

## *The Dulaney District Advancement Committee News*

11 July 2017

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

(Most of the contents have been copied from National Advancement News-July-August 2017)



### **A. EAGLE ISSUES:**

#### **1. Pennsylvania Eagle Projects-Advisors:**

Baltimore Area Council has been advised that the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania requires a police check for all advisors for Eagle Projects. If you have a Scout who is contemplating doing an Eagle Service Project in Pennsylvania, please check with the Commonwealth on their requirements for adults who will be advising the Scout on his project.

#### **2. Timing for Eagle Scout Reference Letters:**

Eagle Scout letters of recommendation are typically requested near the end of a Scout's journey to Eagle Scout rank. Generally, this occurs when he completes and submits his Eagle Scout Rank Application on which he lists the names and contact information for his references. However, there is no procedure or expectation that requires Scouts to wait until after all other requirements are completed before asking for letters of recommendation. An enthusiastic Life Scout may want to move forward early to request recommendation letters to allow his references plenty of time to consider his request and submit their letters.

Councils, districts, and units must not establish specific timing requirements that limit when a Life Scout may request his recommendation letters. Neither the council-appointed representatives responsible for collecting reference responses nor the board of review may reject previously received recommendation letters; nor may they require the Scout to submit additional names in lieu of those already provided. However, they may contact the writer to assure themselves that he or she still supports the comments (positive or negative) in their original recommendation letter, especially if written some time ago.

#### **3. Eagle Scout Rank Reference Letters (repeated from the June Newsletter to complement the above item):**

Eagle Scout requirement two requires the Scout to "... demonstrate Scout Spirit by living the Scout Oath and Scout Law" and to "List on your Eagle Scout Rank Application the names of individuals who know you personally and would be willing to provide a recommendation on your behalf, ..."

These recommendations can be useful to board of review members who may not have any personal knowledge of the Scout and how he lives his life.

The Scout meets requirement two, in part, by providing the names and contact information of his prospective references on the Eagle Scout Rank Application. The council advancement committee or other designated adults

are responsible for securing the recommendations from the individuals listed. **The Scout may assist with delivering an addressed envelope and instructions, or perhaps a form to complete, to the listed references, but that is the limit of his participation.** The Scout must not be held responsible for any additional follow-through to obtain the recommendation letters.

Although reference letters can provide valuable information to a board of review, the lack of a reference letter from an individual must not be construed to infer a negative recommendation. Furthermore, if after a reasonably diligent effort, no response can be obtained from one or more of the references, then the board of review must go on without them. It must not be postponed or denied due to lack of reference letters. Nor can the Scout be requested to provide replacement names for those who have not responded.

**An important aspect of the reference process is the requirement that all responses be handled confidentially and only board of review members or other officials with a specific need may see them.** Completed references are kept confidential to ensure that the writers will be comfortable submitting a thoughtful and thorough recommendation, including negative information, if warranted. By ensuring that reference letters are kept confidential, those preparing them need not be concerned about the contents being disseminated inappropriately. For that reason, and to preclude errors in handling the completed references, those providing references shall not be given the option of waiving confidentiality nor shall they provide a copy of the reference letter to the Scout. Councils must not include such an option on any reference forms they might provide.

Once a board of review has been held, or an appeal process conducted, reference responses shall be returned to the council, where they will be destroyed.

See *Guide to Advancement* topic 9.0.1.7 for additional information on these requirements and procedures.

### **3. The way Scouts earn Eagle Palms is about to change (From the Blog: Bryan on Scouting):**

Eagle Palms are bronze, gold and silver awards presented to young men who earn five, 10, 15 or more merit badges beyond the 21 required to become an Eagle Scout.



This week, the BSA has announced significant changes to the way Scouts earn Eagle Palms. ***The modifications take effect Aug. 1, 2017.***

The changes bring Eagle Palm requirements in line with the needs of older Scouts. The National Boy Scouting Subcommittee has eliminated unnecessary obstacles, such as the Eagle Palm board of review, and expanded the definition of active participation.

But the biggest change affects young men who haven't yet earned Eagle. ***Beginning Aug. 1,*** all earned Palms may be awarded instantly to new Eagle Scouts at their Eagle court of honor. This abolishes the wait of months or years for these young men to receive all Palms available to them.

