



The Dulaney District Advancement Committee News

28 February 2017

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

(Most of the contents have been copied from National Advancement News-January-February 2017)

A. Internet Advancement:

1. At this time only 50% of the Scout Troops and Cub packs in Dulaney District are using Internet Advancement, and many of those who are listed as having used it have only used it once or twice.
2. After April 2, 2017, your unit ***will not*** be able to purchase advancement supplies (badges, patches, etc.) from the Scout Shops without presenting a copy of your unit's submitted internet advancement report. The three-carbon-page Form 34403 will no longer be accepted by Baltimore Area Council.
3. Training for Internet Advancement will be provided to Cub Packs and Scout Troops at the March Roundtable, Tuesday, March 14, 2017, at Timonium United Methodist Church, at the corner of Pot Springs Road and Chantry Road in Timonium, MD 2093. No need to pre-register. This is the make-up training session for Troops and Packs and primary training for Venture Units. Please insure that your unit's Advancement Chair and/or other responsible person is present at this training event. The initial training event was conducted at the February Roundtable. The only other opportunity to receive this training will be at the Scouting University in March 11, 2107.
4. There will be computers located in each Scout Shop to allow your unit to print out a copy of the submitted Internet Advancement Report, but only if the person trying to do so has the proper unit ID number and password with them. Otherwise, they will need a copy of the submitted internet Advancement report.



B. Eagle Issues:

1. Life-to-Eagle Orientation:

The Spring Life-to-Eagle Orientation will be held on Wednesday, April 19, 2017, at 7:00 PM at Havenwood Presbyterian Church @ the corner of Ridgely and Charmuth Roads. This is for all Life Scouts, their parents and is part one of the Eagle Mentor/Coach Training. No pre-registration, just come.

2. Eagle Mentor/Coach Training:

The Spring Eagle Mentor/Coach training course will be held on Wednesday, April 26, 2017, at 7 PM at Havenwood Presbyterian Church. This is part two of the Eagle Mentor/Coach training. No pre-registration, just come.

3. Eagle Service Project Workbook:

At least three Scouts in this district submitted their Troop reviewed and approved Eagle Service Project Workbooks within the last year using the 2011 version of the workbook. In each case the Scout was stopped for at least a month while he filled in and had the correct workbook approvals pages signed.

The 2011 version was not allowed for use starting in 2014. It is very easy to tell the difference: if it has pages numbered from 1, 2, etc. it is the 2011 version. The correct, 2015 version, has pages numbered: Proposal Page A, B, etc. and has a color picture of the National Executive.

Please insure that as you review a Scout's workbook that he is using the correct, current, version. It can be downloaded from the BAC website under the heading of Eagle Forms.

4. Written Statements of Religious Belief Cannot Be Required:

Effective January 1, 2016, the statement "Tell how you have done your duty to God..." was incorporated into all Boy Scout rank requirements from Tenderfoot through Eagle Scout, including those for Eagle Palms. Each Scout is expected to "tell" how he has done his duty to God, but not to demonstrate, discuss, show, or prove it otherwise. He especially is not required to provide a written "Statement of Religious Belief" (or any other document with a similar title) to meet this requirement.

Nevertheless, some councils, districts, or even units are recommending and some are requiring that Scouts include such a statement with their Eagle Scout Rank Applications as a condition for meeting the religious reference portion of requirement #2. This is adding to the requirements and is contrary to the National policy to do so. All each Scout is required to do is to provide contact information for a religious reference. In cases where the Scout is not affiliated with an organized religion, he may use his parent(s)/guardian as his religious reference it is up to them how they respond to the reference request. They cannot be required to submit a "Statement of Religious Belief" or any other written correspondence on behalf of their son any more than can any of the other references the Scout has provided.

To be clear on this point, councils, districts, and units must immediately stop even recommending that Scouts provide such statements of belief for their Eagle Scout rank applications to be processed. The argument that they are not "requiring" but only "recommending" such a statement be included is not valid. The fact that such a "recommendation" has come from someone in a position of authority infers that there is a formal expectation that such a statement be included, which is the same as requiring it. To avoid misunderstandings and Eagle Scout Rank Application processing delays, councils, districts, and units should eliminate any reference to such statements of belief, either from Scouts or parents.

