



The Dulaney District Advancement Committee News

1 March 2014

Troop Leaders, Advancement Chairs and Eagle Coaches of Dulaney District;



A. Life-to-Eagle Orientation:

The next Life-to-Eagle Orientation will be held on Monday, April 14, 2014 at Havenwood Presbyterian Church, 100 East Ridgely Road, Lutherville, MD 20193 starting at 7:00 PM.

B. Eagles to the Front of the Line

Adopted from an article appearing in the Blackhawk Courier, Blackhawk Area Council



I had the opportunity to work with a fellow pilot on a trip over the holidays. During the experience he shared his son's incredible story with me. His son was a senior in high school and active in his local troop as a Life Scout. The only requirement left for his Eagle Scout rank was the service project, but like many, he was dragging his feet. His dad constantly encouraged him, but the motivation was just not there.

The one dream his son had was to attend the Air Force Academy and become a pilot. As we know, getting into the Academy is no easy feat: you must have good grades, go through a series of interviews, do well on your ACT and a senator or congressman must recommend you. There may be other requirements, but these were the ones he emphasized. He told me his son was an average student, completed the inter-views, received a recommendation, and did OK on the ACT. When his letter finally came it was bad news. He had been placed on a long standby list and did not have much hope of attending. The dream had been crushed. His dad encouraged him not to give up, and suggested he should finish his Eagle service project, as that could have benefits for his future. His son was a little depressed, though, and could not focus on much of anything, let alone his Eagle project. But one day dad's persistence paid off and the project got finished. And shortly thereafter his son was awarded Scouting's highest honor. His parents were proud, not just because he finished, but because they truly felt he would reap the rewards in the future.

Then, as an Eagle Scout, his son updated his Air Force Academy application, and this is when the magic happened. He was notified he was being reconsidered! He only had to complete some pre-requisites. The Eagle rank had boosted him to the front of the line. All they asked was that he attend a prep school for six months to help them evaluate how well he would do as a student. He would participate in military drills and other activities until he attended the Academy. The best part was that the government was to foot the bill. This all came about because he finished his Eagle rank. His dad could have just dropped the subject and let his son remain a Life Scout, but he kept the faith and provided the encouragement.

B. INFORMATION FROM THE NATIONAL ADVANCEMENT NEWSLETTER:

Eagle Issues:

1. When to Use the New—or the Old—Eagle Scout Rank Application

Many Scouts have asked about the new Eagle Scout Rank Application and when it should or should not be used. Here are some guidelines.

- Scouts who finished their Eagle Scout requirements before January 1, and do not have Cooking merit badge, should use the old form.
- Scouts who finished their Eagle Scout requirements before January 1, but have Cooking anyway, may use either the old or new form. It makes no difference.
- Scouts who finished their requirements on or after January 1 must show that they have Cooking merit badge and should use the new form.

2. Eagle Scout Service Project Coach

The Eagle Scout service project coach is one of the keys to success as Eagle Scout candidates strive to complete Eagle Scout requirement 5. In the **2013 Guide to Advancement**, topic, 9.0.2.9, “Eagle Scout Service Project Coach,” was expanded to better define the coach’s role in council and district efforts to guide Scouts through the service project process.



Experience has shown that the most effective approach to providing coaches is for the council or district to organize a pool of BSA-registered volunteers willing to serve in this vital role. A coach should then be designated and assigned to individual Eagle Scout candidates at the time their service project proposals are approved.

The **Guide to Advancement** points out that the designated coach’s formal relationship to the Scout should be relatively short-lived, lasting only from the time the service project proposal is approved to the time the project report has been submitted. The coach’s role is very specific and oriented to guiding, counseling, and advising candidates to fully plan and successfully complete their projects. For example, the coach might help the Scout think through his planning steps; provide thoughts on fund-raising; offer counseling on a plan’s strengths, weaknesses, and risks; and advise the Scout on health and safety issues. Once the project has been completed the coach may consult on the development of a project report that will help the board of review make its decision.

The coach’s role is not intended to replace the on-going, close association and support provided by unit leaders or parents acting as “mentors” or “advisors.” In fact, the coach’s role is not intended to be exclusive; it should not preclude a single coach from having the time to serve multiple Eagle Scout candidates simultaneously.

Coaches must adhere to the Eagle Scout service project process as presented in the **Guide to Advancement**. They do not have the authority to approve, deny, direct, or dictate changes to a Scout’s plan. Instead, through positive adult association, logic, and common sense, a coach should encourage a Scout to make sound decisions that will lead to a successful project outcome.

An Eagle Scout candidate is not required to accept the assistance of a service project coach. Ultimately, it is his decision. However, it is best to be proactive and designate a coach for every Scout upon proposal approval. Then, should a Scout indicate he does not desire a coach, he can be counseled on the benefits of working with a coach.

