

The Dulaney District Advancement Committee News

29 June 2016

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

(Most of the contents have been copied from National Advancement News-May-June 2016)



A. Eagle Issues:

1. **Life-to-Eagle Orientation:** The next session will be held at Havenwood Presbyterian Church on Wednesday, October 5, 2016 from 7:00 PM to about 8:30 PM.
2. **Eagle Coach Training:** The next Eagle Coach Mentor or Advisor Training session will be conducted at **Havenwood Presbyterian Church on Wednesday, October 19, 2016 from 7:00 PM to approximately 9:00 PM.** To be a fully certified Eagle Coach-Mentor/Advisor, you need to attend both this training and the Life-to-Eagle Orientation (details above).
3. **Eagle Applications:** Note to all Troop leaders, BAC has been receiving some Scout's Eagle Applications using the 2013 or earlier versions, all of which do not have Cooking as a required merit badge. BAC has requested that all Eagle candidates go to the BAC website for the current Eagle application (2016).

4. Downloading the Eagle Scout Service Project Workbook:

Visit: www.scouting.org/Home/BoyScouts/AdvancementandAwards/EagleWorkbookProcedures.aspx

This workbook is not to be opened in a browser (i.e., Internet Explorer, Google Chrome, Firefox, Safari, etc.) or in programs such as Nuance PDF Converter. The workbook must be *saved to your computer* and opened with *Adobe Reader 9 or later*.

Select PC or Mac and follow the specific directions to correctly download the ESSPWB to your computer. This workbook is not compatible with any mobile devices (Smart phones, tablets, iPads, etc.).

5. Record Keeping Along the Trail to Eagle Scout—Be Prepared:

An Eagle Scout Rank Application (No. 512-728) must be submitted for verification before an Eagle Scout board of review may be convened. Filling out the two-page form should be easy—if accurate and complete records are available.

The required information should be available via ScoutNET, the BSA's current electronic record keeping system, but that is not always the case. ScoutNET records are dependent upon each troop routinely reporting advancement. Because advancement information can be recorded and reported in different ways, information sometimes gets fragmented.

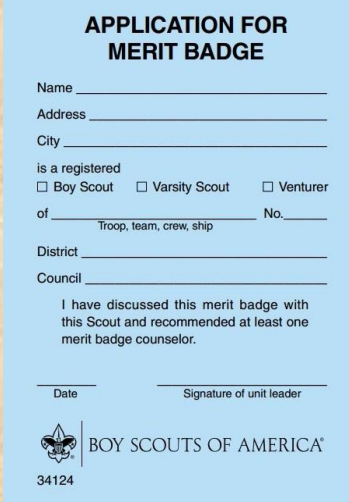
Traditionally, advancement was reported and easily archived via a Unit Advancement Report. With the advent of Internet Advancement and troop management software programs, the proliferation of places where advancement info might be kept can create challenges (**See Item C below**). The Scout might have requirements signed-off in his

Boy Scout Handbook; the unit will have its own hardcopy or electronic records; the council might have copies of advancement reports; information is contained in ScoutNET—and now Scoutbook. Unfortunately, these multiple sources are not always in sync with each other.

Sections of the application that require specific completion dates, such as boards of review and merit badge completions, can present a challenge. If a date has not been previously entered into ScoutNET, proof of completion will be required. Unfortunately, this documentation may not always be available. The candidate's **Boy Scout Handbook** may have been lost or damaged; troop records may have been corrupted or are otherwise inaccessible; a key unit leader who could verify information is unavailable; or the Scout does not have his merit badge blue card or rank advancement pocket certificate. If the proof is not available, the Scout may have to re-do certain requirements or merit badges. If timing is close to his 18th birthday, he may not be able to “make-up” these deficiencies in time to earn the rank of Eagle Scout.

What can a Scout and his parents do to avoid some of these pitfalls?