Here's a look at what's changing. Below that, an in-depth guide to the new Eagle Palm requirements:

#### **What's changing?**

- 1. A new Eagle Scout can instantly receive, alongside his Eagle medal, all Eagle Palms he has earned for merit badges completed before he became an Eagle Scout.** These Palms recognize additional merit badges earned before completing the Eagle board of review. Previously, an Eagle Scout needed to wait three months between each Palm — even if he earned the extra merit badges before becoming an Eagle. This meant that, under the old rules, a young man who became an Eagle Scout at 17 years and 10 months, was mathematically unable to earn any Eagle Palms.

- **Example:** Glenn, a 16-year-old Life Scout, has 36 merit badges at the time of his Eagle Scout board of review — 15 more than required. Previously, he would've needed to wait three months after his Eagle board of review to receive his Bronze Palm, another three months for his Gold Palm and another three for his Silver Palm. Under the new rules, he can get that Silver Palm (representing 15 additional merit badges) along with his Eagle medal at his Eagle Scout court of honor. **No wait required.**
  - **Note:** After becoming an Eagle Scout and receiving the Palms already earned, additional Palms may be earned by completing the revised requirements, including the three months tenure between awarding each Palm.
2. **The three-month tenure requirement has been expanded** to allow active participation in any BSA program — not just the troop and patrol.
    - This recognizes that as some Scouts get older, their Scouting participation shifts to the Order of the Arrow, summer camp staff or elsewhere.
  3. **The leadership requirement has been broadened** to include “accepting responsibility” as well as “demonstrating leadership.”
  4. **The Eagle Palm board of review has been eliminated.**
    - Eagle Palms are not ranks, so the Eagle Palm board of review was seen as an unnecessary step. A unit leader conference is deemed to be sufficient and may be conducted at any time during the tenure requirement.

### **Eagle Palms: the official requirements:**

**These are effective Aug. 1, 2017.**

After successfully completing your Eagle Scout board of review and being validated as an Eagle Scout by the National Service Center, you will be entitled to receive an Eagle Palm for each additional 5 merit badges you have completed before your Eagle Scout board of review. For these Palms only, it will not be necessary for you to complete any of the requirements stated below.

After becoming an Eagle Scout, you may earn additional Palms by completing the following requirements.

1. Be active in the Boy Scouts of America for at least three months after becoming an Eagle Scout or after the last Palm was earned. \*\*
2. Since earning the Eagle Scout rank or your last Eagle Palm, demonstrate Scout spirit by living the Scout Oath and Scout Law. Tell how you have done your duty to God and how you have lived the Scout Oath and Scout Law in your everyday life.
3. Continue to set a satisfactory example of accepting responsibility or demonstrating leadership ability.
4. Earn five additional merit badges beyond those required for Eagle or last Palm. \*\*\*
5. While an Eagle Scout, participate in a Scoutmaster conference. \*

#### **Notes:**

\*For Varsity Scouts working on Boy Scout requirements, replace “Scoutmaster” with “Varsity Scout Coach.” For Venturers working on Boy Scout requirements, replace “Scoutmaster” with “crew Advisor.” For Sea Scouts working on Boy Scout requirements, replace “Scoutmaster” with “Skipper.”

\*\*Eagle Palms must be earned in sequence, and the three-month tenure requirement must be observed for each Palm.

\*\*\*Merit badges earned any time since becoming a Boy Scout may be used to meet this requirement.

### **Eagle Palms: the official requirements, annotated:**

Here are those same requirements annotated:

- The new requirements are in **green**. Remember, these take effect Aug. 1, 2017.
- The old requirements are in **red**.

- Notes in **orange** explain why each change was made. The text comes from the National Boy Scouting Subcommittee.

After successfully completing your Eagle Scout board of review and being validated as an Eagle Scout by the National Service Center, you will be entitled to receive an Eagle Palm for each additional 5 merit badges you have completed before your Eagle Scout board of review. For these Palms only, it will not be necessary for you to complete any of the requirements stated below.

