

NOVEMBER – BOARDS OF REVIEW

Music Full then Under

BRYAN: Thanks for tuning in to the November ScoutCast! I'm Bryan on Scouting Blogger, Bryan Wendell, and joining me, as always, is Lee Shaw, Team Leader of National Alliances.

LEE: The ScoutCast mailbox received an email from Bryan King that asked us, to do a show specifically about the Board of Review process. So, Bryan, we hope you're listening because that's exactly what we're about to do.

BRYAN: We found out that Bryan King isn't the only one curious about Boards of Review. There's lots of folks out there with questions about the Board of Review process.

Music Fades

BRYAN: And the man with all the answers, that's Mike LoVecchio. Mike is a 47-year Scout volunteer who also happens to be the Advancement Specialist at the BSA's National Service Center. He gets calls all the time about the Board of Review process and, as he tells us, if he doesn't know the answer, he knows where to find it. So, Mike, welcome to ScoutCast.

MIKE: Thank you very much. Glad to be here

BRYAN: Okay, Mike, we'd better start with the basics. What exactly is a Board of Review?

MIKE: A Board of Review is a group of adults that bring in the Scout who's ready for a rank advancement, and they work with the Scout, ask him questions

about what he's done, what he's learned, how has it helped him in his advancement, and how he's enjoying the program.

LEE: Well, Mike, who makes up the Board of Review? I mean, is that the Troop Committee Members, how many people? Tell me a little bit about that.

MIKE: Depending on what Board of Review we're talking about. If it's Tenderfoot through Life and then Eagle Palms, that's done at the unit level. The unit level has committee members that sit on the Board of Review, no more than six and no less than three, and they must be 21 years of age or older. Typically it's the committee members that sit on that Board of Review. If it has to do with an Eagle Scout Board of Review, and it's up to the council to make the decision, they can hold it at the unit level with a district or council representative sitting in on that board. It can also be held at the district level and it can also be held at the council level, depending on that council. Again, they must be at least three and no more than six, and at least 21 years of age or older. There is one exception and that means that they don't have to be a registered member of the Boy Scouts but they have an understanding of the Eagle and the Eagle Scout Award.

BRYAN: All right, so that's interesting, Mike - with the Eagle Board of Review you can actually have a member of the community like the mayor or a community leader actually sit on the Board of Review. Can you tell us a little bit more about that process?

MIKE: I can speak to my district in my council, is that we have a pool of individuals men and women of the community, plus other Scouters. One of the things we look at is the Scout's statement of purpose and life ambitions, and we try to get individuals on that board that meet that Scout's ambitions. For an example, let's say a young man wants to go into

law. We're going to try and get some lawyers in the community to sit on that Board of Review.

BRYAN: Nice.

MIKE: That way they have something in common and it helps make the Scout feel comfortable, and, that we've got somebody here that wants to talk to him about his future plans.

BRYAN: I like that. Then the community kind of takes ownership of that new Eagle Scout as well.

MIKE: Yes, that's exactly right.

BRYAN: So the Eagle Scout Board of Review is a little bit different. Is there anybody not eligible to sit on the Eagle Scout Board of Review?

MIKE: The parents are not allowed to sit on the Board of Review and unit leaders are not allowed to sit on the Board of Review.

BRYAN: Gotcha.

LEE: Okay, Mike, who is responsible for scheduling a Board of Review and when is it scheduled?

MIKE: The Board of Review is typically scheduled by the Scoutmaster or the team coach. The Scoutmaster is responsible, once they have the Scoutmaster conference or unit leader conference, they are responsible for arranging for a Board of Review.

BRYAN: Are there any resources for helping listeners out there understand this Board of Review process?

MIKE: Yes, there is. We have what is known as the Guide to Advancement. The Guide to Advancement is sold at Scout Stores. It's also available online at [Scouting.org/advancement](https://www.scouting.org/advancement). In Section 8 is all about Boards of Review and they have specifics or particulars on the Tenderfoot through Life and Palms, and then they have it for the Eagle Scout rank, then they have it for the Quartermaster Award and then they also have it for the Summit Award. So there are specific requirements for the Board of Reviews, all mentioned in Section 8.

LEE: With that being said, are those "guides" or "strict policy"?

MIKE: If the word "shall" or "must" is used then it is a policy. If we say "should" it is a guideline or best practice.