- Be sure that all advancement is documented in the youth's **Boy Scout Handbook**.
- Retain the youth's portion of Applications for Merit Badge (blue cards). Signed and dated by the merit badge counselor, these serve as proof of a merit badge completion, even if they have not been previously entered into ScoutNET.
- Retain rank advancement pocket certificates, which show completion dates for each rank.
- To help eliminate last-minute surprises, meet early and often with the unit advancement coordinator to review current progress and discuss any work remaining for the next rank.
- Originals of documents referenced above could be kept in a safe manner for easy retrieval.




APPLICATION FOR MERIT BADGE

Name _____
Address _____
City _____

is a registered
 Boy Scout Varsity Scout Venturer
of _____ Troop, team, crew, ship No. _____
District _____
Council _____

I have discussed this merit badge with this Scout and recommended at least one merit badge counselor.

Date _____ Signature of unit leader _____

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These few simple steps will help ensure that completing the Eagle Scout Rank Application will be simple and easy.

B. Digital Merit Badge Pamphlets-Available Now, 20; Coming Soon, All 136:

In the near future all 136 merit badges will be available in the digital format. If you did not see the recent article in **Boys' Life** regarding the features and advantages of these new digital merit badge pamphlets, here is an excerpt:

“Experience cutting edge technology with the new interactive digital merit badge pamphlets using your computer, tablet, or smartphone. Just purchase your digital pamphlet (at Scoutstuff.org) and you will have access to it wherever you may be. This enhanced version includes interactive features, videos, extra photos and other supplemental information.

“Interactive digital merit badge pamphlets are a digital version of the traditional paper merit badge pamphlet. They have space for much more material, as well as multimedia and interactive content that isn't possible in a print pamphlet.”

Twenty digital merit badge pamphlets are now available—all of the Eagle-required merit badges plus Animation, Digital Technology, and Robotics. Soon to be released is the new Exploration pamphlet and a total re-make of the Photography pamphlet. These digital formatted merit badge pamphlets are really handy and fit right into our youth's lifestyles. All of the digital merit badge pamphlets can be purchased at ScoutStuff.org. Printed versions will continue to be available.

Every Scout should be counseled that he has no obligation to purchase a digital merit badge pamphlet in order to earn a merit badge. Everyone involved in the advancement process should note that even though the new digital

merit badge pamphlets contain a broader breadth of the merit badge subject matter, the requirements are no different between the two versions. Merit badge counselors should be reminded that even though they may find using the digital format helpful in teaching certain aspects of the merit badge, a Scout cannot be penalized for not using the digital merit badge pamphlet.

Try Them Out for Free!

Free sample chapters are available. Before you decide to go digital, you can test drive a new merit badge pamphlet for yourself.

- Head to www.media.boyslife.org/meritbadge/cooking/ to preview the **Cooking** interactive digital merit badge pamphlet.
- You can also preview videos, like the **Animation** clip found at www.youtu.be/A7qw4I8Cacc .

C. INTERNET ADVANCEMENT:

The Advancement Committee of Baltimore Area voted to adopt MANDATORY Internet Advancement commencing next year (2017). There will be announcements from BAC starting in September. There will be training at Roundtables in the winter. I highly suggest that each unit bring their Advancement Chair to the specific training session.

The reason that this is being implemented is to insure that a Scout's advancement is recorded properly. It should be noted that as of June 1, 2016, there are three regular scout troops in the district that have recorded no advancement with BAC at all and one that has only recorded their Eagles, but no other advancement.

With the implementation of Internet Advancement, you will not be allowed to purchase advancement materials at the various Scout Shops without copies of the advancement records in hand or in the computerized system. There will be desktop computers located in each Scout Shop for a unit's use while there. There will be restrictions though, which will be thoroughly explained in the training sessions.

D. Vacation:

I will be on vacation out of the country from Sunday, August 14, 2016 to Monday, August 29, 2016. During that trip I will have very limited access to emails; please anticipate your Scout's needs with respect to Eagle Service Project approvals and Eagle Boards of Review. While away, you can submit service project proposals to my Assistant, Chuck Starkey at: Charles.Starkey@bge.com.



Yours in Scouting;

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