By implementing this proposal, a Scout can be recognized with an Eagle Palm(s) for the extra work he has put into earning merit badges and acquiring additional education prior to earning the rank of Eagle Scout regardless of his age at the time he earns the rank of Eagle Scout. If the Eagle Scout has sufficient time remaining before his 18th birthday, he can then continue to earn additional Eagle Palms by completing the following proposed requirements.

After becoming an Eagle Scout, you may earn additional Palms by completing the following requirements:

**1. Be active in the Boy Scouts of America for at least three months after becoming an Eagle Scout or after the last Palm was earned.**

**1. Be active in your troop and patrol for at least three months after becoming an Eagle Scout or after award of last Palm**

Requirement 1 has been changed to include being active in the “Boy Scouts of America” instead of just “troop and patrol.” This allows a Scout to receive active participation time credit for programs such as the OA, Venturing, serving on camp staff, NYLT and NAYLE staff etc. In addition, participation in positive non-Scouting activities can be given consideration, as explained in topic 4.2.3.1 of the Guide to Advancement. This significantly broadens the opportunity for Scouts to stay involved in Scouting or other character-building activities and receive consideration toward earning additional Palms after earning the rank of Eagle Scout.

**2. Since earning the Eagle Scout rank or your last Eagle Palm, demonstrate Scout spirit by living the Scout Oath and Scout Law. Tell how you have done your duty to God and how you have lived the Scout Oath and Scout Law in your everyday life.**

Requirement 2 is unchanged.

**3. Continue to set a satisfactory example of accepting responsibility or demonstrating leadership ability.**

**3. Make a satisfactory effort to develop and demonstrate leadership ability.**

Requirement 3 has been updated to include accepting responsibility as well as demonstrating leadership ability. This is not as restrictive as the current requirement, which focuses only on leadership. It is reasonable to make this change because Scouts can achieve Eagle Scout rank by serving in a position of responsibility rather than just serving in a leadership position. Accepting responsibility or demonstrating leadership should be sufficient. If a young man demonstrates leadership, we can assume that at some point he developed it.

**4. Earn five additional merit badges beyond those required for Eagle or last Palm.**

Requirement 4 is unchanged.

**5. While an Eagle Scout, participate in a Scoutmaster conference.**

Requirement 5 is unchanged, expect for the addition of this footnote: For Varsity Scouts working on Boy Scout requirements replace “Scoutmaster” with “Varsity Scout Coach.” For Venturers working on Boy Scout requirements replace “Scoutmaster” with “crew Advisor.” For Sea Scouts working on Boy Scout requirements replace “Scoutmaster” with “Skipper.”

*6. There isn't a No. 6 under the new requirements.*

**6. Successfully complete your board of review for the Eagle Palm.**

Requirement 6 has been eliminated. A Palm is an award to recognize achievement beyond the rank of Eagle Scout. It is not a rank itself, so it is not necessary to have a board of review. It also generates confusion, becomes a barrier to recognition because delays can result in a Scout being short of time to earn another Palm, and is one more duty for a unit advancement committee which should be devoting more attention to building advancement throughout the unit. These are Eagle Scouts; they've already reached the pinnacle. They represent youth with whom we have most likely already achieved our aims. Approval of the unit leader is sufficient.

**The right way to wear a combination of palms:**

The Bronze Palm represents the first five merit badges beyond the 21 required for Eagle. The Gold Palm represents the next five (10 total), and the Silver Palm the third five (15 total).

After that, you'll combine multiple Palms. While qualifying Eagle Scouts can wear multiple Silver Palms, they should never wear more than 1 Bronze or 1 Gold Palm. You'll see why in this handy chart that shows the proper Palm combinations:

Total number of merit badges	Number beyond minimum	Palm combination
21	0	None
26	5	1 Bronze
31	10	1 Gold
36	15	1 Silver
41	20	1 Bronze, 1 Silver
46	25	1 Gold, 1 Silver
51	30	2 Silver
56	35	1 Bronze, 2 Silver
61	40	1 Gold, 2 Silver
66	45	3 Silver
71	50	1 Bronze, 3 Silver
76	55	1 Gold, 3 Silver
81	60	4 Silver
86	65	1 Bronze, 4 Silver
91	70	1 Gold, 4 Silver
96	75	5 Silver
101	80	1 Bronze, 5 Silver
106	85	1 Gold, 5 Silver
111	90	6 Silver

116	95	1 Bronze, 6 Silver
121	100	1 Gold, 6 Silver
126	105	7 Silver
131	110	1 Bronze, 7 Silver
136	115	1 Gold, 7 Silver

**Answers to your questions about the changes:**

Following are some questions and answers regarding the new requirements. These were provided by the National Boy Scouting Subcommittee.