An excellent discussion on this new requirement that explained how it was intended to be a monologue by the Scout and not a dialogue between a Scout and his leader was provided in the *Bryan on Scouting* blog in November 2015. The full article still can be found here and is well worth being revisited: <http://blog.scoutingmagazine.org/2015/11/02/beginning-next-year-boy-scouts-will-discuss-duty-to-god-at-each-rank/> .

C. OTHER ADVANCEMENT ISSUES:

1. Webelos to Scout Transition:

One change that both Cub Scout and Boy Scout leaders should be aware of is found in the Arrow of Light required adventure: Scouting Adventure. This adventure had previously aligned with the Scout rank, the initial Boy Scout rank. The Scout rank states that if the Scout completed the requirements as part of the Webelos Scouting Adventure, he must simply demonstrate his knowledge or skills to the Scoutmaster or other designated leader after joining the troop. Aside from some minor word changes, the newly adopted modifications have removed a requirement that is found in the Scout rank, and have also made a few of the requirements optional for completion of the Adventure, which are not optional in the Scout rank. Webelos leaders may want to make the extra effort to complete the optional requirements, and have the boys repeat from memory the Outdoor Code and explain what it means, to better prepare them when they cross over to Boy Scouts. New Boy Scouts can use this as an opportunity to make sure they fully complete those requirements that they did not do as Cub Scouts.

Requirement 1 - Scout Rank:

All requirements for Scout rank must be completed as a member of a troop. If you already completed these requirements as part of the Webelos Scouting Adventure, simply demonstrate your knowledge or skills to your Scoutmaster or other designated leader after joining the troop.

- a. Repeat from memory the Scout Oath, Scout Law, Scout motto, and Scout slogan. In your own words, explain their meaning.
- b. Explain what Scout spirit is. Describe some ways you have shown Scout spirit by practicing the Scout Oath, Scout Law, Scout motto, and Scout slogan.
- c. Demonstrate the Boy Scout sign, salute, and handshake. Explain when they should be used.
- d. Describe the First Class Scout badge and tell what each part stands for. Explain the significance of the First Class Scout badge.
- e. Repeat from memory the Outdoor Code. In your own words, explain what the Outdoor Code means to you.
- f. Repeat from memory the Pledge of Allegiance. In your own words, explain its meaning.

Requirement 1 - Scouting Adventure:

Prepare yourself to become a Boy Scout by completing at least a-c below:

- a. Repeat from memory the Scout Oath, Scout Law, Scout motto, and Scout slogan. In your own words, explain their meanings to your den leader, parent, or guardian.
- b. Explain what Scout spirit is. Describe for your den leader, parent, or guardian some ways you have shown Scout spirit by conducting yourself according to the Scout Oath, Scout Law, Scout motto, and Scout slogan.
- c. Give the Boy Scout sign, salute, and handshake. Explain when to use each.
- d. Describe the First Class Scout badge, and tell what each part stands for. Explain the significance of the First Class Scout badge.
- e. Repeat from memory the Pledge of Allegiance., In your own words, explain its meaning.

Note that Scout Rank requires the Outdoor Code. Although it is not a requirement for Scouting Adventure for Webelos, it remains a requirement for "Outdoorsman" (formerly known as "Camper"). Thus, Webelos will have done all the requirements for the Scout Rank.

2. Boy Scout Requirements: 2016 Transition Period Ends January 1, 2017:

On January 1, 2016, a new set of Boy Scout requirements became effective for all who joined Boy Scouts on or after that date, and were included in updated editions of both the *Boy Scout Handbook* and *Boy Scout Requirements*. However, for those who were Boy Scouts prior to this year, a transitional process was established for calendar year 2016:

- Those already working on requirements for the Scout badge were given the option to continue using the existing requirements or to convert to the new requirements for Scout only. Thereafter, all further ranks required use of the new requirements.
- Those already working on requirements for Tenderfoot, Second Class, or First Class ranks were given the option to continue using the existing requirements or to convert to the new requirements through First Class. Thereafter, ranks above First Class required use of the new requirements.
- Those working on ranks above First Class were given the option to continue using the existing requirements or to convert to the new requirements for the rank they were working toward. Thereafter, the remaining ranks, if any, required use of the new requirements.

January 1, 2017 is the date that all new requirements became mandatory for all ranks, regardless of a Scout's current rank or his progress in completing the requirements for his next rank.