BRYAN: So that makes sense. You just got to really pay attention to that wording. I like that. Now, I did have a question about retesting Scouts. We sometimes hear about troops where they'll ask the Scout to tie a knot or say the Scout Oath or Scout Law. What's the guidance on that and is there a policy on that?

MIKE: There is a policy and they'll find that in Section 4 that the Scout is not to be retested. They already passed the requirements. It's already been signed off. Now it's a matter of going through a lot of people are calling them character boards, it's more about finding out about the Scout, his experiences, the fun he's had, and just learning about the Scout and his goals and ambitions.

BRYAN: And if a parent says, "I want to sit in there and hear what's being asked of my son," is there any type of guidance or policy there?

MIKE: Yes, there is. We state that we do not allow parents to be in on the Board of Review because it could change the dynamics of that Board of Review and the Scout may not feel free to answer the way he thinks he should answer. However, if a parent insists that they sit on the Board of Review then we let them in.

BRYAN: Yeah, I can see it being probably the best case scenario for the parent to just go ahead and wait outside and let the Scout kind of shine in that moment, but hey, that's just my opinion. All right. Is there anything else about the Board of Review process that you wanted to add, Mike?

MIKE: There's been a myth going around for many years that a Scout must be in Scout uniform and that is not the case. They can be in Scout uniform if they have the complete uniform or as complete as possible. They can also be neat in appearance. So a Board of Review should not be denied because the Scout is not in uniform.

LEE: I had no clue that you didn't have to have a uniform on because forty years ago my Troop 60 made me... never mind, I regress.

BRYAN: It's a great point because really just having the Scout there is what we want and having them look as neat and clean and figure out what the character of the Scout is. This is bringing back a lot of memories of my own Boards of Review, and I'm sure it is for a lot of listeners at home. I too also had to be in complete uniform for that. All right, Mike, thanks so much for coming on ScoutCast. I'm sure that Bryan King and all of our listeners know a lot more about that Board of Review process than they did just 10 minutes ago, so we want to thank you again.

MIKE: Thank you. I appreciate it very much.

LEE: We'll be back with Reminders and Tips.

(FSB Commercial)

LEE: Okay, let's jump into Reminders and Tips for November.

BRYAN: Ok listeners has anyone in your troop or crew signed up to go the 2017 National Jamboree yet? No? Why not? You already know what a great experience it will be for them and that they'll make a ton of new friends, but maybe you all think it will be too financially or physically challenging. Maybe you think the jamboree is only for a privileged few, or maybe you think the door is closed because (gasp!) of the girls in your crew! Whatever the reason you think the jamboree door has been closed, our July ScoutCast tells you how to grab onto that door handle and open it wide. July will be here before you know it.

LEE: Let's talk membership inventory. By now, all your new youth and adult applications from your recruiting drive should be submitted to the Council Service Center.

BRYAN: And it's a good idea to compare the My.Scouting Tools records to your own records to make sure there aren't any discrepancies and that all those new folks are properly registered.

LEE: So, that means you are making your list and checking it twice. Be sure to check out this month's *Boys Life* magazine Holiday Gift Guide for the latest and greatest ideas on what to get that special Scout in your life this season.

BRYAN: So all the newest toys – that seems like something I'll be interested in too. Okay, anyway, the November/December issue of *Scouting* magazine, has Scouts working on the Moviemaking Merit Badge in what could be coolest location for a merit badge class in Scouting history: Hollywood. The Scouts visit Warner Brothers Studios, they toured the studio, they filmed and edited a short movie, they watched that movie, and they did so much more. It's great.

BEGIN MUSIC UNDER

BRYAN: All right. That, sadly, brings us to the end of the November ScoutCast. Thanks to our guest, Mike LoVecchio, for joining us.

LEE: And thanks to you for listening. Be sure to come back next month for what could possibly be an eye-opening discussion on how to make an ordinary meeting extraordinary. Until next month, I'm Lee Shaw.

BRYAN: And I am Bryan Wendell. So what about you, listeners? Is there a topic you want us to discuss here on ScoutCast? If so, I bet lots of others want us to talk about the exact same thing, so here is what you do. You email us, Scoutcastcast@scouting.org, or you tweet us @BSAScoutcast. Bryan King let us know and so can you.

Music full to finish