Other Advancement Issues:

1. Fulfilling More than One Requirement with a Single Activity:

Unit leaders often ask, “Can one activity count for multiple requirements?” The answer, which is found in Topic 4.2.3.6 of the **2013 Guide to Advancement**, is “**Yes**,” as long as the following three conditions are met:

- The two requirements match up exactly.
- The two requirements have the same intent.
- The requirements do not state otherwise.



In some cases, the underlying activity may be the same, but different actions are necessary to fulfill the requirements as written. For example, camping in a tent on a troop campout will count toward the Second Class or First Class rank camping nights requirements *and* satisfy certain requirements for the Camping merit badge. In this case, the requirements and intent are

the same. For requirements such as first aid skills that are oriented toward safety and are the same in a number of badges, the person signing off should confirm the Scout still remembers what he learned the first time he fulfilled the requirement.

As an example of a case where the Scout must do additional work, consider Communications and Citizenship in the Community merit badges. The former requires the Scout to attend a public meeting where several points of view are given on a single issue, take careful notes of each point of view, and then present an objective report to his counselor that includes all points of view. The latter, however, asks him to attend a public meeting and report back to his counselor on what he heard and which side he agreed with. Thus, if the Scout plans ahead to ensure the program of the meeting that he chooses will include discussion of issues, then both badge requirements could be met as written. That is, reporting on all sides of the discussion for the Communications merit badge, and taking a position on which side he favored for Citizenship.

Finally, there is one other “single activity” issue that should be considered: time. Scouts should be encouraged to think carefully about counting service hours toward more than one requirement. While there may not be anything hindering them from “banking away” hours from a single event—for example, Scouting for Food collection—each Scout should remember his promise to “Do a Good Turn Daily” and “help other people at all times.” It is left to good judgment about what is best in each situation, but obviously, taking part in multiple service projects will not only increase a Scout’s impact on his community, but will increase Scouting’s impact on the Scout.

2. Limiting Merit Badges from a Single Counselor:

The merit badge program encourages Scouts to meet with and learn from a variety of adults who offer subject matter expertise as part of a quality counseling experience. At times, the Scoutmaster may become concerned that a boy is not getting the benefit of this Scouting method because he is earning a large number of badges from a single counselor. Topic 7.0.1.4 was revised in the 2013 edition of the *Guide to Advancement* to address this situation.

A unit leader is now permitted to set a limit on how many badges a youth may earn from one counselor. However, this limit must be set as a policy covering all Scouts in the unit. The policy must not be applied individually, retroactively, or punitively to any single Scout, and it must not preclude other approved practices, such as a parent acting as a merit badge counselor for his son for up to the limit the unit leader establishes.

Proactive practices to avoid needing such a limit remain the best options. For example, when issuing the blue card a unit leader conference that encourages a Scout to earn merit badges with a buddy can divert a Scout toward another counselor. Likewise, an annual unit parent meeting may remind parents to support using diverse counselors. Units might also establish a recommended list of easily available counselors for frequently earned badges. Such a list could be based on quality feedback from the Scouts. The Scouts’ own word of mouth about great counselors may encourage their peers to also use these volunteers and thus increase the diversity of counselors used.

In planning whether or not to adopt a limiting policy, troops should consider first why it is necessary, and see that enough counselors will be available once the limit is implemented. If Scouts are going back to the same counselors because few others are available, then establishing a limit could seriously impede advancement. More counselors would need to be found before a limit would make sense. In cases where there are plenty of counselors, then setting a limit could serve to broaden Scouts’ horizons.

3. After the Scout is Tested and Recognized (Topic 4.2.1.5):

Many of us who were in Scouting as boys remember how to tie the square knot and the bowline. We were probably taught these knots by our patrol leader or another older Scout, who also made us memorize ways to remember what we had just learned. Remember “left over right, right over left,” or “the rabbit comes out of his hole, goes around the tree; then goes back down the hole?” Shortly after we learned how to tie these knots we showed our new skill to someone else, who then grabbed our *Boy Scout Handbook* and checked these requirements off our list. This was what we called “advancement.”

Topics 4.2.1.1 through 4.2.1.4 lay out the familiar advancement process that has guided many a Scout over the years: [A Scout learns, is tested, is reviewed, and is recognized](#). But topic 4.2.1.5 reminds us that the real learning takes place later as part of a well-organized unit program where what was learned is *used*. Through these activities a Scout gains confidence, and none of what he does seems like learning because it is all part of the fun. This is the magic of Scouting. This is what builds retention

We know this to be true because, after all these years, we still remember many of the Scouting skills we learned—like tying the square knot or building a fire or cooking a meal. But we remember because of what happened next, *after* we were recognized for the advancement. We went on campouts or to summer camp, or even to one of Scouting’s high adventure

camps, where we used these knots and all the other skills we had learned. We played games that required our knowledge. We taught younger Scouts. In short, we were part of an active Scouting program. Because we had learned and used so many skills, these activities were more fun. Because we had more fun, we stayed in Scouting. Because we stayed in Scouting, we remember the other things we learned, such as the Scout Oath and the Scout Law. Because we stayed, Scouting influenced our character. It made us the people we are today.