**Q:** Why were these changes made at this time?

**A:** The BSA has a longstanding policy and tradition of quickly recognizing Scouts for their achievements. In the case of Eagle Palms, many Scouts were not receiving any recognition for the extra work they were doing by earning additional merit badges.

**Q:** Why are these requirement changes being implemented immediately instead of waiting until the Boy Scout Requirements book is published in 2018?

**A:** This is consistent with any other requirement change introduced mid-year. The intent is to allow the greater flexibility of the new requirements to be used as soon as possible so more Scouts can take advantage of them.

**Q:** Can a Scout who completed his Eagle Scout board of review before Aug. 1 go back and receive Palms for merit badges he has already completed?

**A:** No, the change to allow awarding Palms as described above is not retroactive. If the Scout still has eligibility remaining, he may continue to earn Palms by completing the new requirements.

**Q:** Other than having completed at least five additional merit badges before his Eagle board of review, does a Scout have to complete any additional requirements for a Palm to be awarded immediately after he is validated as an Eagle Scout?

**A:** No, there are no additional requirements to complete if a Scout is to receive Eagle Palms based on the merit badges he earned before his Eagle Scout Board of Review.

**Q:** After becoming an Eagle Scout and receiving any Eagle Palms he might be entitled to, how does a Scout earn additional Palms?

**A:** By completing the revised requirements.

**Q:** Is there a limit to the number of Eagle Palms a Scout can immediately qualify for following his Eagle Scout board of review and verification by the National Service Center?

**A:** No limit. So long as the Scout has completed the required number of merit badges, he may apply to receive the equivalent number of Palms.

**Q:** How does the Scout apply to obtain any Palms he might be entitled to receive?

**A:** Eagle Palms may be reported by the unit leader submitting an Advancement Report No. 34403, making the appropriate entry via Internet Advancement, or via Scoutbook once the option is available. The Eagle Scout Palm Application, form # 58-709, was previously discontinued since it is not necessary for Eagle Palms to be processed or approved at the council level.

**Q:** Why was "... be active in your troop and patrol" replaced with "... be active in the Boy Scouts of America...?"

**A:** This requirement was broadened to recognize that Eagle Scouts have many positive character-building activities that they can participate in both in and out of Scouting. Those activities should be considered when reviewing this requirement. See *Guide to Advancement* topic 4.2.3.1 "Active Participation" for an in-depth explanation of active participation.

**Q:** What does the phrase "accepting responsibility or demonstrating leadership ability" mean?

**A:** A Scout can meet this requirement by accepting responsibility or demonstrating leadership in many ways in or out of Scouting. For example, he could perform a Scoutmaster-assigned project or be an active leader in district or council activities, serve as a lodge officer in the Order of the Arrow, or even serve on camp staff. A Scout could also meet this requirement by accepting responsibility or serving in a leadership position on their sports team, as a student council officer, accepting responsibilities in other youth or church organizations, or in a myriad of other positive activities outside of Scouting.

**Q:** If a Scout has earned a total of 25 merit badges but doesn't complete one more merit badge before his Eagle Scout board of review, will he have to wait until three months after his board of review to earn an Eagle Palm?

**A:** Yes, he must wait. Only the required number of merit badges earned prior to his Eagle Scout board of review may be considered when awarding Palms immediately following the board of review.

**Q:** A 17 year old Scout, who has earned 24 merit badges, has completed all his Eagle rank requirements but has not yet had his Eagle Scout board of review. If he earns two more merit badge before his Eagle board of review can he receive a Palm at that time or does he have to wait?

**A:** So long as he completes the two additional merit badges before his Eagle Scout board of review, the Scout can immediately receive a Bronze Palm.

**Q:** Four months before his 18th birthday a Scout successfully completed his Eagle board of review with a total of only 21 merit badges although he had numerous partials he was working on. After his board of review he completed 10 additional merit badges. Can he receive a Bronze and a Gold Palm at the end of the three months?

