting.org/filestore/pdf/512-077.pdf>) and submit that, along with the supporting paperwork to the council advancement chair. The council advancement chair will then follow the procedure outlined in the Guide to Advancement and draft a recommendation which will then be reviewed and a decision rendered with the answer returned in writing to the Scout, their parent or guardian, and their Scout leader.

Many questions on advancement are addressed in the following resources available through our council web site.

- [Guide to Advancement](#)
- [Ventura County Council Guide to Advancement Supplement](#)
- [National Advancement Program Task Force COVID-19 FAQ](#)

As always, if you have questions that are not addressed above, you can email or call any of the district or council advancement committee members for guidance.

Stay healthy, wash your hands, and keep Scouting!

Yours in Scouting,

Louis S. Leopold
Council Advancement Chair
Ventura County Council #57, BSA

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