Advancement is not an end in itself. It is an important part of a strong, active Scouting program. Advancement is part of the glue that holds a boy in Scouting so we may have a chance to influence his character, but the real testing of his character may not take place until years or even decades later. And isn't that what

C. COOKING Merit Badge Goes "Silver" for 2014:

The Cooking merit badge, which became Eagle-required effective January 1, 2014, has at long last been revised and released. Though requirements have been updated, Scouts will still be required to cook similar numbers of meals as before, with continued emphasis on menu planning, safe cooking practices, the nutrition model, and careers.

Among the key updates are the integration of the USDA's MyPlate food guide, and the elimination of the need for required meals to be prepared on consecutive days. Other enhancements include: cross-contamination awareness and food allergies; better nutrition and eating habits; the importance of food labels; varieties of cooking methods; ideal caloric intake related to daily activity; focus on the Outdoor Code; and flexible cooking locations.

During 2014, a Scout may continue, or begin work, using the old Cooking merit badge requirements and pamphlet; or he may switch to, or begin work using the new requirements as stated in the *2014 Boy Scout Requirements* book and the new pamphlet. If he chooses to use the old merit badge requirements and pamphlet, he may continue using them until he has completed the badge. See the *Guide to Advancement* Topic 7.0.4.3 for more information.

The new Cooking merit badge requirements can be found at:

www.scouting.org/scoutsource/BoyScouts/AdvancementandAwards/MeritBadges/mb-COOK.aspx.

FAQs on Cooking Merit Badge and the Jan. 1 Deadline:

Question: I completed all my requirements for Eagle before Jan. 1, but I didn't submit my Eagle Scout Rank Application to the council service center until after January 1. Do I have to go back and earn Cooking merit badge?

Answer: NO! As long as all the requirements were fulfilled before January 1, it doesn't really matter when the Eagle application is submitted. In fact, the application itself may be completed and signed after that date, and there is no requirement that the signatures on the application must have come before January 1.

Question: I completed all my Eagle requirements and even turned in my Eagle application just after Christmas, but they wouldn't schedule my board of review until sometime in January. Do I have to go back and earn Cooking merit badge?

Answer: NO! Your board of review may occur on or after January 1 as long as you completed all your requirements before then.

Question: I just turned 18, but I completed all my requirements for Eagle on December 28, that is, except for my Scoutmaster conference. My Scoutmaster wasn't available until the first week of January. Since I never earned Cooking merit badge am I going to be denied my Eagle?

Answer: According to the rules, that is a possibility. With the exception of the board of review, all the Eagle requirements, including the Scoutmaster conference, needed to have been completed before January 1. That said, however, if any requirement was not completed before January 1, a Scout, his parent or guardian, his unit leader, or a member of the unit committee, may submit a request for an extension of time to earn the Eagle Scout rank. These are rarely granted and available only in cases where circumstances occurred due to no fault or choice of the Scout. Before considering submitting a request for an extension, it is important to read topics 9.0.4.0 and 9.0.4.1 in the *Guide to Advancement*. This will help you understand if your case has merit and should be submitted.



Question: I became a Life Scout toward the beginning of last year and finished my Eagle Scout service project in November 2013, but I still need a couple of merit badges. According to topic 4.0.0.1 in the *Guide to Advancement*, since I began work on my Eagle before January 1, I can continue with the old requirements until I finish the rank; so it looks like I don't need Cooking merit badge, right?

Answer: No; wrong. Sorry. It's good that you consulted the *Guide to Advancement*, but we're thinking you did not read the whole topic. In the second paragraph under 4.0.0.1, it says, "...the *Scout Handbook*, the *Boy Scout Requirements* book, or other official communications from the National Council may ... establish a date by when the use of the old requirements must cease." In this case, January 1, 2014, was established as that date, and this was published in the *2013 Boy Scout Requirements* book and also in *Advancement News*, which is an official publication of the National Council.

D. Advancement Issues: Appeals:

In units, it is a rare occurrence when a board of review rejects a candidate for advancement. Unfortunately, however, it does happen.

Current policies in the *Guide to Advancement*, topic 8.0.4.0, state that adverse decisions for Tenderfoot, Second Class, First Class, and Eagle Palms are *not* appealable; that is, there is no official appeal process for Scouts rejected at a board of review. Nevertheless, the policy does not prohibit a Scout or his parent or guardian from questioning unit, district, or council leadership about a decision. Although the district and council advancement committees do not have the authority to provide reversals, local councils should encourage an "open door policy" and welcome concerns that may point to a need for more training.