**A:** After the Eagle board of review, the Scout must meet all the requirements, including three months tenure between each Palm. In this case he is only eligible to receive a Bronze Palm.

**Q:** If a Scout who has earned 25 merit badges has passed his 18th birthday but has not yet had his Eagle Scout board of review, can he complete one more merit badge before his board of review to receive a Palm.

**A:** All merit badge work must be completed before the Scout's 18th birthday.

**Q:** Why was the board of review requirement for Eagle Palms eliminated?

**A:** Eagle Palms are not a rank and thus don't need a formal board of review. Also, in some cases, scheduling boards of review had become a barrier to earning additional Eagle Palms. The Scoutmaster's conference is deemed sufficient since it can be conducted anytime during the three-month tenure period.

**Q:** Palms can be an important part of keeping a Scout involved in Scouting after they have earned Eagle Scout rank. Do the new requirements eliminate any incentive for them to stay in the program?

**A:** The new requirements provide recognition for the work a Scout has already done while providing the opportunity for Scouts who have time before their 18th birthday to earn additional Palms. Eagle Palms are only one small part of an exciting and engaging program which is what really keeps Eagle Scouts motivated to stay active in Scouting.

### **Where to buy and wear Eagle Palms:**

Buy them at your local Scout Shop. Eagle Palms are restricted items, meaning you must submit the required paperwork.

As for wearing them, you have three options:

1. On the Eagle Scout square knot, which is worn by adult Scouters.
2. Attached to the ribbon of the Eagle Scout medal, which is worn on special occasions by youth and adults.
3. On the Eagle Scout rank emblem (patch), which is sewn on the youth field uniform.

## **B. OTHER ADVANCEMENT ISSUES:**

### **1. Summer Adventures don't have to break the bank:**

I'm sorry if your troop won't be going to summer camp this summer. I truly am. But that doesn't mean that you won't be able to keep the OUTING in SCOUTING. Let's use the summer time to plan events that will interest and excite the boys. Wait... wasn't that Baden-Powell's original idea.

How about an outdoor rain gutter regatta? Plan to hold the event outdoors rain or shine. If you do happen to get rain, the boys will talk about that for years.

How about a day hike to the zoo?

Get the patrol leader's council to plan an outdoor service project. Is there outdoor work that needs to be done at the church? Is there a local neighbor whose porch needs painting? Does the homeless shelter need someone to cook and serve a meal? How about including the Cub Scout pack in that project? How about including the whole chartered organization in an activity led by the Scouts?

A summer weekend campout is a good time for a themed event. Pioneering merit badge is always lots of fun. The new Exploration merit badge would make a great weekend camp out (see requirements at [http://www.scouting.org/filestore/Merit\\_Badge\\_ReqandRes/Exploration.pdf](http://www.scouting.org/filestore/Merit_Badge_ReqandRes/Exploration.pdf) ) Preparation for this weekend will be the plan for many troop meetings before the weekend.

Get a local historian to help with a local historical trail-type hike.

Do you have Scouts that need Tenderfoot, 2nd class and 1st class requirements? A requirements trail week-end campout would do the trick. This would be a good time to have the older boys earn Scouting Heritage merit badge ([http://www.scouting.org/filestore/Merit\\_Badge\\_ReqandRes/Scouting\\_Heritage.pdf](http://www.scouting.org/filestore/Merit_Badge_ReqandRes/Scouting_Heritage.pdf)).

How about patrol hikes to the local library for the Reading Merit Badge?


Start with these ideas and add some even better ones of your own to keep the OUTING in Scouting. The fun and adventure that you generate will keep your scouts in scouting longer and provide a greater opportunity to influence their character. Now isn't that what we're all about?



## 2. The Blue Card: A Vital Record:

In my June, 2017 issue of the *Dulaney District Advancement Committee News*, we discussed the “Process of Counseling.” In that article, we mentioned the role that the “Application for Merit Badge” (aka the “*Blue Card*”) plays in the overall merit badge earning process. This follow-up article will deal more directly with some of the specific areas of the “*Blue Card*” that the counselor needs to understand.