3. Guide to Advancement Policy is Policy:

Recently, the *Troop Leader's Guidebook, Volume II* was released. Under the topic 'Alternative Merit Badges for the Eagle Scout Rank' on page 156 the following **error** was included:

3. The candidate must complete as many of the requirements of the required merit badges as his ability permits.

This is an incorrect statement, and will be corrected in the next reprint/revision.

Advancement Administrators and Scout leaders are advised to always refer to *the Guide to Advancement*. **Topic 10.2.2.3 supersedes what is stated in the *Troop Leader Guidebook Vol. II*.**

And states: "Though individual requirements for merit badges may *not* be modified or substituted, youth with special needs may request approval for alternative badges they *can* complete. This is allowable on the basis of one entire badge for another." The section continues to explain qualifications needed for applying for the use of alternative merit badges for Eagle Scout Rank.

The correct policy is also stated in "The Application for Alternate Eagle Scout Rank Merit Badges", No. 512-730.

4. Merit Badge Counselor's:

With any volunteer position in the Boy Scouts of America, understanding exactly what the role of that position is in the bigger picture and getting the proper training for the position is critical.

For the new merit badge counselor, a good starting point is to review the *Guide for Merit Badge Counselors* available at: www.scouting.org/filestore/pdf/512-065.pdf . This resource introduces MBCs to the merit badge process, helps them gain an understanding of their unique role in advancement, and provides them with good instructional techniques for working with Scouts.

To find out about the availability of Merit Badge Counselor Orientation training in their area, new MBCs should check their local council's website or contact their local district or council training committee. This training is of value even to seasoned MBCs, as new counseling techniques and ideas are often times rolled out in these sessions. Here is an example.

New and veteran MBCs should first ask themselves a few simple questions:

- Am I using the latest merit badge pamphlet and requirements for badge instruction? (Visit www.scouting.org/meritbadges.aspx for current merit badge pamphlets and requirements.)
- Do I have the skills, education, and experience currently required to teach youth the subject matter of the merit badge? Furthermore, if required as for certain badges, do I have the specialty certification or training needed to teach the badge? (Find a list of the required specialty certifications in *Guide to Advancement* (topic 7.0.1.1), accessible at www.scouting.org/filestore/pdf/33088.pdf .)
- Is my required Youth Protection Training (YPT) current? (If you are not sure, contact your local council service center to find out; or better yet, just log onto your My.Scouting account (<https://my.scouting.org/>) and take the convenient online YPT certification course.)

5. Multiple Advancement Credit for One Activity:

The national Advancement Team [Ed: now the National Advancement Program Team] is often asked: "What is the policy on using a single activity to fulfill more than a single Boy Scout requirement?"

The answer involves three considerations: The first occurs when there is an exact match in the wording of the requirements. The second is when requirements give the appearance of aligning at first glance, but differ upon further examination. The third and most frequent consideration involves service to others.

When requirements do match exactly—e.g., camping nights for Second Class and First Class ranks and merit badges—it is appropriate and completely permissible to use those matching activities for both the ranks and merit badges.

However, in the vast majority of instances, seemingly similar requirements have nuances intended to create distinctly different experiences. The Communication and Citizenship in the Community merit badges provide an appropriate example: Each requires the Scout to attend a public meeting, but that is where the similarity ends. For the Communication merit badge, the Scout is asked to practice active listening skills during the meeting and present an objective report that includes all points of view that were expressed. For Citizenship, the Scout is asked to examine differences in opinions expressed during the meeting, and then to choose and defend one side. After fulfilling the more inclusive Communication requirement, if the Scout selects an issue presented at the same public meeting and defends it, only then has he also met the Citizenship requirement.

As for service to those in need, the BSA wisely does not have a set policy or rule. Rather, this outlook is left to the Scout and his leader's consciences. When contemplating whether to double-count service hours or a service project and apply the same work to pass a second advancement requirement, each Scout should ask himself: "Do I want to get double credit for helping others this one time, or do I want to undertake a second effort and make a greater difference in the lives of even more people?" To reach his decision, each Scout should follow familiar guideposts found in words and phrases such as "helpful," "kind," "Do a Good Turn Daily," and "help other people at all times." As Scout leaders, we must ask ourselves an even more pointed question: "Is my goal to produce Scouts who seek out loopholes or Scouts who will become the leaders in our communities?" To answer our own question, we should consult the same criteria that guides the Scouts.

Yours in Scouting;

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