In the case of Star or Life ranks, a negative decision may be formally appealed to the council advancement committee, which has the authority to overturn the decision of the board of review. Most councils; however, properly direct these appeals along with those for the Eagle Scout rank, to their districts first. Adverse decisions for the rank of Eagle work the same way at the local level, but they may be appealed to the National Advancement Team if rejected by a council.

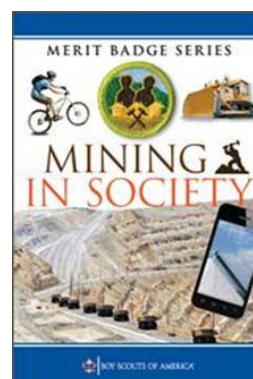
Several documents must be prepared for an appeal to be processed, but the most critical is the communication a Scout should receive at the time advancement is declined. This statement advises him of the actions necessary that could lead to advancement, and explains the appeal procedures found in the *Guide to Advancement*, topic 8.0.4.1, #1. The statement should provide the basis for denial, identifying each deficiency the Scout must overcome. For example, it would be unfair to allow a Scout to believe his advancement was declined due to one missing requirement, when in fact, multiple issues exist. As an appeal review board investigates the case and makes its decision, much of it is based on the content of this statement.

A very informative 4-minute video entitled "Boards of Review Appeals," is among the several advancement education presentations available at www.scouting.org/advancement.

E. Mining in Society Merit Badge Released:

The Society for Mining, Metallurgy & Exploration, Inc. will help the BSA launch the newest merit badge, **Mining in Society**, at its annual meeting in Salt Lake City, Feb. 23-26, 2014. More than 30,000 people are expected. BSA will use the opportunity to create awareness and recruit merit badge counselors. Those interested in serving as counselors will be referred to their local councils.

How important is mining to society? A well-recognized statement is: "If it can't be grown, it has to be mined." From communications, transportation, and medicine, to education, entertainment, and recreation, every aspect of society relies on mining. Whether it's a car, computer, surgeon's scalpel, smart phone, TV, or almost any other object you can name, the materials for making it—or for making the machines that produce it—must come from a mine.



By drawing on society member expertise, the merit badge development team worked diligently to create a compelling pamphlet that touches on mining's key components of exploration, permitting, excavation, processing, production, safety, and reclamation. The Mining in Society merit badge ensures that for years to come, Scouts will be introduced to the importance of mining and minerals in their lives, and have the opportunity to learn about careers in the industry," said John Murphy, past society president and chair of the society's Merit Badge Advisory Panel.

G. STEM Mentors and Counselors:

This is a reminder that Supernova Awards Mentors and Counselors need to be registered as such with the District and Council.



Nova Counselors (Cub Scout, Boy Scout, and Venturing Programs) must meet the following qualifications:

- Be at least 21 years old.
- Have an aptitude to counsel STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) topics.
- Be registered with the Boy Scouts of America in any position.
- Be Youth Protection Trained (YPT) within the last 2 years.
- Commit to integrate applicable health and safety guidelines described in the *Guide to Safe Scouting* and *Sweet 16 of BSA Safety* into their mentoring practices.
- Learn about the position by reviewing the *STEM Nova Counselor Training* page.

Supernova Mentors (Cub Scout, Boy Scout, and Venturing Programs) must meet the following qualifications:

- Be at least 21 years old.
- Be subject matter experts in a STEM field.
- Be registered with the Boy Scouts of America in any position.
- Be Youth Protection Trained (YPT) within the last 2 years.
- Commit to integrate applicable health and safety guidelines described in the *Guide to Safe Scouting* and *Sweet 16 of BSA Safety* into their mentoring practices.
- Complete the Supernova Awards Mentor Information Application: 514-017.
- Learn about the position by reviewing the *STEM Supernova Mentor Training* page.

Applications to be a Supernova Award Mentor need to be submitted to the District Merit Badge Dean: Don Walters, just like applications to become a Merit Badge Counselor.

Finally; if anyone would like to serve as part of the District Advancement Committee as the STEM coordinator, please contact me. There is a Council STEM committee that is chaired by a Colonel at APG; they meet once a month and coordinate STEM related activities throughout the Council.

Helpful Links:

This new feature is where we will post links to the most current materials of interest for all Scouters involved in advancement. These and many more resources are available via the Advancement Resources Page (www.scouting.org/advancement). Check back to this feature to learn about availability of new re-sources and continued listing of existing valuable links:

2013 Eagle Scout Rank Application
2014 Eagle Scout Rank Application
Eagle Scout Service Project Workbook
Guide to Advancement
Merit Badge Counselor Information
Navigating the Eagle Scout Service Project; Information for Project Beneficiaries

Yours in Scouting;

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