The “*Blue Card*” is a Scout’s official record for keeping track of his advancement. It shows when the Scout met with his unit leader to discuss the badge; it lists requirements that have been completed; and it provides helpful information for counselors. To the Scout, the “*Blue Card*” is a very important piece of his scouting trail, and, as such, it is extremely important that the merit badge counselor do the upmost to ensure it is properly filled out, signed, and dated.

<b>Information for Applicant</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A merit badge application can be approved only by a registered merit badge counselor.</li> <li>You must have a buddy with you (Scout buddy system) at each meeting with the merit badge counselor.</li> <li>Turn in your approved application to your unit leader. You will be awarded the merit badge emblem and certificate at a suitable occasion.</li> </ul>		<table border="1"> <tr><td>Counselor Initial</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>Date of approval</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>Requirement No. and letter</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>Counselor Initial</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>Date of approval</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>Requirement No. and letter</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>Counselor Initial</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>Date of approval</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>Requirement No. and letter</td><td></td></tr> </table>	Counselor Initial		Date of approval		Requirement No. and letter		Counselor Initial		Date of approval		Requirement No. and letter		Counselor Initial		Date of approval		Requirement No. and letter		<b>APPLICATION FOR MERIT BADGE</b> Name _____ Address _____ City _____ is a registered <input type="checkbox"/> Boy Scout <input type="checkbox"/> Varsity Scout <input type="checkbox"/> 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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<b>Information for Counselor</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Merit badge applications must be signed in advance by the applicant's unit leader.</li> <li>The Scout must have his buddy (Scout buddy system) in attendance at all instructional sessions.</li> <li>You may not change any requirement, but you may share your knowledge or experience that will make the counseling more interesting and valuable.</li> </ul>		BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA 34124																				
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The applicant has personally appeared before me and demonstrated to my satisfaction that he has met all requirements for the (please print) _____ Merit badge _____ Name of counselor _____ Address of counselor _____ City _____ Zip code _____ Telephone No. of counselor _____ Signature of counselor _____ Date _____ Checked and recorded: _____ Date _____ Initials _____ Certificate and badge presented _____ Date _____ Applicant will turn in this portion to his unit leader for record posting.	<b>APPLICANT'S RECORD</b> Name _____ has given me his completed application for the _____ Merit badge Completed on _____ / _____ / _____ Date _____ by _____ _____ Signature of counselor _____ _____ Signature of unit leader _____ NOTE TO BOY SCOUT, VARSITY SCOUT, OR VENTURER: Retain this copy for your permanent records.	<b>COUNSELOR'S RECORD</b> Applicant _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Troop <input type="checkbox"/> Team   Unit No. _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Crew _____ Merit badge Date completed _____ / _____ / _____ Remarks: _____ It is suggested that the counselor keep this record in case any question is raised later in regard to this award.
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The diagram shows some important areas of the “*Blue Card*” to which the merit badge counselor should pay careful attention.

1. The “*Blue Card*” must be presented with the dated signature of the unit leader, i.e., Scoutmaster.
2. The requirement score sheet indicates what requirements the Scout may have completed previously. If your counseling sessions with the Scout only allow certain requirements to be completed (called a “partial”), then those

requirements should be noted in this area along with your initials. Subsequent counselors with whom the Scout may work will use notations in this area as a road map to see what has been completed and what has not.

3. The easy-to-remove Counselor's Record section of the "*Blue Card*" trifold is not to be detached until the Scout has fully completed the merit badge. Do not remove this portion of the "*Blue Card*" when only partials are being recorded. It is for the signing merit badge counselor's records and should be kept for a reasonable period of time in case questions arise.

4. The merit badge counselor's dated signature is required here when the merit badge is completed and deemed earned.

5. Completion of this section requires the Scout's name, name of the merit badge, and a dated signature. Remember, this is the Scout's portion of the trifold and is his proof he completed the merit badge. It is very important it be filled out correctly. His unit leader will sign it at a later date.

6. This portion of the "*Blue Card*" trifold will be retained by the unit. Therefore, it is imperative all the information be filled in, including a dated signature.

7. You may have reservations on providing your phone number, but it is important because it is the quickest way to get in touch with you if questions arise. Please provide the most convenient number.

(More detailed information regarding the "Blue Card" may be found in the *Guide to Advancement*, Section 7).

Yours in Scouting;

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